

Story, photos, video: Marathon basks in near-perfect conditions

BY TONY WALTER twalter@greenbaypressgazette.com May 18, 2009

Cellcom Green Bay Marathon Director Sean Ryan knew the 10th anniversary event would be hard pressed to live up to expectations.

But on a day made for running, there was little fault to be found as runners from places near and far started and ended their athletic day in the shadows of Lambeau Field.

"It's the best weather we've ever had," said Ryan after 8,812 runners crossed the finish line to the cheers of other runners, family and friends. Temperatures in the low 40s when the running began warmed to the upper 50s when the last of the runners finished.

There were winners, of course, and a surprise.

Oconto Falls fifth-grader Bailey Wolf, 11, took third place in the women's 5K event.

"I like to run, and it makes me feel good," Bailey said.

She could have been speaking for most of the runners Sunday.

Medical problems were at a minimum. Three people were taken to the hospital but none appeared to be serious, Ryan said. One runner was overheated, another fell on the course, and a third had an asthma attack.

"Everything was really positive," said marathoner Matt Jasper of Dubuque, Iowa.

Phenomenal was the word Ryan used.