

Carl Wallin Named USATF-New England Athlete of the Month for March 2012



Photo: David Gard

Carl Wallin, age 70 of Lebanon, NH, who competes for Thor's Stone, has been named USA Track & Field – New England's Athlete of the Month for March 2012. At the USA Masters Indoor Track & Field Championships in Bloomington, Indiana, March 16-18, Carl won national titles, by large margins, in both the M70 weight throw (17.77m, 58' 3.75") and super weight (9.38m, 30' 9.25"). He also placed 2nd in the shot put.

Wallin has been a prominent figure in track & field for almost half a century. In 1964, as a sophomore at Northeastern University, he became the first New Englander to put the shot over 60 feet. His best mark of 61' 6.5" remained the New England collegiate record for many years. He placed 2nd and 3rd in the NCAA Championships in his senior and junior years, went undefeated in the shot put in 48 consecutive indoor and outdoor dual meets, and represented the United States in international meets around the world.

In 1969, Wallin became a coach at Dartmouth College, an affiliation that would last for 40 years until his retirement in 2009. He won numerous awards and honors for his coaching and became regarded as one of the top field event coaches in the country. Twice he

was selected to coach U.S. national teams. Athletes flourished under his tough but supportive instruction. His most notable success was Adam Nelson, who was the 1997 NCAA shot put champion. Nelson would go on to win two silver medals in the Olympics (Sydney in 2000 and Athens in 2004) and a world championship at Helsinki in 2005.

Carl's love of competition has never diminished and he has always pushed himself at least as hard as he pushed any of his athletes. He competes as a jumper as well as a thrower in masters track & field and also competes in Olympic weightlifting and in powerlifting. In 1989 he placed first in the shot put at the World Masters Championships.

Since retirement, Wallin founded Thor's Stone, a club for weightlifters, throwers and other track and field athletes. Carl notes that most of the members are older than him, with the oldest male 87 years old and the oldest female 78. Asked about his motivation in continuing as a coach and competitor, Carl stated, "I really enjoy competition. Whether I win or lose isn't the most important thing. I love getting out there. It makes me feel really alive. I also really want to support masters competition."