

Four half-milers under 2:00 in a dual meet? It happened at Cherokee vs. Lenape!

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There was quite an 800 race at Wednesday's Cherokee-Lenape dual meet, with four runners under two minutes.

Cherokee senior **Brett Shea** led the way, winning in 1:56.6, following by Lenape's Justin Penny, who ran 1:59.0.

Cherokee sophomore **Patrick Ditmars** took third in 1:59.4 and Cherokee freshman **Nick Kuenkel** was fourth in 1:59.8.

Shea has run some fast relay splits, including a 1:56.3 to give Cherokee a 4-by-8 win at the Blue Devil Classic this past weekend in Westfield. But his fastest previous 800 according to MileSplit, was a 2:00.27 back in early March, in an outdoor meet during the indoor season, also against Lenape.

Penny, a junior, is listed with a 2:05.43 PR by MileSplit, so this appears to be a big PR for him as well.

Ditmars has run mainly the 1,600 and 3,200 so far, and MileSplit shows a previous 2:12.46 PR for him from an indoor meet at the Bubble back in February of 2020.

And Kuenkel shows a previous 800 PR of 2:06.16 from the same meet on March 3 that Shea ran his 2:00.27.

The only South Jersey sub-2 performances listed on MileSplit so far are a 1:55.04 and a 1:59.62 by Kingsway teammates Kyle Rakitis and Jeffrey Heineman back in March in Maplewood.