

36th Annual American Legion Veterans' Day Race

Monday, 22 Oct 1973 at Naranche Stadium

Race co-founder C. (Charles) Owen Smithers passed away on March 1st of this year. Smithers was 79 years old. He was born in Kalispell in August 30th, 1893. He competed as a distance runner for State University in Missoula. He established a photography business in Uptown Butte, where his shop still operates under the name Smithers & Son Photography. He served in the armed services in both World War I & II, and he was a long time American Legion Commander in Butte.

Dave McDougall of Butte Central with arms raised triumphantly as he breaks his own course record by 18 seconds.



Race as recapped by Pat Kearney:

For the first time ever the race was held in October on the 22nd of the month. The event coincided with the U.S. Congress declaring the third Monday in October as Veterans' Day. It was the first and only time that occurred.

Butte Central senior, Dave McDougall, became only the second man to ever win the Veterans' Day Race three years in a row. He joins Lester Sodja of Butte High, who won the race in 1948-50 as the only three-time winner. McDougall's winning time over the 2.5 mile course was a record for the third straight year 12:12.

Twenty five boys competed in the high school boys' event with Butte Central beating Butte High 19-39.

The winner of the high school girls' race for the second straight year was Butte Central senior, Rose McCormick. Her winning clocking over a mile and a half was a record 9:39.5.

In addition there was a separate race for both the junior high boys and girls. The girls' junior high champion was Liza Merrifield in 6:12. Tim Curry of West Junior High was the boys' winner over a mile in 6:16. There were four junior high boys and ten junior high girls participating in the first event for them. Overall 61 athletes competed in the various events, a record turnout, breaking the mark of

Butte Central's Rose McCormick catches her breath after breaking her own course record in a hard fought race against second place Cathy Estes of Philipsburg, about whom the Montana Standard wrote "The spunky sophomore captured the hearts of runners and spectators alike with her darkhorse performance."



47 set back in 1956.

HS Boys' Team Scores: 1, Butte Central, 19; 2, Butte High, 39

HS Boys' 2.5 mile: 1, Dave McDougall, BC, 12:12 – record (old record 12:30, McDougall, 1972); 2, John Marinovich, BC; 3, Bill Grmoljez, BH; 4, Bob Messick, BC; 5, Jim Downey, BC; 6, Steve Huntington, BH; 7, Bob Kearney, BC; 8, Joe Ingersoll, BC; 9, Chuck Slaughter, BH; 10, Mark O'Neill, BH; 11, Dave Hruska, BH; 12, Tyrone Greer, BH; 13, Jerry Downey, BC; 14, Jerry O'Conner, BH; 15, Tom Dauenhauer, BC; 16, Ed Shea, BC; 17, "Chile" (aka Tim, Chile con) Kearney, BC; 18, Craig Hill, BH; 19, Jim Parker, BC; 20, Dan Yalenich, BC; 21, Floyd Davis, BH; 22, Tim Lowney, BH; 23, John Harrington, BC; 24, Marc Morris, BH.

No team scores kept for girls.

HS Girls' 1.5 mile: 1, Rose McCormick, BC, 9:39 – record (old record 9:57, McCormick, 1972); 2, Cathy Estes, Philipsburg; 3, Jan Downey, BC; 4, Tina Parini, BH; 5, Mary Beth Jones, BC; 6, Sharon Tretheway, BH; 7, Sue Storrud, BH; 8, Mary Cay Downey, BC; 9, Tracy Tamietti, BH; 10, Robin Tamietti, BH; 11, Amber Webb, BC; 12, Rose Harrington, BC; 13, Kathy Lee, BH; 14, Michelle Hunt, BH; 15, Julie Sullivan, BC; 16, Sheila O'Gara, BC; 17, Michelle Bull, BH; 18, Cookie O'Gara, BC; 19, Cindy Lee, BH; 20, Cathy Byrd, BH; 21, Margie Sullivan, BH; 22, Tami Sullivan, BC; 23, Patti Kelley, BH.

JHS Boys' 1 mile: 1, Tim Curry, West, 6:16; 2, Matt Storrud, West; 3, Jay Malmo, East; 4, Jim Ditten, East.

JHS Girls' 1 mile: 1, Liza Merrifield, East, 6:12; 2, Alice Drew, SC; 3, Mary Whelan, SC; 4, Theresa Stimatz, SC; 5, Julia Sullivan, SC; 6, Lori Morrison, NC; 7, Jennifer Tamietti, East; 8, Judy Downey, NC; 9, Patti Robinson, SC; 10, Kathy Kane, NC.