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UM'S ROTC TEAM TAKES NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

MISSOULA --

Armed with compasses and maps, The University of Montana—Missoula’s ROTC orienteering team captured the first place title at the 24th Annual Intercollegiate Orienteering Championship in Gettysburg, Penn., recently.

The seven UM cadets and their instructor brought home a traveling trophy that had been in the possession of Texas A&M University’s ROTC team since 1988. Last year’s UM team competed at West Point, finishing in second place behind Texas A&M.

"Their ROTC program is one of the biggest in the country," UM’s Sgt. Maj. Terry Pohland said of the Texas university. "For a little program like ours to go there and take that trophy is quite impressive in itself."

Members of the winning team are Ken Damall of Missoula; Jon Neal of Butte; Cindy Wallace of Seeley Lake; Jennifer Eckert of Red Lodge; Andy Estep of Snohomish, Wash.; Jon Fleury of Seattle; and Jeff Perrault of Thousand Oaks, Calif.

Participants in the competition must find points throughout a designated course within the allotted time using a map and compass. They must rely on their knowledge of terrain and good physical condition to successfully navigate the course.


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