

## 30<sup>th</sup> Annual American Legion Veterans' Day Race

### Saturday, 11 Nov 1967 -- A New Venue at Naranche Stadium

As is tradition, runners started at 11 a.m. with a volley of aerial bombs, and police then escorted them through the course.

In a break from tradition, a **hilly new loop course** was created, starting in front of Butte High on Gold Street, going west to Montana, south to Front, east again to Wyoming and north to the eastern entrance of Naranche Stadium, finishing with a partial loop of the stadium to the finish line in the stadium's NE corner.

**Two factors** in the decision to move this year's race course were the Berkeley Pit's continued westward expansion eroding the course, plus organizers felt it would be more appropriate to finish inside Naranche Stadium next to Butte High so the large crowds of spectators could watch from the stands.

A throng of spectators did gather at Naranche to greet the runners (stadium shown at right as it appeared in a photo taken twenty years earlier in 1947).

Butte Central was the team winner with 28 points. Butte High was a distant second with 62 and Libby was third with 92 points.

The new course produced one of the most dramatic finishes in the history of the race.

Anaconda senior **Howard Johnson** (right) of Wise River finished first in 13:00 to add the Vets' Day Race victory to the one he secured recently in the State High School cross-country championships.

**Shown sprawled** behind Johnson is Butte High senior Ralph Sorenson who held the led until Johnson kicked by just prior to the finish. Sorenson fell down when Johnson passed, but quickly got up and staggered across the finish line in second place.

**HS Boys' 2.5 mile:** 1, Howard Johnson, Anaconda, 13:00; 2, Ralph Sorenson, BH; 3, Mike Bowman, BC; 4, Mike Hovan, BC; 5, Steve Finley, BC; 6, Francis Franey, BC; ... 10, Marty Hovan, BC; other BH scorers were: Mike Maloughney, Gary Rowe, Eric Grinde, and Dean Martin; Libby Scorers included Robert Edwards, Bruce Davis, Phil Chapman, Steve Jessen, and Mike Smith.

**HS Boys' Team Scores:** 1, Butte Central, 28; 2, Butte High, 62; 3, Libby, 92.

The Butte Central team shown at right accepting the second year awarding of the seven-year Dahlberg Trophy from race founder C. Owen Smithers. From left are Mr Smithers, Mike Bowman, Marty Hovan, Steve Finley, Francis Franey, Mike Hovan, and Coach Jerry Downey.

There were 44 runners who started the race (16 from BC; 14 BH, 9 Libby, 3 Dillon, & 2 Anaconda) all of whom finished.

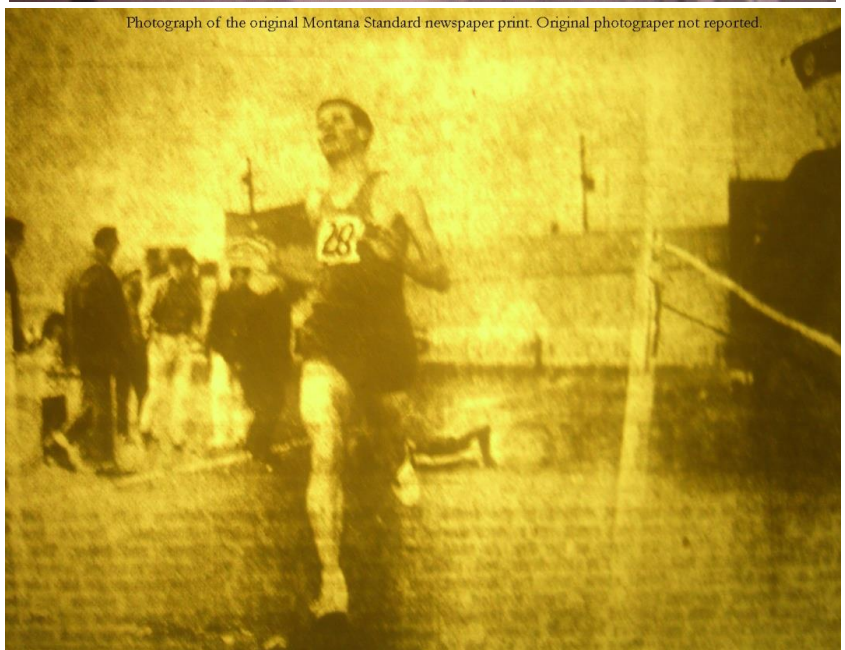
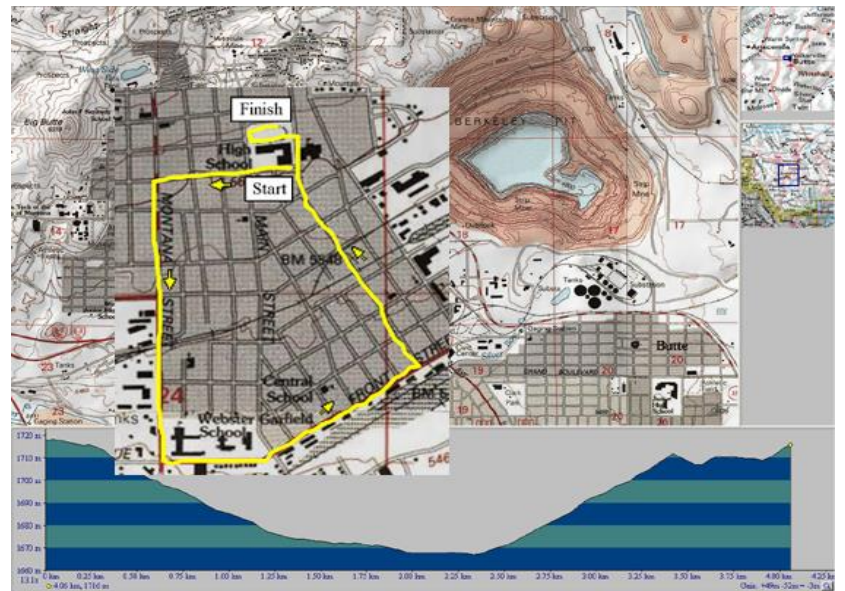
**BH** entries also included (two DNC): Bill McGary, Dave Kaudy, Gary Rowe, Garry Hammond, Randy Vetter, Jerry Longest, Richard Arnston, Gary Weinstock, Victor Yadao, Dave Tahija, and Vern Hensley with coach Charles Merrifield.

Race finishers from **Libby** also included: Wayne Edwards, Lance Edwards, Mike Fahland, and George Pettit with coach John Kratofil, a former BH runner who previously competed in the Vets' Day Race.

**BC** entrants also included (of which one did not compete): Joe Renouard, Joe Tim Downey, Bill Harper, Joe Antonietti, ? Dennehy, Jay Vogelsang, Greg Lovshin, Randy Bagley, Ron Ueland, John O'Neill, Joe Brand, and Scotty Fisher.

**Dillon's** three finishers were not listed.

Dan Smith was **Anaconda's** second and final finisher.



(1-r) Kneeling T. Finely, F. Franey, M. Hovan, J. O'Neil, Standing (1-r) Coach Mr. Downey, M. Hovan, M. Bowman, J. Renouard, J. Antonietti.