





Foster (right), with teammate Eric Peterson, earned first-team all-America honors as a prep athlete at Aloha High School in the metric mile.

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has got to be a bit unnerving.

'The only pressure that is put on you is from yourself." he said. "I perceive it maybe as a challenge. The bottom line is that you've just got to do your best, and if people want to make comparisons, they can do that. It's up to each of us what we want to do about it."

Foster's career has been blessed with the support of his

family and his high school coach (Aloha's Jim Danner). which he says played a big part in nurturing his love for the

'My parents never pushed me," Foster said. "In fact, my parents don't know much about the sport. They don't understand (race) times, which is good because I (ran) because I enjoyed it ... not because they

were out there screaming and velling for me to do well. So after I run. I'm having a good time, and I still am. I think when I'm not having fun, I'll quit. It hasn't been any other

"(Danner) has really helped me out," he said. "He's been a good person who asked me really tough questions when I've had some bad competitions, or when I've gone through trying times. He's been a really good friend.'

Though he was wooed by Georgetown, noted (in addition to basketball) for being a strong track school, Foster's decision to come to Oregon was not one that posed much loss of sleep.

"I'd like to teach elementary school, and the college of human development and performance here is one of the best in the nation," he said. "I like this area, and the track and field history is great and the coach is great and the people you race against are great. I'm glad I made this choice. It's the best choice I could've made.



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