

Patrick Ditmars, Nick Kuenkel win class races and Cherokee averages 16:23 at Battle @ Ocean County Park!!!

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September 21, 2021 [sjtcaweb](#)

Cherokee's **Patrick Ditmars** won the junior race and **Nick Kuenkel** won the sophomore race Saturday at the Battle @ Ocean County Park 2021.

It doesn't appear team scoring was kept, but Cherokee runners produced five of the top 33 times (and six of the top 43). Scored unofficially, Ridge outscored Cherokee 73-109. Ridge is ranked No. 1 in New Jersey and No. 5 nationally. Cherokee is No. 7 in New Jersey.

Cherokee's top five runners averaged 16:23 on the 5,000-meter course in Lakewood.

Ditmars ran 15:54 and won the junior race by 65 meters over Brian Theobald of St. Rose in Belmar, who was second in 16:07. Kuenkel ran 16:13 to win the sophomore race by 100 meters over Stephen Kyvelos of Manalapan, who was second in 16:32.

Also for Cherokee, **Conor Jacob** ran 16:33 for 9th place in the junior race and **Robert Poplau** ran 16:52 for fifth in the sophomore race. **Bradley Popler** (16:37) and **Joseph Natoli** (16:42) placed 18th and 19th in the senior race.