

Avi Kramer Named USATF – England's Athlete of the Month for October



Photo: Jalbum.net

BOSTON – **Avi Kramer**, age 26 of Jamaica Plain, MA, has been named USA Track & Field – New England's Athlete of the Month for October 2007. Kramer, a 2005 graduate of Vassar College, competes for the Greater Boston Track Club (GBTC). On October 28, in Falmouth, MA, Kramer finished 3rd in the Cape Cod Marathon with a time of 2:29:48. This was his first marathon and his third place finish clinched his victory in the open men's division of the 2007 USATF – New England Road Racing Grand Prix. The Grand Prix is a seven-race series at distances ranging from 5K to the marathon. It began in March with the New Bedford Half Marathon and concluded with the Cape Cod Marathon.

Kramer also led the **GBTC** to the open men's team championship for the 2007 Grand Prix – the club's first team victory in any division since the inception of the Grand Prix series in 1985. Earlier in the month, Kramer also ran a personal best for the half-marathon at the B.A.A. Half Marathon in Boston on October 7, where he clocked 1:09:30.

Asked for his reaction to winning the Grand Prix championship, Kramer expressed shock at his achievement, noting that, although he was near the top in several races, he did not win any single event. However, when he looked at the point standings after the first five races, he noted that he had a good chance to become the overall winner, and by the time of the Cape Cod Marathon had made this his goal – recognizing that a top three finish would seal a victory.

Avi currently works for a publishing company. He is an aspiring writer who is finishing his first novel. The novel is inspired by his experience as a teaching fellow in China, while still an undergraduate at Vassar. Kramer taught in a rural area of Hunan province and often woke up at 5 A.M. to run in the streets. He said his students were surprised at his athletic endeavors because teachers and others with academic interests generally were not involved in sports. He described participating in a "chaotic" road race held in the village, in which the other runners competed in street clothes and there was no definite start or finish to the race. For clarification of these cultural oddities, we will need to read Avi's completed novel.

Looking toward the future, Kramer is still formulating his goals as a runner. He wants to continue to improve his personal best times at a range of distances, and hopes to run in the 2:20s at the 2008 B.A.A. Boston Marathon.

Athlete of the Month
is a USATF- New
England program
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 – New England's mission is to continue its leadership role as one of the outstanding associations of the national governing body in Athletics.