

Catarina Rocha and Elinor Purrier Named USATF – New England’s Athlete of the Month for November 2012



BOSTON – **Catarina Rocha** of Peabody, MA and Elinor Purrier of Richford, VT, have been selected as co-winners of USA Track & Field - New England's Athlete of the Month award for November 2012. On November 24, Rocha, a senior at Peabody H.S., won the Footlocker Northeast Regional cross country race at Van Cortlandt Park in New York City. She dominated the girls field, winning by 19 seconds with a 17:49.5 clocking for the 5,000 meter course.



On the same day, Elinor Purrier won the Nike Cross Nationals Northeast Regionals held in Wappinger Falls, NY, timing 18:09.4 for 5,000 meters. The Nike Cross is a club event, though Purrier ran unattached. Both girls advanced to the respective national championships for these events.

*Elinor Purrier & Catarina Rocha
Photos: usa.milesplit.com*

Catarina, a senior at Peabody High School was undefeated in the Northeastern Conference this season and won her second straight Massachusetts state title. Her parents were both highly accomplished runners in high school, at Boston College, and beyond. Her father, Joe Rocha, qualified for the 1988 U.S. Olympic trials in 1988 in the 10,000 but was not able to run due to injury.

Her mother, Gina Braz Rocha, ran in the Olympic marathon trials in 2004.

Elle (pronounced “Ellie”) Purrier lives on her family farm in a remote area of northern Vermont, near the Canadian border. She has been undefeated this season in state competition, won her third straight Vermont state cross country title, and on November 4, won the New England Cross Country Championship in Cumberland, ME. She was named Gatorade Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year for Vermont in 2011. Although she runs no more than 30 miles a week in training, much of it is on mountainous terrain. In addition, Elle has developed her strength and conditioning in an unconventional way, through daily chores on the farm, that include milking the cows and tending to the pigs.