

Nate Hunter Named USATF – New England's Athlete of the Month for February 2015



Photo: Tom Derderian

BOSTON – **Nate Hunter**, who competes for the Greater Boston Track Club, has been named USA Track & Field - New England's Athlete of the Month for February 2015. On February 28, Nate placed 3rd in the men's shot put at the USA Indoor Track & Field Championships at the Reggie Lewis Center with a throw of 19.07m (62'-6.75").

Hunter was first in the throwing order at the championships and was intent on coming out of the gates with a big throw to build his confidence and ensure that he made finals. His aggressive approach worked as he achieved his medal-winning throw on his first attempt.

Nate grew up in Gloucester, MA, and was a high school standout in the shot. Moving on to Northeastern University, where he graduated in 2010, Nate was a Division I All American and was 37-0 as a shot putter in Colonial Athletic Association competition during his collegiate career. Hunter's indoor PR from the 2010 Boston Indoor Championships is 63'-11.5".

Nate found it difficult to maintain his training regimen after college and ultimately took two years off. However, he missed throwing and found that he still had strong competitive drive, so in 2013 he joined the Greater Boston Track Club and resumed training with throwing coach, Tim Morse. Highlights from this year's outdoor season included winning the Brown Springtime Open in Provide on April 26 with an outdoor personal best of 19.49m (63'-11.5") and winning the USATF-New England Championships on July 25 at Holy Cross with a throw of 18.82m (61'-09").

Nate is aiming at qualifying for the 2016 U.S. Olympic Trials in Eugene, Oregon next July. Although the trials qualifying standards for 2016 have not yet been established, Nate notes that the Olympic Games qualifying standard has been set at 20.50m (67'-03"). He recognizes that this is a rigorous standard that will require continued improvement. However, he takes a long view of his future in the sport, noting that at age 28 he is just entering his athletic prime and that throwers can continue to improve and perform at an elite level into their late thirties.