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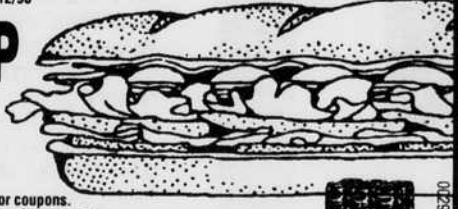
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 $y = mx + b$ $f(x) = 4x^2$ Graph $x = -b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}$
 $(x+3)(x-3)(p+q)(p^2 - pq + q^2)$ $2a - b$ $2a + b$
 $m = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1}$ $y - y_1 = m(x - x_1)$ $ax + by = c$ $\frac{1}{2}x \cdot 12$
 $\frac{1}{2}bh = \text{Area}$ $r = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$ $\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} + 1$
 $f(x) = 3x^2 + 1$
 $\log_a x$ 0 $(-\infty, 1.18) \cup (1.26, 3.94)$ $\beta x - y = \infty$ $93 - 41$

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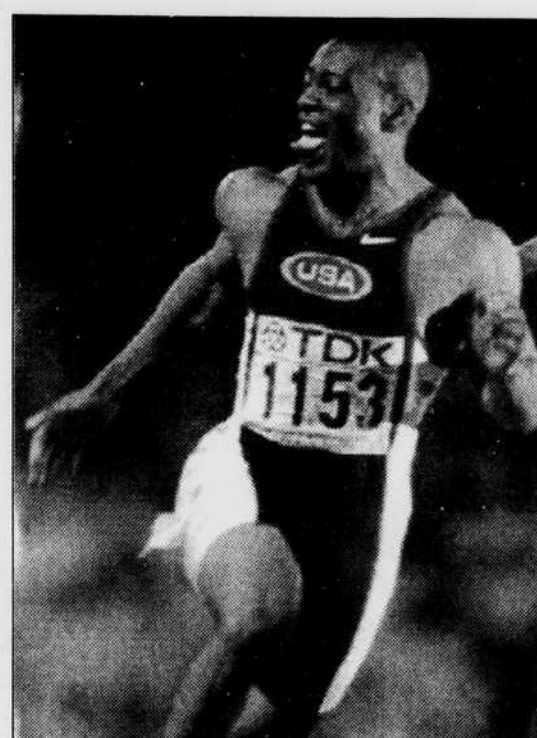
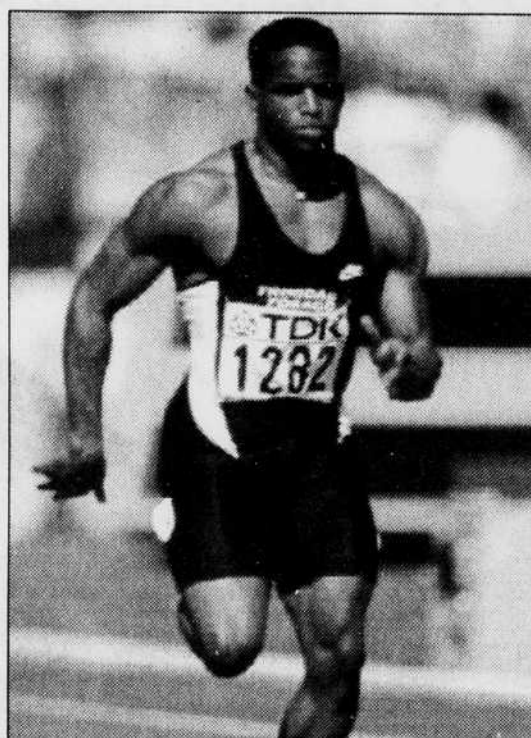
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Ato Boldon (left) and Maurice Greene face off in the 100 meters at the Prefontaine Classic.

The Splendid Sprinters

Boldon and Greene's friendship has survived an intense rivalry

By Joel Hood
Sports Reporter

One is the reigning 200-meter World Champion and has recorded the fastest 100-meter time in the world this season.

The other is the reigning 100-meter World Champion and the 60-meter Indoor World Record holder.

It's a track and field promoter's dream come true — two "preocious" young sprinters whose heated rivalry has created interest among even the most fickle of American sports fans.

You might say their rivalry is the perfect marriage of attitude, talent and hatred — if only Maurice Greene and Ato Boldon didn't like each other so much.

Teammates on the track and close friends off, Greene and Boldon currently represent the future of sprinting in the United States. Last May, Boldon ran a 9.89-second 100 meters in Modesto, Calif., to record the fastest time at that distance last season, and the third fastest 100-meter time in history.

Not to be outdone, Greene smoked an elite field of sprinters four months later at the World Championships in Athens, Greece with a 100-meter time of 9.86 seconds. The victory moved Greene into third-place all-time at that distance, and fell just .02 seconds short of Donovan Bailey's world record time of 9.84.

Their rivalry has become the fiercest and friendliest in the sport.

"We only hate each other for nine seconds during the day,"

Boldon says. "It's a little like boxing, people love it when the two athletes hate each other. But it's just not the case. We're good friends and very close."

Both Greene and Boldon compete for HSI, a racing organization based in Los Angeles which currently houses some of the world's greatest runners including Jon Drummond, the 200-meter champion at the USA Track and Field Championships last season, and Quincy Watts, a gold medalist in the 400 meters at the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games.

But Greene and Boldon have ascended to the top of their class.

The 23-year-old Greene was named Carl Lewis' heir apparent following his Athletissima championship in Lausanne, Switzerland, last year against one of the greatest 100-meter fields ever assembled. In terms of championship success, the field was the greatest, boasting 19 Olympic and World Championship medals between the seven runners.

Greene's time of 9.90 seconds for 100 meters was, at that time, a personal best and moved him into an unfamiliar role as the favorite to capture the 100-meter crown at the World Championships later that season. With his gold-medal performance in Athens months later, Greene became the first American-born sprinter since Lewis to win the 100-meter world title.

Since that time, Greene has become quite familiar to the role of favorite.

"My only real goal is to always do better than my last race,"

Greene says. "Every athlete wants to run to his capabilities. For me, that means running against the clock. I don't worry too much about who I'm running against, I just try to focus on the time."

But Boldon has a different focus when he steps into the blocks.

"As long as you keep beating the guys running next to you," Boldon says, "you're going to be successful in this sport."

Success has come early and often for the 25-year-old Trinidadian sprinter.

Boldon became the first athlete in history to win both the 100 and 200-meter events at the World Junior Championships in Korea in 1992. That same year, the 17-year-old represented Trinidad and Tobago in the 100 and 200 meters at the Barcelona Olympics.

Both accomplishments were a result of an intense workout regimen that helped mold the young runner into the champion he is today. It's also an example, Boldon says, of what separates himself from other runners.

"There are some runners with more talent," he says, "There are some with more hype and more natural ability. But I don't think there is anyone better than me at getting the most out of my ability. I practice the way I compete — full speed."

The same could be said about Greene, who has improved his 100-meter time in every season since his professional debut in 1994.

"I'd like to see them become

Turn to **SPRINTERS**, Page 8B

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