

Siqueiros wins Wharf to Wharf

First time the charm for runner

By ED VYEDA

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CAPITOLA — For the second year in a row, the first runner to cross the finish line in the Wharf To Wharf Race wasn't wearing an official entry number. He wasn't even wearing a shirt, for that matter.

But this time, he counts.

Armando Siqueiros, 25, of Watsonville, can thank his brother Alex for the foulup. Or his friend Rene Villanueva. Alex was supposed to meet Armando at the starting line, at the Santa Cruz Municipal Wharf, and give him his shirt and racing flats. Siqueiros' number was pinned to his shirt.

Alex didn't show up, until after the race. By then, his brother had simply out-run the field just over 6,000 runners to win the 12th annual Wharf To Wharf.

Siqueiros was left to race in his training shoes and brave the cool, foggy morning in nothing but a pair of bright-red, floral-print shorts and a thin, gold-chain necklace. The shirt, shoes and official number were still left sitting in the car. Forgotten. Right where Villanueva had put them.

The first thing Siqueiros was asked after he reached the finish line in Capitola Village was if his time was official. "It better be," he said.

Not forgotten was Ivan Huff, who finished first last year without being officially issued an entry number. His running club gave the number away before he arrived at the start. Huff ran 26:40, but the time didn't count. The winner, officially, was Dan Grimes.

unofficial runners aren't supposed to cross the line with the rest of the field. But Siqueiros shook his head, "To tell them, no, I was OK," he said later.

"We knew who he was," said race director Gary McConnell, who just happened to be the race official who issued Siqueiros a number. "He was all checked in, but we were wondering what happened." Siqueiros, currently a medical student at UC-Irvine, is a well-known runner in the area, having been a cross-country star at Watsonville High and UCSC. "I didn't think he would run if he didn't enter," McConnell said.

The winner in the women's division may not have been well-known locally, but she is in Holland, where Carla Beurskens, 30, is an Olympic marathoner. Running simply as a warmup for the Olympics, Beurskens ran a 31:16, six seconds off the women's course record.

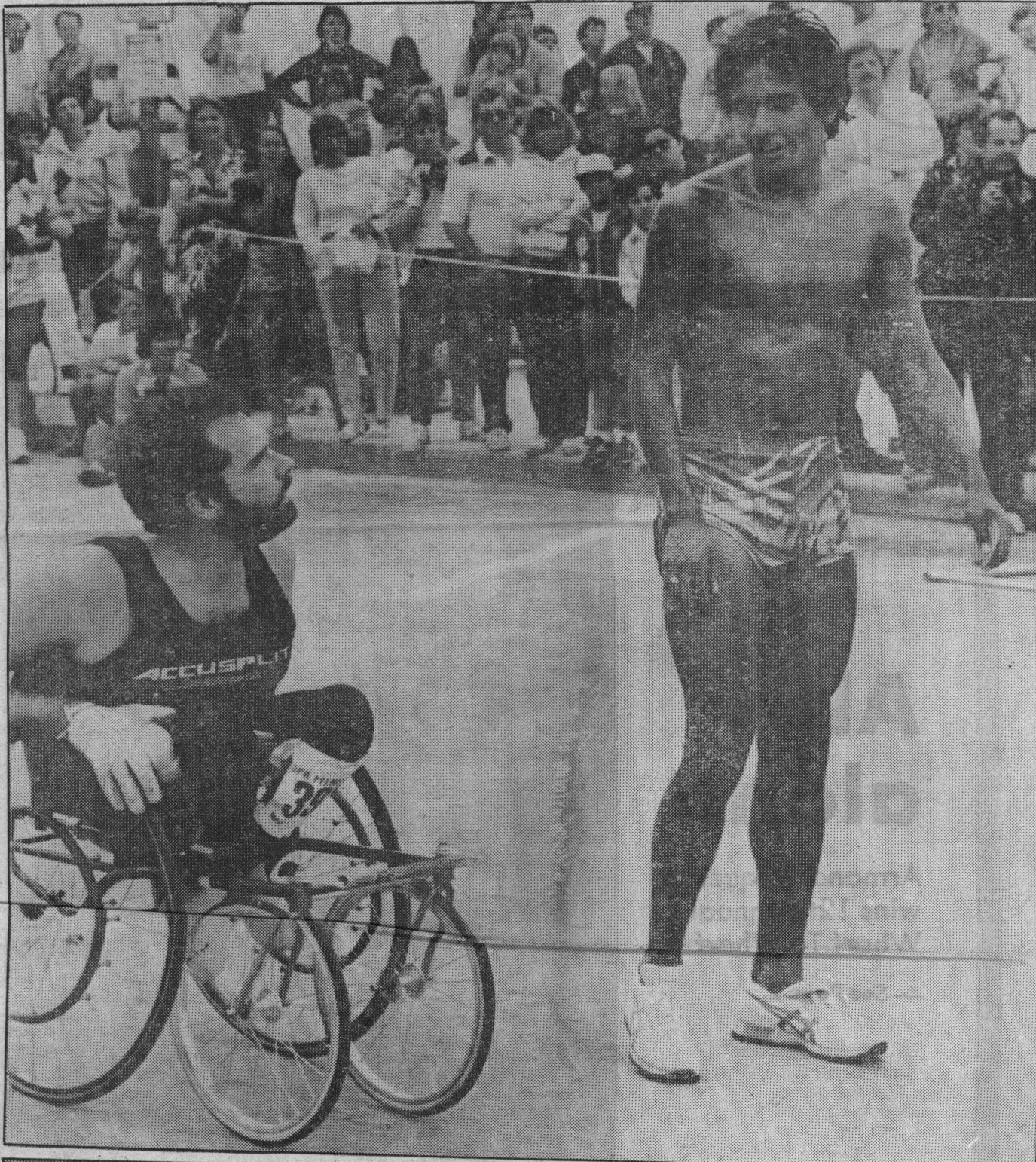
But, said race director Mark McConnell, Gary's brother, the official computer printout tape of all the times indicated Beurskens finished in 30:19. "That would blow the record away," Mark McConnell said. He is still trying to check with other runners to see if Beurskens ran the faster or slower time.

Ironically, it was the first time Siqueiros has ever run the Wharf To Wharf Race. And to win, he had to go out strong with 1982 champion Dan Gruber of Aptos, and Mark Conover, one of Sunday's favorites. The threesome went to the front from the start, shoulder-to-shoulder as they crossed the bridge at the yacht harbor. When they headed up the hill along Schwan Lake, about 2½ miles into the race, Siqueiros forged to a 20-yard lead.

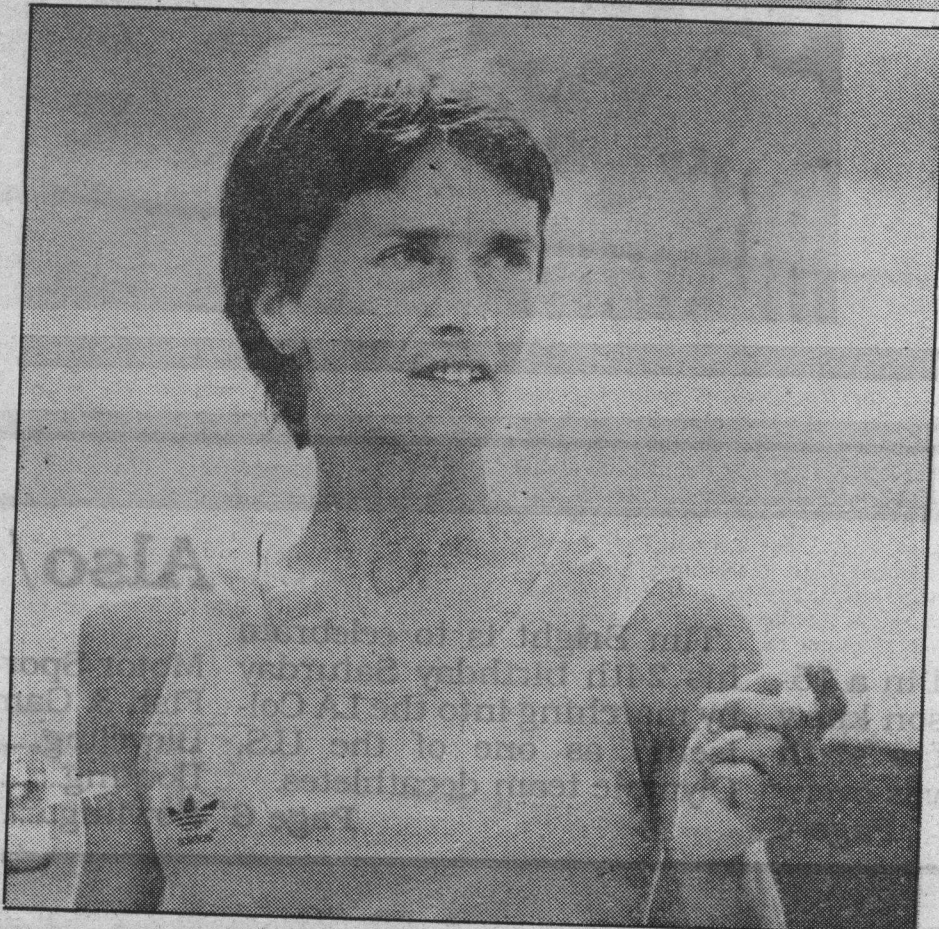
By the time Siqueiros made the turn off East Cliff Drive onto 17th Avenue, the lead was 35 yards, and it stretched to 60 yards by the time he passed through Pleasure Point. He was looking strong, and not long after that, Gruber and Conover were caught by a pack of runners.

In that pack was Doug Avrit, of San Luis Obispo, who finished 13th in the U.S.

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Dan Coyro/Sentinel



Armando Siqueiros, above, won the Wharf to Wharf race in his first try, while Gary Kerr, in wheelchair, received a two-block head start and was the first person across the line. The women's winner was Carla Beurskens, left.

Dan Coyro/Sentinel



Dan Coyro/Sentinel

Over 6,000 runners lined up for the start of the annual Wharf to Wharf race on Sunday.

Top times/

CAPITOLA — Leading Divisional finishers from Sunday's 12th annual Wharf to Wharf Race, 5.813 miles:

Men's Overall

1. Armando Siqueiros 27:01.5, 2. Doug Avrit 27:12, 3. Gary Lewis 27:17, 4. Daniel Gonzales 27:18, 5. Mark Conover 27:41, 6. Dan Gruber 27:43, 7. Terry Gibson 27:47, 8. Jeffrey Shaver 27:53, 9. Gian Starinieri 27:56, 10. Rich Langford 27:56, 11. Pat Sullivan 28:01, 12. Joe Green 28:09, 13. Marc Genet 28:14, 14. Glyn Reynolds 28:18, 15. Brent Griffiths 28:20, 16. Mark Proteau 28:33, 17. Greg Brock 28:36, 18. Dave Livingston 28:40, 19. Dan Grimes 28:42, 20. Jim McCarthy 28:47.

Women's Overall

1. Carla Beurskens 31:16, 2. Carol Gleason 31:31, 3. Robyn Root 32:02, 4. Charlene O'Brien 32:34, 5. Kathy Koudela 32:38, 6. Jill Ellingson 32:55, 7. Kathy Way 33:27, 8. Kathleen Manning 33:33, 9. Linda Mantynen 34:34, 10. Vicki Bigelow 34:50, 11. Judy Shade 34:55, 12. Eileen Vickard 35:20, 13. Judith Peters 35:52, 14. Sue Miller 35:57, 15. Darcy Waterman 36:08, 16. Jo Barry 36:13, 17. Beth Taft 36:19, 18. Pearl Anit 36:22, 19. Sue Francis 36:23, 20. Melanie Barry 36:26.

Boys' 18-under

1. David Basinger, 28:48; 2. Marc Goulet, 29:20; 3. Joe Karnes, 29:25; 4. Mike Goralka, 29:25, 5. Jim LaFuente, 29:36.

Men's 19-29

1. Armando Siqueiros 27:01, 2. Doug Avrit 27:12, 3. Gary Lewis 27:15, 4. Daniel Gonzales 27:18, 5. Mark Conover 27:41.

Men's 30-39

1. Rich Langford 27:56, 2. Mark Genet 28:14, 3. Mark Proteau 28:32, 4. Greg Brock 28:36, 5. Peanut Harms 29:02.

Men's 40-49

1. Gary Goettelmann 31:32, 2. Gene Gilligan 32:00, 3. Bill Wooden 32:53, 4. Ken Benjamin 32:59, 5. Bill Comport 33:08.

Men's 50-over

1. Glenn Wood 30:31, 2. Ken Napier 34:44, 3. Ed Daily 35:48, 4. Bill Barclay 36:40, 5. I. J. Wilson 37:00.

Girls' 18-under

1. Rebecca Chamberlain 36:31, 2. Kelli Inicki 38:29, 3. Karen McGough 39:21, 4. Michelle Seck 39:30, 5. Lori Hill 39:57.

Women's 19-29

1. Carol Gleason 31:31, 2. Robyn Root 32:02, 3. Charlene O'Brien 32:34, 4. Kathy Koudela 32:38, 5. Jill Ellingson 32:55.

Women's 30-39

1. Carla Beurskens 31:16, 2. Linda Mantynen 34:34, 3. Judi Shade 34:50, 4. Sue Francis 36:19, 5. Florianne Hard 37:55.

Women's 40-49

1. Vicki Bigelow 34:46, 2. Carol Stroud 36:28, 3. Judith Russo 38:01, 4. Jeanne Arakelian 39:31, 5. Val Smart 41:00.

Women's 50-over

1. Rita Mockus 46:30, 2. Colleen Sloan 46:51, 3. Katherine Beiers 47:10.

Siqueiros wins Wharf race

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Olympic marathon trials earlier this year. Avrit turned out to have the last shot at Siqueiros, but couldn't catch him.

"Everyone said he was going to die," Avrit said of the feeling in the pack that Siqueiros couldn't hold the lead. They knew he'd been training all year to make the Olympic team in the 5,000; they knew he didn't make it. What they didn't know was that he'd make it Sunday.

Hearing that little piece of backfired strategy, Siqueiros smiled and said to Avrit, "I was waiting for you guys."

"I knew I was in good shape," said Siqueiros, who has been training with U.S. Olympian Tom Wysocki, at UC-Irvine. "I knew I could go out with people." What he didn't know was if he could finish ahead of all of them.

And Siqueiros didn't feel comfortable until he was in the village. "I didn't feel I was going to win it until I got down the (Cliff Drive) hill," he said.

And he was still wondering where his shirt was.

Beurskens, a housewife in the Netherlands, enjoyed the race. "It was beautiful and I liked the hills. There were more people than in a race like this in Holland." She's been training in San Jose, she said, because she had a choice of there and San Diego — and the Dutch Olympic Committee said it was cheaper in San Jose.

Several other local runners did well, among them Gruber, who placed sixth in 27:43, Gian Starinieri, who was ninth in 27:56, and Greg Brock, 17th overall in 28:36, also good for fourth in the men's age 30-39 division. Gary Goettelmann of Aptos won the men's 40-49, in 31:32.

The oldest finisher in the race was Al Miller, 78, while the youngest was Brodie Thomas, 6.

The first competitor to finish wasn't actually a runner. Instead, it was wheel-

chair athlete Gary Kerr, 30, of Campbell. His unofficial time was 25:58, although he started about a block ahead of the pack, so not to block their path. Kerr recently won the national wheelchair 10-kilometer race in Minneapolis, in 26:48.

"You can't compare the two," Kerr said of wheeling the course and running the course. "But, this is the way I get around. This is how I run."

Kerr, who lost both his legs in an auto accident when he was age 2, said, "It's a safe course," and feels the race should have an official division for wheelchair athletes (it does not).

It wasn't safe, however, when a woman along the course stepped out into the street and collided with a wheelchair racer. Neither the woman or racer was reported to be seriously injured.

The race, which increased its 1983 field of 3,600 by about 60 percent, wasn't without tragedy. For the first time, two runners collapsed on the course and needed to be taken to Dominican Hospital. Mahlon Lee, reportedly 35, of San Jose, was listed in critical condition at the hospital today. (See story on Page 1 of The Sentinel.) The other woman, unidentified, was reported to be treated for heat exhaustion. Another woman was also treated on the course for an asthma attack.

At the start of the race, people seemed ready to go, limbering up to the lead of a special aerobics stretching session. Race T-shirts went at a virtual sellout pace and there was even one local waiter who arrived in his uniform, carrying a tray with a bottle and champagne glasses on it. He may have been best-dressed in the race, but the bottle and glasses were plastic, with the bottoms glued on the tray. The race started with only a five-minute delay, taking the gun at 8:35 a.m.