

64th Annual Butte American Legion MERDI/MSE Veterans' Day Race

Sunday, 11 November 2001 – Husband, Wife Duo Hunt Victories

Recap partially composed by Pat Kearney for The Montana Standard

Veterans' Day 5.2 mile race start at Stodden Park.



A Deer Lodge husband and wife team, Ray and Nicole Hunt, won the men's and women's races. Montana's oldest road race was run in ideal conditions with sunny skies and temperatures in the 40s. The weather helped produce a new course record by Nicole Hunt. She crossed the finish line in 31:46. The mark broke a record set back in 1985 by Debra Raunig of Missoula (31:50). Raunig set the mark during the first year the course was run from Stodden Park to the American Legion Hall, a distance of

5.2 miles. It's the second time Nicole Hunt has won the race. She last won in 1996 as Nicole Murray. Hunt beat nine-time champion Suzie Kaluza of Butte, who finished second. Defending champion Jennifer (Pearson) Thomas of Helena was third.

Ray Hunt took the men's overall title, running the course in a time of 28:57. It was his first entry in the annual Butte race. Hunt held off two-time winner Ray Matteson of Butte who took second with a time of 29:53. Casey Lofthouse of Helena High was third at 30:17. Lofthouse's efforts helped Helena High win their first-ever boys' high school team trophy. The Butte High girls won the girls' high school trophy thanks to a fifth place finish by Marnee Worley.

Butte High freshmen Clint Choquette took the 2.5-mile race honors for runners 14 year old and younger. The girls' fourteen and under winner was Melissa Bogert of Butte. Her winning time was 21:08.

The 82 runners who completed comprised the second largest turnout for the event in the last 18 years. Also this

Finishers	2.5 M	5.2 M	Total
Female	6	24	30
Male	18	34	52
Total	24	58	82

year, there was a slight shift in the traditional age divisions that are recognized at the race. The age division that formerly included runners aged 26 to 34 became 26 to 35, and every age division older than that was bumped up another year. This change, in turn, caused some changes to the way the races' age group records are kept.

2.5 Mile Females:

0-14: 1, Melissa Bogert 21:08; 2, Sara Bogert, 22:16; 3, Brittany Petton, 25:04; 4, Alexis DeGiovine, Butte, 25:09.
26-35: 1, Debi Casagrande, 26:39. **36-45:** 1, Bridget Scott, 66:16.

2.5 Mile Males:

0-14: 1, Clint Choquette, Butte, 15:33; 2, Peter Wirtz, Helena, 18:46; 3, Cory Kump, Butte, 19:45; 4, AJ Leyba, 20:23; 5, Chuckie Richards, 21:56; 6, Greg Noctor, 22:41; 7, Brandon Kearney, 24:48; 8, Dylan Gaffin, 26:51; 9, Bryce Noctor, 28:55; 10, Cole Noctor, 28:55; 11, Sammy Leyba, 29:00.
26-35: 1, Steve Turner, 19:19; 2, Scott Casagrande, 26:39.
46-55: 1, Bob Eide, Clancy, 17:14; 2, Gary Dietrich, 18:35. **56-64:** 1, Bob Cook, 26:51.
65+: 1, Karl Newman, 26:41; 2, Fred Scott, 66:16.

5.2 Mile Females Overall:

1, Nicole Hunt, 31:46; 2, Susan Kaluza, 34:11; 3, Jennifer Tomas, 36:22.
15-18: 1, Elisha Cassan, Anaconda, 37:49; 2, Marnee Worley, Butte, 38:28; 3, Tracy Sullivan, 40:09; 4, Caitlin DiGiovine, Butte, 41:56; 5, Jocce Long, Deer Lodge, 45:19; 6, Mellisa Mjelde, Deer Lodge, 47:15; 7, Elli Ochowicz, 48:02.
19-25: 1, Kendra Bebee, 44:17; 2, Annie Driscoll, 48:03.
26-35: 1, Nicole Hunt, Deer Lodge, 31:46; 2, Jennifer Thomas, Helena, 36:22; 3, Stacey Meagher, Deer Lodge, 47:15.
36-45: 1, Susan Kaluza, Butte, 34:11; 2, Mary Crowe, Butte, 42:00; 3, Cindy Bebee, 45:21; 4, Cheryl Peterslie, Butte, 49:01; 5, Theresa Sholey, 51:22; 6, Maureen Roche, Butte, 53:05.
46-55: 1, Alys Culhane, Butte, 42:15; 2, Eddi Walker, Butte, 42:57; 3, Joanne Eide, Clancy, 47:37; 4, Karen Hueftle, Butte, 48:06; 5, Sheila Franey, Butte, 48:58; 6, Sharon Anderson, 54:29.

5.2 Mile Males Overall:

1, Ray Hunt, 28:57; 2, Ray Matteson, 29:53; 3, Casey Lofthouse, 30:17.
0-14: 1, Skyler Knuchel, Deer Lodge, 38:00.
15-18: 1, Casey Lofthouse, Helena, 30:17; 2, Joseph Wirtz, Helena, 31:13; 3, Jason Ames, Helena, 31:42; 4, Chris Mjelde, 41:30; 5, Nick Navarro, 43:49.
19-25: 1, Kelly Walsh, 34:48. **26-35:** 1, Don Foley, Butte, 38:47.
36-45: 1, Ray Hunt, Deer Lodge, 28:57; 2, Ray Matteson, Butte, 29:53; 3, Marvin Speece, Butte, 30:43; 4, Peter Dan Sullivan, Helena, 30:58; 5, Sam Reid, 34:11; 6, Paul Soukup, 35:03; 7, John Tomich, Butte, 35:48; 8, Scott Creigh, 38:04; 9, Larry Driscoll, 38:10; 10, Dan Harrington, Butte, 44:04.
46-55: 1, Mike Walsh, Helena, 31:58; 2, Daniel Carty, 34:59; 3, Marty Kearney, 35:35; 4, Don Sundberg, Butte, 35:53; 5, David Mueller, Butte, 36:14; 6, Pat Kearney, Butte, 36:23; 7, Dan Murphy, 37:49; 8, Joe Griffin, Butte, 39:12; 9, Jim Hueftle, Butte, 43:44.
56-64: 1, Bruce Robinson, Butte, 41:20; 2, Bill Peterson, 46:07; 3, Pete Madison, 48:04; 4, John Wulf, Butte, 51:25; 5, George Calcut, 55:24; 6, Frank Quilici, 58:29.
65+: 1, Jim Lester, Butte, 51:16.