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### Barry Bonds is a scary guy to interview.

Even when he isn't in drag, the surly outfielder makes life difficult for reporters. Luckily, at the *Gateway*, we deal with amateur athletes who definitely aren't on steroids (they're tested). They also very rarely dress like a member of the opposite sex. So, come to a sports meeting—Tuesdays at 5pm in 3-04 SUB—and see what all the fuss is about. We can't put you next to Barry Bonds, but we can get you into the best campus sports events for free, and improve your writing skills while doing so.

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# Switching to a new kind of track

U of A thrower Matt Doherty is moving from the Butterdome to bobsledding

ANDREW RENFREE  
Sports Staff

After winning one CIS gold medal and three silvers in shot put and weight throw over the last two years, it's no surprise that Alberta track and field team standout Matt Doherty might someday compete at the Olympics. What is a surprise is the event in which he'll be competing.

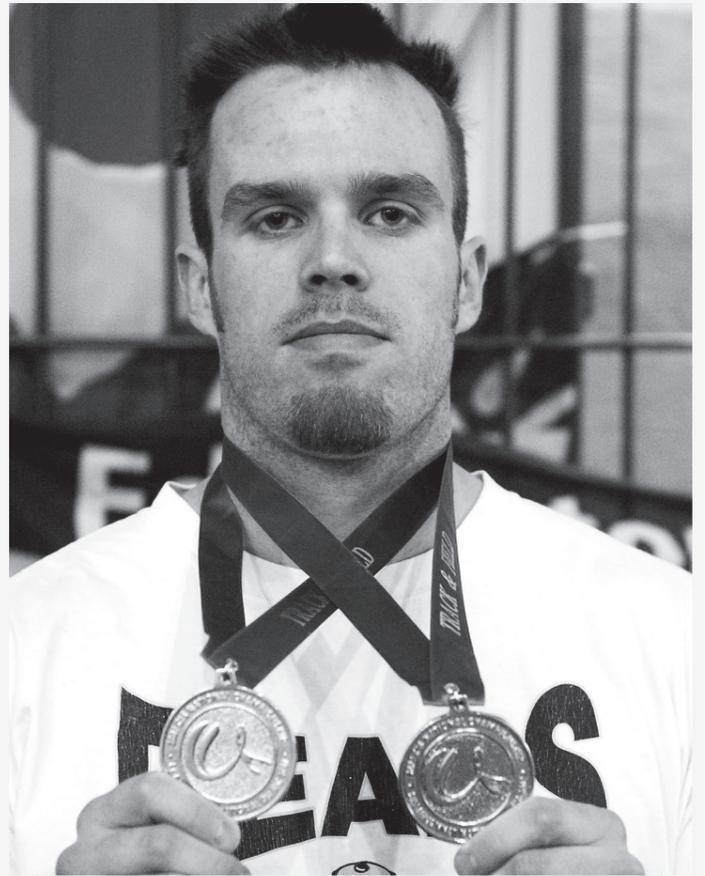
The 6'1", 243-pound education student has made a name for himself as one of the top throwers in Canada. But Doherty realizes that the odds are against him to make it to a higher level as a thrower because Canada doesn't have a strong training program in these events. With Doherty looking for other post-varsity options, he was approached by Quin Sekulich, one of the sprint coaches for the U of A track team, to participate in something a little different. Sekulich, also the speed and strength coach for Bobsled Canada, felt that Doherty's abilities would make him a logical choice for the Canadian bobsled program.

"After next summer, I'll be making a switch over to the bobsled program," Doherty says. "Not too long ago, I went down to Calgary and got a ride in the sled and tried out skeleton, and it's something that I think I have a future in. In a sport like bobsledding, it's pretty simple: they need big, strong, explosive, fast guys and that's right up my alley. I'm going to make a pretty strong push to make it to the Vancouver Olympics [in 2010] for bobsledding."

Doherty says that there's a rush that comes with heaving a shot put or weight as far as humanly possible, but he notes that it doesn't compare to the thrill of flying down an icy track at 130km per hour.

"When I tried skeleton, it was the most amazing feeling that I've ever had in my entire life," he says.

While he hopes that bobsled is part of his future, Doherty's past will always have a place in the history of U of A track and field. This year, he set a personal best and school record in shot put by throwing 17.2m. He was selected as CIS Male Field Athlete of the Year last year and has several medals, but Doherty says the ultimate feeling is



MIKE OTTO

**YOU GOT THE SILVER** It's the face of a champion and the face of a potential bobsledder—Matt Doherty and his two silver medals are both of those things.

getting a personal best.

"On that day, I did something that I did not think I had the physical ability to do," he admits. "It's pretty overwhelming to get a personal best. You work all year long in the weight room [and] at the track throwing and to finally get that reward at the end of the year really is overwhelming; for a track athlete [it's] an amazing feeling to have that big breakthrough."

Doherty honed his shot-put abilities working with Alberta head coach Georgette Reed, who's an elite shot putter herself. With a list of accomplishments that includes the Commonwealth Games, World Championships and Olympics, it's tough to find a better shot put coach than Reed. As Reed puts it, when Doherty came to the U of A he had promise but was "rough around the edges," but her early tutelage at the shot put helped Doherty become a

national champion.

"It's always a great feeling for a coach to see someone who you knew had potential from the first time you saw them improve to win medals at the CIS level," Reed says, adding that Doherty still has more potential. "Technically, Matt is almost there, but he could still throw farther. There are still a few little things that I think once he gets a handle on, he'll be able to throw the shot probably close to 18 metres before he leaves here."

In addition to shot put, weight throw and bobsled, Doherty also has passion for the highland games where competitors enter in ten events including stone throw and kaber toss—flipping a telephone pole end over end. With his broad interest in sports, Doherty could be very visible over the next five years—though he might be wearing a kilt or the Maple Leaf.

## SPORTS SHORTS

Written and compiled by Paul Owen

### Bears football coach resigns

Terry Eisler, offensive coordinator for the Golden Bears football team since 2001, resigned on Monday to pursue other opportunities. Eisler started with the team in the mid-'90s as running backs coach, and moved up to offensive coordinator when Jerry Friesen was hired as head coach.

"I've got a tremendous respect for Terry and for how dedicated he was to the Golden Bears program," athletics director Dale Schulha said.

### Creation of women's hockey team at Ryerson stalled again

TORONTO (CUP)—The plan for a women's hockey team at Ryerson University has hit another snag in the ice.

Third-year student Stephanie Poulin has been attempting to get a female Rams hockey team for two years, and she and former Ryerson athletic director Dave Dubois were in the process of doing so when Dubois was terminated, leaving the progress in doubt.

About 20 women make the trek every Wednesday night to George Bell Arena for an 11pm practice time. The squad has been training with the hopes of becoming a club team next year and a varsity team in two years. However, Marion Creery, the temporary head of athletics, gave away the girls' late-night ice time to the City of Toronto, cancelling four Friday night games Dubois had set up while he was athletics director.

"There is a cloud of uncertainty around the whole endeavour. We are awaiting word on what step the administration is going to take," said Harvey Boutilier, Ryerson men's hockey equipment manager, who has been helping the process.

Natalie Russell, the Eyeopener

### Uproar at UBC over gym closure

VANCOUVER (CUP)—Students and

community members aren't happy about a recent proposal to close the University of British Columbia Aquatic Centre gym, and they're making themselves heard loud and clear.

"I haven't seen something like this in my time here," said Jeff Friedrich, president of the student association, referring to the flood of e-mails, letters, and phone calls received from gym users concerned about a recent announcement by UBC Athletics that the gym will be closing indefinitely. The announcement has been subsequently retracted.

The Aquatic Centre gym is used by students, staff, professors, senior citizens and hospital patients, all of whom have come together to express their displeasure not only with the announcement, but also with the lack of information and consultation gym patrons have received regarding the decision. As a result, a petition was formed to keep the gym open.

"I definitely think the feedback is being listened to," said Friedrich. "It's not going to just be a couple voices per usual saying students care about this. There's some real force behind this."

Boris Korby, the Ubyssy