

THE TWO RIVER TIMES™

SPORTS

THE WEEK OF JUNE 20 - 27, 2014

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Perfect Weather Greet 1,500 Runners at Sheehan Classic

Story by Jim Hintelmann • Photos by Scott Longfield



RED BANK – Former Brick Memorial star distance runner Andrew Brodeur of Bethesda, Md., made it two wins in as many Red Bank visits during the 21st Annual George Sheehan Classic 5K race Saturday, June 14, by running away with the race with a fine 15:18.50 clocking.

The race attracted approximately 1,500 runners and was held in near perfect weather conditions. A total of 1,253 runners finished.

Noel Whitall of Toms River was an even easier winner of the women's race, winning in a fast time of 17:46.91. That was good for 12th place overall.

Brodeur, who ran track and cross-country at Duke University, didn't waste any time, taking the lead from the start and simply coasting the rest of the race, running 4:53 for the first mile.

"At the start of the race, I just decided to go out fast and see if anyone else wanted to go at that pace," said Brodeur, a 2008 graduate of Brick Memorial who is currently coaching track and cross-country at Silver Spring Middle School and Blake High School.

Brodeur's only problem was Tower Hill, which was on the course route.

"When I came here last year I didn't even know about Tower Hill," Brodeur said. "It's placement (at the 2.5-mile mark) makes it tough and people get tired."

"This year, I was ready but it was still difficult going up the hill, and the other runners were catching up to me," Brodeur said, "Fortunately, it was easier going downhill."

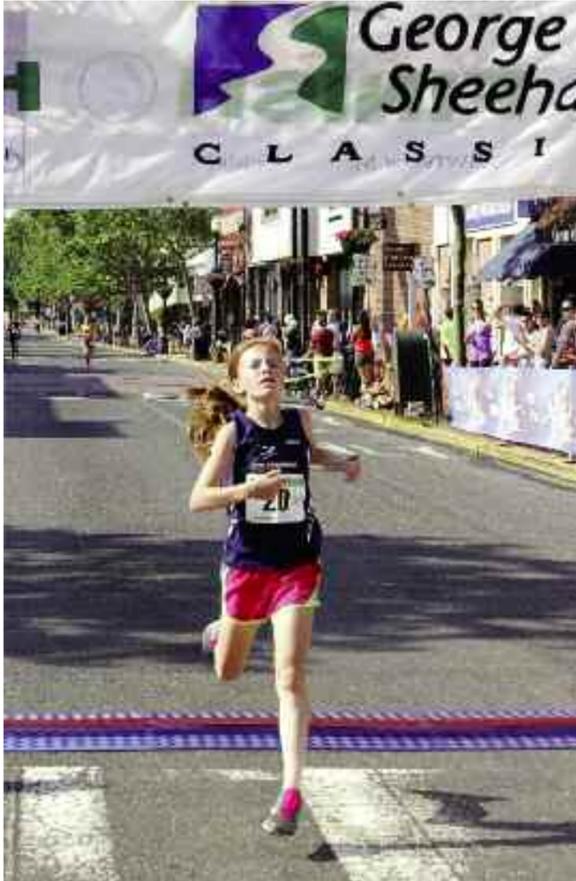
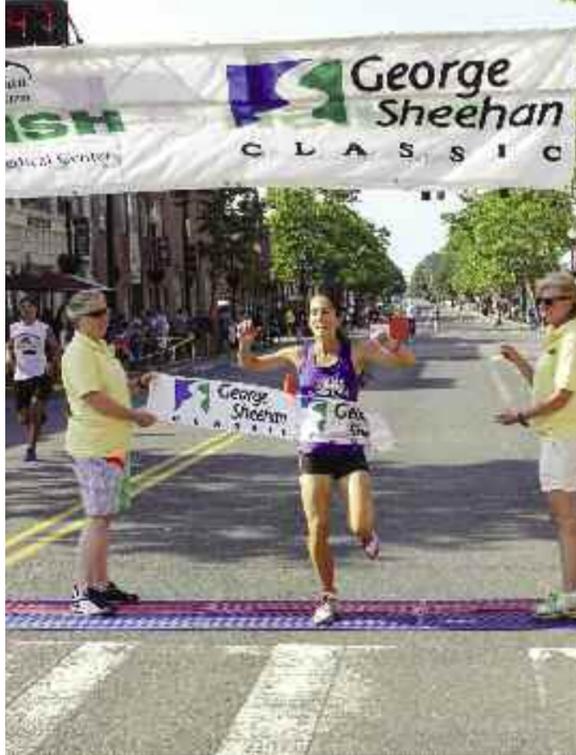
"The weather was nice," said Brodeur, who won the Spring Lake 5K over the Memorial Day weekend. "I had expected it to be more humid."

"I always enjoy coming back to the Jersey Shore," he said. "I still have family living here."

Brian Quilty of Brick was second with 15:39.6 and was followed by Cory Smith of Philadelphia in third (15:47). The first area finisher was Rob Cavanaugh of Oceanport, who was fifth in 16:05.

Katie Connor of Rumson was the second finisher among the women with a time of 20:08, which was 67th overall.

The George Sheehan Classic started in 1981 and was then known as the Asbury Park 10K Classic. It was moved to Red Bank in 1994 and renamed in memory of Dr. George Sheehan, a noted cardiologist and runner who was also an author and lecturer. He died in 1993. *See related story on Page 24.*



Runners take off, top, at the start of the George Sheehan Classic 5K race under bright blue skies Saturday, June 14. Crossing the finish line in first place is Andrew Brodeur, middle row, left, with the time of 15:18.50. Breaking the tape as the first place women's winner is Noel Whitall, middle row, center, of Toms River with a time of 17:46.91 for 12th place overall. Runners who participated – 1,250 crossed the finish line on Broad Street – came in every shape and size, young and old, including tots being pushed by their parents in stroller.