

Decoteau Won The Herald Road Race

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violently eaten. It was directly due to the drivers of automobiles and rigs who would not keep behind the runners, and who ignored all entreaties and pleadings of the judges to go back, that several of the local runners who had previously covered the course in excellent time while training and had a good chance to win, were defeated as badly as they were.

At one place on the course an automobile overturned and the occupants were thrown out.

With the pistol the boys started off in a bunch, Decoteau remaining about fifth man until the corner of Eighth avenue and Centre street was reached. One of the Y. M. C. A. men was pacing the bunch at this time and continued to do so until a point was reached between Centre street and the station, when Decoteau caught up to the second man and remained in this position for some distance down Ninth avenue. Smith was to the side in a row of four and was keeping well to the front, while Wilson was hugging his side. When the King Edward hotel was approached Decoteau dashed away from the bunch taking a lead of about 25 yards, and between Ninth avenue and Eighth avenue, on Fourth street east, he gained another 20 yards, and then eased up to a steady jog.

The rest of the runners at this point were bunched together. It was difficult to see what positions they held, for a very small margin separated any of them.

On Eighth avenue the crowd was intense. It was practically impossible at first to get through the jam, but the leading auto carrying the judges forced an opening, while Decoteau clung close to the rear of the car. Smith and Wilson were pulling away from the others at this time and when the first mile was reached, at the Diamond clothing store, Decoteau was leading, Smith was second, Wilson third, and they held this position throughout the entire race.

The Y. M. C. A. bunch and Perry followed a short distance behind the leading trio at the first mile, and when Centre street was reached Perry was seen gaining a few yards on the others.

The crowd again at this point interfered with the runners and a street car blocked the way for some distance, but finally, when the runners came out to the open at the Alberta hotel, the positions were the same and several of those who had been in the bunch had dropped a considerable distance behind.

Between this corner and the church on Eighteenth avenue, Decoteau gained several yards, and Smith and Wilson were neck and neck for second place. McKay at this point had pulled ahead and was

holding fourth place, while Mecklenberg had also taken a sprint in this second mile and was running strong at fifth place, while Jarrett was holding sixth. Perry had dropped back to seventh position. Holmes was the eighth man passing the second mile post, while Brooke followed close as ninth man. P. Lee, of the Y. M. C. A., was tenth, and Mitchell, of the same association, was following some distance behind him. When all was summed up, McKay proved to be the last man in twelfth position, for Barnstein, Abel and Tuesley had given up the fight in the vicinity of the subway.

the street to themselves and were able to make a little time, until they reached Fourth street west; at this corner it appeared that all the automobiles and rigs in the city had congregated to congest the thoroughfare, and from that point to the finish of the race the runners experienced a hard time finding their way through the vehicles.

Decoteau turned the corner onto Fourth street west about 60 yards ahead of the second man. He was running strong and with an extraordinary easy gait which he kept up through the race. Smith was looking rather fagged about this point and before the bridge was reached it was easy to see that he was sick. Wilson clung to his heels and following quite a distance behind were Mecklenberg, McKay, Perry and Holmes. Mecklenberg was breathing heavy and his cold was bothering him while Holmes did not seem to be enjoying himself although he kept up the pace with a determined face.

When the Mission bridge was reached, which marks the $2\frac{1}{2}$ mile point of the race, the rigs were in large numbers and it was practically impossible to penetrate. Decoteau shot onto the boards and gained a short distance while Smith and Wilson also found an opening and were soon free of the several obstructions. Those in the rear were pulling up some and Perry was rapidly coming towards the front. McKay was still the last man and did not appear to be able to keep up the pace very much farther.

The long hill did not seem to bother the first three positions to any great extent, but Mecklenberg was compelled to quit at the top. Holmes was looking bad at this point and the others were following behind at a steady trot. Decoteau turned the corner onto the Macleod trail and a short distance was again gained by him at this point. Several rigs joined the vast assembly at this part and the road was crowded with bicycles, motor cycles, automobiles and rigs like Eighth avenue on fair day. The dust was rising from the road in clouds and blowing into the faces of the runners. Decoteau did not suffer very much from this for he was ahead of the majority of vehicles, but Smith and Wilson, McKay, Perry and the others received the full benefit of an artificial sandstorm which was greatly re-

gretted. Holmes dropped out at the cemetery, also McKay, the last man, and Perry about this point pulled up a notch and was looking for fourth position. The road was rough at this point and stony which also interfered somewhat with those in the rear.

When the runners approached the Elbow bridge Decoteau was leading nearly 100 yards. Smith was second but Wilson was still at his heels and when they entered the stretch it was plain that the Edmonton runner had the race but there was to be a close finish for second place between the two contenders. Perry was striding along strong and had fourth place pretty near his own way while McKay was fifth.

At the finish Decoteau was over 100 yards in the lead. Smith was second a few steps ahead of Wilson, who took third prize. Perry arrived about a minute afterwards as fourth man and McKay came fifth. Jarrett crossed the line in sixth position and Brooke was seventh. It was some time before the eighth man arrived but Mitchell finally loomed up and shot into the bunch in that place, and Lee, of the Y. M. C. A. was ninth. None of the others in the race finished.

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