

Barbara Jordan Named USA Track & Field – New England’s Athlete of the Month for September



Foto Studio Cinque

BOSTON – **Barbara Jordan**, age 71 of South Burlington, VT, has been named USA Track & Field – New England’s Athlete of the Month for September 2007. Jordan competing for the United States at the World Masters Association (WMA) championships in Riccione, Italy, September 4-15, won six individual and two relay medals in the W70 age division. She won two gold medals, one in the 80m hurdles, with a time of 17.90, and the other as the leadoff runner for the U.S. 4 x 400m relay that set an age group world record of 6:26.99. Barbara also won silver medals in the long jump, triple jump, 300m hurdles and 4 x 100m relay, and won bronze medals in the 100m and 200m sprints.

Jordan was previously a co-winner (with **Flo Meiler**) of the Athlete of the Month award in August 2004, and in 2005 she was named to the USATF Masters Hall of Fame. Born and raised in Fairlawn, New Jersey, Barbara was also proud to be inducted as a member of her high school’s hall of fame in recent years. The irony of this honor is that Barbara did not begin competing in sports until her mid-50s. As she notes, “In those days [both in high school and then in college at the University of Vermont (UVM)], the only sports roles for girls were majorette or cheerleader”

For many years, Barbara has taught physical education classes at UVM and helped conduct a metabolic research program that studied the effect of aging on insulin production. Two students in the study had competed in the Senior Olympics and as she neared age 55,

Barbara decided to train for the national championships. In her first effort, she won the high jump and placed 2nd in the long jump. Since then, Barbara has won world championships, set numerous American and world records and has won literally scores of national championship titles, Jordan still teaches at UVM and indicates that, three times a week after teaching, she stays at the university for sprint training and technical practice followed by an intensive weightlifting session. She says she enjoys training hard, loves running sprints and and is looking ahead to maintaining her competitive fitness and going after a new set of records when she turns 75.

Jordan was the only New Englander to win an individual gold medal at the 2007 WMA Champs. However, **Roger Pierce**, age 62 of Essex, MA, a two-time world masters champion in the 400 meters, teamed with his Mass Velocity teammate, **Ralph Souppa**, age 60 of Swampscott, MA to win gold medals in the M60 4 x 400m relay and silver medals in the 4 x 100m relay.

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.