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Grizzly thinclads opening season in dual meet with Weber State

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MISSOULA---

University of Montana cross country runners will get their first taste of competition for the 1967 season Saturday when they clash with Weber State College in Ogden, Utah.

Coach Harley Lewis and the seven runners who qualified to represent the Montana team left Thursday afternoon for Ogden. They will return Saturday afternoon following the meet, which will cover slightly more than two miles beginning at 11 a.m.

Heading the Grizzly thinclads will be senior captain Fred Friesz, Montana's All-American last spring in the NCAA six-mile run. Friesz is from Billings.

Other veterans competing Saturday will be junior Mick Harrington of Missoula, and sophomore Ray Velez of Highland Falls, N.Y.

Freshmen making the trip will be Wade Jacobsen of Simms; Ray Ballew of Sunburst; Steve Linse of Snohomish, Wash., and Tim Potter of Washington, Conn.

Jacobsen had the fastest qualifying time Tuesday at the University Golf Course, over a distance slightly under two miles. Jacobsen ran the course in 9 minutes, 38 seconds. Coach Lewis said this was because of the extensive training Jacobsen had at the U.S. Olympic Training Site at Flagstaff, Ariz. this summer.

Lewis said the earlier meets count in one respect, but don't in another.

"We would naturally like to win," Lewis said, "but actually we are pointing toward the Big Sky Conference Meet Nov. 11 in Missoula."

Lewis explained that his runners' conditions will improve as the year goes on.

"The earlier meets will be up for grabs, because no one really knows what kind of runners other schools have picked up during the summer," Lewis said.

Montana's next meet will be Oct. 7 in Missoula against Idaho and Montana State.