



Arantxa King Named USATF – New England Athlete of the Month for July



BOSTON – **Arantxa King**, age 15 of Medford, MA, has been named USA Track & Field – New England’s Athlete of the Month for July 2005. At the IAAF World Youth (Under 17) Championships in Marrakesh, Morocco on July 17, King, representing her native Bermuda, won the gold medal in the long jump with a tremendous leap of 20’ 11 ½” (6.39m), nearly a foot beyond her previous best. King also proceeded to win the gold medal in the long jump at the Pan American Junior Championships at Windsor, Ontario on July 30, stretching to 20’ 4 ½”.

Asked about her Beamon-esque leap at the World Youth Championships, King revealed that she had “tweaked” her hamstring during the qualifying round the day before and that it was bothering her as she warmed up for the finals. “I wasn’t sure if I’d be able to jump at all,” said King, “but on my first run-up, it didn’t feel that bad and I was able to continue and take all six jumps.”

King, who will be a junior at Medford High School this fall, said it was “an amazing experience to be at a world championship. There were people from so many countries. I was a little scared at first but settled down after the triple jump which was my first event.” (She jumped over 40 feet but did not advance to the finals). Despite her spectacular accomplishment and obvious high potential, King was understated about future goals, saying that she tries not to think too far ahead but would like to jump 21 feet in the next year.

At the USATF National Junior Olympic Championships at Indianapolis on July 27, **Leigh Petranoff**, age 16 of Cranston, RI, won her third straight gold medal in the javelin, topping the Intermediate Girls division with a throw of 137’ 11”.

The **Greater Boston Track Club** (GBTC) won the combined team title at the USATF National Club Track & Field Championships at Icahn Stadium in New York City, July 15-16 with the women’s team 2nd and the men’s team 4th in their respective divisions. Leading the way for the GBTC were individual winners **Sherita Williams** with a meet record of 43’1 ½” in the triple jump, **Kateema Riettie** setting a meet record of 156’4” in the javelin, **Natalie Grant** in the hammer throw at 183’4”, and on the men’s side, **Dan Olson** with 6’10” in the high jump and **Sean Furey** with a 224’9” javelin throw. GBTC coach, **Dave Callum**, serves as an athlete representative on the USATF – NE Board of Governors.

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.

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