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Grizzlies host Montana invitational slope meet

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University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations, "Grizzlies host Montana invitational slope meet" (1971). *University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present*. 24702.
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GRIZZLIES HOST
MONTANA INVITATIONAL
SLOPE MEET

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE



MISSOULA--
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Five teams will compete for the University of Montana Invitational ski title this weekend at Snow Bowl, Grizzly coach Rusty Lyons said Thursday.

Lyons said he has received entries from Idaho, Boise State, Montana State, and Selkirk College (British Columbia) and expects more than fifty skiers to compete in the two day event.

The meet gets underway Saturday at 11 a.m. with the downhill competition followed by the cross country event at 2 p.m. The slalom competition begins Sunday at 10:30 a.m. followed by the jumping finals at 2 p.m.

Lyons said the meet is the final competition for the Grizzly skiers before the Big Sky finals scheduled for Feb. 18-20 at Snow Basin near Ogden, Utah. Weber is hosting the conference meet and is the only alpine team to defeat Montana this season.

The Montana coach said the meet this weekend should boil down to a "nip-and-tuck" race between Montana and Montana State for the title. "We'll know how strong Montana State will be in the conference after this weekend," Lyons said. The Bobcats are tabbed as the major hurdle in the Grizzly's path to their second consecutive Big Sky championship.

Lyons said he was impressed with the progress of the Grizzly team. "We've had some bad breaks in scheduling, but I think our skiers have progressed very well for their limited competition."

Last weekend the Grizzlies nearly dumped national ski power Wyoming at the Banff International meet in Canada. The Cowboy's, fifth place finisher in the NCAA finals in 1970, scored 348.1 points to Montana's 342.9 second place total. MSU finished fourth with 312.4.

Montana also won its first jumping title at Banff. The Grizzlies defeated Wyoming, a team that lost the NCAA jumping title to Denver last year by one point, 97.6-96.6.

Lyons said the nordic skiers have progressed very well. "We knew we had a strong alpine team at the beginning of the season, but our jumping section of the nordic unit was questionable."

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GRIZZLIES HOST MONTANA INVITATIONAL--2

The Montana coach expects his cross country skiers to do better this weekend. "We used the wrong wax at Banff or we would have been in the money," he said.

Montana and Montana State plan to divide their alpine teams into A and B sections. Competing on the A team for Montana will be defending downhill champion Tom Zachary, Big Sky downhill runnerup, Kenn Hugos, Mike Dillon, Bob Gordon and Craig Menteer.

On the Grizzlies B unit are Frank Freeman, Steve Brooksbank, John Moran, Dave Healow and Mike Rogers.

Competing on the Grizzly nordic unit will be Gary Keltz, Dillon; Claus Urbye, Jon Williamson, Allan Anderson and Zachary.

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