

24th Annual American Legion Veterans' Day Race

Saturday, 11 Nov 1961 at Legion Hall in Uptown Butte – Copperhead Martin Golden



Above: Runners coming out of their starting stances.

Right: Anaconda's Fred Martin breaking the winner's finish ribbon in front of a throng of spectators in 16:00, 3 seconds shy of the course record and 100 meters ahead of his nearest rival.

Below: Awards Ceremony from left, Race Charmain C. Owen Smithers, 1st, Fred Martin Anaconda; 2 & 3, Bulldog teammates Ronald Johnson & Donald Brunell holding the Smithers Plaque; 4, Dave Koskimaki, BH; 5, Mike Crowley, BC; (not shown 6, Merlin Norbury, BH).



The race started at 11 a.m. in front of the Legion Club with the blasts of eleven aerial bombs. Butte High senior John Kratofil also started with a blast and he held his lead until he pasted the Belmont Mine on East Mercury, then he fell back, eventually placing among the final 15 finishers.

Anaconda's Fred Martin, who had recently won the Cross Country Classic in Helena, used more even pacing to capture the lead just prior to crossing Montana St. He built on his lead from there onward to the finish where he capped his run with a fresh looking 50 meter sprint.

Butte High's winning total of 13 team points added to its lead in the 3rd year of 7 in competition for the C. Owen Smithers Trophy. The Bulldogs enjoy a 3-year point total 48. The Maroons have accumulated 8 points, and Anaconda 7.

Points were assigned to the first six finishers on a 6-5-4-3-2-1 basis.

There were 31 listed finishers.

HS Boys' Team Scores: 1, Butte High, 13; Anaconda, 6; Boys Central, 2.

HS Boys' 2.7 mile : 1, Fred Martin, Anaconda, 16:00; 2, Ronald Johnson, BH; 3, Donald Brunell, BH; 4, Dave Kostimaki, BH; 5, Mike Crowley, BC; 6, Merlin Norbury, BH.



Additional runners who finished outside the top six scoring spots:

BH: Bob York, Frank Koskimaki, Gary Dunford, Tom Dean, Bob Norton, John Kratofil, Albert Tregidga, Al Baker, Marvin Sopko, Dennis Matthies, Richard Allran.

Anaconda: Terry Wilkinson, Ben Roth, John Jackson, Wayne Finnegan, Terry Sjodahl.

BC: Bob Brancamp, Melvin Mattix, John Cooney, Bill Bugni, Terry Sullivan, Russ Belanger, Mike Duran, Kevin Gregier, Charles Field.