

Cellcom marathon events capped at 10,000

Annual Green Bay run wants to limit level of congestion

By Malavika Jagannathan Emjaganna@greenbaypressgazette.com January 8, 2009

The 2009 Cellcom Green Bay Marathon will cut off registrants at a combined 10,000 for all races of its 10th annual event to limit congestion at the start and finish lines around Lambeau Field.

Last year, 7,300 runners crossed the finish line. The numbers have been increasing since the event started a decade ago.

"We want to keep this an enjoyable experience for all of our participants," said race director Sean Ryan, adding that the amount of congestion in the starting corral on Lombardi Avenue and the players tunnel in Lambeau Field led to this decision.

Many races have an unofficial cut-off number they choose not to publicize, but Ryan said they needed to announce it to keep safety and efficiency a priority. Although a cap may encourage people to register earlier, he doesn't anticipate the number being reached soon. About 1,600 people signed up in 2008 to participate in the May 17 events.

Despite an economic recession, participation may not suffer — it may even be helped by tough times as runners look for affordable races to enter, Ryan said.

"Runners look less at entry fees and more at the overall cost of going somewhere else," Ryan said. "The economics of going to a major mega city race like New York or Chicago is higher hotel rates. Green Bay is more of an economical option."