

Ethan Wechsler, Cherokee: Runner of the Year

By **Tom Rimback** , Burlington County Times, Dec 6, 2018

2018 Burlington County All-County Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year

At this rate, nothing is impossible for Ethan Wechsler.

The Cherokee junior placed himself in the very highest echelon of Burlington County high school cross country runners this season.

Wechsler followed up a perfect run in winning the NJSIAA Group 4 championship with an even better race to finish fourth in the state in the Meet of Champions.

For that, Wechsler has been named the 2018 Burlington County Times Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year.

“Ethan has made tremendous strides as an athlete since his freshman year,” Cherokee coach Steve Shaklee said. “He has improved every season and this fall he got better with every race. His Group 4 state championship followed by his 4th place finish at the Meet of Champions with a time of 15:56 on a slow, wet Holmdel course was the culmination of a lot of hard work.”

No county runner has finished as high in the Meet of Champions since Jon Anderson, of Cinnaminson, was fourth in 2003. Only fellow Chiefs Marc Pelerin, who won in 2001, and Keith Krieger, who was second in 2002, have ever placed higher in the state’s ultimate race.

Wechsler’s list of accomplishments this year include a course record at the Olympic Conference championship, the South Jersey Group 4 title, the Group 4 state championship, the fifth-fastest time recorded at Mill Creek Park in the Burlington County Open and a sub-16-minute time in the Meet of Champions at Holmdel Park. Only eight other Burlington County runner belong in that exclusive club.

And he still has another year to go.

Ethan was also named to the 5-man All-Burlington County Team that included Chase Miller and Brett Shea!

