

45th Annual Butte American Legion Veterans’ Day Race

Thursday, 11 November 1982 – Gov’s Cup Marathon Champs Reign in Butte as recapped, in part, by Pat Kearney

Ann Danzer of Helena won today’s 4.5 mile race in 28:43. Danzer, who finished nearly two minutes ahead of the second place woman, also won the Governor’s Cup Marathon in Helena last June with a record time of 2:53:38.



The Veterans’ Day Race was dominated by a pair of runners from Helena who were also both recent winners of the Governor’s Cup Marathon in the capital city. Jim Hatcher took top honors in the men's division in a record time of 22:46. Ann Danzer was the ladies victor with a clocking of 28:43.

For the third straight year Rhonda Ferkovich took the race for girls’ fourteen and under. She became the first girl to ever accomplish the feat. The only other multi-winner of the young girls’ race was Liza Merrifield in 1973 and 1974. Merrifield went on to win the high school girls race in 1975 and the women's open division in 1980. The only other three-time ladies winner was Rose McCormick in 1972, 1973 and 1977. Ferkovich's winning clocking was 16:53. Meanwhile the boys’ winner was Jim O'Neill in a time of 13:59.

Finishers	2.5 M	4.5 M	Total
Female	3	26	29
Male	12	48	59
Total	15	73	89

**2.5 Mile Girls 0-14:** 1, Rhonda Ferkovich, Butte, 16:53; 2, Rikki Ueland, Butte, 17:04; 3, Jennifer Ferkovich, Butte, 17:54.

**2.5 Mile Boys 0-14:** 1, Jim O’Neill, Butte, 13:59; 2, Chuck Merrifield, Butte, 14:00; 3, Charlie Parks, 14:20; 4, Eric Allen, Butte, 14:23; 5, Kurt Hales, 15:25; 6, Dean Drew, 15:36; 7, Dale

Schoonover, 16:52; 8, Greg Campbell, Anaconda, 17:33; 9, Craig Hales, 17:53; Don Foley, Butte, 19:51; 11, Ryan Murphy, 20:01; 12, Art Murphy, 20:02.

**4.5 Mile Females Overall:** 1, Ann Danzer, 28:43; 2, Sandra Germer, 30:37; 3, Rita Drain, 31:48.  
**15-18:** 1, Dorothy Murphy, 35:00; 2, Holli Maloney, Divide, 35:51; 3, Elaine Cyr, Butte, 36:26; 4, Julie Faroni, Butte, 37:41; 5, Lori Merrifield, Butte, 39:34; 6, Robin Christie, 40:05; 7, Merissa Gilmore, 45:32; 8, Jodi Hitchens, 45:33.  
**19-25:** 1, Kit Warfield, 32:32; 2, Mary Whelan, Butte, 34:43; 3, Mary Murphy, Butte, 35:18; 4, Maggie Smith, Butte, 35:31; 5, Linda Granger, Butte, 35:32.  
**26-34:** 1, Sandra Germer, Basin, 30:37; 2, Deidre Caughlan, Butte, 33:38; 3, Claudine Micone, Butte, 38:30; 4, Ruth Barrett, 41:02; 5, Judie Lowney, 41:05; 6 (tie), Mary Shaw & Eddi Walker, Butte, 46:15.

**35-44:** 1, Ann Danzer, Helena, 28:43; 2, Rita Drain, Butte, 31:48; 3, Ellie Arguimbau, Helena, 32:52; 4, Roberta Campbell, Anaconda, 34:04; 5, Marie Cook, Butte, 34:35.  
**45-54:** 1, Barbara Campbell, Anaconda, 37:38.

**4.5 Mile Males Overall:** 1, Jim Hatcher, 22:46; 2, Tony Banovich, 22:54; 3, Jeff Thomas, 23:34.  
**15-18:** 1, Dan Campbell, Anaconda, 27:03; 2, Bob Whelan, Butte, 27:44; 3, Pat Walsh, 28:08; 4, Rod Cyr, Butte, 28:30; 5, Fred Kasperick, 28:35; 6, Chuck Woods, 28:36; 7, Joe Schara, 30:23; 8, Tony Taft, 30:48; 9, Kevin Kent, 31:23; 10, William Best, 32:27; 11, Vincent Micone, 35:36.  
**19-25:** 1, Tony Banovich, Butte, 22:54; 2, Jeff Thomas, Butte, 23:34; 3, Bill Kearney, 24:17; 4, Mike Houlihan, Butte, 26:54; 5, Mike Kelly, 28:29; 6, Mike Kearney, 36:15; 7, Dan Avila, 36:27; 8, Ray Rice, 37:03; 9, Jim Chatriand, 38:45.  
**26-34:** 1, Jim Hatcher, Helena, 22:46; 2, Ted Maloney, Butte, 26:32; 3, Jack Williams, 26:50; 4, Pat Kearney, Butte, 27:24; 5, Randy Hansen, 28:37; 6, Robert Kearney, 28:58; 7, Kiki Scales, 30:14; 8, Chuck Divine, 30:15; 9, Dan Murphy, 30:15; 10, Jeff Slothower, 30:50; 11, Chris Schmidt, 31:04; 12, Sid deBarathy, 32:16; 13, Dan Rice, 37:04; 14, Rick Riba, 37:17.  
**35-44:** 1, John Hahn, Helena, 24:22; 2, Raymond Cyr, Butte, 26:41; 3, Dennis McCarthy, Butte, 26:59; 4, David Mueller, Butte, 28:26; 5, Dave Manning, 29:29; 6, Tim Casey, 32:32; 7, John Wulf, Butte, 32:42; 8, John Alley, Jr. 33:06; 9, William Barwick, III, 33:11; 10, Norm Hermsmeyer, 34:03; 11, Tom Ferkovich, Butte, 36:48; 12, William Gaughan, Great Falls, 45:18.  
**55<sup>+</sup>:** 1, Chuck Rafferty, 31:08; 2, Phillip Zamudio, Anaconda, 32:04.



## 2010 Memoirs by Tony and the JET



**Jeff E. Thomas:** The Montana Standard photo shows [me, Tony, Billy, and Hatcher] side-by-side about ½ mile into the race. The race folded for me shortly thereafter and I became a mere spectator well back of the front-running. Tony will have to give the account of the real racing. This was the year before Tony talked me into keeping a journal, so I don't have any notes other than the newspaper article and my rapidly-fading memory. I recall cold and breezy conditions, but no snow.



**Vets' Day Winner Jim Hatcher of Helena** (pictured far right among the 4 leaders) also set the **Governor's Cup Marathon** record this past June with the smashing time of **2:20:35**.

**Tony Banovich:** Jeff, as always, is selling himself short. 1982 had a pretty high quality field and he ran a strong 3rd. He was having a really good year and was a threat at any race that involved hills and/or altitude. He had some super strong performances during the XC season in 1982 (Tech actually had a team that year); but, we were also in the middle of some mid-term tests at the time had been racing once or twice a week for the last 6 weeks or so and both of us were probably a little flat.

[In the Standard photo above] Jeff on far left, me next him with the white turtleneck. Then Billy Kearney (who was a 1978 or 1979 Butte Central grad and MSU runner), then Jim Hatcher.

What I remember is how cold it had been leading up to the race. Jeff and I had bought some nylons and had tried them out to see if they helped keep you any warmer (they didn't really ... this was about 2 or 3 years before tights came on the scene). My journal notes show that it was 25 degrees that day. I was excited that I broke the old course record. But, alas, Jim kicked my behind that day.

Jim was in his prime then and was awfully hard to beat. I remember running with him early; but, got a bit of a stitch and had to back off a bit. And, with Jim in the early '80's, you couldn't give away anything. He opened a bit of a gap and that was all she wrote. Once he had the lead, I could never close the gap again.

I do remember some especially high quality chili-dogs at the post race feast that year :-)

**JET:** Tony's recollection of the race is indeed much clearer than mine, but I definitely remember the nylons. Worth a try, but not warm. And not comfortable.

There are a couple of other noteworthy runners shown. Just to the left of me is Mike Houlihan, former Butte High great. The young lady between me and Tony looks like Rhonda Ferkovich. The man in the white long sleeve and white cap on the right side of Hatcher is Ted Maloney – who never missed a race if there was beer at the finish (Ted Maloney's white RX7 had the "RUNNING" license plate). Just to the right of Ted, behind the girl in the "Butte" shirt, looks like Pat Kearney in the stocking cap. Toward the back, far side of the road, dark shirt and white stocking cap – is that Eddi Walker?

I'm pretty sure that Billy Kearney graduated in 1978, since I first ran w/ Tony and the BC boys in the fall of '78 and Billy's name was always spoken in the whispered, reverent tones reserved for departed legends.