

Mass Velocity Track Club Named USATF-New England Athlete of the Month for March

BOSTON – The **Mass Velocity Track Club (MVTC)**, founded in 2005 by **Larry Libow** of Springfield, MA, has been named USA Track & Field – New England’s Athlete of the Month for March 2010. At the USA Masters Indoor Track & Field Championships held at the Reggie Lewis Center in Boston, March 26-28, Mass Velocity won its first national team championship title.

Altogether, 87 teams scored points and Mass Velocity topped the field with 369 points, beating the many-time national champion SoCal Track Club, which scored 341.5 points. TNT International

Racing Club based in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, was a close third with 339 points. In winning the national team title, 32 men and 12 women scored points for Mass Velocity.



Photo by Larry Libow

According to Libow, Mass Velocity first’s official appearance was at the 2005 Penn Relays, with one sprint relay team entered. The team dropped the baton and did not finish. Libow remembers that the announcer erroneously introduced them as “Massachusetts Velocity”. The team grew rapidly in 2006 and 2007. Finishing 11th at the 2006 U.S. Indoor Champs, MVTC placed 3rd at the U.S. Masters Indoors in 2007 and 2nd in 2008. All of these championships were held at the Reggie Lewis center in Boston. Thus, it was significant in 2009, when Mass Velocity demonstrated that it was a national power wherever it competed, by finishing 3rd in March at the U.S. Masters Indoors in Landover, Maryland, then taking 2nd place in July at the U.S. Masters Outdoor Championships in Oshkosh, WI.

Mass Velocity Track Club began as a masters club for sprinters, and sprinting remains its primary focus, but it also has a strong corps of national class masters jumpers, and as it continues to expand, more throwers and middle distance runners are joining as well. Among its 120 plus members are three athletes who have been named to the USATF Masters Hall of Fame: Roger Pierce, age 65 of Essex, MA, Barbara Jordan, age 74 of South Burlington, VT, and Bob Matteson, age 93 of Bennington, VT.

Asked about future goals for Mass Velocity, Larry Libow said, “There’s a great deal of satisfaction in going from concept to a powerhouse team. We’ve got the right kind of structure and the right kind of people to go on for a long time...BUT, we can’t rest on our laurels”. He wants to enlist corporate sponsorship for the club, as it continues its mission of helping masters athletes strive for competitive fitness and excellence, while enjoying the camaraderie of like-minded men and women.

USATF – New England’s mission is to continue its leadership role as one of the outstanding associations of the national governing body in Athletics.

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