

# 'I don't like being called a cheat'

**London:** Oscar Pistorius will become the first amputee sprinter to compete at a World Championships against able-bodied rivals later this month but the South African accepts there will always be voices saying his carbon-fibre prosthetic blades give him an advantage.

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Far from getting him down, however, the doubters spur him on and fuel his desire to reach greater heights.

The 24-year-old double amputee, nicknamed "Blade Runner," has been selected to run in the 400 metres and 4 x 400m relay in Daegu, South Korea after smashing his personal best last month to meet the qualifying time.



AFP

Oscar Pistorius says prosthetic blades don't give him an advantage

That success was the fruition of two and a half years of hard training, he said.

"I don't like being called, in essence, a cheat, when I know how hard I work," Pistorius said.

"I know that I would never be in this sport if I had the smallest doubt in my mind that I had an advantage. Ninety-nine per cent of people do know what the facts are and I can't be bothered with the one per cent that don't."

### Battered in sprints, US hope to regain lost ground

A US team stung by two high-profile injury absences and a late doping case still sends a squad with eight reigning title holders to a 2011 athletics World Championships seen as a springboard to 2012 Olympic success.

The loss of injured sprinter Tyson Gay and 400m star Jeremy Wariner were undoubtedly blows to an American squad trying to reassert its dominance over Jamaica in the sprints and match, if not improve on, its haul of 22 medals—10 of them gold—at Berlin in 2009.

Gay's injury withdrawal from the US trials robbed the United States of the American reckoned most likely to challenge Jamaican sprint superstar Usain Bolt.

The Americans suffered another blow when Michael Rogers, who recorded the fourth-fastest 100m time of the season, tested positive for a banned stimulant and withdrew from the championships as he accepted a provisional ban until his case is concluded. AGENCIES