

A record 7,288 run, walk on 'a good day' for marathon

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Cool temperatures and sunny skies gave the 7,288 runners and walkers in the 2008 Cellcom Green Bay Marathon dry or a bit chilly and windy or running weather on Sunday.

"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."

The record turnout of 7,288 surpassed the previous high of 6,700 participants, set last year.

By 6:30 a.m., the Lambeau Field Atrium was filled with runners stretching and warming up in preparation. 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."

A record number of first-timers participated in this year's marathon events or 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."