

All Your Fitness Questions Answered

How can I find a trainer who'll work with my schedule and interests?

Call Fitness Finders, a Main Linebased fitness consulting service that pairs up clients with trainers. You can reach them at 610-246-7194 or 610-613-9814. Cost ranges from \$65 to \$110 per hour, depending on the trainer, which includes the referral fee.

I want to install a state-of-theart home gym, but I don't know where to start. Any ideas?

Our friends at Fitness Finders gave us two recommendations: Todd Altland of Atlantis Fitness Center, and Richard Barrack of Barrack's Fitness. Both create in-home gyms and do personal training. You can reach either through Fitness Finders.

I'm a runner. Where can I find people like me?

Philadelphia has no shortage of running groups, most of which hold weekly runs. Some of the most popular: Philly Runners (phillyrunners.org); the Wissahickon Wanderers (wanderersrunningclub.org); Bryn Mawr Running Club (runbarc.org); Fairmount Running Club (runfairmount.org); and Frontrunners (frontrunnersphila.org).

How can I be sure my trainer knows what he's doing?

Workout injuries are a common problem, says Joseph Zarrett, a Center City physical therapist. Zarrett sees clients whose fitness programs end, not with rock-hard abs, but with broken-down bodies. Some tips:

- Know what kind of shape you're in. A physical will reveal any hidden cardiovascular or joint problems.
- Know your trainer's credentials. Ideally, you want someone who's a Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist. The "C.S.C.S." after a trainer's name means he or she has met the requirements of the National Strength and Conditioning Association. (Other certification groups aren't as rigorous.)
- Make sure
 your workouts are
 balanced.

(continued on page 123)

