

# SPORTS

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Sun photos by Daniel Hyland

**BOTTONE MILE** — Runners take their marks Wednesday night at Westerly High School during the first-ever Nick Bottone mile.

## Pizza takes Bottone Mile

By **FRED HARWOOD**  
Sun Sportswriter

**WESTERLY** — Nearly 30 runners gathered under cloudy skies at the Westerly High School track for the running of the first annual Nick Bottone mile Wednesday night.

The race was run in two heats, the first for runners who expected to finish in six minutes or over and the second for those who expected to finish in under six minutes.

Joe Pizza led the second heat the whole way, crossing the finish line in 4:59. He was the only runner to finish in



**Bottone**

under five minutes.

Rich Rossi finished second with a time of 5:08 and Dylan Malagrino placed third at 5:09.

Malagrino, a member of the Westerly High track team who also participates in the Tom McCoy Fun Runs on Tuesday nights, said the mile run was a nice change of pace from the three mile Fun Runs.

"I like the shorter distances better because in track I don't usually do the longer distances," Malagrino said.

Becky Haberek came out on top of the first heat with a time of 5:52. Bud Grills was second at 6:09 and Joy Moran was right behind at 6:12.

Tom McCoy, who organizes the Fun Runs on Tuesday nights, said he plans to make the Nick Bottone mile an annual event. McCoy said he named the event for Bottone

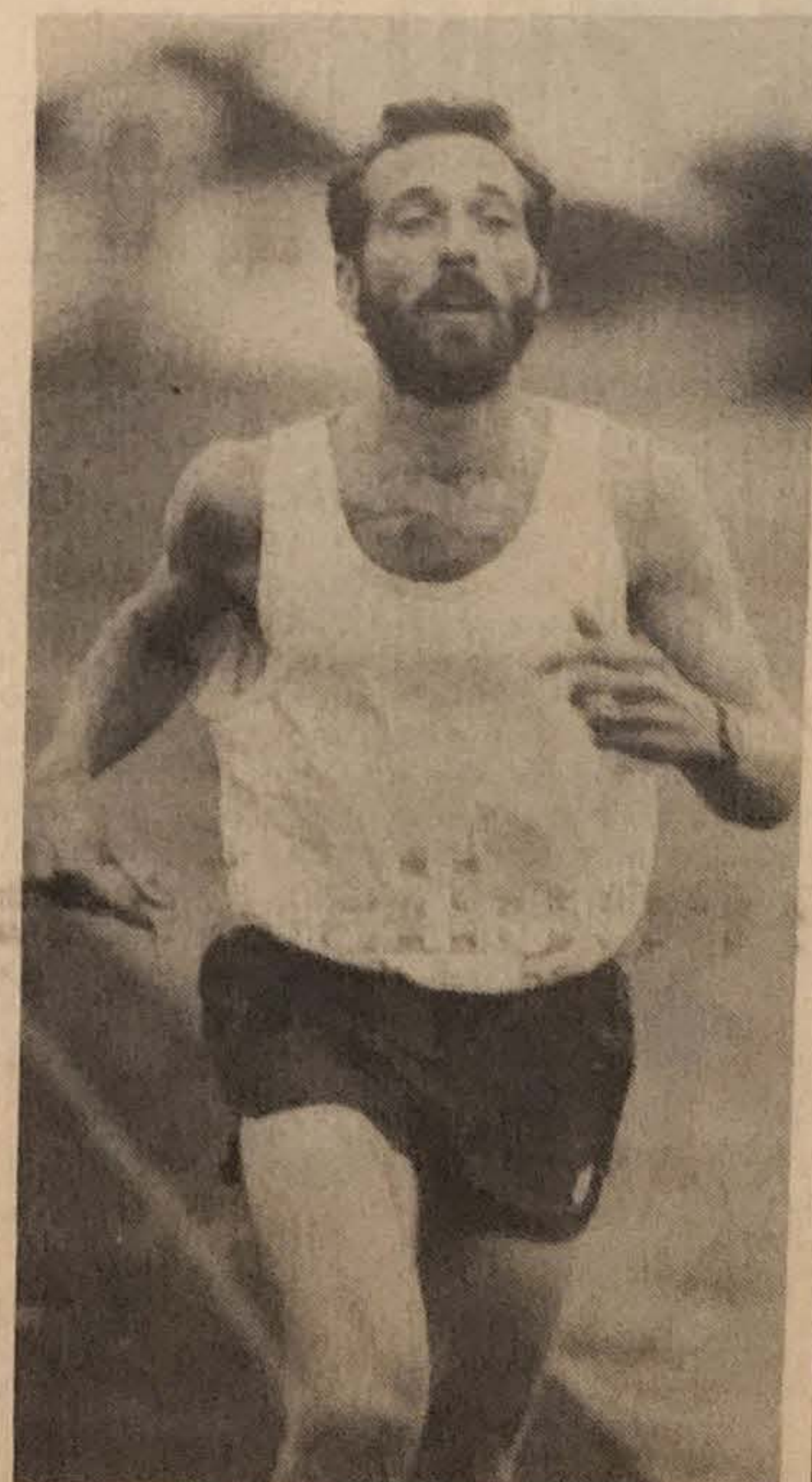
because he is such an important member of the Westerly Track and Athletic Club.

"He's very active in our club. He's very active in the community and he's a great runner," McCoy said. "He deserves this honor."

Bottone held the Westerly High record for the mile from 1972 to 1973 with a time of 4:35.8. He was in attendance to give the runners their times Wednesday night, but he did not run in the event.

McCoy said he expects the participation in the mile to increase each year as word of mouth makes its way around town.

"I think maybe the weather held some people back tonight, but it wasn't bad," McCoy said. "Tonight was successful because there were two good heats."



**Joe Pizza wins the race.**