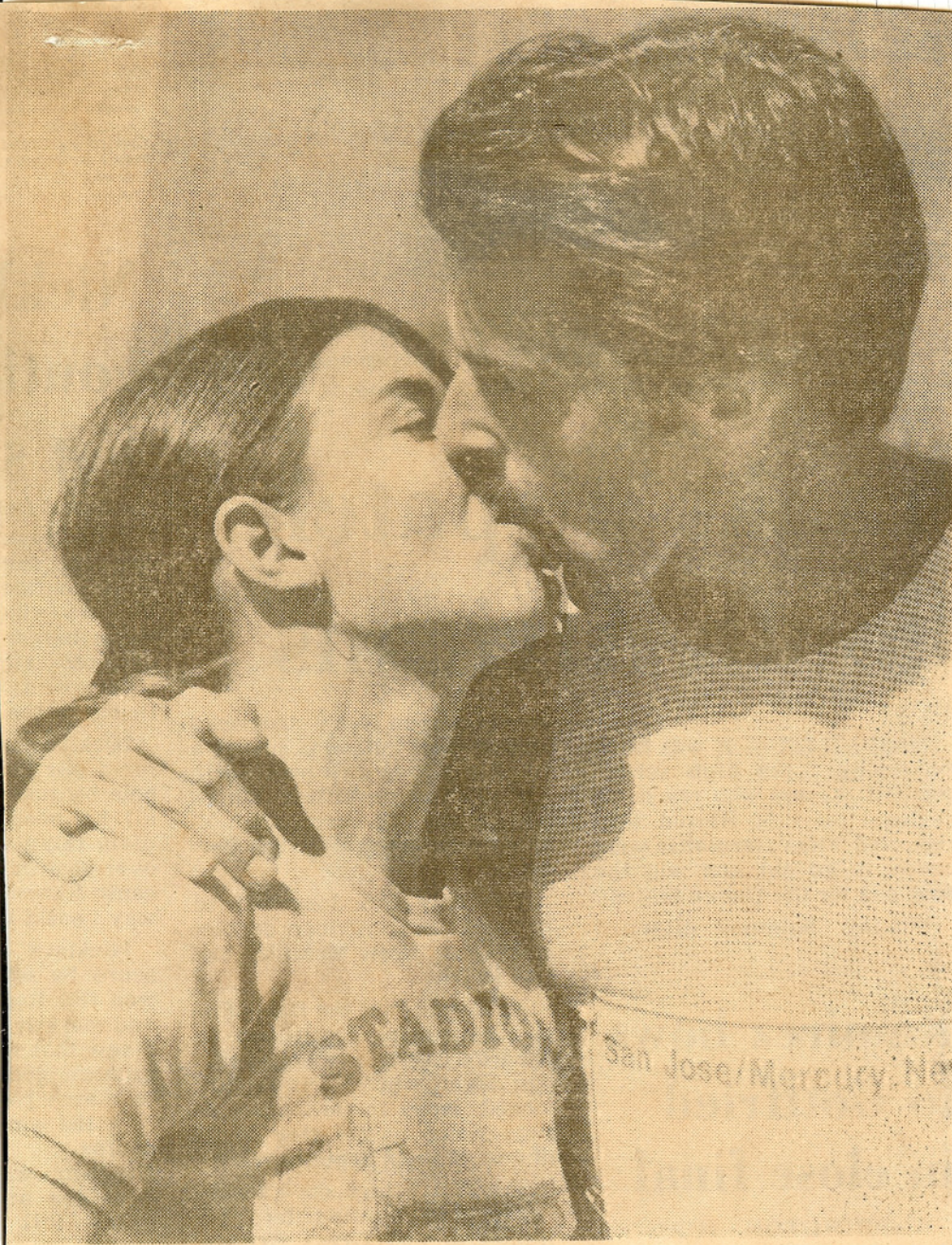




—Staff photo by Tom Williams

Roxanne Bier, winner of the women's division, sprints toward the finish line of Sunday's race



—Staff photo by John Zamboni

Duncan Macdonald gets a kiss from his wife, Debra Meyer

Macdonald wins ...by three blocks

By Don Chapman
Staff Writer

When the false-start surge began and swept an estimated 4,000 runners down First Street in the first San Jose/Mercury News Race Sunday morning, Duncan Macdonald had his back to the starting line.

"It was no big deal, just a typical

California start, like breaking into freeway traffic," said Macdonald, the former Stanford and Olympic runner who won the 6.6-mile race in 30 minutes, 20.8 seconds, three blocks ahead of second-place Angel Martinez.

"When I heard the starter (Mayor Janet Gray Hayes) say, 'Come back,' I turned around. Then I saw that some
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False start didn't stop him

Macdonald outruns thousands

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people had taken off. I think most of the serious runners tried to come back, but there was a handful of runners who didn't."

And there was nothing to do but catch up.

Roxanne Bier, a sophomore at Independence High, won the women's division in 36:27.2 — she was 74th over-all.

"I was in the middle someplace and I didn't even know they'd started until everyone around me took off," Bier said.

When the end of the mob reached the starting line, the leaders were three blocks ahead of much of the multitude of bobbing, bouncing heads and accompanying muffled trample of thousands of pairs of running shoes. Free at last to run, the crowd raised a brief cheer, brief because the weather was hot. Nearby, a Dixieland band played.

"By the time we took that first turn (left onto Jackson), I was up in front," said Macdonald, a surprise entry in the race after finishing second Saturday to Mark Schilling in the mile at the

Stanford Relays. "By two miles, I was leading by about two and a half blocks. By three miles, I was already maxed out, so I couldn't increase the lead."

Brian Maxwell, the pre-race favorite to win, finished fourth in 32:00, with Mike Pinocci third in 31:42.6.

"This was more Duncan's distance than mine," said Maxwell, a marathoner. "But I love this kind of race. I ran 34 miles Friday, so this was a good, short training run for me. I could never run this hard in a workout by myself. It's fun to have such a complete range of age and skill, so that a casual jogger can run with a world class runner like Duncan."

Two hours after the start, all runners who would finish had. As first races go, this one was fairly hassle-free, except for the runners who finished back in the pack and then stood in line to learn of their places for as long as they took to run the race.

"This is the second-best organized race I've

ever been in, second only to the Honolulu Marathon," said Macdonald. "The only problem was that the Gatorade didn't taste good."

"That's because it ran off my jeans," quipped soaking-wet Bert Bonanno, co-race director. "After the start, we were lifting a 20-gallon barrel of Gatorade up on a table and it spilled all over me, like a big wave at Santa Cruz."

Macdonald and Bier won round-trip airfare to their choice of Hawaii or Boston. MacDonald, a Hawaii native, will fly home. Bier said she'll go to Hawaii, too. Four other Hawaii or Boston trips were awarded in a drawing among the next 25 male and female finishers. Winners were Diane Young, Carolyn West, Mike Smith and Paul Sechrist, a San Jose City College runner.

"I stepped in a pot hole at about two miles and fell," said Smith, representing West Valley Track Club. "At first I was mad because I finished 14th. But then they drew my number. Someone up there was watching out for me. I'm going to the Boston Marathon."

Open Division

Men — Duncan MacDonald 30:20.8; Angel Martinez 31:32.7; Mike Pinocci 31:42.6; Brian Maxwell 32:00.0; Peanut Harms 32:06.6; Bill Seaver 32:23.3.

Women — Roxanne Bier 36:27.2, Cheri Williams, Kathy Perkins, Judy Fox, Tina Anex, Skip Swannack.

40-and-over

Men — Bob Welck, Ulrich Kaemph, Jim O'Neil, John Flather, Gerald Strong, Oliver Calvin.

Women — Virginia Collins, Adella Girven, Retta Albers, Marilyn Delay, Gayle Dahlberg, Pat Mueller.

15-and-under

Boys — Jesse Colvin, Paul Marquis, Mike Lucas, Alex Gonzalez, Roy Gonzalez, David Ramirez.

Girls — Kerry Brogan, Cathy Demmelmaier, Pauline Vasquez, Sharon Yauinek, Nannette Garcia, Kathleen Bonnett, Theresa Gilneath.

Over-all

Men — 1. Duncan MacDonald; 2. Angel Martinez; 3. Mike Pinocci; 4. Brian Maxwell; 5. Peanut

Harms; 6. Bill Seaver; 7. Ronald Genschmer; 8. Gary Goettlemann; 9. Michael Niemiec; 10. Paul Sechrist; 11. Jan Serschen; 12. Steve Brooks; 13. Chris Aamer; 14. M.W. Smith; 15. Bill Clark; 16. Gary Galloway; 17. Jim Howell; 18. Kim Schaurer; 19. Bob Welck; 20. John Ahnberg; 21. Phame Camarena; 22. Jim Bowles; 23. Michael Dunn; 24. Bruce Rescher; 25. Bill Spence.

Women — 1. Roxanne Bier; 2. Cheri William; 3. Kathy Perkins; 4. Kerry Brogan; 5. Judy Fox; 6. Tina Anex; 7. Skip Swannack; 8. Cathy Demmelmaier; 9. Linda

Hayes; 10. Pauline Vasquez; 11. 12. Gayle Campbell; 13. Sharon Yauinek; 14. Maria Regaldo; 15. Barbara Pike; 16. Carol Bissell; 17. Nancy Gregory; 18. Nannette Garcia; 19. Liz Strangio; 20. Carolyn West; 21. Theresa Gilneath; 22. Ann Regan; 23. Diane Young; 24. Kathleen Bonnett; 25. Lou Hernandez.

(First 300 finishers and times will be published in the Mercury News. Medals will be kept in the mayor's office for winners — first through sixth in each division — who did not pick up their awards Sunday.)