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Grizzly steeplechase earns NCAA finals berth

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GRIZZLY STEEPLECHASE EARNS
NCAA FINALS BERTH

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University of Montana steeplechase, Geroge Cook, was the first Grizzly to qualify for the NCAA finals in Seattle, Wash., June 17-18.

Cook won the 3,000-meter steeplechase at the University of Washington Invitational last Saturday with a 9:00.4 clocking. He was 18.1 seconds ahead of the second place runner.

Cook's time established a new school record at the University of Montana. The Highland Falls, N.Y., native, set the UM record last year, 9:13.2. He is the defending Big Sky steeplechase champion and his time was 24.2 seconds better than the existing conference record. Cook is a sophomore.

Coach Harley Lewis said Cook's time is one of the best in the nation. "We'll know how good his time is when the Track and Field News listings come out later this week," the Montana coach said.

Lewis said Cook's effort was tremendous for this time of year. The Grizzly mentor plans to enter Cook in the mile and two-mile this weekend at the Eastern Montana Invitational. His best mile effort was 4:25.9 and in the two mile he has run 9:25.2.

Lewis said qualifying time for the NCAA finals was 9:07. Cook's time would have placed seventh in last year's finals. Bowling Green's Sidney Sink won the national championship with an 8:40.9 time.

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