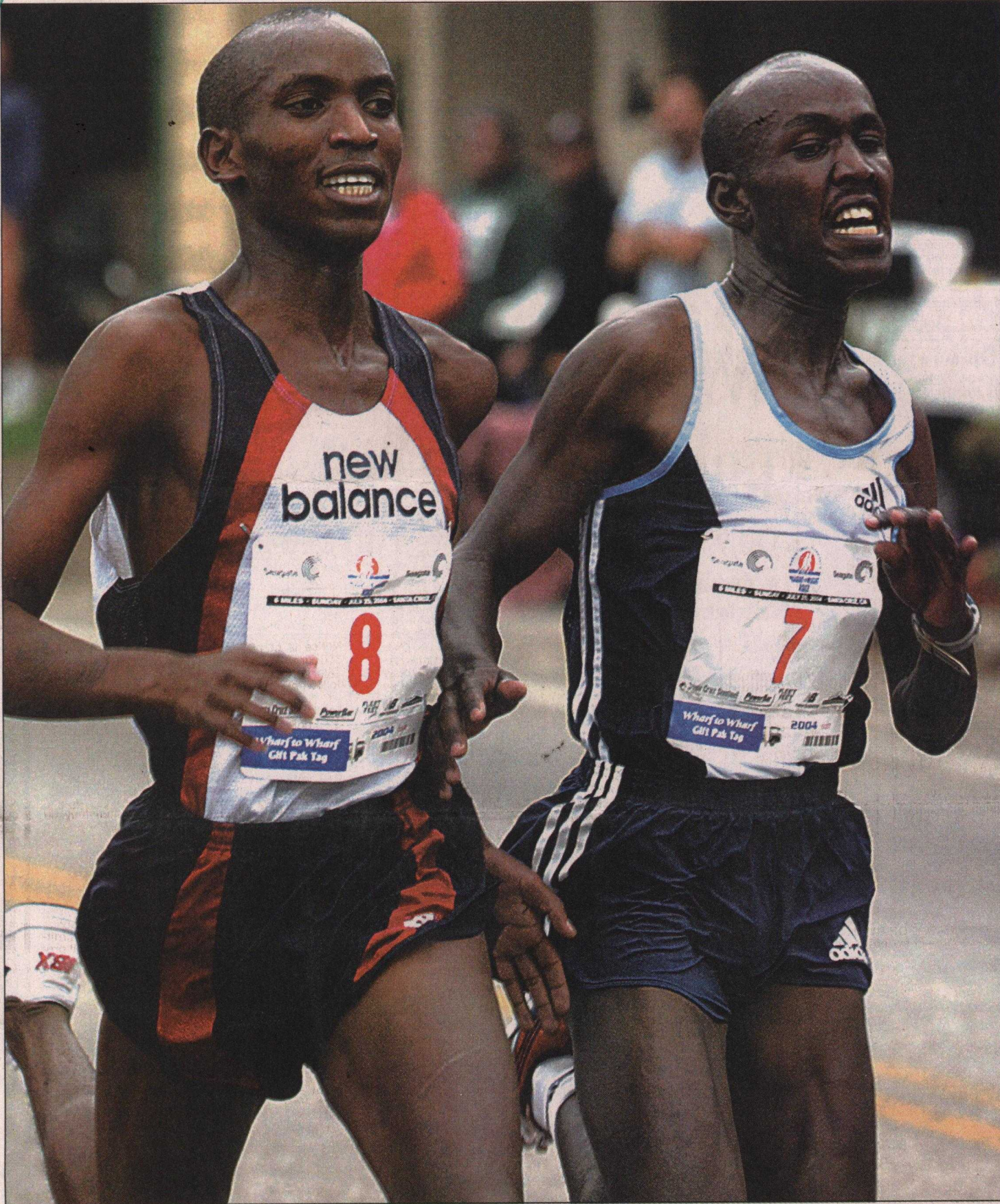


# PHOTO FINISH



Shmuel Thaler/Sentinel photos

Kenyans Shadrack Kosgei and Wilson Kigen battle to the tape. Kosgei was awarded the victory, but both runners clocked a 27:51.

## BY THE NUMBERS

**1**

Kegs of beer pushed along the course

**4**

Consecutive times Brett Gotcher has been the top local

**8**

Consecutive times a Kenyan has won the men's race

**10**

Countries represented at the 32nd Wharf to Wharf race

**35**

States represented at the 32nd Wharf to Wharf race

**40**

Cloves of garlic used in the pre-race chicken eaten by the top three finishers in Sunday's race (see notebook item on D2)

*Wharf to Wharf*

## Men: Kenyans duel to the finish

By **TOM MOORE**  
SENTINEL STAFF WRITER

SANTA CRUZ — Shadrack Kosgei knew he had won.

But he was the only one.

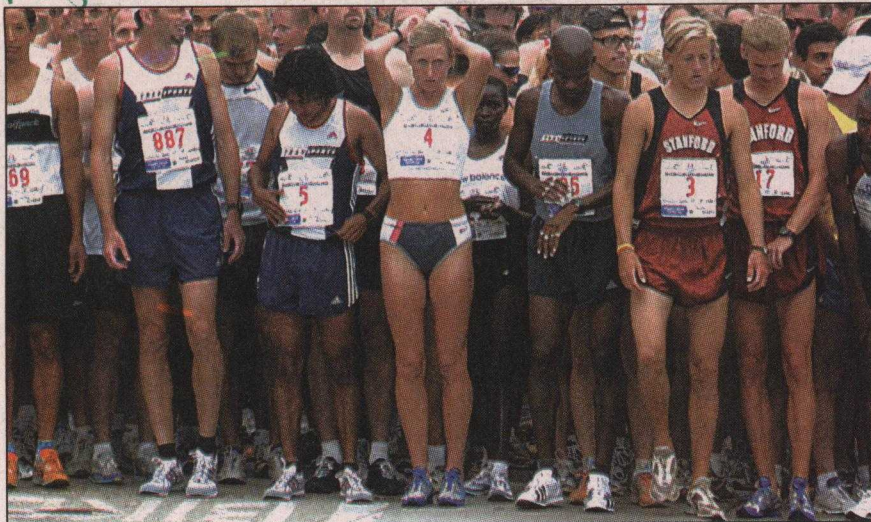
In the best finish in the Wharf to Wharf's 32-year history, the 19-year-old Kenyan edged his countryman Wilson Kigen at the tape after an all-out sprint down the hill into Capitola.

Kosgei and Kigen shared the top time of 27 minutes, 51 seconds.

Wilson Komen was third at 27:55, giving the gold, silver and bronze to the Kenyans. The race was won by a Kenyan for the eighth consecutive year.

For the fourth consecutive year Brett Gotcher of Aptos was the top Santa Cruz County finisher, this year in seventh place at 28:54. Gotcher's

See **MEN** on **PAGE D3**



**'I was thinking I'll be happy if I finish second or third. I know that sounds bad, but my confidence was shot.'**

KIM FITCHEN-YOUNG, CENTER, PREPARING TO DEFEND HER TITLE

## Women: Victory spells redemption

By **JULIE JAG**  
SENTINEL STAFF WRITER

SANTA CRUZ — It came down to the final 400 yards. To repeat as the women's Wharf to Wharf champion, Santa Cruz's Kim Fitchen-Young needed to chase down two opponents in that short distance. One was Kenyan Maria Busienei. The other was her inner demons.

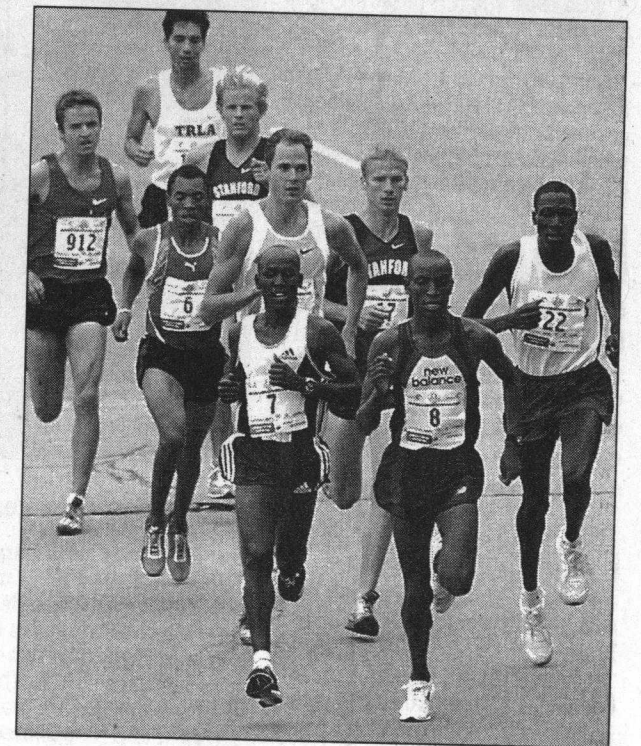
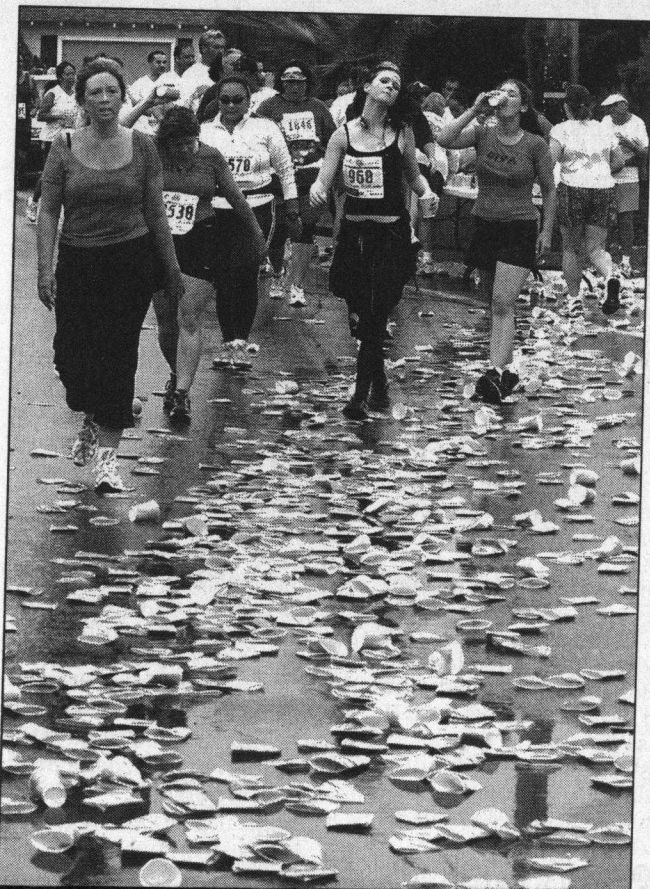
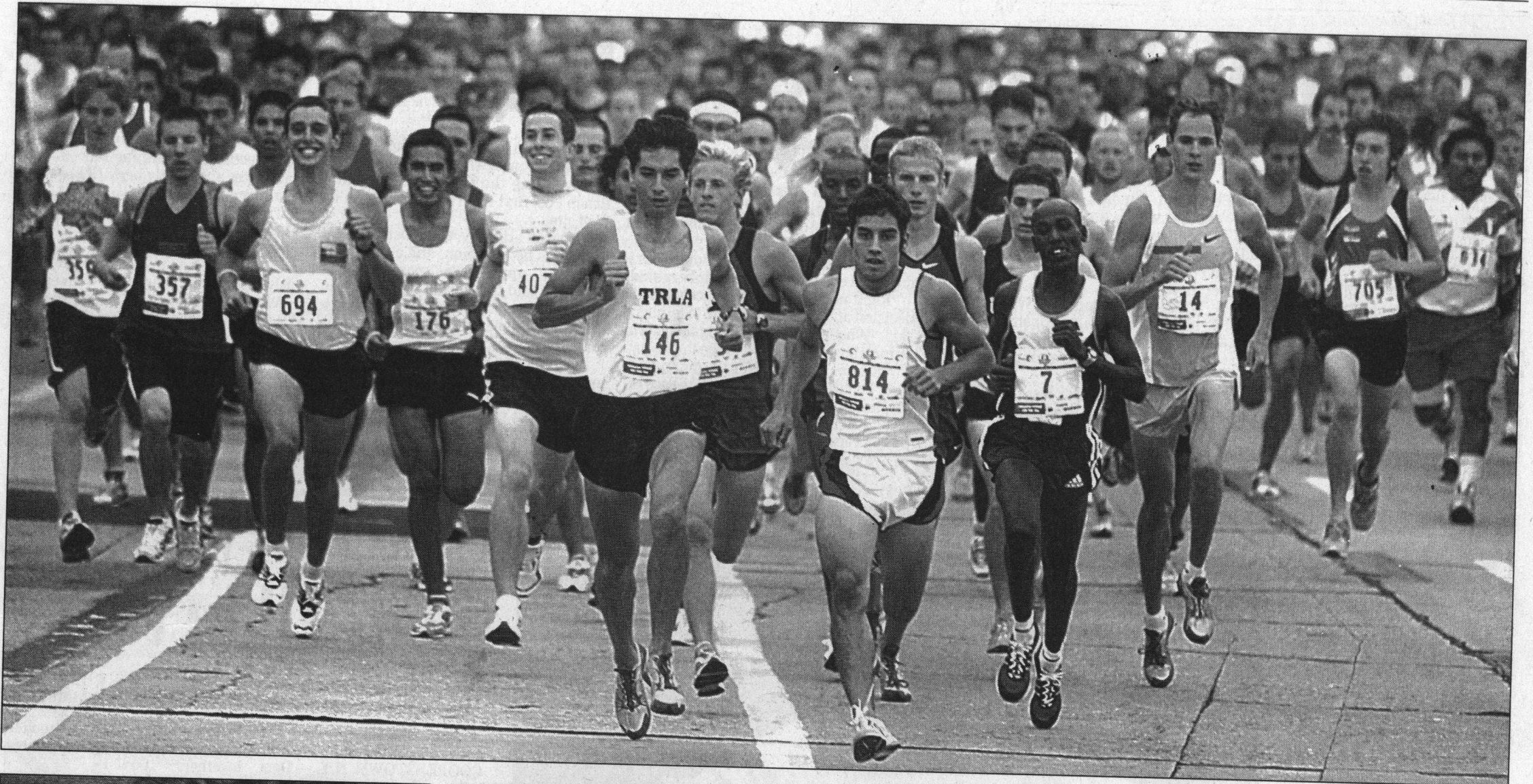
### More Inside

■ Race notebook. **PAGE D2**

"I was thinking, I'll be happy if I finish second or third," Fitchen-Young said of her thoughts during the race. "I know that sounds bad after winning last year, but my confidence was shot."

See **WOMEN** on **PAGE D3**





**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:** Runners head out from the starting line, while the lead group of nine hits the 1-mile mark. Plenty of bands and characters lined the course for the 32nd annual race from Santa Cruz to Capitola, which leaves a mighty mess.

**Photos by Shmuel Thaler**



## Top 100 Men

Place/Name	Town/Country	Time
1 Shadrack Kosgei	Kenya	27:51
2 Wilson Kigen	Kenya	27:51
3 Wilson Komen	Kenya	27:55
4 Seth Hejny	Palo Alto	28:19
5 Peter Gilmore	Menlo Park	28:29
6 Nick Rogers	Eugene(OR)	28:40
7 Brett Gotcher	Watsonville	28:54
8 Likhaya Dayville	So.Africa	29:18
9 Justin Patananan	Palmdale	29:23
10 Noah Marcus	Chico	30:09
11 Danny Gonzalez	Mt.View	30:15
12 Jake Schmitt	Kentfield	30:24
13 Tom Phelps	San Luis Obispo	30:28
14 Brandon Collins	Orangevale	30:29
15 Kenrick Sealy	Campbell	30:30
16 Phil Reid	San Luis Obispo	30:32
17 Jeff Porto	San Luis Obispo	30:33
18 Rich Hanna	Sacramento	30:47
19 Alan Jackson	Los Gatos	30:48
20 Nick Zoetewey	San Luis Obispo	30:55
21 Scott McConville	Watsonville	31:11
22 Nate Huerta	Salinas	31:22
23 Gary Blanco	Chico	31:35
24 Matthew Cooley	Davis	31:48
25 Jacob Evans	Watsonville	31:52
26 Ricky Lucero	Scotts Valley	31:54
27 Jose Alspuro	Freedom	31:56
28 Harlan Lopez	Walnut Creek	32:04
29 Patrick Hernandez	Hollister	32:05
30 David Jackson	San Luis Obispo	32:06
31 Jon Gire	San Jose	32:10
32 Jeffrey Lease	Stockton	32:16
33 Matthew Wise	Lafayette	32:29
34 Sean Marzolf	Lodi	32:31
35 Patrick Rainey	Rocklin	32:31
36 Kevin Selby	Martinez	32:33
37 Dustin Marzolf	Lodi	32:34
38 Bryan Hacker	Cool	32:38
39 David Kessler	Seattle(WA)	32:39
40 Andrew Jones	Cupertino	32:40
41 Nick Clinton	San Jose	32:41
42 Jaime Heilpern	Santa Cruz	32:44
43 Aaron Coe	Salinas	32:45
44 Javier Naranjo	Soquel	32:53
45 Leo Alapont	Los Gatos	32:54
46 Parker Kelly	Redwood City	32:58
47 Jose Anguiano	Rohnert Park	33:00
48 Marcos Corona	San Jose	33:02
49 Jeff Hongo	Campbell	33:05
50 Jimmy Elam Jr.	Manteca	33:07
51 Michael Connors	San Clemente	33:10
52 Dan Stefanisko	Pleasant Hill	33:11
53 Andrew Coe	Monterey	33:12
54 Lynn Mentzer	Sparks(NV)	33:18
55 Keli Parker	Watsonville	33:19
56 Carlos Castelo	Santa Rosa	33:20
57 John T. Service	Capitola	33:22
58 Mike Parrott	Sacramento	33:26
59 Matthew Petrillo	Los Gatos	33:28
60 Robert Grove	Folsom	33:29
61 Antonio Arreola	San Jose	33:32
62 Chatham Ross	Alameda	33:34
63 Jason Bouey	San Luis Obispo	33:35
64 David Krauth	San Jose	33:38
65 Rice William	San Jose	33:40
66 Kenneth Wilner	Belmont	33:42
67 Jeff Gill	Aptos	33:45
68 Kurt Lua	Loomis	33:46
69 Daniel Bettencourt	Aptos	33:47
70 Brandon Fink	Oakley	33:48
71 Rob Nast	Saratoga	33:50
72 Gavin Hoch	Lafayette	33:51
73 Daryl Zalan	Orinda	33:52
74 Alan Smith	Lafayette(IN)	33:53
75 Elijah Bilotta	Santa Cruz	33:54
76 Michael Seaman	Pebble Beach	33:58
77 Andrew Nowell	Emerald Hills	33:59
78 Mike Toney	San Jose	34:01
79 Toshiyuki Okugi	Palo Alto	34:10
80 Tashi Mac Millen	Santa Cruz	34:15
81 Joseph Viglienzoni	Soquel	34:17
82 Brendan Murthera	San Jose	34:18
83 Brandon Bible	Boulder Creek	34:19
84 Ahmet Gokcek	Cupertino	34:21
85 Michael Singleton	Fremont	34:21
86 Tim Nash	Santa Cruz	34:22
87 Michael Higgins	Santa Monica	34:23
88 David Jones	Danville	34:25
89 David Founds	San Luis Obispo	34:26
90 Robert Pickens	San Mateo	34:27
91 Jose Acosta	San Jose	34:31
92 Aaron Feldman	Capitola	34:32
93 Michael Zybura	Scotts Valley	34:37
94 Dan Zulaica	Santa Cruz	34:38
95 Luis Sanchez	Oakland	34:39
96 Scott Bolin	Coarsegold	34:41
97 Jose Ochoa	Sunnyvale	34:42
98 Donald Hicks	Rancho Cordova	34:43
99 Gilbert Rosales	San Jose	34:48
100 Wayne Hopp III	San Jose	34:51

## Women

Continued from Page D1

Fitchen-Young snatched back that confidence in a big way Sunday. She overtook Busienei in the final 200 yards to win the 6-mile race and its \$3,000 prize in 32 minutes, 12 seconds and banish the demons of doubt that had begun to haunt her running.

Busienei arrived at the finish 6 seconds later for the \$2,000 prize, while Nicole Kulikov of Fort Collins, Colo., took third in 32:41 for \$1,000.

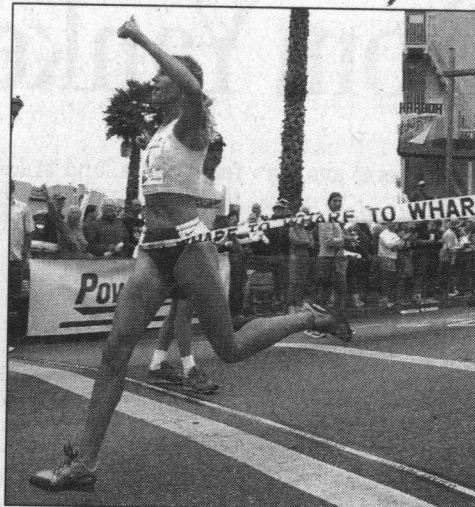
"It was like a little something magical happened, and I pulled through," said Fitchen-Young, 36, who finished 32nd overall. "I felt pushed by all the momentum and everyone cheering for me the whole race."

It had been a rough summer for Fitchen-Young. Twice she had qualified for the United States Olympic Trials — in the 10,000 meters and the marathon — and she had realistic expectations of qualifying for Athens in both. Instead, her body balked in both races, leaving her to finish a disappointing 92nd and 17th, respectively.

Those performances had taken such a mental toll on Fitchen-Young that she'd considered not even trying to defend the title she won in 2003 in 31:19.

"I had my doubts about even running today," she said. "I thought, I don't want to come out here and run (poorly) on my home course."

But she was also unwilling to take the "cowardly" way out, she said. So Sunday, she lined



Shmuel Thaler/Sentinel

Kim Fitchen-Young uses her long stride to shoot past Kenyan Maria Busienei to win her second straight Wharf to Wharf.

up in front of the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk alongside the other elite runners, three of whom had also qualified for the U.S. Olympic marathon trials.

From the start it became obvious that Fitchen-Young would be chasing down the Kenyans, Busienei, 18, and Agnes Ngunjiri, 28, latched onto the men's group and covered the first mile in a swift 4:51. But between miles 4 and 5, Ngunjiri began experiencing pain in her hamstring and slowed, giving Fitchen-Young and a few other athletes a chance to pass her.

close," Nicol said.

It took discussion among race officials before Kosgei was informed he was the race winner, but he knew.

"Crossing the tape, I could see," Kosgei said, then made a generous measurement. "I was a half meter ahead."

The runners were more than a minute off the course record of 26:42, set in 1992 by Lameck Aguta. They ran the first mile in 4:36 and the second at 4:40. That's where Gotcher fell off the pace, about the same point as last year, when he finished third.

Former Olympian Nick Rogers hung on for another mile, and Hejny reached the 4-mile mark before the Kenyans pulled away.

"Going out that first mile felt like sprinting and they looked like they were jogging," Gotcher said.

Gotcher convinced Hejny to join the race for the first time. They ran the course together Saturday in preparation. Hejny recently graduated from Stanford, and wouldn't have minded picking up his first paycheck, if he'd been able to hold on and make a move for the \$1,000 third-place prize.

"We tried to stay with the three Kenyans as long as we could," Hejny said. "You could tell, there were certain points in the race where

"I was not happy with my performance," said Ngunjiri, who ended up fifth. "I got a muscle pull in the last mile and couldn't run."

Fitchen-Young learned from the crowd that she was sitting in second place. Unable to pick out another woman in the runners ahead of her, she began to resign herself to finishing second.

Then Fitchen-Young reached the crest of the hill that plunges to the finish line in Capitola. At that very spot last year her husband, Paul Young, had assured her she had the race won. He was there again this year, but this time he had advice to give. The petite Busienei was about a block away, and he told the 5-foot-8 Fitchen-Young that if she strided out down the hill, she could win.

"I've got long legs and I can use that when I go down hill," Fitchen-Young said. "If it wasn't for that — I motored."

She pulled even with Busienei with 200 yards to go, and was surprised when the young runner didn't battle her for the win.

"The last mile I picked up," said Busienei, who on her first visit to the United States. She then made a motion to show her efforts were to no avail.

Still worried that either Busienei or the demons might catch her, however, Fitchen-Young managed only a thumbs up when she crossed the tape.

Her confident smile broke out a few steps later.

"I want to go for the three-peat now," she said.

Contact Julie Jag at [jjag@santacruzsentinel.com](mailto:jjag@santacruzsentinel.com).

## Top 100 Women

Place/Name	Town/Country	Time
1 Kim Fitchen-Young	Santa Cruz	32:12
2 Maria Busienei	Kenya	32:18
3 Nicole Kulikov	Fort Collins(CO)	32:41
4 Heather Tanner	Palo Alto	32:56
5 Agnes Ngunjiri	Kenya	33:15
6 Christine Lundy	Sausalito	33:41
7 Dolores Bergmann	Eureka	34:50
8 Missy Lendl	Redding	34:57
9 Dana Jones	Danville	35:00
10 Nicole Kelleher	Puerto Rico	35:18
11 Kristen Dowell	Santa Cruz	35:35
12 Catherine Dubay	Santa Rosa	35:39
13 Kara June	Clovis	35:57
14 Sarah West	Davis	36:06
15 Sonya Drottar	Santa Cruz	36:09
16 Rachel Collins	Dallas(TX)	36:10
17 Maria Trujillo	Los Gatos	36:14
18 Tori Tyler	Los Altos	36:23
19 Angela Hernandez	Watsonville	36:40
20 Katrin Tobin	Santa Cruz	37:30
21 Lea Nibur	Clovis	37:37
22 Ramona T. Young	Watsonville	37:39
23 Jessica Jackson	Dallas(TX)	37:40
24 Yvonne Lund	Campbell	37:48
25 Desiree Dvorak	Turlock	37:56
26 Angela Matthews	Sacramento	37:57
27 Brooke Detterman	Santa Cruz	38:06
28 Katharine Bath	La Selva Beach	38:09
29 Diana Harlick	Redwood City	38:10
30 Michelle June	Fresno	38:13
31 Krystal Rdriguez	Gr.Prairie(TX)	38:18
32 Teresa Gaims	Santa Cruz	38:19
33 Rachael Forish	Arlington(TX)	38:23
34 Julie Rohloff	Los Gatos	38:28
35 Michelle Ruiz	Los Altos	38:35
36 Kimberly Cloud	Turlock	38:37
37 Tina Anderson	Fresno	38:53
38 Aisha Kamala	Soquel	38:57
39 Kimberly Hammett	San Jose	39:04
40 Magan Moore	Wchta Falls(TX)	39:06
41 Mo Bartley	Cool	39:06
42 Karen Ribble	San Francisco	39:07
43 Christina Barriento	Felton	39:08
44 Becky Harmer	Campbell	39:09
45 Valerie Wielert	Campbell	39:13
46 Lisa Miller	Pacific Grove	39:14
47 Emily Trexel	Aptos	39:16
48 Laura Schmitt	Kentfield	39:17
49 Kirsten Kempe	Mountain View	39:20
50 Ashley Carroll	Stanford	39:29
51 Shannon Cody	Redwood City	39:38
52 Rachel Barber	Tulsa(OK)	39:49
53 Tina Lount-Pretra	Woodside	39:51
54 Megumi Masuda	Cupertino	39:52
55 Kim O'malley	Santa Cruz	39:53
56 Elaine Shirley	Spring(TX)	39:54
57 Holly Lamontagne	Spring(TX)	39:54
58 Anne Gosch	Carmel	40:08
59 Karen Saxena	Palo Alto	40:14
60 Marisol Hood	Santa Cruz	40:16
61 Honor Fetherston	Los Gatos	40:19
62 Tami Rodriguez	Carmichael	40:20
63 Ninette Bravo	Ben Lomond	40:23
64 Danielle Zelinski	San Jose	40:25
65 Janet Martin	Aptos	40:30
66 Kelly Ramirez	Gilroy	40:30
67 Monique Silva	Aptos	40:32
68 Val Walters	Soquel	40:34
69 Angela Tanghetti	Sacramento	40:36
70 Lisa Renteria	Los Gatos	40:38
71 Teresa Clark	Portola Valley	40:39
72 Meredith Mills	Redwood City	40:44
73 Luisa Gomes	Santa Clara	40:53
74 Anna Slattery	Tiburon	41:03
75 Marianne Grier	Redwood City	41:08
76 Kathy Hess	Reno(NV)	41:09
77 Anne Shultz	Fremont	41:13
78 Rena Schumann	Folsom	41:15
79 Cindy Johnston	Palo Alto	41:16
80 Christy Cowley	Los Gatos	41:25
81 Joanie Carew	Louisville(CO)	41:31
82 Kimberly Thomas	Santa Cruz	41:32
83 Ivana Donelson	San Francisco	41:34
84 Kristen Staiger	San Jose	41:38
85 Jennifer Kerwin	Los Gatos	41:41
86 Olivia Vagh	Fremont	41:42
87 Ellen Wallace	Sunnyvale	41:47
88 Andrea Carrillo	Antioch	41:51
89 Alison Stanford	Santa Cruz	41:52
90 Heidi Schenone	Campbell	41:53
91 Laura Danner-Baird	Alamo	41:53
92 Tamara Torlakson	Antioch	41:56
93 Ann Elam	Manteca	41:57
94 Kim Fullmer	Fresno	41:59
95 Krista Anderson	Santa Cruz	42:01
96 Susan Dreihopt	Las Vegas(NV)	42:03
97 Cindi Parente	Davis	42:04
98 Jennifer Maravillas	Antioch	42:05
99 Adair Paterno	Santa Cruz	42:08
100 Liz Nast	Saratoga	42:13

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