

Sydney 2000 Student Olympians to Watch

By Erin Dionne

Troy Dumais

U.S. Diving Team
University of Texas, Austin

At 16, Troy Dumais won his first national championship in the 3-meter springboard event and narrowly missed diving for the U.S. in the Atlanta games. He followed that up with being named the U.S. Diving Athlete of the Year in 1997. Now a junior at UT/Austin, Dumais is one of only two divers from the U.S. to compete in the men's springboard event in Sydney. His road hasn't been easy this year—at the Olympic Trials in June he fell ill with 2 kidney stones hours before the finals. Tolerating the pain, he made his last 6 dives and more than earned his place on the team.

"I told myself if I was able to walk, there was no way I wasn't diving. I put in too many years of training to just step out."

Seilala Sua

U.S. Track and Field
UCLA

Seilala (pronounced Say-la-la) Sua's winning discus throw at this year's U.S. Olympic Trials was 216 feet, 2 inches—which would have earned her a bronze medal at the 1996 games in Atlanta. The throw catapulted her onto the U.S. track and field team, and earned her a national title. A UCLA senior majoring in Sociology, Sua is a fierce competitor and has her sights set on gold in Sydney.

"In big meets I know I can turn it on. I'm very competitive. Competitions are something I love. I love track and field, and I just want to spread the news about it."

Gabe Jennings

U.S. Track and Field
Stanford University

Gabe Jennings took the NCAA Championships in the indoor mile and the 1500-meter this year, proving that he's one of the best middle-distance runners in the U.S. In Sydney he'll be competing for gold in the 1500m race. A senior at Stanford, Jennings is as well-known for his quirky behavior and his non-traditional childhood as he is for his running. (He grew up without a TV, and his family generated their electricity using hydroelectric and solar power. They also only ate food from their garden.)

"I started running to school when I was five years old. School was two miles away. I was in a real rural community. My nearest neighbor was a mile away. My dad would have me run to school and he'd bike behind me, making sure I had good form."

Clarence Vinson

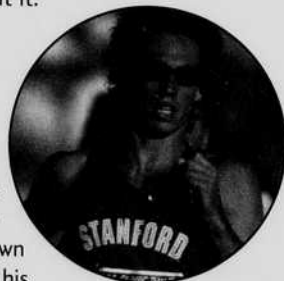
U.S. Boxing Team
N. Michigan University

In February, Clarence Vinson placed first at the U.S. Olympic Team Trials for bantamweight boxing, defeating challenger Aaron Garcia in the finals and earning a spot on the U.S. team in Sydney. Nicknamed "Untouchable" for his quick punches and movements in the ring, Vinson boxes in one of the lightest categories—bantamweight—and tips the scale at 119 lbs. Growing up on the inner-city streets of Washington, D.C., Vinson lost friends and family members to street violence. Now a student at Northern Michigan University majoring in business management, Vinson sees the reward of years of hard work and training.

"Boxing is my ticket to doing something positive with my life, instead of negative." •

For profiles of more student Olympians, go to steamtunnels.net and use keyword "Olympics."

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High-Tech Toys

By Kathryn Yu

Dozens of electronics companies are providing high-tech toys for the next generation of consumers. Portable CD players, MP3 players, cell phones and wireless pagers are becoming increasingly common on college campuses—but they're boring in comparison to some of the other products on the market.

Fisher Space Pen

The Fisher Space Pen (store.thetech.org/fisherspacepen; \$19.95) is no ordinary pen—it was designed for use by astronauts. It can write upside down, under water, over grease, in extreme cold and heat and is almost guaranteed to outlive you, with a shelf life of 100 years.



Robomow

If your yard is huge, and you've got better things to do than push a noisy mower around, the compact Friendly Robotis Robomow (productopia.com; \$795) is a great gadget. The little yellow lawnmower will mow your lawn for you and uses touch-sensitive bumpers to stay within the perimeter.



C-pen Scanner

The C-pen (cpen.com; \$249) may be the coolest scanner ever. Use the pocket-sized, handheld device like a digital highlighter and it will capture text from almost any source. It's actually a miniature digital camera that uses Optical Character Recognition (OCR), which turns what you scan into workable text that you can easily transfer to your laptop. It comes with a built-in calendar, 1000-contact address book and memory capability for 3000 pages of text. •

