



KRIS HENRY

## Life in the fast lane is no excuse for Darryl

Maybe I just have some different understanding about life, but I have absolutely no sympathy for athletes who ruin their lives with drugs or alcohol.

The idea of not judging a man until you walk a mile in his shoes goes out the window with these multimillionaire delinquents.

First of all, I will never earn in my life what these overpaid superstars earn in one year. Secondly, since my earnings will never reach their stature, I will never have the opportunity where several people are held responsible for a mistake that I made alone. I would be willing to wager that most people are in the same situation that I'm in when it comes to the comparison to modern-day athletes.

Whatever the situation, it still doesn't affect how pathetic it is when an athlete crumbles because he or she allowed insecurities to bring about his or her demise.

Take Darryl Strawberry for example. The All-Star outfielder for the New York Mets, Los Angeles Dodgers and San Francisco Giants had the potential to become one of the greatest hitters to ever play baseball.

But like many in his situation, the lure of drugs and life in the fast lane was simply too much for the grown man to handle.

Poor Darryl. He peaked at making just over \$4 million per year with the Dodgers. Life must be simply unbearable when you never have to concern yourself with a price tag.

Poor Darryl. All he had to do was concentrate on playing baseball. Being a part of the national pastime can be so draining on the system. Hit the ball, catch the ball and throw the ball.

Poor Darryl. No one understands the turbulent life of a professional athlete, even his peers. There were countless times when Strawberry criticized his teammates and refused to look in the mirror before pointing a finger.

When his wives and girlfriends couldn't understand, he allegedly would express his displeasure physically, as yesterday's chronicle of Strawberry's life (in the *Oregon Daily Emerald*) details.

The only solace Darryl could find came in the form of an illegal substance that several athletes who have fallen by the wayside

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## Shadowed



Freshmen Dan Colling and Ken Yanhs unwind with a little one-on-one hoops after classes Tuesday.

## Maxwell waits for league penalty

PORTLAND (AP) — Hot-tempered Houston Rockets guard Vernon Maxwell quietly left Portland with his teammates Tuesday as NBA officials weighed what penalty he would face for allegedly punching a fan.

"You know I'm not going to talk about it," Maxwell said as he left a downtown hotel.

Witnesses said Maxwell charged up a dozen rows into the Memorial Coliseum crowd during Monday night's 120-82 loss to the Portland Trail Blazers and punched 35-year-old Steve George in the jaw.

George and his attorney said

they plan to press charges and are considering a lawsuit.

A police report filed by George at 1:36 a.m. Tuesday was forwarded to the Multnomah County district attorney's office.

Maxwell likely would face a misdemeanor charge of fourth-degree assault if George signs a complaint, Portland police spokesman C.W. Jensen said.

George's attorney, Richard Maizels, said his client would sign the complaint but did not know when. Maizels said there's a good chance any civil lawsuit could be avoided by an out-of-court settlement.

George, who is deaf in his

right ear, was examined at a hospital emergency room late Monday night to make sure his other ear was not damaged in the incident. So far, there was no indication of any serious injury, Maizels said.

A freelance television cameraman captured the altercation on video and sent the tape to the NBA's office in New York. Rod Thorn, the NBA's vice president for operations, said no action would be taken before Wednesday.

Thorn said a player has never gone into the crowd to assault a

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## CLUB NOTES

### Joel Hood

For the *Oregon Daily Emerald*

The University Equestrian team rode to a second place showing last weekend at Fresno, California, but the team was not able to pick up any ground on front-runner Stanford. The Cardinal maintained their series lead by taking first place at the showing.

"It would have been nice to pick up a few points on them," said team captain Julie Freschi. "But we were pretty pleased with our performance as a team. Everyone from our squad did very well."

Stanford widened its West Coast series lead to five points with the victory.

The Equestrian team's next showing will be a return trip to Palo Alto, Calif. on Feb. 18. The

team hosts its own showing on March 4.

...  
The Club Snowboard team will be competing this weekend in a giant slalom event at Ski Bowl, on Mt. Hood.

...  
After a blow out of in-state rival Southern Oregon St. last weekend, the University Rugby team is pumped for one of its biggest tournaments of the year this weekend in Portland.

"With teams such as Oregon St. and the University of Washington competing in this weekend's tourney, it should give us an idea of how we stack up against the rest of the Pacific Northwest schools for league play this spring," said Rugby Capt. Chris Lampe.

## Cocaine reason for suspension

WASHINGTON (AP) — Darryl Strawberry tested positive for cocaine on consecutive days last month, according to documents obtained Tuesday by The Associated Press.

Strawberry was suspended 60 days by Major League Baseball Monday for violating the game's drug policy and terms of his aftercare program. The San Francisco Giants immediately released him.

Strawberry missed the first two months of the 1994 season after admitting to a substance abuse problem and seeking treatment. Although there was speculation that it was a cocaine problem, it was never officially confirmed by representatives of baseball or Strawberry.

## Names in the game

PARIS (AP) — **Steffi Graf**, toppled as the world's top-ranked woman player last month after missing tournaments because of physical problems, will start her comeback at the Paris Open next week, tournament officials said Tuesday.

Graf skipped last month's Australian Open — the first Grand Slam event of the season — and yielded her No. 1 ranking to **Aranxta Sanchez Vicario**, the losing finalist.

## HAMBURG, Germany (AP) — George Foreman

arrived in Germany on Tuesday and faced a horde of reporters wanting to know if he really would give German **Axel Schulz** a shot at his heavyweight title.

Foreman said he thought the Schulz fight was still on, and that it would likely be his last bout, unless **Mike Tyson** comes out of jail and "offers me a challenge."

Foreman began a four day visit at the invitation of a German pay-per-view television as the German media reported that Foreman's attorney, Henry Holmes, was against fighting unranked Schulz. The bout is set for April 22 in Las Vegas.

## BLOOMINGTON, Ind. (AP) — Indiana coach Bob Knight

mentioned retirement several times this season, and his son sees it as a possibility.

"I wouldn't be surprised," said Patrick Knight, a senior on the Indiana team.

The younger Knight said Monday he doesn't know whether his father, coaching the Indiana team for the 24th season, will call it a career at the end of this campaign.