33rd Annual American Legion Veterans' Day Race

Wednesday, 11 Nov 1970 at Naranche Stadium

Photograph of the original Montana Standard newspaper print by Cliff Moore.

Butte High senior, Dick Hofacker (**pictured at right**), won the race with a time of 12:47 to establish a course record. Hofacker received the Marty Kearney Memorial Trophy. The plaque was named after the 1940 winner of the Veterans' Day Race who passed away two months earlier.

Martin "Marty" Kearney, Sr., a Christian Brothers High School graduate, served the USA in World War II as a member of the Army Air Corps, and he returned to Butte immediately after the war ended. Kearney competed in one more Vets' Day Race after the war, and then he turned his energy to organizing the race. For the next twenty-two years Kearney assisted C. Owen Smithers (who founded the race in 1934) in putting the race on. Over that period, as Smithers advanced in age, Kearney took on more and more of the workload associated with the race.

After Kearney's death, Legionnaire Jack Whalen stepped forward to direct race operations.

Kearney's sons Marty Jr. and Pat ran in today's race as members of the Butte Central team.
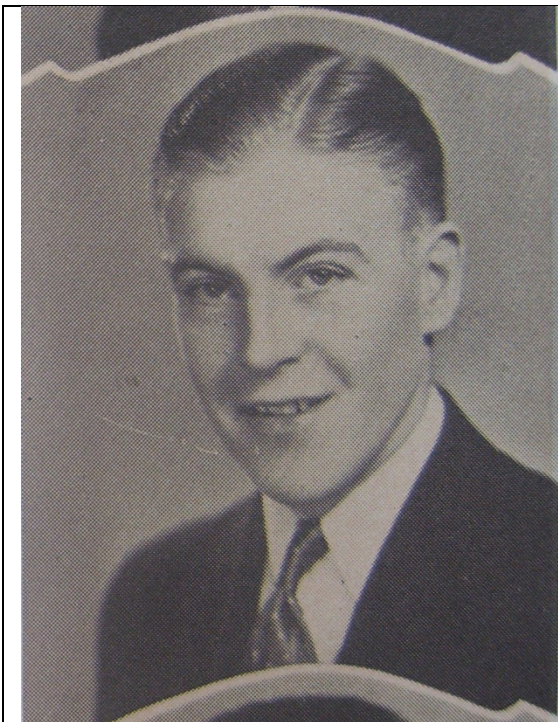

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Hofacker's Bulldogs easily won team honors with 19 points. Butte Central was second with 55. The Bulldogs' team points also helped them grab the overall lead from Central by a total score of 190 to 192 with two years to go in the seven-year Harry "Swede" Dahlberg trophy challenge.

HS Boys' Team Scores: 1, Butte High, 19; 2, Butte Central, 55; 3, Anaconda, 69.

HS Boys' 2.5 mile: 1, Dick Hofacker, BH, 12:47 – record (old record 13:00, Howard Johnson, Anaconda, 1967); 2, Mike Hotzel, BH; 3, Paul Krueger, BH; 4, Steve Burke, BC; 5, Steve Johnston, BH; 6, Bob Johnson, Anaconda; 7, Marty Kearney, BC; 8, Charlie Peterson, BH; 9, Darryl Maunder, BH; 10, Jim Patterson, BH; 11, Rich Arntson, BH; 12, Ken Miller, Anaconda; 13, Paul Thomas, BC; 14, Pat Leary, Anaconda; 15, Bob Zapata, BC; 16, Mark Maki, Anaconda; 17, Bob Carlson, BC; 18; Jeff Balentine, BH; 19; Kurt Alt, BH; 20, Joe Sullivan, BC; 21, Mick McKernan, Anaconda; 22, Dave Tahija, BH; … 25, Pat Kearney, BC; No other results listed, but thirty five competed.

Marty Kearney as he appeared as a Christian Brothers Boys' Central High School student in 1935.

In 2010 Patrick Kearney fondly recounted this retrospective of Martin, Sr.: "My father was an avid race person. As kids he used to have us run a mile. He would time us and tell us how to improve. This was when we were seven and eight years old. We did this all the time. He loved everything about running. He was really the reason why the race continued like it did."

Awards ceremony
Pictured from left:

Race co-founder C. Owen Smithers holding the Martin Kearney Memorial Plaque that was presented to Hofacker as the first place runner;

The first three runners, all of Butte High, hold the Dahlberg Plaque.

1st place, Dick Hofacker;
2, Mike Hotzel;
3, Paul Krueger;
4, Steve Burke, BC;
5, Steve Johnston, BH;
6, Rob Johnson, Anaconda.

Scan of the original Montana Standard newspaper print