

# 40th-annual Wharf to Wharf

Wharf-to-Wharf Race

EP 7-24-12



## Kosegi wins for record third time

ABOVE: Thousands of runners surge along East Cliff Drive in Live Oak Sunday in the 40th annual Wharf to Wharf race. RIGHT: A young runner rejoices in a spray of water from a garden hose during the race. Shadrack Kosegi, from Kenya, made history on Sunday morning in Santa Cruz County, winning the 40th presentation of the Wharf to Wharf race, with a time of 27 minutes, 20 seconds. He is the first runner to win the event three times. See story in Sports, B1.

Photos by Tarmo Hannula/Register-Pajaronian





## WHARF

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held the top spot.

Kosegi won his first Wharf to Wharf in 2004, when he was still a teenager. He didn't win again until 2010, prevailing at 27:01.

He was on the cusp of winning in 2011 but was held off by Silas Kipruto, who is the only runner since the turn of the century to break 27 minutes and win.

And Kosegi got back to the top spot on the podium again this year.

He wanted to set the tone early, which was something other runners did to him in previous races. By the mile, he said he knew he wasn't going to get the course record, so he steadied himself and focused on winning.

The gloomy marine layer, grey skies and cool sub-60-degree temperatures were ideal for Kosegi. He said it's what he likes most about running this race.

"When the weather is cool,

that's what makes it easy for me," he said. "I also like the people along the coast. They're screaming and screaming. When the people are screaming, I get more confidence, and I push harder."

Gesabwa also liked the cool conditions. Her toughest challenge, she said, was in the beginning with the tens of thousands of runners piled in trying to break free.

After 3 miles, she said she knew she was going to prevail.

"I ran a really good time today," said Gesabwa, who knocked about three minutes off of her time from last year. "We were all together and I just wanted to see how I could run it, but after one mile, I started running and running."

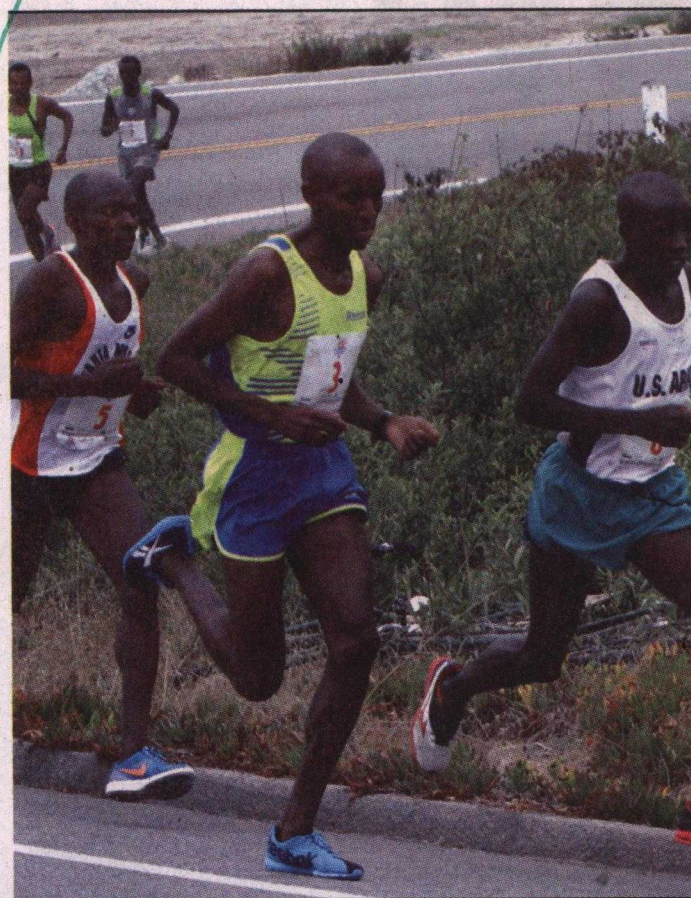
It was a much-better finish than last year's fifth-place showing, where she was nearly 3 minutes behind Oakland's Magdalena Lewy Boulet.

Both Kosegi and Gesabwa will take a few days off before heading to Iowa for the Big 7 Race, a seven-mile trek.

As for coming back next year to defend the title?

"Of course," Kosegi said.

# Kosegi makes history with third crown



Tarmo Hannula/Register-Pajaronian

Shadrack Kosegi (center) is in the lead pack at Twin Lakes State Beach nearing the halfway point of the 40th annual Wharf to Wharf race on Sunday. Kosegi won, becoming the first runner to win the event three times.

## Kenyan runner sets pace at Wharf to Wharf; Gesabwa wins women's title

By GLENN CRAVENS

OF THE REGISTER-PAJARONIAN

**CAPITOLA** — Shadrack Kosegi put his hands in the air as he crossed the finish line, making history on a historic Sunday morning in Santa Cruz County.

Kosegi, from Kenya, won the 40th presentation of the Wharf to Wharf race, coming in first with a time of 27 minutes, 20 seconds.

He is the first runner to win the event three times.

The race, which starts at the Santa Cruz Wharf and goes all the way to the Capitola Wharf, had some early dramatics.

But as the field spread out, Kosegi led most of the way, and he maintained his grip on first place.

And he couldn't stop smiling after it was all over.

"I feel really good, really good," he said. "Doing it for the third time is not easy, but I'm very happy about it."

Ben Bruce, an Arizona runner, was 29 seconds behind. Joseph Chirlee, who qualified for the U.S. Olympic Trials earlier this year, was third at 27:51.

Risper Gesabwa, a fellow

## Online

Pictures from Sunday's race can be found at [register-pajaronian.com](http://register-pajaronian.com).

Kenyan, was the top female runner, coming in with a time of 30:58.

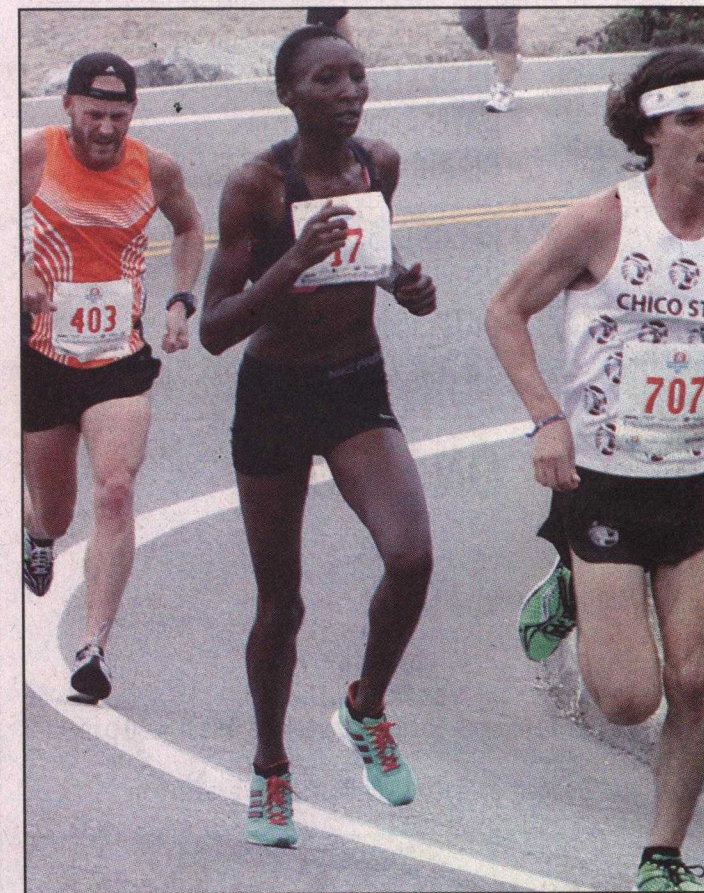
Aptos High grad Mitch Moriarty took top local male honors, 13th overall with a finish of 30:23.

Scotts Valley High incoming senior Vanessa Fraser was the top local female. She was the 11th woman to come in, finishing at 35:23; she was 109th overall.

It's now been almost a decade since a defending champion repeated. Kim Fitchen-Young is the last person to repeat, male or female, since 2004. Evans Rutto was the last man to repeat, winning his second in 2002.

But the way Kosegi has performed the last three presentations, it's almost as if he's always

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Tarmo Hannula/Register-Pajaronian

Risper Gesabwa (center), running near Twin Lakes State Beach, won the Wharf to Wharf women's championship a year after finishing in fifth place. Her time was about three minutes faster than last year's time.