

Shea Caps Huge Season With Top-10 Finish at Nike Regionals!

Reuben Frank, SJTCA Web Blog, December 5, 2015

Jack Shea started the year as Cherokee's No. 2 runner, but he finished it as one of the state's best.

Shea, a Cherokee junior, followed his fourth place at sectionals, fourth at states and sixth at the Meet of Champions with an eighth-place finish at the Nike Cross Nationals Northeast Regional Saturday at Bowdoin Park in Wappingers Falls, N.Y.

That made Shea an alternate for the Nike Cross Nationals on Saturday in Eugene, Ore.

Shea ran 16:05, finishing just 19 seconds behind winner Blaise Ferro of CBA and only 3.1 seconds behind the final individual qualifier for nationals, Kent Hall of Unionville, Pa.

Here's the updated all-time New Jersey list at Bowdoin Park:

- 15:35 ... James Rosa [West Windsor-Plainsboro North], 2010
- 15:41 ... Jonathan Vitez [Haddonfield], 2009
- 15:45 ... Blaise Ferro [CBA], 2015
- 15:47 ... Tom O'Neill [Middletown North], 2013
- 15:48 ... Edward Cheserek [St. Benedict's], 2010
- 15:49 ... Mik McClemens [CBA], 2013
- 15:51 ... Tim Bason [West Windsor-Plainsboro South], 2015
- 15:52 ... Aaron Groff [Cherry Hill West], 2015
- 16:05 ... Nick Pulimood [West Windsor-Plainsboro South], 2014
- 15:56 ... Joe Rosa [West Windsor-Plainsboro North], 2008
- 15:57 ... Jack Boyle [CBA], 2012
- 16:00 ... Dylan Tarpey [Freehold Twp.], 2013
- 16:03 ... William Bragg [CBA], 2012
- 16:03 ... Mike Mazzaccaro [CBA}, 2010
- 16:05 ... Jack Shea [Cherokee], 2015

- 16:05 ... Nick Pulimood [West Windsor-Plainsboro South], 2014
- 16:06 ... Sean Pohorence [Morris Hills], 2008

Cherokee had a very good day overall, packing three in the top 60 in the team scoring race and finishing 10th in the entire region. The Northeast Region encompasses New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, Vermont, Rhode Island and New Hampshire.

Cherokee's top four runners are all back next year — Shea, junior Nick Falk [38th in 16:48], sophomore Justin Kelly [65th in 17:08] and Brandon Marks [97th in 17:20].

Cherry Hill East's Aaron Groff did advance to Eugene, and we'll write more about him after the race, but we wanted to take a moment to write about Shea, since he's quietly had a breakthrough season for the Chiefs.

Let's focus on Shea's Meet of Champions race.

Shea actually ran the 16th-fastest time ever by a South Jersey runner at Holmdel County Park and made Cherokee the only South Jersey school with four runners under 15:50 ever at Holmdel and only the second school from New Jersey.

Here's the updated all-time South Jersey list at Holmdel:

- 5:16 ... Jason DiJoseph [Paul VI], 1988
- 15:33 ... Josh Clark [Highland], 2015
- 15:35 ... Louis Corgliano [Hammonton], 2013
- 15:37 ... Aaron Groff [Cherry Hill East], 2015
- 15:38 ... Gregory Hughes [Mainland], 2003
- 15:39 ... Luke Petela [Haddon Twp.], 2014
- 15:40 ... Shawn Wilson [Cherokee], 2012
- 15:40 ... Brett Johnson [Ocean City], 2008

- 15:40 ... Steve Maine [Highland], 2013
- 15:41 ... Jon Vitez [Haddonfield], 2009
- 15:42 ... Ben Potts [Haddonfield], 2010
- 15:42 ... Shawn Hutchison [Bishop Eustace], 2014
- 15:43 ... Marc Pelerin [Cherokee], 2001
- 15:43 ... Miles Schoedler [Ocean City], 2010
- 15:45 ... Keith Krieger [Cherokee], 2002
- 15:46 ... Jack Shea [Cherokee], 2015
- 15:47 ... Urie Ridgeway [Bridgeton], 1988
- 15:48 ... Chris Platt [Haddonfield], 2001
- 15:50 ... Mike Myers [Eastern Reg.], 2000
- 15:50 ... Jon Anderson [Cinnaminson], 2003
- 15:51 ... Murad Campbell [Overbrook], 1998
- 15:54 ... Mike Mantini [Gateway], 1978
- 15:54 ... Paul Szulewski [Williamstown], 2010
- 15:54 ... Skip Stiles [Haddonfield], 2001
- 15:54 ... Aaron Groff [Cherry Hill East], 2014
- 15:55 ... Dominick Munson [Timber Creek], 2014
- 15:55 ... Breton Bonnett [Haddonfield], 2001
- 15:56 ... Kyle Kirk [Camden Catholic], 2012
- 15:56 ... David Forward [Shawnee], 2008
- 15:57 ... Nate Miller [Highland Reg.], 1998
- 15:57 ... Connor Herr [Shawnee], 2010
- 15:59 ... Anthony Dentino [Washington Twp.], 2010
- 15:59 ... Robert Edwards [Bridgeton], 2002