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.

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 Gerrughty 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.

USATF – New England’s mission is to continue its leadership role as one of the outstanding associations of the national governing body in Athletics. USATF – New England provides opportunities for athletes of all ages to pursue excellence in long distance running, race walking, and track and field, from grassroots to the elite level.