

## 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual American Legion Veterans' Day Race

Tuesday, 11 Nov 1969 at Naranche Stadium



**Awards Ceremony** back row from left: C. Owen Smithers, Randy Vetter, BH, 3<sup>rd</sup> place; Bob Johnson, Anaconda, 2<sup>nd</sup>; Dick Hofacker, BH, 6<sup>th</sup>; race co-chairman Martin Kearney; retired Butte High cross country coach Swede Dahlberg holding the four-year-old team award that is named in his honor.

**Kneeling:** Dave O'Brien, Anaconda, 1<sup>st</sup>; Jim Johnston, Anaconda, 2<sup>nd</sup>; Mike Hotzel, BH, 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Below right:** Anaconda High School junior Dave O'Brien won the race by a comfortable margin in 13:08. O'Brien also recently won the State Class A cross-country running championship in Billings on October 25<sup>th</sup>.

Upon entering Naranche Stadium at the end of the race, runners made one partial lap around the oval and then finished in the northeast corner.

C. Owen Smithers is the Vets' Day Race co-founder and he has continued to act as the race's Chairman since its inception in 1934. Smithers had urged spectators at the stadium to remain in their seats to avoid conflicting with the runners.

Smithers also reported to the Montana Standard newspaper that in addition to the three scoring teams in attendance at the race, invitations to compete had also been extended [apparently with little effect] to other schools including Anaconda Central, Deer Lodge, Libby, Dillon, Whitehall, Boulder, Three Forks, and to Smithers' boyhood hometown -- Kalispell.

**Boys' Central no more.** The Boys' and Girls' Central Catholic High Schools were consolidated in Butte this year to form one school. This was not the first time the school was co-educational. From 1908, when Bishop John P. Carroll first opened the school's doors, until 1923, girls and boys shared the same building.

It was also 1924 when the Irish Christian Brotherhood first staffed Boys' Central, hence the moniker "Christian Brothers High School."

Butte High won the team competition with 31 points upsetting the state cross country champions from Anaconda who had 34 points. With those points, Butte High narrowed the gap between them and Butte Central in the 7-year competition to retire the Harry "Swede" Dahlberg Plaque. Central now leads that category 156 to 171. The lower score wins.

**HS Boys' Team Scores:** 1, Butte High, 31; 2, Anaconda, 34; 3, Butte Central, 69.

**HS Boys' 2.5 mile:** 1, Dave O'Brien, Anaconda, 13:08; 2, Jim Johnston, Anaconda; 3, Randy Vetter, BH, 4, Mike Hotzel, BH; 5, Bob Johnson, Anaconda; 6, Dick Hofacker, BH; 7, Steve Burke, BC; 8, Charlie Peterson, BH; 9, Marty Kearney, BC; 10, Al Lowney, BH; 11, Ron Rathie, Dillon; 12, Mark Maki, Anaconda; 13, Dave Tahija, BH; 14, Pat Leary, Anaconda; 15, Joe Navarro, Anaconda; 16, John O'Neill, BC; 17, Steve Johnston, BH; 18, Bill Peoples, BH; 19, Joe Mike Downey, BC; 20, Rich Arnston, BH; 21, Kurt Kruger, BH; 22, Steve Gallagher, BC; 23, Gary Hammond, BH; 24, Jeff Ballentine, BH; 25, Darryl Maunder, BH; 26, Jim Patterson, BH; 27, Don Fortune, BH; 28, Mike Scharf, BH; 29, George Kore, BH; 30, Ray Vidic, BH; 31, Terry Bowman, Anaconda; 32, Dave Mattix, BH; 33, Jim Clark, BH; (all finishers listed here).



Photograph of the original Montana Standard newspaper print by Sam Donnell.



The victorious **Butte High** team is picture left, holding the Dahlberg trophy.

From **back left:** Coach Charles Merrifield, Jim Patterson, Bill Peoples, Rich Arnston, Gary Hammond, Mike Scharf, Dick Hofacker, Jeff Ballentine, Jim Clark.

**Middle:** Dave Tahija, Steve Johnston, Al Lowney, Randy Vetter, Kurt Kruger, Dan Fortune.

**Bottom:** Ray Vidic, Dave Mattix, Mike Hotzel, Darryl Maunder, George Kore, Charlie Peterson.



**Butte Central** pictured from left: Coach Jerry Downey, Steve Gallagher, J. O'Neil, Steve Burke, Marty Kearney, J. O'Neil, J. Sullivan, Mike Downey.