



MEN'S TRACK & FIELD

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Track And Field Sends Three Individuals And One Relay Team To NCAA Regional Championships

Flames set to compete this weekend at the NCAA Mideast Regional Championships in Knoxville, Tenn.

May 25, 2006

Chicago, Ill. - The UIC track and field team will have three individuals and one relay team competing this weekend at the 2006 NCAA Mideast Track and Field Regional Championships hosted by the University of Tennessee at Tom Black Track at LaPorte Stadium.

For the men's team, senior [Nick Gazis](#) will compete in the discus while junior [Trent Thompson](#) races in the 400-meter dash. Thompson, seniors [Brandon Cook](#) and [Justin Malec](#), and junior [Mark Perkowski](#) will represent the Flames in the 4x100 relay.

Sophomore [Idara Essien](#), the 2006 Horizon League indoor and outdoor champion in the triple jump, is the lone member of the women's team to qualify for the meet.

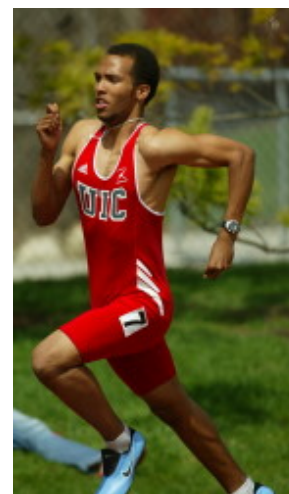
Gazis qualified automatically for the regional meet with his school-record discus toss of 54.96m back on April 14 at the Sea Rays Relays, which was also hosted by Tennessee. His distance ranks ninth-best in the region.

Thompson, Essien and the men's 4x100 relay team all earned automatic berths in the regional championships by claiming titles in their respective events at the Horizon League Outdoor Championships.

The top-five finishers in each individual event and the top-three finishers in each relay event advance to the NCAA Championships. The 2006 NCAA Outdoor Championships will be held June 7-10 on the campus of Sacramento State University.

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Junior Trent Thompson will compete in the 400-meter dash and in the 4x100 relay at the NCAA Regional Championships.