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Big Sky swim meet this weekend

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BIG SKY SWIM MEET
 THIS WEEKEND
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MISSOULA--

The University of Montana swimming team seeks its eighth straight Big Sky Championship in Spokane, Washington, Thursday, Friday and Saturday as Gonzaga University hosts the Big Sky finals.

Although Montana soundly defeated the University of Idaho in dual competition earlier in the season, coach Fred Stetson labels the Vandals as the team to beat. The Vandals have great team depth and Stetson said that this would count heavily in the team scoring. Montana beat Idaho 74-39 January 19.

The first six placers in each event are awarded points. Last year Montana edged the Vandals by one-half point.

Stetson expects strong individual showings from Dave Garard, John Collier and Richard Bleakman.

Garard is the defending champion in the 50-, 100- and 200-yard freestyle sprints. The Missoula senior also qualified for the NCAA Championships last year. He is the Big Sky record-holder in all three events.

Collier is a sophomore butterfly specialist. He is the defending champ in the 100- and 200-yard butterfly events, and like Garard, is the conference record-holder in the two races.

Bleakman is a freshman from Portland, Oregon, and a fine breaststroker. He broke the school record in the 100-yard breaststroke early in the season and should contend for first in both the 100- and 200-yard races.

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