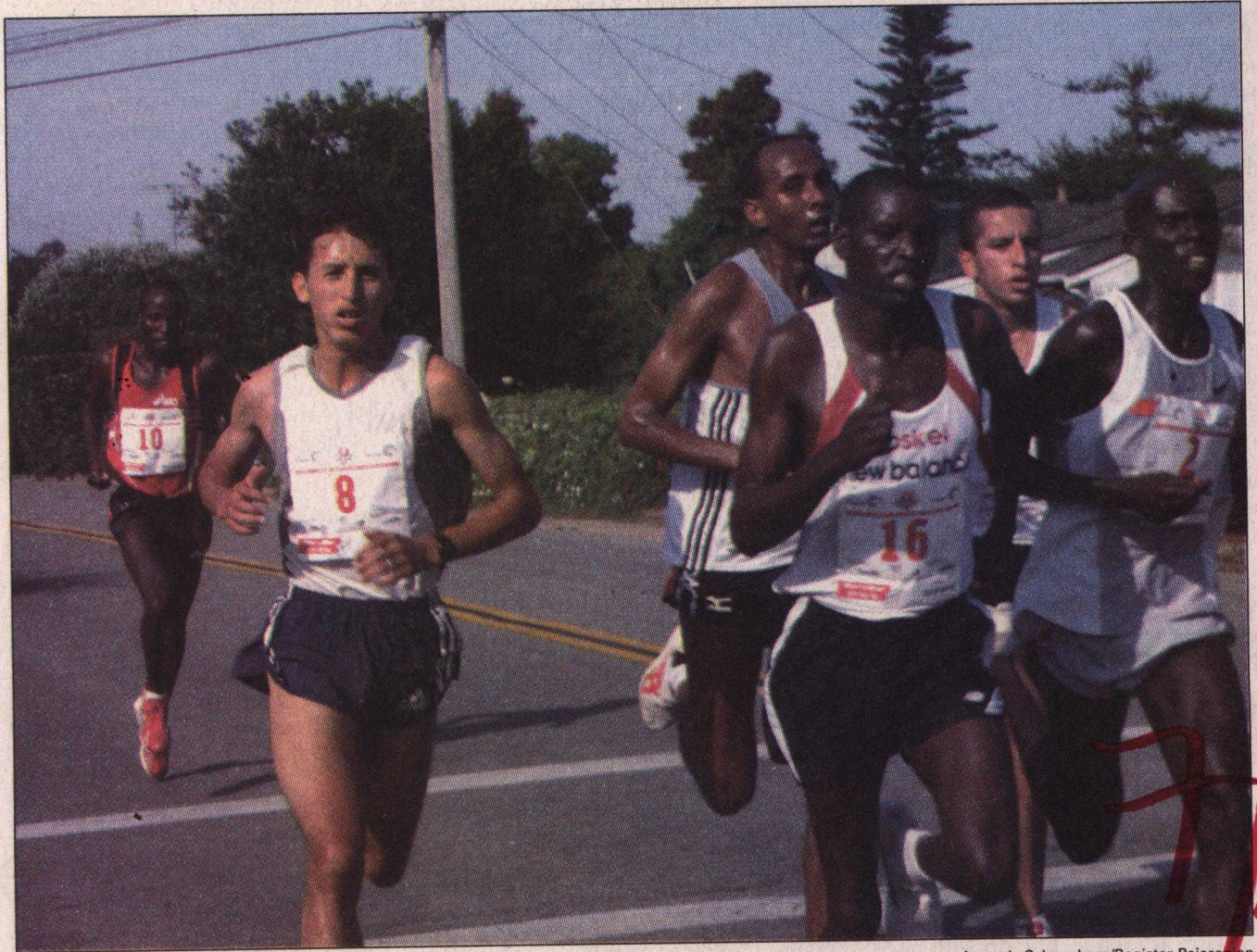


# Race to the wharf



Amanda Schoenberg/Register-Pajaronian

The top runners in the annual Wharf to Wharf event, from Morocco and Kenya, race along Opal Cliffs Drive toward Capitola before 9 a.m. Sunday. *Wharf to Wharf Race RP 7-24-06*

More than 15,000 competitors run from Santa Cruz to Capitola



Amanda Schoenberg/Register-Pajaronian

Runners head for the surf at Capitola Beach after the annual Wharf to Wharf race Sunday morning.

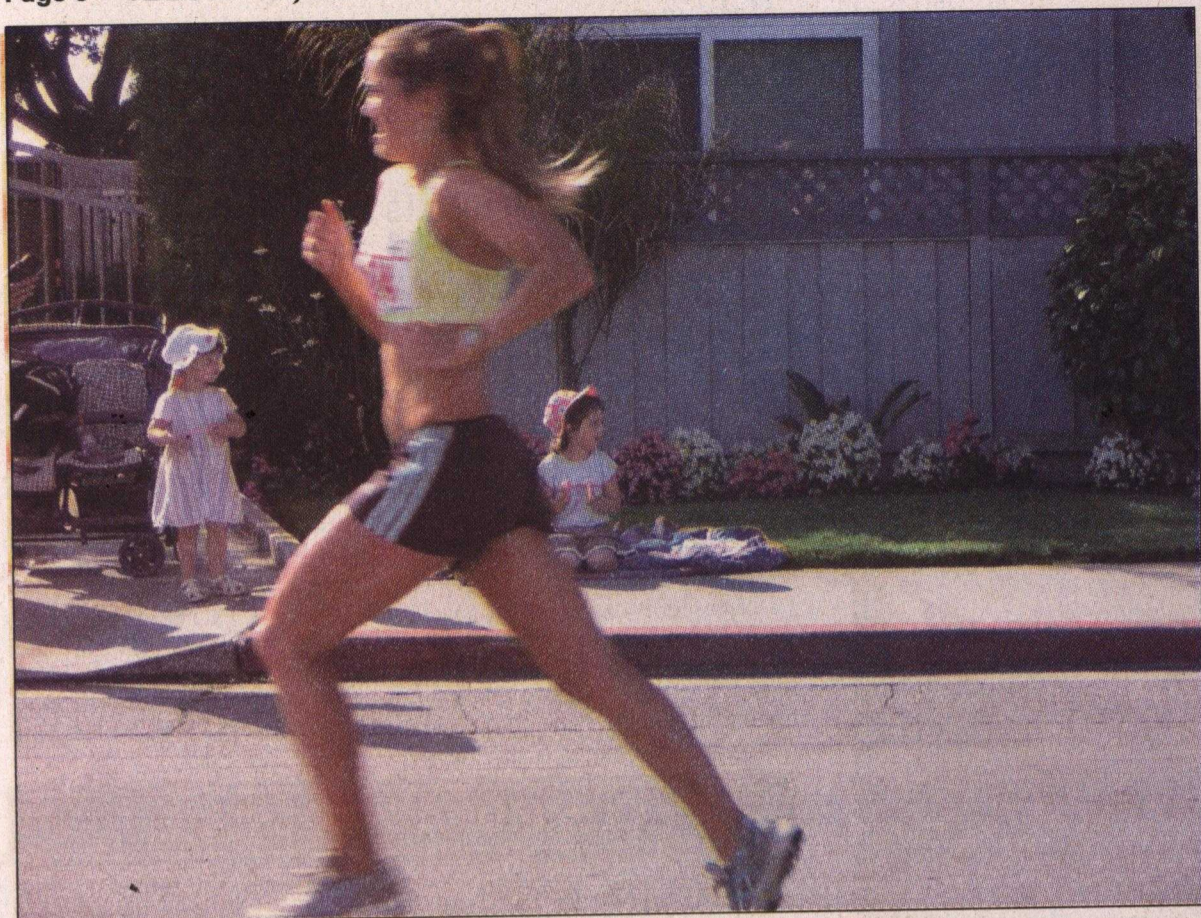
By AMANDA SCHOENBERG  
OF THE REGISTER-PAJARONIAN

CAPITOLA — More than 15,000 runners raced from Santa Cruz to Capitola on Sunday morning in the 34th annual Wharf to Wharf race, as thousands gathered to cheer them on the six-mile route.

Runners began the coast-hugging route to Capitola at 8:30 a.m. from Beach Street in Santa Cruz. By 10 a.m., the results were in, with the fastest time recorded by Ridouane Maroufi of Morocco, who won first place in the men's division with a time of 27 minutes, 10 seconds. Kenyan Jemima Jelagat won first place in the women's division with 31 minutes, seven seconds.

Wharf to Wharf began in 1973 with just 237 runners and has gradually expanded into a massive community event. This year, 50 bands played everything from jazz standards to hard rock along the route and more than 1,000 volunteers kept the race running smoothly.

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Amanda Schoenberg/Register-Pajaronian

Children clap for runners headed to Capitola during the Wharf to Wharf race on Sunday.

## WHARF

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"It's become a Santa Cruz County tradition," said Ken Thomas, president of the Wharf to Wharf committee and one of the event founders.

"The best part is knowing that there's 15,000 people all doing something positive and having a good time," Thomas said.

Thomas added that proceeds from the race go toward improving cross-country programs at local schools and scholarships for student athletes. Last year, the race awarded \$6,000 to Watsonville High School's Track and Field programs and \$9,300 to Aptos High School sports programs.

Wharf to Wharf is a multi-generational, multi-ethnic affair, with runners coming from 10 countries and 40 states this year, Thomas said. Runners of all shapes and sizes joined the fun this year, including Aptos resident David Lee, who completed the race with his son Ryan, 10, whom he described as a "natural runner."

"It's no fun unless you run together," Lee said.

During the race, onlookers cheered and held up signs for runners. Mimi Gallagher stood outside a house on Opal Cliff Drive while her children, Ryan and Emily Gallagher, used a garden hose to spray grateful runners.

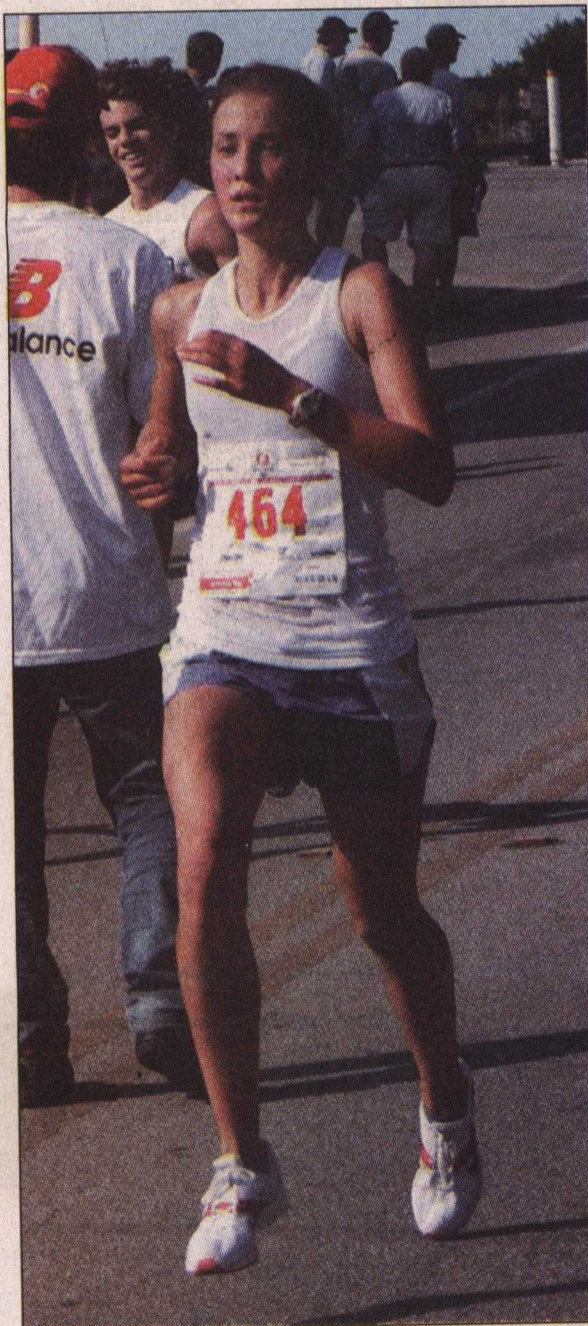
"We come every year to cool off those hot runners," she said. "They fight over who gets to do it."

After storming past the finish line, many runners hit the waves at Capitola Beach, including Billy and Cindy Arvayo of San Jose. Arvayo said the water hit the spot after running through the heat.

"That was the best part," Arvayo joked. "Next year I'm headed straight to the water. This running stuff isn't all its cracked up to be."

John Rawles of Cupertino wasn't quite ready for the water yet, but said he was satisfied with his time of 52 minutes, 24 seconds after running Wharf to Wharf for the first time this year.

"It was a great race because it's well-organized and it's really nice that you can run along the ocean," he said. "The bands were phenomenal, they really take your mind off



**Former Aptos High runner and current University of California, Berkeley, student Elizabeth Rose Mayeda runs in the Wharf to Wharf.**

Richard Muñoz  
Register-Pajaronian

it."

The race also brings out the heavy hitters, with many international runners pairing up with local families for a place to stay during the race. Third place winner Mohamed Fadil of Morocco was only in Santa Cruz until today before heading out to his next event in Davenport, Iowa, this weekend. With a wide smile, Fadil declared Wharf to Wharf "a very nice race."

Second place went to Julius Kiptoo of Kenya, with 27 minutes, 11 seconds. Fadil finished in 27 minutes, 13 seconds. First place winners won \$3,000, second place, \$2,000 and third place, \$1,000.

In the women's division, second place went to Tatyana Chulakh, of Russia, who finished in 31 minutes, 39 seconds. Alemtschay Misganaw, of Ethiopia, won third place with 32 minutes and 12 seconds. Greg Burns of Singapore won the wheelchair division with a time of 32 minutes.

The fastest woman in Santa Cruz County was Karin Van Rooyen, who finished seventh; while the fastest man in the county was Brett Gotcher, who finished 12th.

For more information about Wharf to Wharf, visit [www.wharftowharf.com](http://www.wharftowharf.com).