

Sports

Tucson Citizen

Bill Quimby/3
Letters/4
Classified ads/5

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SPORTS EDITOR, PETER MADRID, 573-4635

Bates signs with pro agent

By CORKY SIMPSON
Citizen Sports Columnist

Tucsonan Michael Bates has signed a contract with a professional sports agent, relinquishing his collegiate standing in track and field.

But, providing he is academically eligible, he can still play college football.

The University of Arizona sprinter and Amphi High School

Track star still could play UA football

graduate dropped out of school before the fall term in order to train for the 1992 Summer Olympics.

Bates' college track coach, Dave Murray, said he believes the athlete is enrolled at Pima Community College.

Joe Orlando of the firm Orlando & Associates of Gloucester, Mass.,

said today that Bates has signed a contract as a client.

Bates is scheduled to run in the Millrose Games on Feb. 7 in Madison Square Garden in New York City against Carl Lewis, Andre Cason and LeRoy Burrell.

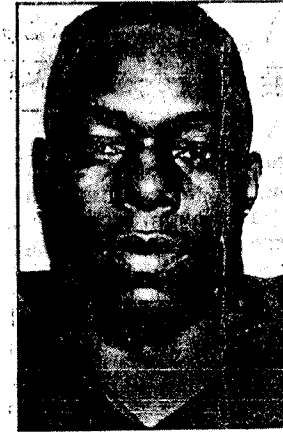
"I represent Michael in his track and field career," Orlando said. "It

is his plan not to return to the University of Arizona in terms of an athlete in that sport."

Orlando said Bates "is going to concentrate on winning 'the gold' in Barcelona."

Orlando said that should Bates decide to pursue a career in the National Football League after the Olympics, Orlando & Associates will

MICHAEL, continued/2D



Bates

Michael Bates gets agent

Continued from 1D

hurt the UA track team "from the standpoint that we anticipated his being with us four years, and we did not actively recruit a quality sprinter."

"Michael may very well become an NFL player," Orlando said.

"He is faster than Rocket Ismail, and he has good hands, or he wouldn't have handled kickoff returns in college."

Murray said he wished Bates well in his professional career.

"My main concern is that Michael continue his education and graduate," Murray said.

Bates, a track All-American, twice won Pacific 10 Conference titles in both the 100 and 200 meters both years at UA.

As a UA freshman in football in 1989, Bates ranked fourth in the Pac-10 in kickoff returns but carried the ball just 20 times for 55 yards.

As a sophomore, he rushed for 165 yards on 43 carries and ran back 31 kickoffs for 729 yards, including a 97-yard touchdown return against Washington State.

Said Fred Harvey, UA track assistant and Bates' sprint coach: "Michael has made the decision, as far as track and field is concerned, not to compete anymore at the collegiate level."

Murray said Bates' decision will

However, Murray said he'd recruit Bates again even if he knew the sprinter would compete for him just for two years.

"He is one of the premier sprinters in the U.S.," Murray said. "And is a football player who came out in the spring."

"Now that he is strictly track, he has an excellent shot at the Olympics."

Bates has run a 10.17 in the 100 meters and 20.37 in the 200.

Harvey said Bates has never run the 60 meters, the event in which he will compete against Lewis, Cason and Burrell at the Millrose Games.

Dan Dutcher of the Legislative Services Division of the NCAA said the organization's rules permit a college athlete to sign with a professional agent in one sport and remain eligible in another "if that is specifically noted in the contract."

Orlando said his agreement with Bates is just for track.

Bates and UA football coach Dick Tomey could not be reached for comment.