

## Thomas Ratcliffe Named USATF – New England’s Athlete of the Month for February 2016



*Photo: Newton Sports Photography*

BOSTON – **Thomas Ratcliffe** of Concord, MA, a senior at Concord-Carlisle High School, is USA Track & Field - New England’s Athlete of the Month for February 2016. On February 20, at the MIAA Auerbach All State Meet, Thomas won the mile in a personal best 4:06.92, a Massachusetts state indoor record and the number two time in the U.S. this season. Running solo from the start, Ratcliffe was on 4:00 pace through the first 1000 meters. On February 14 at the New Balance Grand Prix at the Reggie Lewis Athletic Center, Thomas ran 4:08.74 to place 2nd in the Youth Mile in the national class field.

As a freshman at Concord-Carlisle, Thomas posted best times of 4:26.41 for the mile and 10:18.36 for 2 miles. He has improved each year running 4:17.82 for the mile during sophomore year and then, as a junior, running a blistering 4:10.45 indoors to take 4th place in the mile at the 2015 New

Balance Invitational.

His senior outdoor season has been studded with further breakthroughs. On June 2 at the Adrian Martinez Classic on his home track in Concord, Ratcliffe set school, state and New England records with a time of 4:01.50, the 4th fastest prep time in the nation for 2016. Two days later, Thomas ran the Massachusetts All-State 2 mile in 9:00.52, winning by 19 seconds and setting a championship meet record.

On June 17, at the adidas Boost Boston meet at Dilboy Stadium in Somerville, MA, Ratcliffe ran his final race as a high school athlete. In the Dream Mile, against top high school runners from all over the U.S., he led most of the race and finished 2nd in 4:04.41 as he was nipped at the finish line by Jack Salisbury of LaSalle Academy in Providence. On June 24, he was named the 2015-16 Gatorade Massachusetts Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year.

Through high school, Ratcliffe has played soccer in the fall rather than running cross country; focusing his track efforts on the indoor and outdoor seasons. Although this has made it harder to build a mileage base in the fall, Thomas believes it has also kept him fresher for the track seasons. In soccer, Thomas has also been a high achiever. As a junior, he helped lead Concord-Carlisle to the Division 2 state title and an undefeated season. As a senior, he served as a team captain.

Thomas will enter Stanford University this fall and will run cross country, indoor and outdoor track for the Cardinals.

*USATF – New England’s mission is to continue its leadership role as one of the outstanding associations of the national governing body in Athletics.*