Golfers head to Billings for Eastern Invitational

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations

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A trimmed-down University of Montana golf team will try to keep its record unblemished this week while competing as defending champion in the annual Eastern Montana College Invitational in Billings.

The two-day tournament, which involves at least seven teams, will take place Thursday and Friday.

Others competing will be Eastern Montana, Rocky Mountain College, Montana State University, Northern Montana College, Miles Community College and Dickinson, N.D. State College.

The Grizzlies will have to be rated favorites in the event after the solid showing they made last weekend in opening their season in Missoula.

The Tip golfers, paced by upstart substitute sixth man Steve Sullivan, a Butte freshman, rocked Montana State 17-1, Eastern Washington 14 1/2-3 1/2 and Flathead Community College of Kalispell 16-2.

Sullivan, who was a last-second sub at the sixth spot, finished as medalist for the entire match with a sparkling 69. Number one man Rick Carpenter of Missoula turned in with 70, followed by Skip Konravica of Butte, 73; Dick Kuhl of Bozeman, 75; Spike Dougherty of Canby, Ore., 76, and Tom Manning of Billings, 79.

UM entries at Billings will be Carpenter, Konravica, Kuhl, Sullivan, and Glen Wysel of Lewistown. Because of NAIA rules, which govern Eastern's athletics, only five can play, rather than the six under NCAA rules.

Coach Jack Miller was surprised and pleased with the low scores turned in by most of Montana's players Friday. The weather was windy and cold, but it didn't hamper the Montana group.