

# Clark's 16:09 day's fastest at Warinanco

By GRANT EDWARDS  
Bernards proved its claim to the No. 1 New Jersey ranking in boys' cross-country yesterday when it won its Central Jersey Group 1 race at Mercer County College in West Windsor with a perfect score of 15 points.

## Boys' cross-country

The Bernards performance was easily the best in the 16 sectional meets held yesterday at four sites. The nearest approach to it came in the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 3 meet won by Parsippany with 27 points.

Tom Fischer of Manalapan, undefeated this fall, won his eighth major race in the Central Jersey, Group 3 meet with the fastest time of the day at Mercer County College, 15:41. Rich Byrne of Ridgefield Park led the North Jersey, Section 1 runners at Garrett Mountain, West Paterson, when he won the Group 3 race in 15:58. J. J. Clark of Columbia was the leader at Warinanco Park, Elizabeth, where he won the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 4 race in 16:09 and Carlos Hanne of Central Regional headed the South Jersey field at Pennsauken, taking the Group 2 race in 15:52.

The first five teams in each of the 16 sectional meets, as well as the first 19 individuals, qualified for next Saturday's group championships at Holmdel County Park.

**Central Jersey**  
**Group 1**  
Bernards won its 14th sectional title in 17 years at Mercer County College with a perfect 15 points, leaving Henry Hudson a distant second with 77.

**Group 2**  
Voorhees won its first sectional championship at Mercer County College, 22:08, over defending Holmdel. Freshman Brad Hudson led Voorhees in second place in 16:21 and teammate Jeff Diabner finished fourth in 16:45.

**Group 3**  
North Hunterdon made it a perfect day at Mercer County College by taking the boys' team race, 53:61, from Long Branch to go with its easy success in the girls' event.

**Group 4**  
John Kirman led Sayreville to a successful defense of its title, 47:02, over Piscataway, winning the race by 20 yards from Bill Lee of East Brunswick in 16:00.

**Group 5**  
Emerson of Union City defended its title at Garrett Mountain, West Paterson, with a 32:59 victory over Pasack Hills, although Sergio DelaVega, of

Emerson leader, lost his individual title to Rich Byrne of Ridgefield Park. Byrne finished the 3-mile race in 15:58, with DelaVega 100 yards back in 16:13. Jose Galvez was fourth for Emerson in 16:30.

**Group 6**  
Hopatcong continued Sussex County domination in the competition with a 32:69 victory over Vernon. Defending Kitlettown was third with 37 points.

**Group 7**  
Yves Lelemer of Manchester Regional won the individual title by finishing 18:19 behind George Gascoira of Saddle Brook in 16:03. Sophomore Andy O'Donnell was Hopatcong's first finisher in third place in 16:29. Teammate Erik Gessling took eighth in 16:58.

**Group 8**  
Hackensack won its first sectional title in eight years at Garrett Mountain, West Paterson, by defeating Paterson Kennedy, 49:77. Defending Ridgewood finished third at 1:11.

**Group 9**  
It took a recount to give Kinnelon a victory over Verona at Warinanco Park, Elizabeth, after the first five boys on each team totaled 23 points. Kinnelon had its sixth runner home before his Verona counterpart to take its first sectional title since 1976.

**Group 10**  
A one-two finish by Rich Osdin and Rich Plimpton enabled Kinnelon to counter Verona's better team balance. Osdin crossed the 3.2-mile distance in 17:18 and Plimpton was timed in 17:23.

**Group 11**  
Buller topped Valhburg, 59:42, to win its first sectional title since 1971 at Warinanco Park, Elizabeth.

**Group 12**  
Steve Nocer of Warren Hills took the individual title by 40 yards from Ken Loren of Dover in 16:53. Craig Struble finished third in 17:13 to lead Belle and Lou Cureton placed fourth for Valhburg in 17:28.

**Group 13**  
Parsippany outclassed the field in a successful defense of its title at Warinanco Park, Elizabeth, with a 27:95 victory over Morris Hills. Mike Palmer of Caldwell was also an easy winner for the second straight year in 16:25.



Columbia's J. J. Clark, winner of Group IV, North Jersey Section 2 sectional championship, heads toward finish line.

**Group 14**  
Westfield won the sectional championship for the third consecutive year in Warinanco Park but not without a close battle with Morrisstown. The teams finishing tied at 43-45 for their first five runners. Jim Frai, Westfield's sixth man, saved the day by placing 18th, five spots ahead of his Morrisstown counterpart, in the breaker consideration.

**Group 15**  
J. J. Clark of Columbia had an easy time winning his first sectional title by 80 yards over Dave Fitzgerald of Westfield in 16:09. Brock Cochrane and Tom Spaine among the first 11 finishers.

**Group 16**  
Glasboro took its first sectional title at Pennsauken, 70:88, over Maple Shade, with Bob Douglas of Audubon the individual winner in 17:00.

**Group 17**  
Brian Kirkpatrick of Glasboro trailed Douglas in second place in 17:04 and teammate Jim Davis was sixth in 17:28.

**Group 18**  
Clearview won its first sectional title since 1963 at Pennsauken at the expense of Moorestown, 70:05.

**Group 19**  
Caris Hanne of Central Regional, one of the state's top runners, took the individual title by 200 yards from defender Rick Aaskimakis of Delran in 15:52. Hanne had won the Group 4 title last year.

**Group 20**  
Ken Hicks led Lakewood to its first sectional title at Pennsauken by winning the race by 70 yards from Steve Keen of Cinnaminson in 16:18.

**Group 21**  
Lakewood finished with 83 points to upset Eastern's Olympic Conference champions, who took second place from Toms River South in a tie-breaker after each finished with 79 points. Rick Rizzuto gave Lakewood another boost to the title when he placed fifth in 16:42.

**Group 22**  
Brock Township upset Toms River North and Cherry Hill East at Pennsauken in a finish which saw only four points separate the top three teams. Brock finished with 81 points, Toms River North with 84 and Cherry Hill East with 85.

**Group 23**  
Bruce Miller of Cherry Hill East won the race in 16:24 with sophomore teammate Bill Stewart second in 16:34. Paul Lambert led Brick in eighth place in 16:54.

**Group 24**  
Cherry Hill East of Cherry Hill led the championship race at Warinanco Park, Elizabeth, with a 27:00 victory over Morris Hills. Mike Palmer of Caldwell was also an easy winner for the second straight year in 16:25.