

65th Annual Butte American Legion MERDI/MSE Veterans' Day Race

Monday, 11 November 2002 - Hunt defends individual title as recapped by Pat Kearney for The Montana Standard

Competitors in the Veterans' Day race start the 5.2-mile course at Stodden Park, Monday morning.



Montana Standard photo by Greg Pruitt

Defending champion Ray Hunt of Deer Lodge breezed to victory in the Veterans' Day Race held at Stodden Park Monday. Hunt led from the start and easily won with a time

of 28:17 over the 5.2-mile course. Marv Speece of Melrose finished second with a clocking of 30:07. Mitch Cunningham of Whitehall was third. Hunt received the C. Owen Smithers trophy, named after one of the co-founders of the race.

Casey Campbell, a junior at Montana Tech, won the female race with a time of 34:01. Campbell, a member of Tech's women's basketball team, trailed nine-time champion Suzie Kaluza of Butte and 2000 winner Jennifer Thomas of Helena through the first mile. Campbell, from Lincoln, passed both former champions just before the two-mile mark and never looked back. Thomas was second with a time of 35:38 while Kaluza finished third in 36:13. Campbell won the Mary Whelan Trophy that was named after the first women's winner in the open division in 1976.

The winner of the boys' 14-and under 2.5-mile race was Hobie Biegler of Butte. His winning time was 18:17. Brandon Kearney was second and Casey Nichols third. Biegler received the Martin Kearney Trophy named after the 1940 champion and long-time race coordinator.

The top girls' performer in the 14-and-under 2.5-mile race was Keli Dennehy of Butte. She beat defending champion Melissa Bogert who was second. Sara Bogert was third. Dennehy won the Liza Merrifield Trophy named after the first junior high winner of this race in 1973. Keli is the daughter of Liza Merrifield Dennehy. Keli's mom and grandparents Charlie and Betty Merrifield presented Keli with her award.

Finishers	2.5 M	5.2 M	Total
Female	7	18	25
Male	12	31	43
Total	19	49	68

Butte Central won the high school boys' team trophy, while Helena Capital took home the trophy for girls. Trophies and T-shirts for the event were provided by the two sponsors of the annual race MERDI-MSE and the Butte American Legion. This year's race attracted 68 runners who competed in near ideal weather conditions which were in the mid-30s.

2.5 Mile Females:

0-14: 1, Keli Dennehy, Butte, 20:08; 2, Melissa Bogert 21:02; 3, Sara Bogert, 21:54; 4, Trichael Kearney, 24:52.
36-45: 1, Cheryl Peterslie, Butte, NT. **56-64:** 1, Carol LaRoux, 25:57; 2, Marie Cook, NT.

2.5 Mile Males:

0-14: 1, Hobie Biegler, Butte, 18:17; 2, Brandon Kearney, Butte, 18:57; 3, Casey Nichols, 19:34; 4, Greg Noctor, 19:34; 5, Chuckie Richards, 20:05; 6, Jacob Kearney, 20:08; 7, Nick Dodge 20:11; 8, Stephen Noctor, 23:46.
19-25: 1, Brian Cutrer, 21:58. **26-35:** 1, Brian Noctor, NT. **36-45:** 1, Jim Kilmer, 20:00. **65+**: 1, Jim Lester, Butte, 25:57.

5.2 Mile Females Overall: 1, Casey Campbell, 34:01; 2, Jennifer Thomas, 35:38; 3, Susan Kaluza, 36:13.

15-18: 1, Erin Ellmaker, Helena, 37:41; 2, Mandi Jourdannais, Helena, 37:56; 3, Nellie Ballou, Helena, 38:19; 4, Marnee Worley, Butte, 40:39; 5, Alice Nielson, 40:55; 6, Kadee Nielson, 41:20.

19-25: 1, Casey Campbell, Lincoln, 34:01; 2, Amanda Eide, Clancy, 38:57.

26-35: 1, Jennifer Thomas, Helena, 35:38; 2, Stacey Meagher, Deer Lodge, 46:25.

36-45: 1, Susan Kaluza, Butte, 36:13; 2, Melissa Messmer, Butte, 47:10; 3, Maureen Tomich, Butte, 48:09.

46-55: 1, Sherry Vogel, Butte, 40:01; 2, Eddi Walker, Butte, 44:13; 3, Sheila Franey, 50:33; 4, Teddy Dorland, 51:56.

56-64: 1, Donna Sims, Great Falls, 47:51.

5.2 Mile Males Overall: 1, Ray Hunt, 28:17; 2, Marvin Speece, 30:07; 3, Mitch Cunningham, 30:54.

15-18: 1, Zach Cramer, 39:58; 2, Cory Kump, Butte, 41:12; 3, Matt Curran, Butte, 41:12.

19-25: 1, Mitch Cunningham, Whitehall, 30:54; 2, James Gardner, 40:23.

26-35: 1, Don Foley, Butte, 37:58; 2, Bill Foley, Butte, 38:56.

36-45: 1, Ray Hunt, Deer Lodge, 28:17; 2, Marvin Speece, Butte, 30:07; 3, Mark Peterson, 37:28; 4, John Willard, Butte, 38:15; 5, Bob Whelan, Butte, 39:24; 6, Dan Harrington, Butte, 40:59; 7, Ron Hasquet, 45:09; 8, Tim Hahn, 46:46.

46-55: 1, Don Sundberg, Butte, 32:16; 2, Chris Wareham, Butte, 34:19; 3, David Mueller, Butte, 36:08; 4, Pat Kearney, Butte, 37:04; 5, Stuart White, Great Falls, 37:50; 6, Joe Griffin, Butte, 40:00; 7, Gary Rillema, 45:38.

56-64: 1, Dean Hersey, Helena, 39:14; 2, Russell Meech, Cascade, 39:21; 3, Leon Shearman, Bozeman, 39:29; 4, Bob Sims, Great Falls, 40:46; 5, Bruce Robinson, Butte, 41:20; 6, Ron Paige, Philipsburg, 41:30; 7, Jim Dorland, Opportunity, 48:49; 8, Carl Clark, Great Falls, 49:12; 9, John Wulf, Butte, 51:25.

Ray Hunt of Deer Lodge won the 5.2 mile race.

