

## **Samantha Gawrych Named USA Track & Field - New England Athlete of the Month for June**



Photo: Westerly Sun

**Samantha Gawrych**, 18, a graduating senior at Westerly High School in Rhode Island, has been named USA Track and Field – New England’s Athlete of the Month for June 2005. On June 3, at the state championship meet held at Brown University, Gawrych showcased her talent, strength and versatility by winning state titles in the 400m, 800m, 1500m and on the 4 x 400m relay. Her ability to run national class times across a span of distances is demonstrated by her personal best’s of 56.25 for the 400, 2:09.72 for the 800 and 4:28.54 for 1500 – the last achieved during her sophomore year. She also holds the New England indoor record for the 600m with an extraordinary 1:30.87 performance in 2005.

**Dave Federico**, her coach at Westerly High, reports that during her career Gawrych won 15 individual titles and set 10 indoor and 10 outdoor state records in dual and relay events. She has twice been named

Rhode Island High School Athlete of the Year – an award that considers athletes in all sports, and she is widely regarded as the greatest high school track & field athlete, male or female, in Rhode Island history. Gawrych, recruited by numerous universities across the nation, will enroll at Boston College this fall.

There were a number of other outstanding performances by New England athletes in July. Heading the list was **Amy Rudolph** of Providence who, on June 23, won the 10,000m at the USA Outdoor Track & Field Championships in Indianapolis in 32:25.56. Earlier in the month on June 3, Rudolph was 1st American and 5th overall at the Freihofer Run for Women in Albany, New York, running 15:50 for the 5K course. Rudolph is a former USATF-NE Athlete of the Month (AOM) winner. (January 2005).

Also at the USA Outdoor Track & Field Champs, **Joanne Dow**, Manchester, NH (AOM winner in February 2006) added another national title on June 24 winning the 20,000m race walk in 1:35:20.76 and **Laura Gerraughty** of Manchester, NH, (AOM in June 2004) competing for the University of North Carolina, completed her comeback from a serious wrist injury by placing second in the shot put on June 25 with a throw of 59’ 10.25”.

**Arantxa King**, 16, a junior at Medford (MA) H.S. triple jumped 42-0 at the Massachusetts state track & field championships at Fitchburg State on June 3, setting a new state and New England record. King was an AOM winner in July 2005 after winning the Under-17 long jump at the World Youth Championships in Morocco.

**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.

*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.*