

Don't Duck Around!

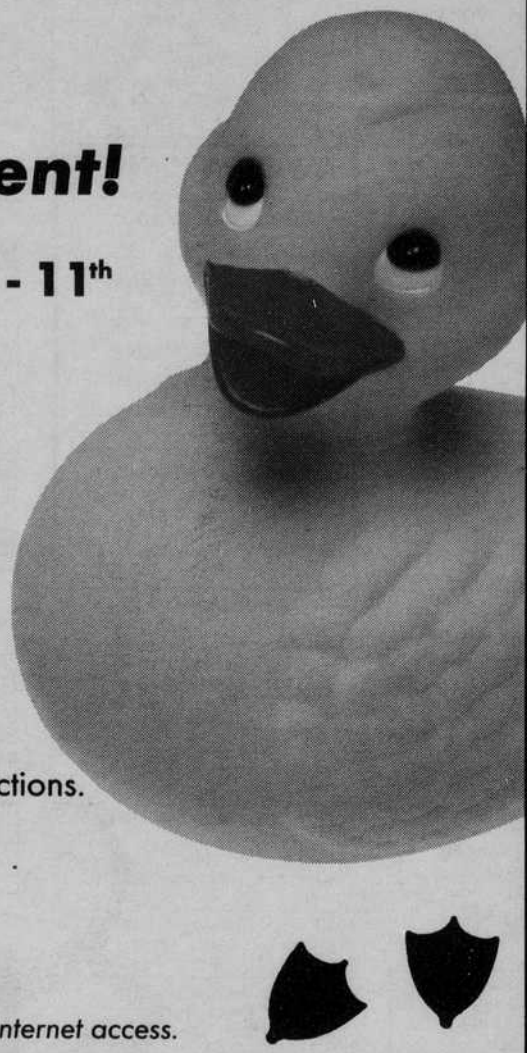
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Primary Election: April 9th - 11th
Voting ends at 5 pm on Friday

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Steps to voting on DuckWeb:

1. Go to DuckWeb and log on.
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3. Click Vote 2003 ASUO Student Elections.
4. VOTE.
5. Click submit button.



Vote on any computer on or off campus with internet access.

Akinradewo file

Born: Foluso Ayotunde Akinradewo in Ontario, Canada, on April 6, 1982.

Before Oregon: Finished his senior season at Clovis West High in Fresno, Calif., as the 20th-ranked athlete in the triple jump. Won CIF Central Section MVP honors after winning Central Section his senior year.

Oregon: Finished seventh at 2000 and 2001 Pac-10 Championships, with a best of 50 feet, 6 inches at the 2001 Texas Relays. Last season, jumped to second at Pac-10s but missed NCAA Championships. Will make his 2003 outdoor debut at this weekend's Pepsi Team Invitational.



Akinradewo

Track

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"In high school, you're doing everything else, you start training for track in January, some places even February," Akinradewo said. "Here you start in September, October. It's just a year-round thing. You're not used to it."

But he still finished seventh at Pac-10s that season. The next year, Akinradewo was the only true triple or long jumper on the team, and he struggled to stay motivated without the presence of a practice mate. He again finished seventh at Pac-10s, but his conference mark dropped by almost a foot.

Then, last season, Akinradewo received a little angel in the form of freshman Derek Strubel, a fellow triple jumper. The two pushed each other in the weight room and on the track, and the result was a happier Akinradewo — a second-place-at-Pac-10s Akinradewo.

"When I got here, Akinradewo was really good to me, kind of took me under his wing, showed me the system," Strubel said. "He pulls me along, too, he knows a lot about the event."

The event is an oddity. Part timing, part hops, part strength — and of course, all rhythm — the triple jump

is one of the forgotten events in track as people focus on the more explosive long jump. But triple jumpers score points at team meets, too, and Akinradewo will be the top-ranked triple jumper at Saturday's Pepsi Team Invitational, where Oregon will go head-to-head-to-head with Minnesota, Colorado and Washington. Strubel is ranked fourth among Saturday's entries.

"I love it," Strubel said of the triple. "It takes a lot of skill to control your body. It's one of the more finesse events."

Akinradewo said he'll try to finesse his way through this weekend's meet. He said he's taking a different approach to the season, a "fun" approach. But don't confuse "fun" with "lazy." It just means he's not too worried about his competition.

"Some people on our team scout the competition ahead of time," Akinradewo said. "I don't even want to know who's coming. I have a mark in my mind that I want to shoot for."

So don't be surprised if you see Akinradewo on campus this week, headphones on, blaring music only he can hear.

He's just trying to get the rhythm.

Contact the sports editor at peterhockaday@dailyemerald.com.



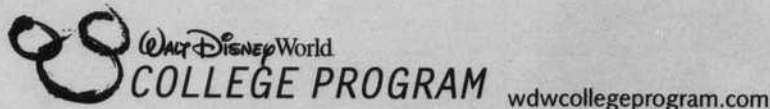
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