

27th Annual American Legion Veterans' Day Race

Wednesday, 11 Nov 1964 at Legion Hall in Uptown Butte – Davis' Record on Ice.



Photograph of the original Montana Standard newspaper print by an unknown photographer.

Above. Awards Ceremony: From left are race co-founder & Chairman C. Owen Smithers; 1st, Bob Davis, BH; 2, Bill Polich, BH; 3, Chet Stodden, Anaconda; 4, Ed Kanduch, Anaconda; 5, Bob Chamberlin, BH; 6, Joe McManus, BC; and on the far right is Martin Kearney, Co-Chairman for the race.



At left. Despite uptown streets patched with packed snow, ice, and slush, Butte High's Bob Davis slashed 36 more seconds off his existing course record with a winning time of 14:45, and the Montana Standard reported that Davis "was in good shape, good running form, and almost as energetic as when he started, when he crossed the finish line ... Longtime race observers, noting his record-breaking time, wondered what [Davis] might have accomplished if the course had been dry, and the weather conditions more favorable."

In two years, Davis has now taken 1 minute and 12 seconds off the pre-existing high school record for the course.

Davis, a high school junior, now has the opportunity to win the race a third time next year. Only Butte High's sensational runner, Lester Sodja ('48-'50), has previously accomplished that feat.

Davis also led his Bulldog team to the Smithers' Plaque victory over Anaconda in a rematch of the recent, and inaugural, Montana Interscholastic Cross Country Championship (Class A) that was held in Billings. Butte High out-pointed Anaconda for victory in both races; although, at the Interscholastic, Anaconda's Chet Stodden (third today) won the individual race. For most of today's race there was a three-man lead pack including Davis, Stodden, and Butte High's Bill Polish who all ran well ahead of the next runner.

HS Boys' Team Scores: 1, Butte High, 13; Anaconda, 7; Boys Central, 1.

HS Boys' 2.7 mile: 1, Bob Davis, BH, 14:45; 2, Bill Polish, BH; 3, Chet Stodden, Anaconda; 4, Ed Kanduch, Anaconda; 5, Bob Chamberlin, BH; 6, Joe McManus, BC.

All but one, of the 30 who started the race, finished. **Additional runners:** **BH:** Bill Clark, Joe Swan, Pete Droubay, Terry Eamon, Joe Broudy, Dennis George, Mike Zora, Ken Johnson, Tony Bracco, Fred Chase, Dan Torpy, Peter Young, Roger Sandiland, Steve Robbins. **Anaconda:** Pat Curran, Bill Schmidt, Lester Reiss, Jim Goforth. **BC:** Dan Foley, Bill Colenso, Roy Byrne, Ed Leary, Tom Stetaner, John Kane.