

Molly Huddle Named USA Track & Field – New England Athlete of the Month for October



Photo: [Bud Morton Photography](#)

BOSTON – **Molly Huddle**, age 25 of Providence, RI, has been named USA Track & Field – New England’s Athlete of the Month for October 2009. On October 12, at the Tufts Health Plan 10K for women, Huddle won for the second year in a row. Competing against a world-class field, in a race that also served as the USA Women’s 10K championship, Huddle had to stage a strong comeback to nail down her victory in a field of 8,200 runners. From four miles on, the race turned into a duel between Huddle and Kenyan, Genoveva Kigen. Over the last quarter mile, as they turned onto Charles Street, Molly found another gear, as she sprinted to a five second victory over Kigen, finishing in 32:07.

This past summer, Huddle won two other USA women’s road race championships. On July 25, she was the first American – and 4th overall – at the USA 7 Mile Championship held at the Bix 7 miler in Iowa, and on August 22 she came in first at the USA 10 Mile Championship, held at the Crim 10 mile Road Race in Flint, Michigan on August 22.

Huddle grew up in Elmira, NY area and went to Elmira Notre Dame High School. Although her high school had no track or cross country team, Molly did not let that deter her. She played on the basketball team, but once she was entered in a track meet and ran a 4:47 mile and 10:18 two mile, it was clear that a track star had been born. Training alone and running by herself in meets, she ultimately set a national high school girl’s record of 10:01.08 for the two mile. As a scholarship athlete at the University of Notre Dame, Huddle became the most decorated men’s or woman’s athlete in Notre Dame history, winning nine All-America selections, setting four school records and winning Big East and NCAA Regional titles. In 2004 she competed at the U.S. Olympic trials in the 5000 meters in the 2008 Olympic trials, competed in both the 5000 and 10,000.

Huddle is married to Canadian middle distance runner, **Kurt Benninger**, who also starred at Notre Dame. She runs for Saucony, and trains in Providence under the tutelage of famed coach, **Ray Treacy**, where she has the opportunity to train with some of the best women’s distance runners in the world. For the future, Huddle has the goal of racing internationally and representing the U.S. at the Olympic and world championship level.