

75th annual Butte American Legion Veterans' Day Race



Ashley Choquette photo

Despite the ice-packed and at times mulched footing, Butte's **Matt Choquette** won the 5.2-mile with a sub-thirty minute time that was only seven seconds shy of his personal record for the course.



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Deer Lodge's **Nicole Hunt** came through the finish with a smile when she won the women's 5.2-mile for a record-tying ninth time.



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Susan Kaluza (pictured below) has also won the race nine times.

Sunday, 11 November 2012 - Choquette, Hunt take Veterans' Day titles

Finishers	2.5 M	5.2 M	Total
Female	2	11	13
Male	1	32	33
Total	3	43	46

Snow and frigid temperatures caused the Veterans' Day ceremony to be moved (sans firing squad salute) from Stodden Park into the Civic Center, but the 75th annual American Legion-sponsored foot race went on as planned after Stodden's manager was summoned to unlock the park's gate at about 10:15 a.m. on race morning. The conditions kept this year's turnout down to only 46 finishers in the diamond anniversary of Montana's oldest road race.

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Matt Choquette of Butte and Nicole Hunt from Deer Lodge were the overall winners. Choquette breezed to an easy win with a time 29:59 on a slippery, icy 5.2-mile course with the sunny but cold conditions (-8 °C at race time). There was also a tailing breeze out of the NW for much of the race. Choquette easily beat a four-time champion of this event Thomas Jodoin of Helena by almost two minutes. David Lawson was third, followed by Helena's Dan Sullivan and Ozzie Rosenleaf of Butte. Choquette became the first male runner from Butte to win Montana's oldest race in seven years. The event has been dominated by Helena runners the last six years. The last Butte winner prior to Choquette was Ryan Kearney in 2005.

Nicole Hunt's performance was the ninth time she has won the race. Hunt's winning effort of 37:23 was over three minutes better than Susan Kaluza of Butte. Kaluza's daughter, Charissa Bish, was third, followed by Jennifer Buszka and Pam Hanson-Deich. Hunt's ninth overall win ties her with Kaluza who has also won the American Legion Veterans' Day race nine times.

In the shorter 2.5-mile race for kids fourteen and younger Joby Rosenleaf of Butte was the overall winner with a time of 20:56. She beat second place Abby McGee. The winner of the boys event was Jerek Rosenleaf who came in with a clocking of 42:24.

2.5 Mile Females:

0-14: 1 Joby Rosenleaf, Butte, 20:56; 2, Abby McGee, 24:04.

2.5 Mile Males:

0-14: 1, Jerek Rosenleaf, Butte, 42:29.

5.2 Mile Females Overall: 1, Nicole Hunt, Deer Lodge, 37:23; 2, Susan Kaluza, Butte, 40:28; 3, Charissa Bish, Butte, 42:05.

30-39: 1, Charissa Bish, 42:05; 2, Jennifer Buszka, 47:34.

40-49: 1, Nicole Hunt, 37:23; 2, Pam Hanson-Deich, 50:40.

50-59: 1, Susan Kaluza, 40:28; 2, Karla Pomrenke, 50:55; 3, Eddi Walker, 52:23; 4, Ann Wayrynen, 53:28; 5, Alice Davis, 1:15:53.

60-69: 1, Sheila Franey, 1:24:00; 2, Claudia Micone, 1:24:00.

5.2 Mile Males Overall: 1, Matt Choquette, Butte, 29:59; 2, Tom Jodoin, Helena, 31:44; 3, David Lawson, 33:43.

15-18: 1, Connor McGee, 35:40; 2, Clayton Stillwagon, 45:19; 3, Sean Cooney, 51:22.

19-29: 1, 1, Matt Choquette, 29:59; 2, David Lawson, 33:43.

30-39: 1, Tom Jodoin, 31:44; 2, Ozzie Rosenleaf, 34:40.

40-49: 1, Dan Sullivan, 34:10; 2, Don Foley, 36:11; 3, Ray Hunt, 38:12; 4, Joe Stimatz, 38:37; 5, Greg Campbell, 39:58; 6, Mark Peterson, 40:09; 7, Dan McGee, 40:12; 8, Mike Real, 42:24; 8, Mike Sulzbach, 54:26.

50-59: 1, Bill Kearney, 47:33; 2, Jim Ryan, 48:32; 3, Scott Frisch, 48:49; 4, Leonard Baluski, 52:10; 5, Pat Kearney, 54:12; 6, Dan Harrington, 1:02:26.

60-69: 1, Fred Jozovich, 43:04; 2, Tim Johnston, 45:35; 3, Joe Griffin, 47:39; 4, Dave Mueller, 52:24; 5, Mike Patterson, 54:05; 6, Don Wood, 54:16; 7, Leon Shearman, 58:58.

70+: 1, Dean Hersey, Boulder, 46:05; 2, Bruce Robinson, Butte, 51:42; 3, Jim Lester, Butte, 1:16:32.



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The traditional **sparkling trophies** were awarded to all category winners.