

Flo Meiler and Barbara Jordan Named Athletes of the Month

Photo credit to Jerry Wojcik, National Masters News



BOSTON – Flo Meiler of Shelburne, VT and **Barbara Jordan** of South Burlington, VT have been co-named as USA Track & Field – New England's Athletes of the Month for August 2004. Meiler, age 70, and Jordan, age 68, teammates on the Green Mountain Athletic Association, set world records for their respective 5-year age groups at the National Masters Track & Field Championships held in Decatur, Illinois from August 5-8.

In the women's 70-74 division, Meiler won the 300m hurdles with a world record 1:07.16 and finished first in the 80m hurdles at 17.57. Her time was faster than the U.S. record, but the wind was over the allowable limit. In a striking parallel, Jordan, competing in the women's 65-69 division, also bettered the world record in the 300m hurdles, running 1:03.21, and also won the 80m hurdles in a time (16.83) faster than the U.S. record, but with a tailwind over the allowable limit.

Pentathletes (l to r) Barbara Jordan (W65), Ann Carter (W60), and Flo

Meiler (W70),
In the hurdles, 37th National Masters T&F Championships, Decatur, Illinois.

Showing their all-around ability, Meiler and Jordan also won the pentathlon for their age groups, and Meiler scored the most points of any woman with a total of 3,996.

Also at the National Masters Championships, **Buzz Gagne**, age 57, of Penacook, NH set a U.S. record for the men's 55-59 age group in the javelin with a throw of 178-5 (54.39m).

At the 7 mile Falmouth Road Race on August 8, twin sisters and Milton (MA) H.S. graduates **Kate** and **Laura O'Neill** finished 2nd and 5th in the woman's division. Kate, tuning up for the Olympic 10,000m race, finished in 36:26 while Laura timed 37:31.

At the Olympic Games in Athens, Greece, **Shalane Flanagan** of Marblehead, MA finished 11th in her 5000m heat in 15:34.63 and **Laura Gerraughty** of Nashua, NH was 12th in her qualifying group for the shot put with a best throw of 54 – 0 ½ (16.47m). Former Brookline (MA) High School star **Jonathon Riley** finished 14th in his heat of the 5000m clocking 13:38.79, and Kate O'Neill placed 21st in the 10,000m final with a time of 32:24.04.

Former New England collegiate athletes at the Olympics included Adam Nelson (Dartmouth), silver medallist in the shot put with a throw of 69-5 (21.16m), Brenda Taylor (Harvard) who placed 8th in the 400m hurdles at 54.97 and Anna Mahon (UVM) who was 14th in her qualifying group in the hammer with a throw of 213-2 ½ (64.99m).

Coming up in September is the CVS Pharmacy Downtown 5 K in Providence, RI on September 12. This event will serve as the USA Men's 5 km Championships. September also signals the start of the cross-country season for schools, colleges and clubs.

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