

# Kenyan wins Cellcom Green Bay Marathon

## Oshkosh's Boehlke takes ninth place in race

By Scott Venci Éfor The Northwestern ÉMay 18, 2009

ASHWAUBENON ô Geoffrey Kiprotich quietly won the Cellcom Green Bay Marathon on Sunday.

Actually, too quietly.

The Kenyan was not announced as the winner immediately after crossing the finish line in 2 hours, 20 minutes, 6 seconds.

Some race organizers thought Daniel Mbogo had won. Others thought second-place winner Chad Ware was the victor.

So, what happened?

"There was a small mix-up in the results," said Sean Ryan, the race director. "We had one of our elite runners fall on the trail. The lead escort for that runner turned around and went back, and as a result, lost track of our first-place finisher.

"When the elite first-place finisher went across the line, it wasn't announced. There was a little bit of a snafu. Somebody tried to do the right thing and went back for a fallen runner, but in doing so lost contact with the lead runner."

The spill was by an elite runner who was among the leaders at the time. It occurred on the Fox River Trail ô approximately Mile 18 or 19 ô and because the trail was so narrow, the escort for the elite runners was unable to regain position at the front of the race due to the density of the runner pack on the trail. He never did catch up to the lead runner.

"In other words, our elite runner came in unescorted," Ryan said. "It is unfortunate, but it won't happen again. We will take measures to correct that for next year.

"As long as the results are published accurately, and as long as I announce the correct name at the award ceremony, I'm not too worried about it."

Kiprotich, who lives in Coon Rapids, Minn., did not seem bothered by the mistake. He took home \$2,500 for his win and won relatively easy, finishing 50 seconds ahead of Ware.

"My race today was so good," Kiprotich said. "I'm happy with my time, but I was thinking 2:18."

Nobody came close to challenging the course record of 2:17.32, which was set by Wilson Komen in 2005.

Ware, meanwhile, was running in his first Cellcom Marathon and was pleased with his performance. He trailed the entire race — he was around fourth or fifth from the halfway point on and was around 3 minutes back of the leader for much of the time. It wasn't until the last two miles that Ware noticed a few of the runners had started to fade. He eventually cruised past them for a runner-up finish, finishing in 2:20.56.

John Njoroge of Coon Rapids, Minn., won the half marathon in 1:05.45, 31 seconds faster than former Seymour High School standout runner Tyler Sigl.

Otto Renner of Green Bay won the 5-kilometer race with a time of 15:20. Renner finished in third last year.

## Women

Janet Cherobon is used to winning races.

Why should the Cellcom Green Bay Marathon be any different?

Cherobon, a native of Kenya who lives in Rome Ga., won the women's race in 2 hours, 37 minutes, 53 seconds Sunday. It was 2 seconds better than runner-up Leah Thorvilson.

An eight-time NCAA Division II All-American at Harding University in Arkansas, Cherobon was happy with her time. Taking home \$2,500 for the Cellcom win didn't hurt.

"I'm feeling tired," Cherobon said. "But I'm excited. It was just pacing yourself out there. The weather was great. I was freaking out thinking it was going to be really cold. But it was perfect for a marathon."

Laura Ankrum of Crivitz was the top local finisher, placing 15th in 3:04.56.

Jenna Boren of St. Paul, Minn., won the half marathon for the second straight year, finishing with a time of 1:16.36. Green Bay's Jennifer Chaudoir was the top local finisher, checking in third in 1:24.47.

Prescott's Maria Peloquin won the 5-kilometer race in 17:13. Krystal Stevens of Neenah finished second in 17:25. Baily Wolf of Oconto Falls finished third in 18:53.

## Top 50 overall full marathon finishers

Geoffrey Kiprotich, Coon Rapids MN, 2:20:06

Chad Ware, Deerfield IL, 2:20:56

Josphat Chemjor, Aurora CO, 2:21:13

Mbogo Daniel, Albuquerque NM, 2:23:00

Randy Bill, Cedar Falls IA, 2:23:58

Eduard Gapak, New York NY, 2:26:50

Ezekiel Ruto, Marietta GA, 2:28:06

Nicholas Robin, Durham NC, 2:29:24

Nick Boehlke, Oshkosh WI, 2:30:32

Jacob Kendagor, Coon Rapids MN, 2:31:04

James Levash, Brillion WI, 2:32:21

Ed Whetham, St. Paul MN, 2:35:27

Timothy Willcox, Madison WI, 2:36:26

Benjamin Nganga, Overland Park KS, 2:36:51

Jeremy Kemper, Notre Dame IN, 2:37:50

Janet Cherobon, Rome GA, 2:37:53

Leah Thorvilson, Little Rock AR, 2:37:55

Michael Bubolz, Reedsville WI, 2:41:17

Justin Radke, Little Rock AR, 2:43:35

Michael Glosson, Hampshire IL, 2:44:33

Joel Hess, Charlottesville VA, 2:44:36

Jordan Dubow, Chicago IL, 2:44:42

Justin Stevens, Bloomington, IN 2:44:53

Dana Schulz, Germantown, WI 2:46:38

Timothy Valley, Madison WI, 2:47:54

Michael Henze, Neenah WI, 2:48:10

Ryan Butzman, Menomonee Falls WI, 2:48:56

Kim Lasecki, De Pere WI, 2:49:04

Mike Cotterell, Bethesda MD, 2:49:43

Jamie Arenz, Valders WI, 2:50:37

Jim Gross, Milwaukee WI, 2:51:13

John Piggott, Williamsburg VA, 2:51:15

Todd Marohl, Green Bay WI, 2:51:16

Jimmy Dueling, Fort Wayne IN, 2:51:35

Julie Spencer, Baraboo WI, 2:52:41

Chaz Heckman, Sussex WI, 2:52:53

John Kellner, Menominee MI, 2:53:14

Stuart Kolb, Green Bay WI, 2:54:21

I. George Ogutu, Milwaukee WI, 2:55:46

Josh Peterson, Chicago IL, 2:56:03

Griffin Schroeder, Hartland WI, 2:56:26

Todd Arndt, McCall ID, 2:56:40

Brad Poppele, De Pere WI, 2:56:49

Vivian Leting, Marietta GA, 2:57:01

Angie Paprocki, Hoffman Estates IL, 2:57:03

Stephen Veihl, Marquette MI, 2:57:31

Tony Kraszewski, De Pere WI, 2:57:37

Abigail Nelkie, West Branch MI, 2:57:57

Naoko Ishibe, Washington DC, 2:58:54

Steven Schaefer, Elk Grove Village IL, 2:59:15

Scott Venci writes for the Green Bay Press-Gazette.