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GRIZZLY SKIERS IN STEAMBOAT SPRINGS FOR NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP MEET

MISSOULA--

Gary Nelson and his University of Montana ski team, with 18 days to practice and rest since their last competition, left Missoula Sunday for Steamboat Springs, Colo. to prepare for the NCAA Ski Championships Thursday through Saturday.

The Grizzlies qualified as a team for the national event by placing second in the Big Sky Conference Championships nearly one month ago at McCall, Idaho.

Nelson has been extremely pleased with the progress his team has made since its opening meet. He said the effort displayed by the Grizzlies at the Big Sky Meet was the best as a team all year.

"The guys are real anxious to get going at Steamboat Springs," Nelson said. "They know their chances as a team of placing high are not good, but they want to see how they can do against the toughest college competition possible."

Teams from throughout the United States will compete in the three-day meet. Nelson says Denver University, which has won the title for several years running, is considered the favorite to repeat this year.

One major change in Grizzly plans is that Mick Hagestad, freshman from Kalispell, will compete in all four events, and Nelson thinks he could make a good showing for the Skimeister Trophy, which goes to the skier who compiles the most individual points in all four events.

Dave Lloyd, freshman from Claresholm, Alta., won the trophy at the Big Sky Meet, and will also be on hand at Steamboat Springs.

Other Grizzly skiers competing will be Rick Gibbon, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho junior, in the slalom, downhill and cross country; Tim Fredrickson, Spokane, Wash. sophomore, in the slalom, and downhill; Rusty Lyons, Walla Walla, Wash. junior, in all four; John Dobbins, Kennewick, Wash. sophomore, in slalom, jumping and cross country, and Tim Potter, Washington, Conn. freshman in downhill.