



# USA Track & Field New England

# NEWS

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



BOSTON – **Roger Pierce**, age 60 of Essex, MA has been named USA Track & Field – New England’s Athlete of the Month for September 2005. On September 2, at the World Masters Athletic Championships in San Sebastian, Spain, Pierce raced to a gold medal in the M60 400 meters, triumphing over two former world champions.

Pierce ran from the front in the 400, saying that he wanted to take it out as fast as he could for the first 300, and then use his strength to hold on. “I didn’t want to give anyone a chance to relax and then try to come back on me. Coming out of the turn [into the homestretch], I saw nothing but empty lanes and knew that I would win.” His time of 55.96 is an age-graded equivalent of 45.18. The next day, Pierce went on to win his 2nd and 3rd gold medals of the games, running strong legs on the victorious U.S. M60 4 X 100 and 4X 400 meter relay teams.

Pierce, who is one of New England’s most accomplished track & field athletes, has now won eight gold medals as well as a silver and a bronze medal at four different world masters championships. He was also named USATF – New England’s Athlete of the Month for June 2005, making him the first repeat winner since the program’s inception in May 2004.

Also at the World Masters Athletics Championships, **Barbara Jordan** of South Burlington, VT, competing in the W65 division, won a silver medal in the triple jump and bronze medals in the long jump, 80m hurdles and 300m hurdles.

**Ken Leinbach** of Watertown, MA won a silver medal in the M50 8K cross-country race, **Mary Harada** of West Newbury, MA won bronze in the W70 1500m and **Bill Garrahan** of Narrangansett, RI took bronze in the M75 throws pentathlon. **Warren Graff**, of Merrimac, MA won a pair of gold medals in the M60 4 X 100 and 4 X 400 meter relays, running legs on the same teams as Roger Pierce.

On September 25 at the World Mountain Running Trophy championship in Wellington, New Zealand, **Eric Blake**, who runs for the Central Mass. Striders (CMS) was 2nd American and 23rd overall, running 58:30 for the rugged 13.5K course, and **Paul Low** of Amherst, MA, who also runs for CMS, was 4th American and 50th overall in 1:00:52.

*USATF-NE provides opportunities for athletes of all ages to pursue excellence in running, race walking, and track and field, from grassroots to the elite level.*

### Athlete of the Month

is a program for USATF- New England and is designed to recognize outstanding performers at all levels of the sport. USATF-NE will name a new honoree each month and feature the athlete on the USATF-NE website.

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