

# 2009 edition of Cellcom race off to running start

## This year's route won't go through St. Norbert campus

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Whether or not others follow in his racing steps across the globe, Bart Yasso wants to inspire others to let running broaden their horizons.

Yasso, nicknamed the "mayor of running," helped the 2009 Cellcom Green Bay Marathon kick off Wednesday night by talking about how running led him all over the world. The chief running officer for Runner's World Magazine, the Pennsylvania native has run races on all seven continents.

"I know not everyone will leave here and do a marathon in Africa — but they can be more adventurous with their running," Yasso said. "(They can) take their running to the next level whether that's running faster or just exploring other places to run."

He said he began running like most people by doing a mile to get in shape, but it opened doors — and a passport — to other places and opportunities. Although Yasso has never run the Green Bay Marathon, he has written about the race for the magazine.

"To have 10,000 people come out on a spring day — it's pretty cool," Yasso said. "It's not commonplace all over the world to have cities embrace these races."

Runners and walkers will see a few changes to the 2009 course for the Green Bay Marathon on May 17, race director Sean Ryan said.

"Invariably we run into road construction or something else," Ryan said. "Runners don't like changing and repeat participants like consistency, but this year is the least amount of changes."

The route will not go through the St. Norbert College campus in De Pere, as it did last year because it's graduation weekend, and runners will cross over the Ray Nitschke Memorial Bridge, which links Main and Dousman streets in downtown Green Bay.

To celebrate the 10th year of the race, participants will receive commemorative-edition T-shirts, bibs and medals. About 74 people will be in an elite club — 42 of those have run the half or full marathon every year and 32 have run the marathon every year. They will wear special bibs and receive both a regular medal and commemorative medal at the finish line, Ryan said.

Continuing a focus from last year on increasing youth participation, entries to the 5 kilometer race are free for those 18 and younger until April 30.

Cerebral Palsy Inc. of Green Bay joins the Boys & Girls Club of Green Bay and The Salvation Army of Brown County as the newest in a trio of charities who benefit from the race. Last year the marathon donated \$50,000 to those charities.