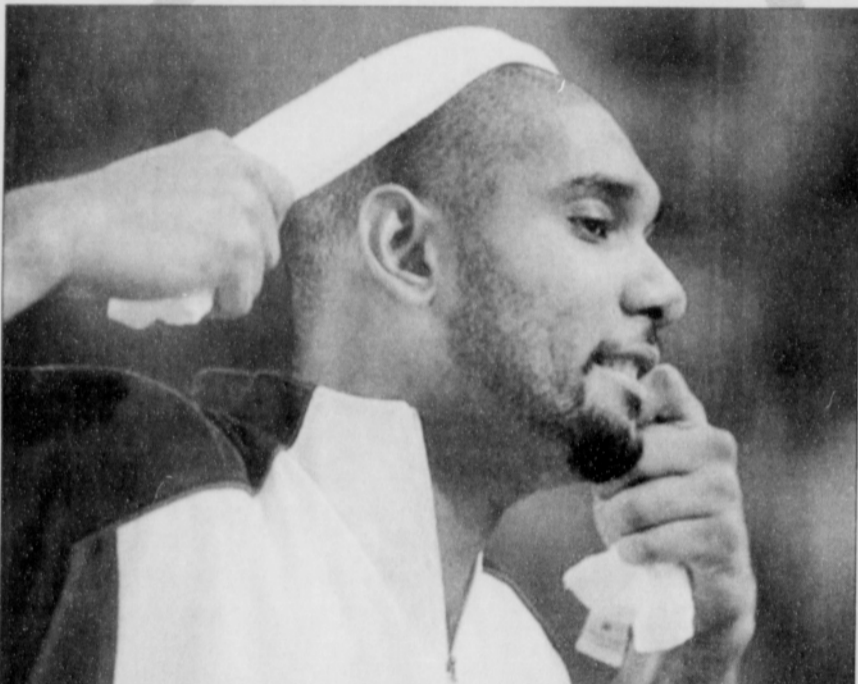


# SPORTS

## Going for Gold in Athens, Greece

### Americans 3-2, Face Spain in Basketball



Tim Duncan of the United States holds his head with a towel as he walks back to the bench during a game against Angola in Monday's preliminary round game in the 2004 Olympics. (AP photo)

(AP) — When a day of drama ended and the quarterfinal pairings were set, the news was not great for the United States men's basketball team. In order to get to the semifinals and possibly the gold medal game, first the Americans will have to

defeat Spain on Thursday - the team that left the widest wake of impressed and defeated opponents during the preliminary round.

The Americans finish the opening round with a record of 3-2 after cruising past Angola 89-53 Tuesday.

Spain's players had an opportunity to take it easy against New Zealand, lose a game and thereby knock Serbia-Montenegro out of medal contention. Instead, they banged bodies as though it was a wrestling match, won by four points and let Serbia-Montenegro self-destruct later in the day.

"This is the Olympic stage, the setting for miracles," China guard Liu Wei said after his team stunned the defending world champions 67-66 to advance to the quarterfinals and relegate Serbia-Montenegro to 11th-place game against winless Angola.

In other games with medal-round ramifications, Greece defeated Puerto Rico 78-58 and Italy edged Argentina 76-75.

The Thursday matchups for the quarterfinals are Lithuania-China, Italy-Puerto Rico, Greece-Argentina and Spain-United States.



Jeremy Wariner (center), celebrates after winning the gold medal in the 400-meter final with American compatriots, bronze medalist, Derrick Brew (left) and silver medalist Otis Harris. (AP Photo)

### Americans Sweep 400 Title

Former record holder congratulates Wariner

(AP) — After his stunning victory in the Olympic 400 meters, Jeremy Wariner seemed as cool as he did cruising down the stretch in sunglasses, two earrings and a jingling necklace. Picking up where Michael Johnson left off, Wariner became the sixth straight American to win the Olympic 400 title, leading a U.S. sweep of the medals.

Wariner finished in 44.00 seconds - a personal best and the fastest time in the world this year. He was followed by silver medalist Otis Harris (44.16) and bronze medalist Derrick Brew (44.42).

Asked whether he had ever had a bigger moment, Wariner remained stoic. "Besides being born," said the 20-

year-old, "I don't think so." Wariner has been tabbed the successor to Johnson, who ruled the 400 for more than a decade, still holds the world record of 43.18 and won gold in 1996 and 2000. After the race Johnson came down from the stands, where he was doing commentary for the BBC, to congratulate the man who took his title - and his coach, Baylor University's Clyde Hart.

Johnson said Wariner shares his ability to focus, but rejected other comparisons.

"I see a great athlete who at 20 years old has come out here and won. I didn't do that at 20 years old, I didn't make an Olympic team," Johnson said.

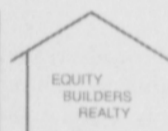
## Beaverton Native Takes Gold

USA's Mariel Zagunis of Beaverton jubilates after defeating Romania's Gheorghitaia in their semi final bout during the Women's Individual Sabre competition at the Olympics in Greece. Zagunis then went on to win the gold medal, beating Tan Xue of China. (AP Photo)



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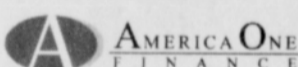
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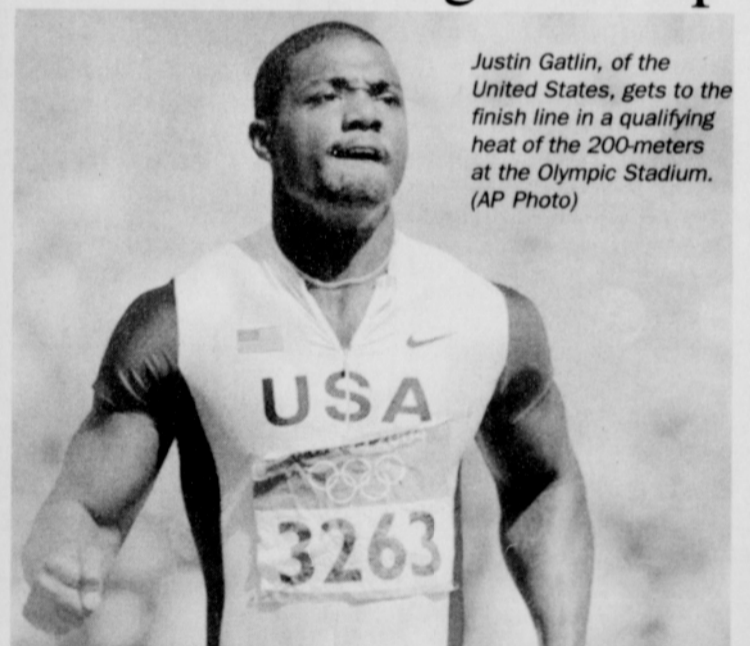
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### Crawford Straightens Up



Justin Gatlin, of the United States, gets to the finish line in a qualifying heat of the 200-meters at the Olympic Stadium. (AP Photo)

(AP) — Shawn Crawford was all business, speeding to victory Tuesday in 20.55 seconds in his first-round heat of the 200 - a sharp contrast to his antics in the early rounds of the 100.

Crawford, who finished fourth in the 100 after dominating the early rounds, was joined in the second round by U.S. teammates Bernard Williams and Justin Gatlin, the 100-

meter gold medalist. "I can't talk," Crawford said as he walked past reporters after the race. "I'm not a morning person." The fastest times of the opening round were 20.29 by Williams and Stephane Buckland of Mauritius. Also advancing were 100 silver medalist Francis Obikwelu of Portugal and two-time silver medalist Frank Fredericks of Namibia.

Oregon native and world champion Tom Pappas falls in his first pole vault attempt during the decathlon at the Olympic Stadium in Athens.



### Oregonian Injured in Pole Vault

(AP) - What had already been a bad Olympics for decathlon world champion and Oregon native Tom Pappas got worse Tuesday when he injured his left foot in the pole vault and withdrew from the competition.

The injury occurred as the American ran down the runway in his first vault attempt — at 15 feet, 1 inch. Pappas ran through to the pit, then walked to a nearby grassy area and sat down.

He pulled off his left shoe and sock, then ripped through tape and

began rubbing the bottom of his foot.

Pappas left the infield to have the foot rewrapped, then returned and began testing the foot, first in running shoes, then in spikes. He passed on the next height but decided not to continue after talking to coaches.

Pappas, in fifth place through seven events, put his poles away, grabbed his gear bag and limped off the field. After about an hour in the medical treatment room beneath the stadium, he left.

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