

Athlete Takes Her "Sporting Chance"



Pictured above: Amanda Crotty, a student on National Learning Network's "Sporting Chance" programme in Tralee, receives her "Irish Blind Sports Athlete of the Year 2007" award from Frank Murphy of Irish Blind Sports (*left*) and Colm Murray of RTÉ (*right*).

A PARTICIPANT ON NATIONAL LEARNING Network's "Sporting Chance" programme in Tralee was recently named Irish Blind Sports Athlete of the Year 2007.

Amanda Crotty had an excellent year in 2007 with a number of outstanding successes. The most notable of these was at the May Games International Event in Dublin where she won two gold medals in the 800 and 1,500 metres.

A former medallist at the Blind Sports European Athletics Championships, Crotty took bronze in the Pentathlon in 2001. This event, which took place in Poland, consists of the 100 metres, 800 metres, long jump, shot put and discus. Crotty is also an accomplished mainstream athlete and competes with her club Youghal in Co. Cork. She has achieved success in the Cork Cross-Country Championships and is a

consistent medal winner at the Cork County Senior Track and Field Athletics Championships, most recently winning bronze in last year's 1,500 metres. She has achieved personal best times of 6.28 for the 1,500 metres and 3.04 for the 800 metres. Crotty has also won county and Munster medals for the shot put and discus and an All-Ireland Cross-Country Championship at under-16 level with Youghal.

She is currently training hard in Fels Point Leisure Club while attending the "Sporting Chance" course with National Learning Network in Tralee during the week and training with her home club Youghal at weekends. When she finishes her course in April 2009, Crotty would like to forge a career as either an athletics coach or a gym instructor/personal trainer. She is also working towards participating in the 2012 Paralympics in London. Good luck to Amanda from all at Rehab! ■