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Finding purpose in every stride: UWO football player pursuing special ed, blind teen become sprinting partners

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Captions/Credits

*1*  
*Blind Oshkosh West sprinter Kymani Stephen, left, powers down the track with UW-Oshkosh football player Austin Eklund guiding him during a 100-meter race in April. (Kathy Bechard Photography)*

*2  
Blind Oshkosh West senior Kymani Stephen practices throwing drills for goalball inside a UWO racquetball court. Stephen competed in early December at the National High School Goalball Championships in Austin, Texas. (UW-Oshkosh)*

*3  
Kymani Stephen, left, walks across the UW-Oshkosh campus with guide runner Austin Eklund, a defensive back with the UWO football team. The pair train together throughout the track season, competing in the 100- and 200-meter races.**(UW-Oshkosh)*

*4  
Stephen and Eklund using a longer tether at an April 2025 race. (Kathy Bechard Photography)*

*5  
Kymani Stephen measures steps in the UWO racquetball court before his goalball practice. (UW-Oshkosh)*

*6  
Kymani Stephen, a blind high school student-athlete, walks across the UW-Oshkosh campus with Trina Woldt, director of Leadership Oshkosh. Woldt helped coordinate practice space for Stephen’s goalball training. (UW-Oshkosh)*

*7  
During a goalball training session in a UW-Oshkosh racquetball court, Kymani Stephen works on offensive throws as UW-Oshkosh student-athlete Austin Eklund observes his technique. (UW-Oshkosh)*