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FOUR LETTERMEN RETURN FOR UM
MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY TEAM
guffey/jg

MISSOULA--

Four lettermen return for the 1979 University of Montana cross country season, which begins September 15th with a team run.

Topping the list are veterans Tom Raunig and Dave Gordon, both juniors and two-year lettermen. Scott Browning, a senior and a two-year lettermen, and senior Kevin Nichols are the other returning letter winners.

"Tom Raunig could be an effective force on our team," said coach Marshall Clark. "If so, he will take pressure off Dave Gordon. Those two are keys to our season."

"Of course, the confidence the team will have with a couple of our runners who can perform with us will benefit the entire team," Clark added. "We also have some other runners with good potential."

Clark, who takes over the harrier reigns for Will Cheesman, who will devote all of his time to the women's cross country squad, said it is important to have six or seven top runners. "The top five score, but you need depth to be effective."

Raunig placed 56th in the Region last year, and was hampered most of the season with nagging injuries. He redshirted this past track season, and has yet to return to full form.

Marshall cited junior college transfer Mike Brady (Spokane CC) and freshman recruit Pat Allen from Eugene, Oregon as two men who could greatly help the program. Brady is a sophomore.

"We've got to do better than last year," said Clark. "We were 14th out of 16 schools in the Region. Our distance runners haven't measured up like they have to,

FOUR LETTERMEN RETURN FOR UM MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

with the exception of Bob Boland, who performed so well in the Big Sky track meet. Boland was also UM's top finisher in last season's Regional cross country meet, placing 47th. He graduated this past year.

"We need to work even harder this year," said Clark. "Reno (which is joining the conference this year) is extremely tough, and Northern Arizona (the defending Big Sky champion) has almost its entire team coming back. The conference will be strong."

The Grizzlies will have back-to-back home meets in 1979, beginning Saturday, Oct. 6th with Boise State, and the following Saturday, Oct. 13, with Washington State.

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