



Roger Pierce Named USATF – New England Athlete of the Month for June



Photo: Moonbeam Graphixs, Inc.

BOSTON: - **Roger Pierce**, age 60 of Essex, MA has been named USA Track & Field – New England’s Athlete of the Month for June 2005. At the National Senior Games held June 13-16 in Pittsburgh, Pierce swept the sprints in the M60-64 age group, winning the 100m in 13.08, the 200m in 25.69 and setting a National Senior Games record in the 400m with a 57.19, despite strong swirling winds.

Pierce is one of New England’s most accomplished track & field athletes. In USATF National Masters Championships, he has won 16 gold medals; 10 in individual events, 6 in relays. In Brisbane, Australia in 2001, he won the world championship in the M55 400m and followed that with a silver in the M55 400m at the 2003 worlds in Puerto Rico. He has also won 4 gold medals and a bronze medal in relay events at the world championships. Pierce set an M45 world indoor record in the 200m at age 45 and has run on several relays that have set world or American records.

Pierce looks forward to representing the US this August at the World Masters Athletics Championships in San Sebastian, Spain. “I’m just thankful to be able to be able to keep doing this,” he said. “Training to run against the best in the world is a real motivator. I want to really hit it at San Sebastian!”

In other outstanding performances, at the USA Outdoor Track & Field Championships on June 25 in Carson, CA, **Jen Toomey** of Salem, MA and **Amy Mortimer** of West Roxbury, MA finished 2nd and 3rd in the women’s 1500m. Toomey, who ran 4:07.39 and Mortimer at 4:07.58 are hoping to make the US team for the IAAF World Championships in Athletics at Helsinki, Finland this August.

John Barbour, age 51 of Gloucester, MA continued his dominance of the M50 division in the USATF-NE Road Racing Grand Prix Series by winning the Whirlaway 10K USATF-NE Championship in Methuen, MA on June 26. Barbour, who runs for the Greater Lowell Roadrunners, ran 35:46 in the blazing heat and is now 4 for 4 in Grand Prix events this year.

Among the impressive performances at the USATF-NE Junior Olympic Championships held in Providence, RI on June 18, **Ashley Diclemente** scored a double win in the Bantam Girls division (born 1995 or later) by winning the 400m in 1:06.98 and the 800m in 2:36.96.

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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