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Chiropractor serves at Olympic center

By *KEVIN CALLAHAN*
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Although a bit past his basketball playing prime, Eric Nelson dreams of the Olympics, too.

"It has been a 10-year dream of mine to work on the Olympic level," he said.

In late August, the Atco chiropractor began to realize the dream by serving on the medical staff at the U. S. Olympic Training Center in Chula Vista, Calif.

"This was the first step in being selected to go," he said about the Summer Olympics in 2012.

Whether Nelson does go to London, he still had the opportunity to work with Olympic athletes.

And he has brought back that experience to his South Jersey practice with his wife, Kerri, who is also a chiropractor, and their Pilates studio adjacent to their office.

"It is pretty impressive to get this honor," his wife said.

Her husband has stacked up the honors over the years, including serving as president of the New Jersey Chiropractic Sports Council.

He is certified in Kinesio taping, which received attention during the 2008 Olympics, when U.S. women's beach volleyball player Kerri Walsh's shoulder was taped.

"It is not restrictive, but gives stability," he said. "Athletes love it."

Eric, 37, and Kerri, 36, have been operating the practice for 11 years, including seven in their Atco office.

Eric, who is from South Florida, and Kerri, who went to Eastern High School, where she played lacrosse for the Vikings, live in Winslow Township with their children Jordan, 4, and Camryn, 1.

Working at the Olympic Training Center in Chula Vista was an amazing experience, Nelson said. He worked with athletes in archery, track and field, BMX, bobsledding and paralympics.

Nelson said the Olympic training staff consisted of medical doctors, athletic trainers and chiropractors.

"We provided treatment in the clinic and on-field coverage for some sports," he said. "Providing coverage for the BMX Supercross track was one of my favorite things to do."

Nelson said one particularly memorable moment occurred as he was eating lunch with a few injured track and field athletes while watching the Track and Field World Championships in Berlin on television.

"At one point a USA female athlete won her event and all the athletes with me in the cafeteria went crazy," Nelson said. "It was a very emotional moment and to be present for that experience was priceless."

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Additional Facts

ON THE WEB

Nelson Chiropractic and Pilates Center -- www.chiropracticrehab.com
