

**Best Bet**

NBA Playoffs: Milwaukee vs. Indiana 5 p.m., TNT



# Sports

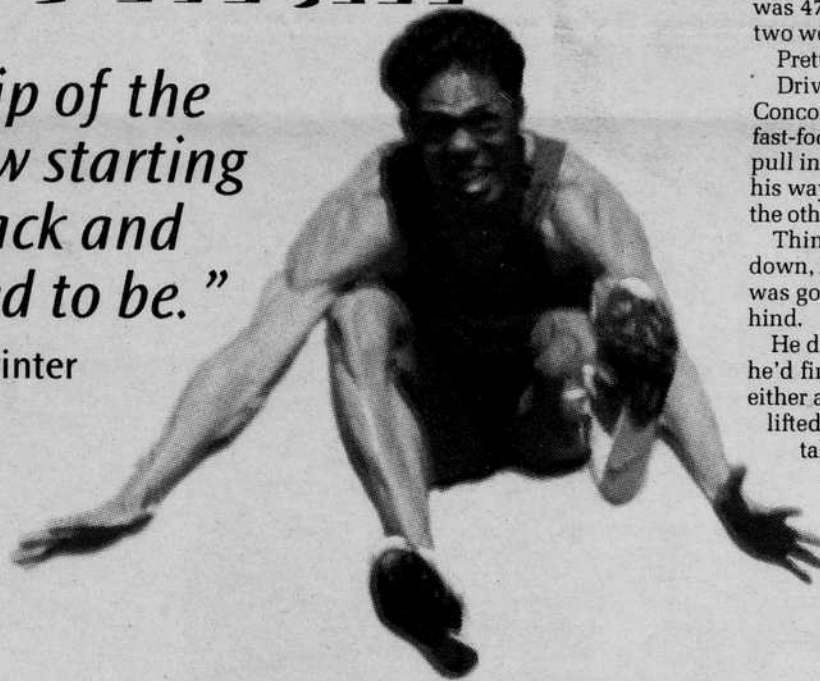


## Rocket Man

Azel Malinao-Alvarez Emerald

*"This is just the tip of the iceberg. I'm just now starting to get back on track and getting where I need to be."*

**-Howard Moore, UO sprinter**



■ The flight hasn't been smooth for sprinter Howard Moore, but he insists the best is yet to come as his collegiate career nears its end

By Scott Pesznecker  
Oregon Daily Emerald

**H**oward Moore taxis onto the track, shakes the nervousness out of his muscles and assumes a loose set position in the starting blocks.

The track's traffic controller — a silver-haired gentleman wearing a red coat and standing off to the side of the runway — gives the "set" command. Moore reacts, dipping his head down and cocking his hips upward.

His ears are like radar as he listens for the gun. The senior awaits the launch command, poised and ready to attack.

The silence is deafening.

But in the instant Moore's ears detect the blast of the starting gun, his inner engines roar to life. A powerful exertion from his legs catapults him forward, and Moore is in flight, rocketing forward at a speed of about 28 feet per second.

**Getting back on track**

Ever since he came to Oregon, Moore has been the Ducks' maverick of track and field. Always wanting to push the envelope — always feeling the need for speed — his only desire is to fly faster and faster and faster.

"I'm really competitive," Moore said. "It's almost to the point where I'm kind of greedy with what I want out of myself. I'm never satisfied with a race."

"This is just the tip of the iceberg. I'm just now starting to get back on track and getting where I need to be."

So far this season, Moore said he hasn't landed a time that reflects his potential. His season-best so far was 47.28 seconds at the Oregon-Washington Dual two weeks ago.

Pretty good, considering all that's been in his way. Driving with his father and sister to his home in Concord, Calif., last October, Moore tried to stop at a fast-food restaurant in Sacramento. But he couldn't pull into the parking lot because a car was blocking his way. Moore honked his horn. A door opened on the other car.

Thinking that the other car may have broken down, Moore stepped out of his car to find out what was going on — and was hit on the head from behind.

He doesn't remember much more than that. Later he'd find out that he'd been hit with a hard object, either a pipe or brass knuckles, and that he was airlifted to UC Davis Medical Center. He was hospitalized for five days because his heartbeat had slowed.

"I've learned from the experience," Moore said. "I'm more careful of where I go, and I'm more careful of my surroundings. I wasn't thinking that somebody was going to hit me."

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## UO golfers' season will be put on the line next week

The women's golf team — and five of its upperclassmen corps — take on the field at the NCAA West Regionals in Tempe

**WOMEN'S GOLF NOTES**

By Peter Hockaday  
for the Emerald

The Oregon women's golf team should be watching the NBA playoffs on TNT this week, since the network's slogan applies to their season right now: win or go home.



The No. 26 Ducks will travel to Tempe, Ariz., for the NCAA West Regionals, which tee off a week from today. They will compete with 23 other top-50 teams for 11 spots in the NCAA Championships, which will be held May 24-27 in Sunriver. All 10 schools in the Pacific-10 Conference will play in the regionals.

The Ducks make their eighth straight trip to the West Regionals, but an appearance at the NCAAs would only be the team's third in five years.

**Experienced upperclassmen**

Oregon has at least one leg up on the competition in Tempe, and that is the experience of its players. Four seniors and one junior will make the trip to Arizona, with all five possessing previous regionals competition experience.

The Ducks will try to repeat their performances at the Colby and Lady Aztec Invitationals, where they got consistent performances from their upperclassmen. Senior Kylie Wilson won the Colby, but three other players finished in the top 10 and the Ducks took home the

team title as well. At the Lady Aztec, senior Pam Sowden won the individual crown, but again the Ducks had three other top-15 finishers and won the team title.

**Jumpin' Jerilyn**

Junior Jerilyn White quietly jumped into the national rankings this week and is now the only Duck among the country's top 100 golfers. The Salem native is ranked 80th.

White placed ninth at the Pac-10 Conference Championships a week ago and holds the team's lowest stroke average, despite being the team's youngest regular starter. She will be the only non-senior to travel with the team to Tempe.

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Kevin Calame Emerald

Jerilyn White entered the national rankings this week at No. 80.