Laura Gerraughty named Athlete of the Month

BOSTON – Laura Gerraughty of Nashua, NH, who competes for the University of North Carolina, has been named USA Track & Field New England’s Athlete of the Month for July 2004. Gerraughty won the U.S. Olympic Trials shot put with a throw of 60-8 ½ (18.50m). The trials also served as the U.S. National Outdoor Championships. On July 30, Gerraughty added a win at the North American, Central American and Caribbean (NACAC) U23 Championship in Sherbrooke, Vermont.

Heading into the Athens Olympics, Gerraughty, who turned 21 years old on July 29, has established herself as the best women’s shot putter in the U.S. Earlier this year, she won the U.S. National Indoor Championships in Boston as well as the NCAA Indoor and Outdoor Championships.

Other qualifiers for the U.S. Olympic Team were former Brookline (MA) High School star Jonathon Riley, 2nd in the 5000m in 13:30.85, Shalane Flanagan of Marblehead, MA and the University of North Carolina, 3rd in the 5000m in 15:10.52 and Kate O’Neill, Milton (MA) High School graduate who finished 3rd in the 10,000m with a time of 32:07.25.

Joan Dow of Manchester, NH finished 2nd in the 20km walk with in 1:38:42. Although she previously made the Olympic Games A standard, because of the sometimes complex selection rules, she will only go to Athens if one or more of the other top finishers make the A standard.

In other strong performances at the Olympic Trials, Mustapha Adbur-Raheim of Brookline (MA) High School, who competes for Dartmouth College, placed 6th in the decathlon with 7844 points, Boston College coach John Mortimer of Goffstown, NH ran a personal best of 8:24.92 to finish 7th in the 3000m steeplechase and Laura O’Neill, Kate O’Neill’s twin sister was 7th in the 10,000m.

Former New England collegiate athletes who placed well at the Olympic Trials included Adam Nelson (Dartmouth) 1st in the shot put, Anna Mahon (UVM), 2nd in the hammer throw, Brenda Taylor (Harvard) 2nd in the 400m hurdles and Chris Clever (Harvard) 6th in the javelin. Robert Howard, a graduate of Shea H.S. in Pawtucket, RI, finished 5th in the triple jump.

At the USATF Eastern Regional Masters Championships at Springfield, MA on July 24, Flo Meiler, age 70, of Shelburne, VT, won the 300m hurdles in 1:08.35 bettering the current U.S. and world records for the W70-74 age group. Meiler also ran faster than the U.S. record for the 80m hurdles with a time of 18.23, but the wind was over the allowable limit.

The Greater Boston Track Club (GBTC) finished 2nd at the U.S. Club National Championships held July 2-3 in Bloomington, IN. With a 1st place finish in the 2002 club championships and a 2nd place finish last year, the GBTC has established itself as one of the premiere track & field clubs in the nation.

Coming up in August are the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, Greece, August 13-29. The track and field events will be contested from August 18-29.

Photograph of Laura Gerraughty courtesy of Cheryl Treworgy from Pretty Sporty

Athlete of the Month

is a new program for
USATF- New England and
is designed to recognize outstanding performers at all levels of the sport. USATF-NE will name a new honoree each month and feature the athlete on the USATF-NE website.

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

USATF – New England provides opportunities for athletes of all ages to pursue excellence in long distance running, race walking, and track and field, from grassroots to the elite level.

USATF – New England * P.O. Box 1905 * Brookline, MA 02446-0016 * www.usatfne.org