

USATF New Jersey mourns the loss of Andrew Capizzi. Andrew was a promising young distance runner. Andrew's most recent races were this past Memorial Day in Ridgewood, NJ where he competed in the 5k finishing 6th with a time of 16:19. He followed that up later in the day competing in the Ridgewood mile with a time of 4:42.

Andrew was a member of the Garden State Track Club team from the NJ Association which competed at the USATF National Club Cross Country Championships in Lexington, Kentucky on December 8, 2012. Andrew noted of the experience:

'The course presented us with a challenging, yet fulfilling experience; a mass start with a rolling climb into three spectator-friendly loops provided the battleground for the race. Fans lined all parts of the course, where there was no shortage of mud, sweat, and tears as we pushed ourselves to our limits (and beyond) for the glory of the team. Wide paths allowed for some aggressive racing strategies to be utilized and prevented issues with bottle-necking paths and runners taking some hard falls. The finish was a true spectacle, with USATF banners lining both sides of the finish and fans cheering as we made the final push through the mud-soaked final 80 yards.'

Our condolences go out to the family, friends and teammates of Andrew. It is tragic that the life of such a promising young man who was just beginning to achieve his potential as an athlete and individual was so brief.

There will be a four mile memorial run to celebrate the life of Andrew on Sunday, June 9th starting at 9am. The run will start at the Ridgewood Running Company store. 258 East Ridgewood Avenue, Ridgewood, NJ. Andrew was a member of the staff there. If you are from Paramus, attended to Ramapo College, John Jay College, work for or shop at Running Company stores or run for a USATF New Jersey club wear these items to show your support.

Ed Neighbour

President USATF-NJ