

12th Annual American Legion Armistice Day Race

Friday, 11 Nov 1949 at Legion Hall in Uptown Butte

Feared
Butte High
runner
**Lester
Sodja**
(picture at
far left)
trots a
warm-up
with his
teammates.



At 10:49 a.m., the first of 11 booming sallies to the veterans of both World Wars was fired, and the volley continued, on the minute, until 11 a.m.. Shortly thereafter, the race was underway from the Legion Club.

The race, which was reported as 2.9 miles, repeated last year's course east on Broadway to Gaylord, south to Park, west to Wyoming, south to Gold, west to Washington, north to Broadway, and then back to the start.

The defending individual champion, Lester Sodja of Butte High, once again distanced his rivals with a finish time of 16:30, but he later told a reporter that "I was lucky to win again because the competition was much rougher, and I wasn't expecting it."

Sodja is
mobbed as
he breaks
to finish
tape to
win his
second
consecutive
Armistice
Day Race.



The team competition went to Butte Central by a score of 12 to 9. Central will hold the Jack Pachico Cup for one year.

Despite the loss Butte High still leads combined scoring (30 to 12) after this second year of the 11-year contest to decide the final owner of the trophy.

Team Scores: Butte Central, 12; Butte High, 9.

HS Boy's 2.9 mile: 1, Lester Sodja, BH, 16:30; 2, Tom Mulcahy, BC; 3, Joe Kelly, BC; 4, Claire Upton, BH, 5, John Frankino, BC; 6, John Courtney, BC.

Additional Race Entrants:

BC: Gary Winston, Tom Quinn, Dan Combo, Dan Hogan, Ed Dowling, Tom Haggarty, Bob Sullivan, Emmett Casey.

BH: Gus Nickle, Mickey Gordon, Clyde Echols, Frank Grebenc, Don Archibald, Ronald Coleman, George Keogh, Bob Briney.

The Legion Club, which was decorated for the occasion, doubled as an open house that was chaired by George Palmer with assistance from the auxiliary and from the Legionettes drill team. More sports action was on the agenda with the annual Butte High vs. Butte Central football game at Naranche Stadium (the Bulldogs won 20 to 0), and the night was capped with dances, including at the grand ball in the hall at 108 West Broadway, where Bill Boast and his orchestra played.