

70th annual Butte American Legion Veterans' Day Race

Sunday, 11 November 2007 - Thomas Jodoin of Helena wins Veterans' Day race: Butte High sophomore Keli Dennehy top woman runner in annual Butte event as recapped by Pat Kearney for The Montana Standard

The women's race was won by Butte High sophomore Keli Dennehy, above. Her winning time was 34:50. Dennehy had previously won the kids' 2.5-mile run five times.



Ideal weather conditions with temperatures in the low 40s and no wind greeted runners in the race. Montana's oldest road race, started in 1934, was won by Helena runner Thomas Jodoin. He covered the 5.2-mile course in 29:25. Former Butte Central runner Colin O'Neill was second with a clocking of 30:22. Defending champion Peter Dan Sullivan of Helena was third with a former three-time winner Patrick Judge coming home fourth. Jodoin was given the C. Owen Smithers first-place trophy, which was named after one of the co-founders of the event.

The women's race was won by Butte High sophomore Keli Dennehy. Her winning time was 34:50. Dennehy had previously won the 14-and-under 2.5-mile run five times. Dennehy beat former nine-time winner Suzie Kaluza, who clocked in two minutes behind. Dennehy received the Mary Whelan first-place

trophy, which was named after the winner of the first open division female race held in 1976.

The top runner in the 2.5-mile race for kids 14-and-under was Josh Panasuk in 15:26. Panasuk is an eighth-grade student at East Middle School. Panasuk received the Martin Kearney first-place trophy for the third straight year. The trophy was named after the 1940 winner and longtime race co-chairman.

The winner in the girls' 14-and-under 2.5-mile race was Brittany Rafferty from Helena. She was given the Liza Merrifield first-place trophy, which was named after the first winner of the junior high race back in 1973. A new award given out this year is the John Wulf Lifetime Achievement Award. Wulf, a former runner and race committee member, died this year.

The award is to honor a person who embodies the spirit of the Veterans' Day Race. The first winner of the award was Jack Whelan, a longtime chairman of the event. He has served as race chairman since 1970. Whelan is responsible for the development of the race for all age groups in 1976 and has served on the race committee for over 40 years.

Another notable achievement was the completion of the 2.5-mile course by Dan Casey in a wheelchair. Casey was pushed the distance by Butte High basketball players Mike Hawbaker, Cole Conway, Jake Trudnowski, Michael Ueland and Tyler Paffhausen.

Finishers	2.5 M	5.2 M	Total
Female	4	14	18
Male	8	32	40
WC Male	1	-	1
Total	13	46	59

2.5 Mile Females:

0-14: 1, Brittany Rafferty 41:36.

19-29: 1, Talia Knudsen, 33:37.

30-39: 1, Stacy Webber, 41:40.

60-69: 1, Linda F., 42:55.

2.5 Mile Males:

0-14: 1, Josh Panasuk, Butte, 15:26; 2, Mike Cooney, 18:12; 3, Jamey Richardson, 20:32; 4, Brady Tippett, 26:29; 5, Gunther Clark, 29:43.

60-69: 1, Carl Clark, Great Falls, 27:10; 2, Kent Webber, 41:37; 3, Jim Johnson, 41:44.

Wheel Chair 70+: 1, Dan Casey, Butte, 31:15.

5.2 Mile Females Overall: 1, Keli Dennehy, 34:50; 2, Suzie Kaluza, 36:47; 3, Skye Miner, 40:04.

15-18: 1, Keli Dennehy, Butte, 34:50; 2, Skye Miner, Butte, 40:04.

19-29: 1, Michelle Huntsman, Butte, 42:17; 2, Keri Petritz, Butte, 46:20.

30-39: 1, Amber Wood-Jensen, Butte, 42:16.

40-49: 1, Suzie Kaluza, Butte, 36:47; 2, Maureen Tomich, Butte, 49:14; 3, Georgia Cunningham, Whitehall, 50:44; 4, Cheryl Peterslie, Butte, 1:03:00.

50-59: 1, Shirley Carrigan, Great Falls, 44:55; 2, Eddi Walker, Butte, 48:00; 3, Sheila Franey, Butte, 54:02.

60-69: 1, Donna Sims, Great Falls, 51:21.

70+: 1, Virginia Sutphin, Great Falls, 1:02:36.

5.2 Mile Males Overall: 1, Thomas Jodoin, 29:25; 2, Colin O'Neill, 30:22; 3, Peter Dan Sullivan, 30:30.

15-18: 1, Bryan Hurbert, Butte, 37:35.

19-29: 1, Thomas Jodoin, Helena, 29:25; 2, Colin O'Neill, Butte, 30:22; 3, Mitch Tamietti, Whitehall, 31:57; 4, Matt Choquette, Butte, 33:16.

30-39: 1, Patrick Judge, Helena, 30:55; 2, Ozzie Rosenleaf, Butte, 33:01.

40-49: 1, Peter Dan Sullivan, Helena, 30:30; 2, Jeff Braun, Butte, 33:19; 3, John Tomich, Butte, 39:02; 4, Jim Ryan, Butte, 39:45; 5, Bill Kearney, Helena, 43:07; 6, Ken Nevin, Three Forks, 46:02; 7, Dan Harrington, Butte, 49:14.

50-59: 1, Chris Tippett, Butte, 32:27; 2, Jeff Mann, Butte, 35:17; 3, Don Sunberg, Butte, 36:45; 4, Rande Farrow, Butte, 38:35; 5, Mike Patterson, Butte, 43:35; 6, Leonard Baluski, Bozeman, 46:31; 7, Pat Kearney, Butte, 47:31; 8, George Garcia, 50:14; 9, Gary Rillema, Butte, 51:57.

60-69: 1, Bob Leonard, Anaconda, 37:37; 2, Stu White, Great Falls, 40:34; 3, Leon Shearman, Bozeman, 44:20; 4, Bob Sims, Great Falls, 46:27; 5, Bruce Robinson, Butte, 46:59; 6, Donald Wood, 50:23.

70+: 1, Jim Lester, Butte, 50:38; 2, Skip Montie, Dillon, 51:00; 3, George Parrett, Butte, 1:03:00.