

49th Annual Butte American Legion Veterans' Day Race

Tuesday, 11 November 1986 – Three 3-Time Winners in the Snow recap partially provided by Pat Kearney

Forty-nine competitors braved the cold, snowy conditions that have struck Butte. Participants shown exiting Stodden Park.



Photograph of the original Montana Standard newspaper print by Walter Hinick.

Yesterday, Butte experience a record cold of -30 °C, but today the race began at a warmer -5 °C. Still bone-chilly and with 10 cm of snow to greet the runners, Jim Hatcher of Helena became the fourth man to win the race three times, clocking 30:11. He also won in 1982 and 1984.

Debbie Raunig of Missoula accomplished the same feat as Hatcher by winning the women's race for the third time. She had previous won the event in 1983 and 1985. Raunig joined Liza Merrifield, Rose McCormick and Rhonda Ferkovich as the only three-time women's winners. Her winning effort was timed in 33:31.

Three was also the magic number in the girls fourteen and under race for Heather LaFontaine of Deer Lodge. She won the race for the third straight year. She joins Rhonda Ferkovich as the only three-time winner of the young girls' race. LaFontaine's winning effort was clocked in 18:45.

The boys' 14 and under winner was Mike Clark of Butte in a time of 16:18. Four year old John Lovshin of Butte completed the course in 50:57.

Finishers	2.5 M	5.2 M	Total
Female	3	10	13
Male	5	31	36
Total	8	41	49

2.5 Mile Females: 1, Heather LaFontaine, Deer Lodge, 18:45; 2, Jennifer Roberts, Butte, 26:33; 3, Stephanie Ryan, Butte, 26:34.

2.5 Mile Males: 1, Mike Clark, Butte, 16:16; 2, Tom O'Neill, Butte, 16:46; 3, Russell Erickson, Butte, 20:14; 4, Thor Nordwick, Butte, 23:39; 5, John Lovshin, Butte, 50:57.

5.2 Mile Females Overall: 1, Debbie Raunig, 33:31; 2, Penny Johnson, 37:16; 3, Tammy O'Brien, 41:09.

15-18: 1, Tammy O'Brien, East Helena, 41:09; 2, Carla Miller, Butte, 46:32.

26-34: 1, Debbie Raunig, Missoula, 33:31; 2, Penny Johnson, Butte, 37:16; 3, Charmaine Everett, Anaconda, 43:21; 4, Judith Anderson, Butte, 44:43; 5, Jo Foley, Butte, 48:46.

35-44: 1, Rita Drain, Butte, 43:51; 2, Roberta Campbell, Anaconda, 44:31; 3, Rosey Ferkovich, Butte, 50:39.

5.2 Mile Males Overall: 1, James Hatcher, 30:11; 2, Eric Allen, 30:49; 3, Jim McLean, 32:06.

15-18: 1, Eric Allen, Butte, 30:49; 2, Mark Comba, Butte, 39:06; 3, Paddy LaFleur, 41:08; 4, Don Foley, Butte, 45:48; 5, Mike Rapp, Butte, 50:54.

19-25: 1, Pat Walsh, Butte, 35:20; 2, Mike Kearney, Butte, 45:32.

26-34: 1, Jim McLean, Helena, 32:06; 2, Marty Kearney, Bozeman, 32:12; 3, Jim Ryan, Butte, 33:25; 4, Bill Kearney, Bozeman, 33:36; 5, Kerry Weidrich, Missoula, 33:40; 6, John Willard, Butte, 34:17.

35-44: 1, Jim Hatcher, Helena, 30:11; 2 (tie), Garry Penn, Scottsdale, AZ and Ted Maloney, Missoula, 32:58; 4, David Mueller, Butte, 33:25; 5, Lyle Williams, Butte, 39:07; 6, Jerry O'Brien, East Helena, 40:08; 7, Mike Judd, Butte, 41:02; 8, Tom Stetzner, Butte, 43:40; 9, John Conlan, Butte, 43:44; 10, Bob Foley, Butte, 44:07; 11, Albert Lovshin, Butte, 49:2; 12, Earl Kirsch, Butte, 52:20.

45-54: 1, Jerry Youngblood, Butte, 36:14; 2, Bill Yeagle, Butte, 37:16; 3, Don Peoples, Butte, 42:02; 4, John S. Wulf, Butte, 42:54; 5, Bill Gaughan, Butte, 51:36. **55+:** 1, Phil Zamudio, Anaconda, 43:10.



Jim Hatcher of Helena pushing through the snow.



Debbie Raunig's 2010 memoir "...I ran that race on the snowy slippery side streets of Butte. I still remember finishing between those bar stools."