

## Will Geoghegan Named USATF – New England’s Athlete of the Month for January 2014



*Photo: [now.dartmouth.edu](http://now.dartmouth.edu)*

BOSTON – **Will Geoghegan**, from Brunswick, ME, a senior at Dartmouth College is USA Track & Field – New England’s Athlete of the Month for January 2014. On January 25, at the Boston University Terrier Classic, Geoghegan ran 3:58.02 in the mile. This broke the 20-year old Dartmouth indoor record, established a new Ivy League indoor mark, and at the time of the meet, was the fastest collegiate time in the country for the indoor season. Known more as a 5000 meter and cross country runner, Will went into the Terrier Classic with a previous best mile of 4:05.71, meaning that he lopped an incredible 7.69 seconds off his previous record.

Will’s path to glory at Dartmouth has not been easy. At Brunswick High School, Geoghegan was named the Maine Gatorade Runner of the Year for both his junior and senior years. As a senior, he won the Maine state 800m, mile and two-mile championships and ran personal bests of 4:12 for the mile and 9:18.2 for the two-mile.

Even as a senior, Will’s high school training mileage was only 25-35 miles a week and when he arrived at Dartmouth, he found that he wasn’t prepared for college training and competition. After a frustrating freshman cross country season, Geoghegan quit the indoor track team in January. Demoralized, his frustration spread to other areas and he stopped attending classes which led to failed grades and academic ineligibility for sports. By summer, he recognized that he wanted to return to running. With apologies to his

teammates and coaches, he asked Coach Barry Harwick for another chance. In making the transition back to the team, and ultimately achieving a high level of success, Will cites his thankfulness for “incredible support” from his family and team.

Will continued his breakthrough in the 2014 indoor season, by shattering another long-standing (29 year-old) Dartmouth record. He did this on February 8 at the Boston University Valentine Invitational, with a 7:51.57 in the 3000m. He capped his indoor season with a 5<sup>th</sup> place finish in the NCAA Championship mile, running 4:04.17 in the mile-high altitude in Albuquerque.

The Ivy League allows only undergraduate students to compete in varsity athletics. Having graduated Dartmouth with a B.S. in computer science, Geoghegan will use his final year of NCAA eligibility to run for the Oregon Ducks in 2014-2015. At Oregon, Geoghegan will pursue a masters degree in computer and information science. Although Will has contemplated a professional track career after college, he states that he doesn’t want to think too far ahead, but would prefer to focus on doing as well as he can in each race.