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Recommended Citation

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations, "Grizzly harriers face toughest loop challenge in dual meet with Idaho State University" (1968). *University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present*. 4076.

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10-17-68
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GRIZZLY HARRIERS FACE TOUGHEST LOOP CHALLENGE IN DUAL MEET WITH IDAHO STATE SATURDAY

MISSOULA---

University of Montana cross country runners will face their first dual meet competition of the season Saturday, and it will be a tough test.

The opponent will be Idaho State University, the school Coach Harley Lewis says the Grizzlies have to beat to take the Big Sky Conference championship for the second consecutive year.

Lewis said that according to best times and comparative performances of individuals on both teams, Idaho State should win a narrow victory. Idaho State figures that the Grizzlies should be favored. Any way you look at it, it should be close.

The Grizzlies finished third behind Washington State and Whitworth College at Moscow, Idaho last Saturday, while Idaho State was taking its first loss, a thumping at the hands of New Mexico and Utah.

But Montana's Wade Jacobsen continued his individual unbeaten string at Moscow with his third straight win.

Running with Jacobsen for the Grizzlies in Pocatello Saturday morning will be junior Ray Velez of San Bernadino, Calif.; freshman Howie Johnson of Anaconda; senior Mick Harrington of Missoula; freshman Tim O'Hare of Billings; sophomore Ray Ballew of Sunburst, and freshman Bob Conway of Great Falls.

Idaho State's strongest runner thus far has been Kenya native Nelson Karagu, a sophomore, although he was beaten badly in last Saturday's triangular meet at Utah. Helping Karagu out will be Mike Isola, Wes Maughn, John McNeese, Kurt Lawson, Tony Rodriguez and Ron Watters.

"We've got no special strategy for Saturday except to run like our lives depended on it," Lewis said.