

59th Annual Butte American Legion Veterans' Day Race

Monday, 11 November 1996 – Runners Leg Out Veterans' Day Race

IN STEP are Susan Kaluza and Nicole Murray (L to R) during the 5.2-mile Veterans' Day Run. Murray was the women's winner, only 2 seconds ahead of Kaluza.



As recapped by Pat Kearney: Patrick Judge of Helena became the first back-to-back winner of the men's race since 1978-79 when Mike Houlihan of Butte captured back-to-back titles. Judge won the race with a time of 28:38. He beat Helena High senior runner Tom Roberts by 45 seconds. It marked the second time a Roberts from Helena has finished second in the race. Tom's older brother, Joe, was just edged out by two seconds at the finish line by Ted Catchpole of Australia in 1989.

The race was dominated by Helena runners. In fact the first five runners to cross the line were all from the Capital City. Third place went to Helena High runner Scott Schoer, fourth was taken by Helena High freshmen Rowdy Sargeson while Helena's Mike Walsh took fifth place honors. The first non-Helena runner was Don Sundberg of Butte who was sixth.

The women's race was the best in the event's history. Six-time women's winner Susan Kaluza of Butte and Warm

Springs' Nicole Murray ran side-by-side the whole course. A sprint to the finish line would find Murray edging Kaluza by two seconds to win her first Veterans' Day race. Murray's winning time was 34:18.

The shorter 2.5-mile race for kids was won by John Lovshin of Butte in a time of 19:57. The girls' winner was Natasha Kearney of Helena. Her time was 33:25. It marked the first time there had been competitors in the girls division since 1992.

Natasha joins a long list of Kearney's who have won the Veterans' Day race. Her father, Bill, won the event in 1976 and 1980. Her grandfather, Martin, took top honors in 1940. Natasha's aunt, Linda, won the girls' 14 and under race in 1978 and Natasha's great-uncle, Jim Kearney, won the Veterans' Day race in 1937.

The race was held in pleasant conditions with cloud cover and 40 degree temperatures. The ideal running conditions produced the best turnout at the event, 49 runners, since the 1989 race.

Finishers	2.5 M	5.2 M	Total
Female	5	9	14
Male	7	28	35
Total	12	37	49

2.5 Mile Females:

0-14: 1, Natasha Kearney, Helena, 33:25; 2, Carrie Darrington, Helena, 34:55.

Women's Division: 1, Carol Eaglefeather, Butte, 24:51; 2, Peggy Benton, Butte, 29:02; 3, Mary Schudy, Missoula, 35:15.

2.5 Mile Males:

0-14: 1, John Lovshin, Butte, 19:57; 2, Michael Lovshin, Butte, 21:06; 3, Matt Darrington, Helena, 21:56; 4, Bradley Darrington, Helena, 24:27; 5, Ben Darrington, Helena, 27:12.

15-18: 1, Mike Banks, Butte, 18:48; 2, Chris Banks, Butte, 24:00.

5.2 Mile Females Overall: 1, Nicole Murray, 34:18; 2, Susan Kaluza, 34:20; 3, Eddi Walker, 36:52.

15-18: 1, Brenda Gates, Anaconda, 40:19.

19-25: 1, Jennifer Gates, Anaconda, 48:36.

26-34: 1, Nicole Murray, Warm Springs, 34:18.

35-44: 1, Susan Kaluza, Butte, 34:20; 2, Eddi Walker, Butte, 36:52; 3, Joanne Eide, Anaconda, 40:36; 4, Sheila Franey, Butte, 49:39.

45-54: 1, Donna Sims, Great Falls, 45:14.

55+: 1, Virginia Sutphin, Great Falls, 50:13.

5.2 Mile Males Overall: 1, Pat Judge, 28:38; 2, Tom Roberts, 29:23; 3, Scott Schoer, 29:26.

15-18: 1, Tom Roberts, Helena, 29:23; 2, Scott Schoer, Helena, 29:26; 3, Rowdy Sargeson, Helena, 29:32; 4, Mitch Cunningham, Butte, 34:11.

26-34: 1, Pat Judge, Helena, 28:38; 2, John Tomich, Butte, 33:02; 3, Eric Allen, Butte, 41:08.

35-44: 1, Mike Walsh, Helena, 30:26; 2, Don Sundberg, Butte, 30:54; 3, Rob Thomas, Elliston, 31:26; 4, Jim Ryan, Butte, 34:07; 5, Blair Nielsen, Dillon, 34:17; 6, Pat Kearney, Butte, 35:16; 7, Bob Eide, Anaconda, 35:46; 8, Russ Ehman, Helena, 35:50; 9, Loran Kostoff, Elliston, 36:13; 10, Rick Spady, Ovando, 36:36; 11, Joe LaForge, Butte, 39:21.

45-54: 1, Jim Hatcher, Helena, 33:42; 2, Leon Shearman, Bozeman, 35:24; 3, Bob Foley, Butte, 39:13; 4, Joe Griffin, Butte, 39:21; 5, Al Lovshin, Butte, 58:52.

55+: 1, Robert Sims, Great Falls, 37:15; 2, Jim Lester, Butte, 39:31; 3, Bruce Robinson, Butte, 40:12; 4, Bob Merkle, San Francisco, 40:40; 5, Don Peoples, Butte, 47:34.