

Moira Cronin Named USATF-New England Athlete of the Month for June



Photo: Dan Schumacher

BOSTON – **Moira Cronin**, age 16 of Andover, MA, who just completed her junior year at Andover High School, has been named USA Track & Field – New England’s Athlete of the Month for June 2010. On June 12, at the New England Interscholastic Championships in New Britain, CT, Cronin won the girl’s high jump with a leap of 1.75m (5-9). On June 20 at the New Balance High School Nationals in Greensboro, NC, Moira – who was ranked third going into the meet – won her first national title in a jump off with Chelsea Utley of Virginia. Both girls had jumped 1.75m (5-9) and were exhausted after an intense multi-hour competition, but Moira prevailed in the jump off and then leaped high off the mat in delight.

Moira began track & field in the spring of her freshman year. Though she tried out as a

thrower, she quickly converted to high jump and hurdles, and by the end of her first season had jumped 5-3, the best mark in her school. Her development as a jumper has been extremely rapid. She jumped 5-9 as a sophomore in winning the New England Interscholastic Championships outdoors and took 7th place at the then-named Nike Outdoor Nationals in Greensboro.

This past indoor season she won the New England Championships and then took 4th at the Nike Indoor Nationals held at the Reggie Lewis Center in Boston. During the outdoor New England’s, she competed on a “crazy weather day” which went from sunny to torrential downpours. Her high jump competition took place in a driving rain, and she had to repeatedly wring out her soaked jersey. Keeping her poise and winning the event, despite the adverse conditions, was a confidence-booster for Moira.

As she heads into her senior year at Andover, Moira recognizes that she has the potential to go much further in track & field. She is young for a high school senior and, unlike some of her peers, has not gone to specialized clinics or camps for skill development. She is planning to apply to a number of prominent Division I college programs, where she would certainly benefit from high level coaching and advanced strength and conditioning work.

Moira likes to strike a balance in her approach to performance. She is an enthusiast who describes herself as “super-excited” to continue competing and “go wherever it takes me”, yet is reluctant to stake out specific goals and ambitions for collegiate or post-collegiate competition. She talks about the importance of having fun and keeping herself fresh mentally and physically, even as she strives to improve.