

## **NEWS**

## Steve Headley Named USATF – New England Athlete of the Month for May



Photo courtesy of Springfield College

BOSTON – **Steve Headley**, age 22, of Wilbraham, MA, a senior at Springfield College, has been named USA Track & Field – New England's Athlete of the Month for May 2010. At the Division III NCAA Track & Field Championships held at Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, Ohio, May 27-29, Headley won the national title in the 100 meters with a lightning fast 10.33. He also finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 200 in 21.15, and paced Springfield to 2nd place in the 4 x 100 meter relay.

Steve had run 10.36 in the semifinals of the 100, and both his semis and finals times were DIII season's bests as well as stadium records. Headley was the defending champion in the 100, having won the 2009 DIII national title in 10.39. Following this year's championship meet, the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA) honored Steve as the 2010 DIII National Track Athlete of the Year.

Headley's parents are from Barbados and he has U.S. – Barbados dual citizenship. He grew up in Wilbraham and attended Minnechaug Regional High School. In high school, he showed outstanding sprint talent, running a 10.7 hand time in the 100, and a 21.46 electronic time in the 200 – at the time, his stronger event. Going to college, he saw

himself as having raw speed that needed to be developed and polished. He feels fortunate to have linked up with **Joe Van Gilder**, the sprint and relay coach at Springfield, who was named DIII Men's Assistant Coach of the Year for the New England Region in 2009. With Van Gilder's technical expertise, and Headley's work ethic and desire to improve, Steve has become one of the fastest sprinters ever in New England.

Headley graduated from Springfield with a degree in history and, in the future, has an interest in graduate school. However, he also has high ambitions as a sprinter, and recognizes that the window of opportunity will not wait. Accordingly, he is focused on representing Barbados at two championship meets in July: the Central American and Caribbean Championships to be held in the Dominican Republic, and the 2010 NACAC (North American, Central American & Caribbean) Under 23 Track & Field Championships in Miramar, Florida.

If he is able to break 10.30 for the 100 meters this summer, Barbados is likely to select Headley to their national team for the 2010 Commonwealth Games in Delhi, India this October. Steve balances confidence with perspective; asserting that he believes he can improve significantly as a sprinter, while also stating that his closeness to his family and religious values are most important to him.