

Cellcom Green Bay Marathon women: Second best is 'so cool'

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Callen Areba was the class of the women's field in the Cellcom Green Bay Marathon on Sunday.

The Kenyan from Coon Rapids, Minn., was the favorite to win the 26.2-mile race, and she ended up doing so in commanding fashion. Her time of 2 hours, 52 minutes, 29 seconds was more than 5 minutes faster than Angie Paprocki of Hoffman Estates, Ill., who was second in 2:57:46.

Areba, 30, brought with her a personal-record 2:39, which was 1 minute shy of Tatiana Titova's 2001 course record. Although she didn't come close to that, nobody threatened her.

"Yeah, she (dominated)," Paprocki said.

While Areba took home \$2,500 for her win, Paprocki had reason to be happy with her runner-up finish.

It wasn't the \$1,500 that had her smiling the most, although that was nice, too.

It was that Paprocki, 32, hadn't trained for this race and was running her first marathon in a year. Race organizers recently contacted Paprocki and asked whether she was training and running. She told them she was running only recreationally, but they encouraged her to compete.

Paprocki had her husband and children with her at the race, and she said they were providing motivation.

"That's why it was so cool," Paprocki said. "I'm totally í I had run this before, and I had taken a break because I had injuries."

It wasn't until late in the race when Paprocki knew she was in for a magical finish.

"Not until Mile 23," she said. "I passed someone and got into fourth place. I noticed that my miles were getting a little quicker. I knew the girl who came in third, and I knew she just ran Boston (last month) and that she was going to have tired legs. I didn't just run Boston, so I'm going to go.

"I saw my husband and he said, 'Angie, go get them.' That's all I needed."

This was Paprocki's fourth appearance in the Green Bay marathon. She finished third in 2006 in 2:49:40.

This one, though, felt the best. Although she had to battle with the wind, Paprocki had nothing but good things to say about the course.

"We had a big head wind on the river, so that was a little tough," Paprocki said. "But other than that, it's really flat and very well marked."

Rose Chichi of Green Bay was the top local finisher, placing 10th in 3:05:26.

Jenna Boren, 31, of St. Paul, Minn., won the half-marathon in 1:19:40. Boren was a 2007 Olympic marathon trials qualifier. She ran in Boston at the Olympic time trials last month, finishing 94th out of 124 runners. Green Bay's Talon DeWindt was the top local finisher, checking in eighth in 1:32:03.

Neenah's Sue Pierson won the 5-kilometer race in 17:40, with Lena's Julie Graef second in 18:51, Green Bay's Kelly Delaney third (18:52) and Green Bay's Anna Miller fourth (19:41).