

# **Nick Kuenkel, Patrick Ditmars 1-2 finish leads Cherokee to 4th straight sectional championship!!!!**

Reuben Frank    [October 29, 2022](#)    [sjtcaweb](#)

Junior **Nick Kuenkel** and senior **Patrick Ditmars** finished 1-2 – separated by 8-100ths of a second – and led Cherokee to its 4th straight sectional title and 12th overall.

Kuenkel and Ditmars both ran 15:22 over 5,000 meters at DREAM Park – 15:22.72 for Kuenkel and 15:22.80 for Ditmars – and Cherokee placed four in the top 10 to outscore Southern Regional 41-62.

Their 1-2 finish is the first in South Jersey Group 4 since Ethan Wechsler and Chase Miller of Cherokee went 1-2 in the 2018 race at Delsea.

**Senior Conor Jacob** placed 7th in 15:47 and junior **Robert Poplau** ran 9th in 15:52, giving the Chiefs four runners under 16 minutes. Sophomore Liam Tindall ran 16:34 for 23rd place to clinch the team title.

Cherokee – ranked 3rd in New Jersey – also won South Jersey Group 4 titles in 1988, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2007, 2011, 2016, 2019, 2020 and 2021.

Kuenkel joins **Marc Pelerin** [2000], **Alex Yersak** [2005, 2006, 2007], **Shawn Wilson** [2012], **Jack Shea** [2016], **Justin Kelly** [2017] and **Wechsler** as Cherokee's seventh individual sectional winner.

Other South Jersey runners in the top 15 and advancing to states next weekend at Holmdel County Park were Lenape senior Colin Hermack [3rd in 15:28], Williamstown senior Nicholas Krol [6th 15:47], Egg Harbor Township senior Ryan Taylor [8th 15:49], Washington Township senior Colin Keane [11th 15:59], Lenape sophomore Noah Manwaring [12th 16:00], Williamstown sophomore Dylan Saber [13th 16:00], Cherry Hill East junior Raine Guidarelli [14th 16:01] and Kingsway senior Cesar Pedro [15th 16:06].

Lenape scored 107 points to advance to states, as well as Cherry Hill East [115] and Williamstown [127].