

68th Annual Butte American Legion MERDI/MSE Veterans' Day Race

Friday, 11 November 2005 - As recapped by Pat Kearney for the Montana Standard

2.5 mile runners emerge from Stodden Park Friday morning after the start of the annual Veterans' Day Race.



Two former race champions, Ryan Kearney of Butte and Nicole Hunt from Deer Lodge, dominated to easily win the Veterans' Day race. Kearney, a former star track performer at Butte Central and the 2003 winner of this race, breezed to victory with a time of 28:54 over the 5.2-mile course. He beat second place finisher Jeff Thomas of Helena by 85 seconds. Don Sundberg from Butte was third. Kearney follows a long family

tradition of winning this event. His grandfather, Martin Kearney, won the event in 1940. His great-uncle, Jim Kearney, took home first place honors in 1937 and his uncle Bill Kearney was the first place winner twice in 1976 and 1980.

Nicole Hunt won the women's open division with a record setting time of 30:54. It broke the record she established last year by 15 seconds. Nicole has won Montana's oldest road race five times in 1996, 2001, 2003, 2004 and 2005. Susan Kaluza of Butte, a former nine-time winner of this event, was second with a clocking of 35:55.

In 2.5-mile event for kids 14 and under, Josh Panasuk and Keli Dennehy of Butte were the boys and girls winners. Panasuk had a winning time of 17:31. Dennehy took top honors for girls for the fourth straight year. Her winning time was 17:39.

The event which started in 1934 was run in near-perfect weather conditions with temperatures in the lower 30s.

Finishers	2.5 M	5.2 M	Total
Female	23	17	40
Male	10	35	45
Total	33	52	85

The nice weather produced 85 participants, the highest number since the 1982 event. All participants received shirts thanks to corporate sponsor MERDI/MSE. The top three place winners in each age division received trophies and the other finishers receiving ribbons.

2.5 Mile Females:

0-14: 1, Keli Dennehy, Butte, 17:39; 2, Kelsey Carlson, 19:45; 3, Sorena Campbell, 28:11; Also, Amber Pomroy, Corbyne Panich, Ashley Rex, Faith Setterstrom, Savannah Panich, Shannon McLaughlin, Rita Park, McKenzie O'Neill, Brooks Wann, Madison Connole, Dakota Boisseau.

15-18: 1, Kaci Hockaday, Butte, 17:37; 2, Brooke Hueftle, Butte, 17:57; 3, Margaret Setterstrom, 30:29.

40-49: 1, Janet Manchester, 25:14; 2, Julie Flammary, 26:01; 3, Leslie Sutplun, 31:05.

50-59: 1, Robbi Colvin, Bozeman, 44:39; 2, Kay Newman, Bozeman, 45:15.

60+: 1, Virginia Sutprin, Great Falls, 30:30

2.5 Mile Males:

0-14: 1, Josh Panasuk, Butte, 17:31; 2, Michael Campbell, 21:34; 3, Charlie Dick, 21:42; 4, D.J. Hines; 5, Tyler Cortez; 6, Connor McGee; 7, Ryn Schmidt.

30-39: 1, Dan McGee, 26:59. **50-59:** 1, Gary Dietrich, 17:48. **60+:** 1, Jim Nikodym, 36:39.

5.2 Mile Females Overall: 1, Nicole Hunt, 30:54; 2, Susan Kaluza, 35:55; 3, Brooke Dolan, 36:59.

30-39: 1, Nicole Hunt, Deer Lodge, 30:54; 2, Brooke Dolan, Townsend, 36:59; 3, Tanya Connole, Butte, 39:38; 4, Lynette Casagranda; 5, Karen Burns; 6, Amy Gunderson.

40-49: 1, Susan Kaluza, Butte, 35:55; 2, Maggie Smith, Butte, 40:34; 3, Georgia Cunningham, Whitehall, 43:42; 4, Kathy McLaughlin; 5, Cheryl Peterslie, Butte.

50-59: 1, Eddi Walker, Butte, 42:32; 2, Karen Hueftle, Butte, 47:27; 3, Joanne Eide, Clancy, 47:48; 4, Sheila Franey, Butte.

60+: 1, Donna Sims, Great Falls, 48:54; 2, Louise Mitchell, Great Falls, 56:09.

5.2 Mile Males Overall: 1, Ryan Kearney, 28:54; 2, Jeff Thomas, 31:09; 3, Don Sundberg, 31:12.

15-18: 1, Hobie Biegler, Butte, 35:53; 2, Zach Carlson, 37:57; 3, Alan Barthelmess, 39:09; 4, Tim Knutson.

19-29: 1, Ryan Kearney, 28:54; 2, John Babcock, 34:37; 3, Ashley Barber, 40:51.

30-39: 1, Sean Dolan, Townsend, 34:07; 2, Jim O'Neill, Butte, 36:21; 3, Joe Stimatz 37:05; 4, Don Foley; 5, Peter Johnson; 6, Bob Whelan.

40-49: 1, Jeff Thomas, Helena, 31:09; 2, Jeff Braun, Butte, 35:21; 3, Chris Tippet, Butte, 36:43; 4, Jim Ryan, Butte; 5, Brian Pask; 6, Bill McLaughlin; 7, Donald Tamietti, Whitehall; 8, Mike McLeod; 9, Paul Riley; 10, Dan Harrington, Butte.

50-59: 1, Don Sundberg, Butte, 31:12; 2, Chris Wareham, Butte, 38:33; 3, Russ Ehman, Helena, 39:53; 4, Stu White, Great Falls; 5, Mike Patterson, Butte; 6, Pat Kearney, Butte.

60+: 1, Leon Shearman, Bozeman, 40:59; 2, Ron Paige, Philipsburg, 42:23; 3, Bob Sims, Great Falls, 45:56; 4, Carl Clark, Great Falls; 5, Jim Lester, Butte; 6, John Wulf, Butte.