

Sprinter lives life in the fast lane

He's acted in the movies, but Langley runner is now focused on increasing his speed

By Howard Tsumura, The Province April 8, 2010



Sprinter Brennan Gademans does warm-up drills at practice this week at Langley Secondary School.

Photograph by: Ian Lindsay, PNG, The Province

The casting calls still come, but truth be told, Brennan Gademans can't find a script to rival the real-life one he's hard at work producing every day.

"I still get auditions, but I have told my agent that at this point in my life, I am really, really focusing on my sports," says the budding thespian and Grade 11 sprint sensation from Langley Secondary.

Not even two full years into his sprinting career with the Langley Mustangs club team, Gademans looks to have picked the right discipline with which to live life in the fast lane.

Over the spring break, he clocked a sizzling 10.58 seconds in a 100-metre race in Hawaii, setting the stage for a much-anticipated showdown with defending provincial prep champion Jared Heldman of cross-town rival Brookwood at the Subway B.C. high school championships in June.

And based on the way he's consistently pared down his personal best time, the Canadian youth record of 10.46 seconds isn't out of reach.

"Now is the time," says Gademans, 17, who was second as a Grade 10 in the senior 100 metres (11.13 seconds) at last season's B.C. high school meet, and third in the 200 metres (22.92). "I need to capitalize on this now to get a scholarship, so I guess you could say that right now, my [acting career] is sitting under the radar."

Still, how many Grade 11 students can say they have been represented by a major talent agency, or have filmed on location in New York City?

And perhaps best of all, how many can lay claim to having gotten their first role after their first audition, playing one of the most famous people in the world, like Gademans did when he landed his first movie role at age 10?

In 2004, Gademans played the role of the late Michael Jackson as a child in the bio-pic *Man In The Mirror: The Michael Jackson Story*.

He also played the role of troubled child star Todd Bridges in a 2006 TV movie about the cast of the early 1980s series *Diff'rent Strokes*, and then showcased his substantial dancing skills in the 2007 movie *How She Move*.

But it's been the way Gademans moves on the crack of the starter's pistol that has been most impressive of all, despite the fact that he didn't start working under the watchful eye of Mustangs' coach Kim Chapdelaine until December of 2008.

"I was doing track more as a temporary thing," admits Gademans, who played community football in Langley. "I thought I could use my speed as more of an opportunity to be seen by U.S. universities and then maybe I could walk on with a football team because football was my true love.

"But then I got into the top group with the Langley Mustangs and I slowly started to realize that now I don't want to let go of track."

Gademans, in fact, was such a natural, that after about six months of working with Chapdelaine, he was competing against collegiate athletes at the University of Oregon's annual Preview meet at historic Hayward Field in Eugene.

"Brennan, I think, is wise beyond his years," says Chapdelaine. "He has demonstrated that he definitely has the right tools to become a great sprinter and it has just fallen into place as to how badly he wants it and how focused he can be to arrive at his goals."

Maybe one day, his goals will include playing the leading role of a famous athlete on the big screen.

But for now, Gademans knows how he wants his own script to unfold.

"My dream would be to go to nationals and set that [youth record]," says Gademans. Until then, he's putting the casting calls on hold.

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