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Johnson: Pan Am gymnasts want gold

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The U.S. gymnastics team that will compete July 14-16 at the Pan American Games in Brazil is working hard to bring home the gold, West Des Moines gymnast Shawn Johnson said today in a national conference call with reporters from the training site in Houston.

"This will help bring us together as a team so we can do better at the world championships," Johnson, 15, said. "I'm so excited."

U.S. national team coordinator Martha Karolyi said she is happy with Johnson and the six-member team, announced on Wednesday.

"They are an extremely strong team," she said. "But they are an extremely young team. We will use this as an opportunity for them to go out and do some very high-quality routines in a pressure situation."

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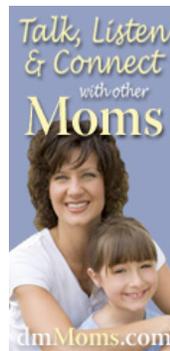
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