

Africans win Wharf to Wharf



Tarmo Hannula/Register-Pajaronian

ABOVE: Runners and walkers in the 37th annual Wharf to Wharf footrace move along East Cliff Drive near Seventh Avenue Sunday morning. **BELOW:** Brian Knight, shown running on Watsonville High's track Monday, placed 84th in the Wharf to Wharf and will compete Saturday in the disabled 800-meter exhibition race at the USA Track & Field Junior Olympics in Greensboro, N.C. Knight has limited use of his right arm due to an injury he suffered to his neck when he was born, but the senior to be is expected to be the No. 1 runner on the Watsonville High cross-country team.

15,000 compete in annual 6-mile road race

REGISTER-PAJARONIAN STAFF REPORT

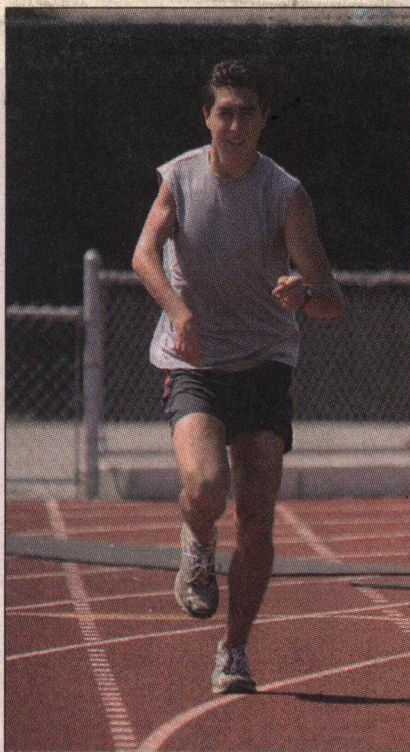
✓ Kenya's Simon Chiprot won the men's division and Meseret Mengistu led an Ethiopian sweep of the top three spots in the women's division Sunday in the 37th annual Wharf to Wharf, a popular race between the Santa Cruz and Capitola wharves.

Chiprot, 19, crossed the finish line of the 6-mile race in 27 minutes, 6 seconds — 35 seconds ahead of runner-up Alene Reta of Ethiopia. Australia's Andrew Leatherby took third place, another 11 seconds behind.

The top local finisher was Rigo Vasquez of Castroville, who finished seventh in 29:42. Daniel Tapia of Castroville placed eighth in the same time. Watsonville's Jacob Evans had the best finish of any Santa Cruz County runner. The former Aptos High runner took 14th in 30:27.

The other local finishers in the top 100 were Watsonville's Beau Gradone-Rogers

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Watsonville High runner to compete in disabled race at Junior Olympics

By ERIC ANDERSON

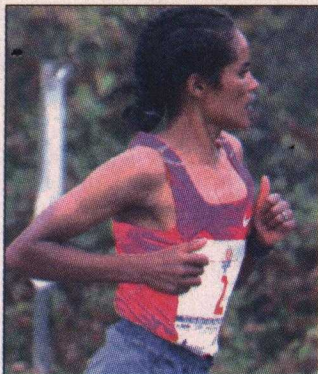
OF THE REGISTER-PAJARONIAN

Brian Knight finished in 84th place in the Wharf to Wharf on Sunday. He is expected to be the top runner on the Watsonville High cross-country team in the fall.

The reason for his ability is easy to see. His long and lanky body — he is about 6 feet, 2 inches tall — is perfect for a runner. But he also happens to have a disability: a right arm that didn't form correctly.

On Saturday, he will be one of eight high school athletes competing in the ambulatory division of the disabled 800-meter exhibition race at the USA Track & Field Junior Olympics in Greensboro, N.C. It will be the first time he will compete against a field containing solely disabled runners, and as many as 30,000 people could be in attendance.

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Meseret Mengsitu of Ethiopia maintains a healthy lead at the halfway point in the women's category of the Wharf to Wharf. She went on to claim first place for women.

RACE

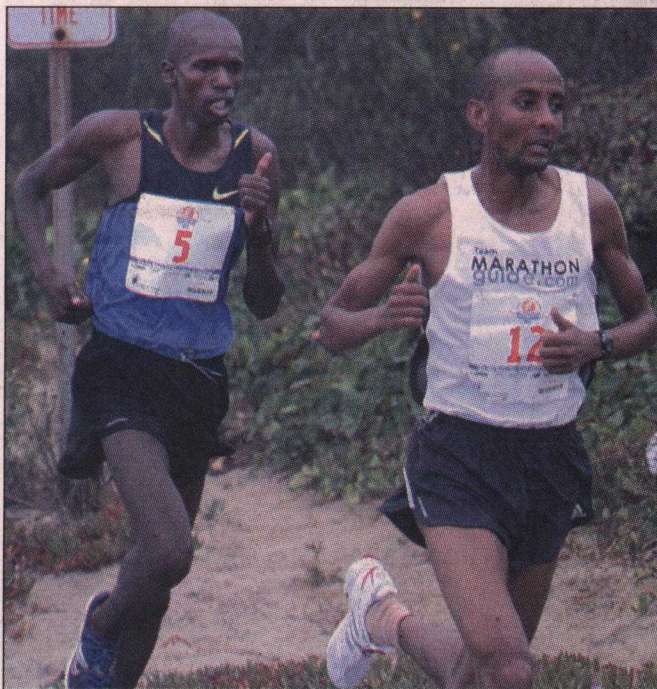
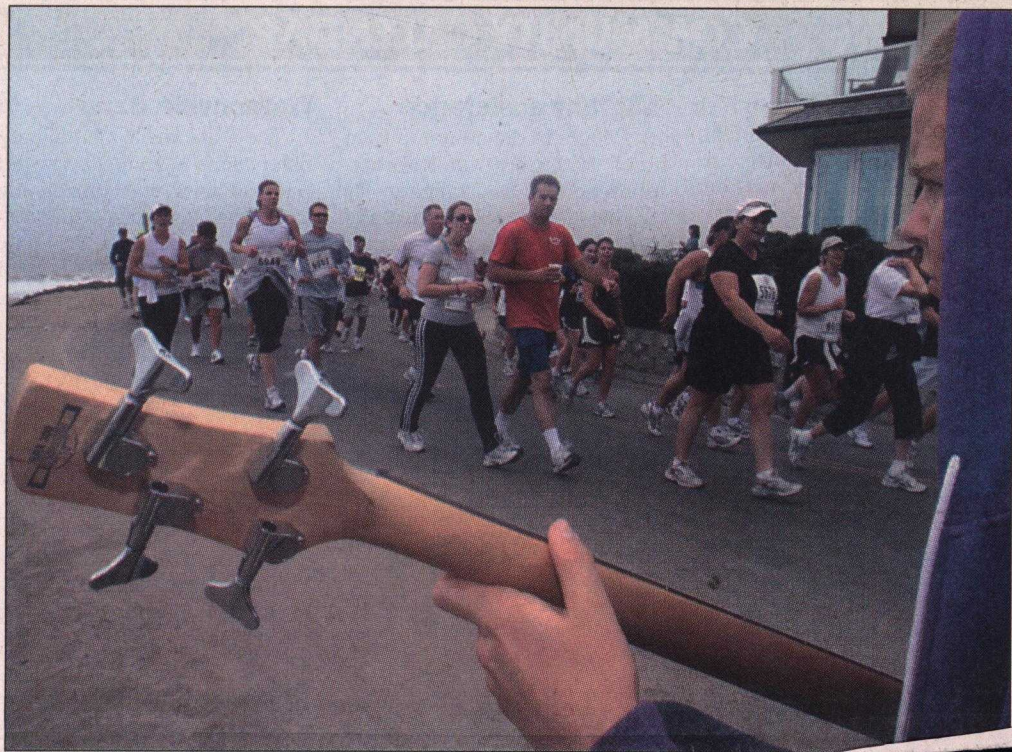
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(29th, 31:55), Watsonville's Dayne Gradone (31st, 31:56), Watsonville's Michael Young (34th, 32:08), La Selva Beach's Rylan Hunt (51st, 33:23), Aptos' Ryan Peabody (78th, 34:28) and Watsonville's Brian Knight (84th, 34:47).

Mengsitu, 19, finished in 30:45, seven seconds ahead of countrywoman Teyba Naser. Belianish Gebre, also of Ethiopia, placed third in 32:04.

Santa Cruz's Mikayla Murphy led the Santa Cruz County runners, taking ninth in 35:40.

The local finishers in the top 100 were Aptos' Elizabeth Mayeda (14th, 36:41), Watsonville's Amy Schnittger (33rd, 39:00), La Selva Beach's Jamie Humpreys (48th, 39:54), La Selva Beach's Annie Adams (51st, 39:57), Aptos' Emily Trexel (54th, 40:10), La Selva Beach's Teresa Clayton (63rd, 40:44), Aptos' Gina Horath (67th, 40:52), Aptos' Marissa Ferrante (68th, 40:53), Aptos' Meredith Mills (72nd, 41:07) and Watsonville's Timi Sutton (81st, 41:46).



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TOP: Austin Defarcy plays bass for the Sacramento-based rock group Submerge on East Cliff Drive during the Wharf to Wharf. ABOVE: Simon Cheprot (left) of Kenya, who placed first in the race, shadows Alene Reta of Ethiopia at the halfway point of the 6-mile event.