Brett Shea's anchor gets Cherokee under 8:00 with #2 N.J. 4-by-800!

Reuben Frank, May 10, 2021 sitcaweb

Cherokee moved into the top spot in South Jersey in the 3,200-meter relay with a 7:59.17 over the weekend at its own <u>Cherokee Relays</u> in Marlton. **Brett Shea's** 1:55.59 anchor gave Cherokee the No. 2 time in the state this spring, behind Ridge's 7:49.25 in a meet in Myrtle Beach, S.C., in March.

(If you want to be a stickler for the rules, Ridge's performance came before the official start of the 2021 outdoor season as measured by the NJSIAA, so you can make the case that it shouldn't count on a 2021 performance list. We accept all times, regardless of when they were recorded or what the NJSIAA thinks.)

Nico Grilli led off with a 2:03.55, followed by freshman **Nick Kuenkel** with a 2:00.68 and sophomore **Patrick Ditmars'** 2:00.47 to set up Shea.

With second place about 200 meters behind, Cherokee ran unpressed but still ran sub-8 outdoors for the seventh season overall but the first time since 2012, when the Chiefs ran 7:53.30 at the Penn Relays trials and 7:49.85 in the Championship of America race with the team of Colin Merrigan, Ross Staudt, Drew Viscidy and Shawn Wilson.

Here's the all-time Burlington County sub-8 list:

7:40.98 ... Willingboro, 1983

7:44.25 ... Willingboro, 2003

7:47.9h ... Willingboro, 1982

7:48.70 ... Rancocas Valley, 2016

7:49.34 ... Cherokee, 2000

7:49.85 ... Cherokee, 2012

7:49.9h ... Willingboro, 1978

7:52.53 ... Willingboro, 2002

7:52.60 ... Cherokee, 2011

7:52.66 ... Cherokee, 1998

7:52.7*h* ... Willingboro, 1978

7:52.90 ... Rancocas Valley, 2017

7:53.44 ... Shawnee, 1991

7:55.63 ... Rancocas Valley, 2018

7:55.67 ... Rancocas Valley, 2014

7:56.30 ... Rancocas Valley, 2019

7:56.4*h* ... Shawnee, 1985

7:58.17 ... Seneca, 2013

7:59.17 ... Cherokee, 2021

7:59.3*h* ... Cherokee, 1999

7:59.24 ... Cherokee, 2000

7:59.87 ... Willingboro, 1995

7:59.96 ... Cinnaminson, 2019