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Grizzlies to entertain Cats, Eastern Washington in only home cross country meet of year

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MISSOULA—University of Montana cross country runners return to the friendly confines of the University of Montana Golf Course Saturday at 1 p.m. when they host harriers from Montana State University and Eastern Washington State College in a triangular meet.

Harley Lewis' charges won their opening meet, the Eastern Montana Invitational in Billings, Sept. 28, and have not won since, coming in second in multi-team events at Eastern Washington and the University of Idaho and losing a dual meet to Idaho State University in Pocatello last Saturday.

While the Grizzlies have won only once as a team this season, sophomore sensation Wade Jacobsen of Simms, tabbed by Lewis as "potentially the greatest distance runner in UM history," has not lost individually. His victories all have been relatively easy.

Against Idaho State last weekend, Jacobsen set a course record at the Riverside Golf Course, covering the four miles in 20 minutes, 4 seconds.

"Wade got lost on the course for about 20 seconds, and still won easily," Lewis said. "Getting lost is one of the hazards of being the leader on a strange course."

Running for the Grizzlies Saturday will be Jacobsen, junior Ray Velez of San Bernadino, Calif., freshman Howie Johnson of Anaconda, sophomore Ray Ballew of Sunburst, freshman Tim O'Hare of Billings, senior Mick Harrington of Missoula, and freshman Bob Conway of Great Falls.

Velez finished fourth in the 24-35 loss to Idaho State, and Johnson seventh. The other four Grizzlies finished 11th, 12th, 13th and 14th.
Lewis also will run a second team of five runners composed of sophomore Steve Linse of Snohomish, Wash., freshman Pat Duncan of Grants Pass, Ore., junior Steve Wiltzen of Malta, freshman Laurie Dunlop of Missoula, and freshman Dave Smith of Grants Pass.

Montana State's squad will include John Hayes, Craig Anderson, Dan Heimbeigner, Dave Glaus, Robert Davis, Dan Majerus and either Verline Reichelt or Paul Watling. Hayes has gone undefeated in the Bobcats' two meets this season.

Eastern Washington's runners have not been announced.