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Vitez sets course record in Colonial Meet

By GUS OSTRUM
Courier-Post Staff

Got it -- on both counts.

In winning his second straight Colonial Conference Boys' Cross Country All-Star meet Thursday at Pennypacker Park, Haddonfield's Jon "Boo" Vitez reached two major goals. His winning time of 14:57 not only helped the Haddonfield senior run under the 15:00 mark for the first time this season, but it also enabled him to smash a course record at Pennypacker Park.

Vitez's time snapped the previous mark of 15:11 by former Haddonfield standout Chris Platt in 2002. Up until Thursday, Vitez had the second fastest time on the course, 15:22 set in 2008.

Vitez did not have much competition for first place. Three of the next four spots in the race went to his teammates, Matt Nussbaum, second in 15:46, and Ben Potts, third in 15:48; Haddon Heights' Teague Brody-Carney, fourth in 16:16; and Haddonfield's Colin Baker, fifth in 16:24.

"I wanted to get the record and run under 15 minutes, and I'm real happy to get both," Vitez said. "With this being my senior year, I wanted to make sure I was able to improve my times over my junior year. Breaking Chris' (Platt) record is special."

Platt led the only team in Haddonfield history to win a New Jersey Meet of Champions title, symbolizing the overall best team in the state, when he was a junior in 2001, a fact not lost on Vitez.

"Our team really wants to win the Meet of Champions, and we're focusing all of our efforts in that direction," said Vitez, whose Bulldawg team is No. 1 in the Courier-Post's South Jersey rankings. "We definitely have some unfinished business to take care of."

The top four finishers in both the Patriot and Liberty Division races unofficially earn All-Conference first-team honors. The all-conference first and second teams are finalized in November by the league's coaches. No team races were held in the Colonial meet.

Reach Gus Ostrum at gostrum@gannett.com or (856) 486-2424
