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LEWIS RETURNS FROM OLYMPIC ALTITUDE TESTING; SAYS PROGRAM "EXTREMELY WORTHWHILE"

MISSOULA---

University of Montana track coach Harley Lewis returned to Missoula Tuesday following three weeks as a coach leader at the U.S. Olympic High Altitude Testing Site in Flagstaff, Ariz.

Lewis, who worked with some of the outstanding distance runners in the United States, called the experience "extremely worthwhile."

"I think I learned more about distance running at Flagstaff in three weeks than I learned in the past ten years altogether," Lewis commented. "I had a great bunch of kids to work with, and with no interference from classwork, it was a good opportunity to find out just how hard these youngsters can work at high altitude."

One of the young runners working under Lewis was Wade Jacobsen of Simms, who will run in cross country and track for the UM coach as a freshman starting this fall.

"Wade did an excellent job at Flagstaff," Lewis said. "He held up real well under difficult conditions. I think he's going to be a good one."

Other runners under Lewis' supervision were Larry Wiscorek, University of Iowa, who was fourth in the 1967 NCAA mile run and third in the NCAA cross country, earning All-American honors in both; Art Sandison, Washington State University, the Washington high school 880 champ; Dave Matina, University of Texas, who anchored a record setting two-mile relay team; Bob Zieminski, Georgetown University, an All-American who is ranked in the top ten in the U.S. 880; Steve Stageberg, Georgetown, the All-American ICAA three-mile champ, and Grant Colehour, Eastern Kentucky, the All-American NCAA small college six-mile winner.
Lewis said Flagstaff should be able to make a strong bid as an Olympic training site for the 1968 Mexico City Olympic Games.

"The city has excellent facilities," Lewis said, "including an all-weather surface track with surveyed areas for field events and a steeplechase facility, an indoor training facility with track, jumping and vaulting areas, mass transportation facilities, campus medical facilities, and adequate first aid and training rooms with student trainers."

In his report to the Olympic Committee, Lewis mentioned that the German team will train at Flagstaff, thus adding the possibility of an international atmosphere at the site.

"It could give our athletes an exposure to international competition prior to the Olympic Games," Lewis said.

Lewis reported that he believes altitude training is of the utmost importance if our Olympic team is to make a good showing. He listed 22 training recommendations and general results in his report to the committee.