

117th Boston Marathon Named USATF – New England’s Athlete of the Month for April 2013



Photo: Fay Photo Boston

BOSTON –The 117th Boston Marathon, held on April 15, has been selected as recipient of USA Track & Field – New England’s Athlete of the Month award for April 2013. This honor is awarded to the Boston Athletic Association (BAA), to all who ran the marathon, to all who assisted the race in any capacity, to all who participated as spectators, to the first responders and medical personnel in the finishing area, and especially to all who have suffered losses.

The Boston Marathon began in 1897. Athletes from the BAA had traveled to Athens in 1896 and competed in the modern revival of the Olympic Games. The marathon was a special race from Marathon to Athens, created for the Olympic program.

The excitement of the event, won by Spyridon Louis of Greece in a stirring come-from-behind victory, inspired the BAA to organize a marathon in Boston the following year.

Initially, a race that drew runners from New England, the northeastern states and Canada, the Boston Marathon evolved into a world-renowned event that, by the 1930s, was attracting runners from around the world. It is not only the oldest annual marathon but, even with the rise of other major marathons in recent decades, has maintained its exceptional status. For example, the rigorous qualifying standards for Boston are achievements unto themselves, as those who achieve a prized “Boston qualifier” know well.

The open winners of this year’s Boston Marathon were **Lelisa Desisa** of Ethiopia who won the men’s race in 2:10:22 and **Rita Jeptoo** of Kenya who topped the women’s field in 2:26:25. Top New England finishers were **Tim Ritchie** (Boston / B.A.A.) who came in 25th in 2:21:31 and **Sheri Piers** (Falmouth, ME / Dirigo RC) who was 2nd Women’s Master and 20th overall in the women’s field. Joan Samuelson of Freeport, ME, 1983 Boston Marathon winner and 1984 Olympic Marathon champion, won the W55 division in 2:50:29 and **Reno Stirrat** (Quincy, MA / Whirlaway Racing Team) was second M55 in 2:47:17.

New England clubs won both open team titles. The Men’s Open was won by the **B.A.A.** (Tim Ritchie, Ryan McCalmon and Ian Nurse), while the Women’s Open winner was the **Dirigo Running Club** (Sheri Piers, Erica Jesseman and Mary Pardi).

The 118th Boston Marathon will be held on Monday, April 21, 2014.