

## **JOE KEEPER (1886-1971)**

### **Athlete**

Joe Keeper was born at Walker Lake, Norway House, Manitoba. He had one of the most successful distance running careers in Manitoba and Canada. He began running in 1909 and had many successes early on. During this time, Joe Keeper won many road races here in Winnipeg. In 1911, he set a Canadian National 10 mile road record at the Thunder Bay 10 Mile Road Race. This national record stood for 25 years. Because of this successful season, he was selected to represent Manitoba at the Dominion Games in Montreal, Quebec. He was the top Canadian finisher and it qualified him to represent Canada at the 1912 Olympic Games in Stockholm, Sweden. At these games, he placed 4th in the 10,000 m final. To this day, no other Canadian has bettered this showing at the Olympic 10,000 m final.

During World War I, Joe Keeper used his running skills as a messenger relaying information from his command post to the front lines.

During those years there were no Olympics, but at the 1919 Allied Games (run in their place in Paris) Keeper finished second in the 10-mile event. During the war, at the 1917 Canadian Games, he ran both the mile and three mile events, beating Olympians such as Tom Longboat in the process.

Joe Keeper is a member of the Manitoba Sports Hall of Fame and the National Road Running Hall of Fame.

## **2006 MANITOBA RUNNERS' ASSOCIATION ROAD RUNNING HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE**

