

Two Superintendents Take First Full Crack at the American Birkebeiner



MGCSA members Eric Counselmen, Somerby Golf Club Superintendent, and Tod Blankenship, CGCS from Big Fish G.C. in Hayward, after the completion of the 50 km American Birkebeiner. Both members skate/skied (freestyle) the race which starts at Telemark Resort in Cable, Wis. and ends in downtown Hayward, Wis. The times were 5:49:05.5 for Tod and 5:50:16.9 for Eric. "We wanted to make sure there would be plenty of room for improvement in the years to come," said Tod. The race is the longest in North America and has about 7,000 participants overall between the classic and freestyle skiers and Kortleopet and Birkebeiner participants. "Some take it pretty serious but for EC and myself it was our first one and I think we both just wanted to make sure we would finish," said Tod, and added "overall we finished pretty much at the bottom of the pack; 3,081 out of 3,232 for me and 3,089 out of 3232 for EC. But, the most important thing is we finished strong! 51 kilometers is a long way to ski up and down hills but, just as important, I took EC in the end (only because I made him wait for me so I could steal some of his water:) All kidding aside, it was a great time and I know I really look forward to skiing it many more times."

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