## **NEWS**

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## Greater Boston Track Club Named USA Track & Field - New England Athlete(s) of the Month for July



Photo: www.GBTC.org

BOSTON – The Greater Boston Track Club (GBTC) has been named USA Track & Field – New England's Athlete of the Month for July 2006. The GBTC won three team trophies at the USATF National Club Track & Field Championships held on July 15-16 at Mt. San Antonio College in Walnut, CA. The GBTC women's team won its division, edging the Norfolk Real Deal 136.5 to 134.5 points, by winning the final event, the women's 4 x 800m relay in a meet record 8:51.80.

GBTC's men's team placed second in team scoring, with national titles won by **Sean Furey** in the javelin with a throw of 237' 4", and by the

4 x 800 meter relay team. In the combined scoring, GBTC also placed second behind the Executive Track Club from New York City's Metropolitan Association. On the women's side, Anna Willard lead the way for Greater Boston, winning the 1500m in 4:25.35, finishing a close second in the 800m, running leadoff on the 2nd place distance medley relay and then anchoring the victorious 4 x 800 meter relay to clinch the national team title. **Kateema Riettie** also contributed heavily with wins in both the shot put and javelin.

GBTC senior coach, **Tom Derderian**, stated that Jack MacDonald – a track star and then head coach at Boston College - founded the club in 1973 with the intention of having a team that would serve as Boston's national representative in track & field, road racing and cross-country. The club's early years were marked by enormous success on the roads as luminaries like Bill Rodgers, Alberto Salazar, Bob Hodge and Randy Thomas posted world-class performances in the marathon and at other distances.

When USATF inaugurated the club national championships for track & field in 2001, Derderian and other GBTC leaders, in the spirit of the club's charter, determined that GBTC should make this meet the focal point of the track & field season. **Dave Callum**, the club's sprint coach and track & field manager (and also an athlete representative on the USATF-NE board of governors), has played the lead role in implementing this mission. In winning national honors, GBTC clearly functioned as a team, with 12

men and 16 women scoring points and several athletes competing outside their specialty events in order to garner points wherever possible.

Other outstanding performances in July were turned in by the four New England medalists' at the USATF National Jr. Olympic Champs held July 25-30 in Baltimore. Winning silver medals were **Dominic Filiano** of Lebanon, NH in the Youth Boys shot put, **Abbey Karin**, of Byfield, MA in the Intermediate Girls javelin, and **Andrew Wheating** of Norwich, VT running 3:58.31 in the Young Men's 1500m. Earning a bronze medal was **Nick Farnsworth** of Wilmington, MA in the Intermediate Boys javelin.

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.