

## 39th Annual Butte American Legion Veterans' Day Race

Thursday, 11 November 1976 on Continental Drive – A New Path and A New Crowd



**Blown-Up Map of Final Mile**  
 A reported record of 120 runners competed on a 2.5 or 5-mile course that started on Continental Drive went down to Grand Avenue, to Garfield, then into the newly completed East Junior High Stadium for one lap on the track before finishing.

Shortly after starting the 2.5 mile run for kids under-14, runners cross the I-90 overpass on Continental Drive.



Extending a trend that most recently stated in 1974, the Vets' Day Race openly welcomed post high school competitors for the first time since the very early years of the event.

Race Director Jack Whelan initiated this major change. Race organizers had long been happy with the highly competitive flavor of the high-schoolers-only affair, but in 1964, when the Montana High School Association started the Interscholastic championship in the third week of October, there began a drain on the number of high school runners who were interested in extending their season through November 11<sup>th</sup>.

Finishers	2.5 M	5 M	Total
Female	15+	9	24+
Male	46	20	66
<b>Total</b>	<b>61+</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>91+</b>

The second major factor behind the inclusion of post-high school runners in the race was the recent "running boom" which has produced more and more runners, of all ages, who want to race.

Despite the inclusion of open-division competitors, high schooler Bill Kearney, a Butte Central junior, still was able to win the five mile event in a time of 29:30. He beat Ed Foley, a Butte teacher, by seven seconds. Kearney's father Martin and his uncle James also previously won this race before World War II.

The winner in the female division was Mary Whelan of Butte Central, who had previously won the girls' high school race in 1974. Today her time was 40:42 for five miles.

There was also a 2.5-mile race for kids fourteen years old and younger. Chuck Richards was the boys' winner in a clocking of 16:16, while Laura Callahan took the top spot in the girls' race in a time of 19:07.

**2.5 Mile Girls 0-14:** 1, Laura Callahan, Butte, 19:07; 2, Tina Diebold, Butte, 19:19; 3, Patti Sage, 20:03; 4, Kathy Scott, 20:08; 5, Patty Crowley, 21:00; 6, Joyce Storrud, Butte, 21:01; 7, Margie O'Connor, 21:31; 8, Leslie Smt (sic), 21:39; 9, Loraine Hairston, 21:59; 10, Tracy Pewitt, 22:32; 11, Jean Johnston, 23:35; 12, Jacquie Ott, 25:51; 13, Berty Manley, 25:52; 14, Cindy Maynard, 26:35; 15, Dannette Keil; No additional finishers listed.

**2.5 Mile Boys 0-14:** 1, Chuck Richards, 16:16; 2, Mike Kelly, 16:19; 3, Larry Menghini, 16:38; 4, Lowell Hall, 16:51; 5, Jerry McDougall, 17:00; 6, Tony Banovich, Butte, 17:24; 7, Stan Dugdale, 17:33; 8, Henry Chapman, 17:40; 9, Pat Downey, 17:41; 10, Leroy Gerry, 17:42; 11, John Strutzel, 17:46; 12, Jim Murray, 17:49; 13, Todd Moriarty, 18:08; 14, John Tomich, Butte, 18:12; 15, Scott Gray, 18:37; No additional results listed.

**5 Mile Females Overall:** 1, Mary Whelan, 40:42; 2, Alice Drew, 41:09; 3, Tammy Goodall, 43:25.

**15-18:** 1, Mary Whelan, Butte, 40:42; 2, Alice Drew, Butte, 41:09; 3, Tammy Goodall, Butte, 43:25; 4, Lesa Pagliero, 44:28; 5, Kim Thornton, 46:06; 6, Teresa Stimatz, 47:16; 7, Cathy Tuffy, 48:49; 8, Mary Burns, 48:50.

**26-35:** 1, Marie Cook, Butte, 48:16.

**5 Mile Males Overall:** 1, Bill Kearney, 29:30; 2, Ed Foley, 29:37; 3, Carl Burgman, 30:09.

**15-18:** 1, Bill Kearney, Butte, 29:30; 2, Carl Burgman, Butte, 30:09; 3, Jerry Downey, Butte, 30:19; 4, Joe Mansanti, 30:23; 5, Rich Quinn, 30:29; 6, Glenn Metz, 30:58; 7, Scott Woodrow, 31:48; 8, Matt Storrud, Butte, 32:01; 9, Jay Malmo, 32:07; 10, Dan Hidalgo, 32:46; 11, Ken Richards, 33:00; 12, Butch Harrington, 33:29; 13, Tom Cashell, 34:00; 14, Ed Cleary, 34:11; 15, Marc Genzberger, 34:49.

**19-25:** 1, Chuck Slaughter, Butte, 31:28.

**26-34:** 1, Myron Currie, 35:08; 2, Tim Miller, 35:18; 3, Steve Williams, 37:13; 4, John McBride, 37:27; 5, Ken Welt, 37:51; 6, Dave Manning, 39:29; 7, Mike Judd, 43:38; 8, Steve Hartman, 43:39; 9, Eugene Bathke, 43:40.

**35-44:** 1, Ed Foley, Butte, 29:37; 2, Don Peoples, 34:16; 3, Gordon Hercod, 36:10; 4, Frank Diebold, 38:05.