

37th Annual American Legion Veterans' Day Race

Monday, 11 Nov 1974 at Naranche Stadium

Right: Boys starting the 2.5 mile race. This was the second year of the five-year C. Owen Smithers, Sr. challenge. The challenge is to be the first school to win the meet three times and claim the team plaque, permanently.



Photograph of the original Montana Standard newspaper picture that was taken by Kim Ungerman

Right: Butte High sophomore Mike Houlihan winning the boys' 2.5 mile in 12:27 to help Butte High win a 20 to 37 victory over Butte Central, knotting the trophy series at one win apiece. Butte High will hold the C. Owen Smithers, Sr. team trophy for the next year. Houlihan's individual win also earned him the Harry "Swede" Dalhberg trophy.

No team scores were kept for the other races, but the individual winner of the girls' high school 1.5 mile race was Butte Central's Mary Whelan. Her record winning clocking was 8:28, and she won the Martin Kearney Cup. Whelan's father Jack has directed the Veterans' Day Race since 1970.

Andy Kautzman of West Junior High was the boys' champion in the junior high 1-mile race with a time of 5:55 while Liza Merrifield won the junior high girls' race for the second straight year in a clocking of 6:08.

In addition to the high school and junior high competitions an open/college race was held. Rob Ressman of the University of Montana led the field of five across the finish line in a time of 12:19. Meet Coordinator C. Owen Smithers, Jr. said he was pleased with the turnout for the open meet. He added that, hopefully, this event would gain in popularity in the upcoming years.

HS Boys' Team Scores: 1, Butte High, 20; 2, Butte Central, 37

HS Boys' 2.5 mile: 1, Mike Houlihan, BH, 12:27; 2, John Marinovich, BC; 3, Chuck Slaughter, BH; 4, Bill Grmoljez, BH; 5, Mark O'Neill, BH; 6, Rich Quinn, BC; 7, Tyrone Greer, BH; 8, Tom Zahn, BC; 9, Glen Metz, BH; 10, Bill Kearney, BC; No additional finishers listed.

Open Division Men's 2.5 mile: 1, Robert Ressman, UM, 12:19; 2, Dave McDougall, UM; 3, O'Neil, Unat; 4, Bob Messick, MSU; 5, Bob Kearney, MT Tech.



Photo originally by Kim Ungerman for the Montana Standard



HS Girls' 1.5 mile: 1, Mary Whelan (At left), BC, 8:28; 2, Jan Downey, BC; 3, Rose Harrington, BC; 4, Alice Drew, BC; 5, Cookie O'Gara, BC; 6, Jacobson, East; 7, Tutty, BH; 8, Griffith, East; 9, Kim Thornton, BC; 10, Cline, West; No additional finishers listed.

7th and 8th Grade Boys' 1 mile: 1, Andy Kautzman, West, 5:55; 2, Jay Malmo, East; 3, Chapman, West; 4, Boyd, East; 5, Adler, West; 6, Bud Williams, East; 7, Caldinon, West; 8, Tutty, West; 9, Wehrie, East; 10, Wood, East; No additional finishers listed.

7th and 8th Girls' 1 mile: 1, Liza Merrifield, East, 6:08; 2, Gunther, East; 3, Guizzo, West; 4, Vennison, East; 5, Fellows, West; 6, Krause, West; 7, Mondloch, East; 8, Merry, East.



Left: The Butte High team poses with the C. Owen Smithers, Sr. Team Plaque.

Standing: Race Director Jack Whelan, Tyrone Greer, Steve Hoffman, Glenn Metz, Mike Morrissey, Rob Wheeler, C. Owen Smithers, Jr.

Kneeling: Bill Grmoljez, Mike Houlihan, Chuck Slaughter, Mark O'Neill.