

Green Bay Cellcom Marathon a race for the records

2008 race bests overall and first-time participant records

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Cool, windy weather couldn't stop a record-breaking 7,288 runners and walkers from turning out for Sunday's 2008 Cellcom Green Bay Marathon.

"We didn't have ideal weather, but there were no deaths, no serious injuries and no downpours," race director Sean Ryan said. "Any day runners can stay dry and healthy is a good day."

By 6:30 a.m., the Lambeau Field Atrium was filled with runners stretching and warming up. The turnout of more than 7,200 runners and walkers shattered the event's previous record of 6,700, set last year.

The race started at about 7:01 a.m. with runners heading east on Lombardi Avenue to compete in the 5-kilometer (3.1-mile), half-marathon (13.1-mile) and marathon (26.2-mile) events.

Fifteen minutes and 30 seconds later, Derrick Fameree of Algoma crossed the finish line as the winner of the 5K race.

Shadrack Muteri of Marietta, Ga., completed the half-marathon in 1:04:38. Jenna Boren of St. Paul, Minn., followed as the fastest woman at 1:19:40.

The marathon was won by Andrii Toptun, a Ukrainian from Miami, in 2:22:51. Callen Areba, a Kenyan from Coon Rapids, Minn., was the women's winner in 2:52:29.

There were no major medical injuries aside from dehydration, blisters and a few scrapes, said Nadia Farr, communications director for the race. One person was taken to the hospital for evaluation, Ryan said.

"We've been fortunate," Ryan said. "Everything's been fairly uneventful."

The number of first-timer participants also reached record levels in this year's marathon events ô more than 1,700.

Amy Swette of Green Bay was all smiles after finishing her first full marathon. For Swette, the marathon was about meeting a personal goal, not a number on the clock.

"I did it," the 50-year-old said. "I finished all 26.2 miles. I'm really proud."

