

28th Annual American Legion Veterans' Day Race

Thursday, 11 Nov 1965 at Legion Hall in Uptown Butte – Butte High's "Clean Sweep" of Scoring.



At left, **Terry Eamon** of Butte High shown celebrating victory as he crosses the finish line, leading a parade of his Bulldog teammates who occupied the first seven places in the race.

Bob Davis' threat to join Lester Sodja as a three time winner of the Veterans' Day Race vanished when he moved with his family to Minnesota before the school year. The absence of Davis left a wide-open field. The race was dominated by Butte High teammates Terry Eamon and Gary Keltz. The two ran neck-and-neck until cresting the Idaho Street hill and turning into the finish stretch on Broadway. At that point Keltz broke stride and Eamon pulled away to win in a time of 15:15. Keltz, who may still have been nursing a pulled muscle from about a month earlier, walked twice in

the last stretch allowing teammates George and Dobbs to pass before regaining his composure to break into a finishing run.

Like their great 1948 team, Butte High again claimed all six scoring spots (and seventh place as well) in the race, collecting all 21 possible team points on the 6-5-4-3-2-1 scoring format. The Bulldogs were awarded permanent possession of the C. Owen Smithers trophy which saw its seventh and final year of competition. The Purples would have won the team trophy without scoring a single point this year, due to their domination of the event in recent years.

The outstanding performance by the Bulldogs capped the brilliant and long-lasting career of Butte High coach, Harry "Swede" Dahlberg, who plans to retire from coaching after next spring's Interscholastic track and field championship. Dahlberg has helped put on this race since its inaugural year in 1934, when he was already in his thirteenth year of coaching at Butte High.

The race was started at 11 a.m. after Ed Gerry's 11 aerial bombs, and then Police Chief Jim Clark and other officers provided squad car pacing units throughout the race, with additional motorcycle police providing support at key intersections. Hugo Kenck and Dahlberg were the timers, and a crew of Legionnaires served as judges.

Awards Ceremony from back left are the first seven race finishers, in order, all of Butte High -- Terry Eamon, Dennis George, Steve Dobbs, Gary Keltz, Gary Rowe, Mike Maloughney, Ron Verbeck.

Front: race co-founder & chairman C. Owen Smithers awards final ownership of the seven-year-old team award that was named in his honor, to Butte High cross country coach "Swede" Dahlberg, and on the far right is Martin Kearney who is, among other titles, the American Legion race statistician.

HS Boys' Team Scores: 1, Butte High, 21; Anaconda, 0; Boys Central, 0, Anaconda Central, 0.



HS Boys' 2.7 mile: 1, Terry Eamon, BH, 15:15; 2, Dennis George, BH; 3, Steve Dobbs, BH; 4, Gary Keltz, BH; 5, Gary Rowe, BH; 6, Mike Maloughney, BH; 7, Ron Verbeck, BH; 8, Paul Davis, Anaconda Central; 9, Bart Campbell, Anaconda; 10, Ken Reiss, Anaconda; 11, Joe Swan, BH; 12, Pat Curran, Anac; 13, Richard Klaboe, BC.

All 31 entered runners finished the race. Additional runners included:

BH: Harold Anderson, Fred Chase, Jay Kirby, Steve Kutz, David Ruckdaschel, Kenneth Schelin, Roger Sandiland, Steve Van Mater.

BC: Jack Kane, three other runners not listed.

Anaconda: Russell White, Howard Johnson, Gerald Blackburn, Rick Martin, Tom Mickey.

Anaconda Central: Jim Miller.