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GRIZZLY HARRIERS UNDERDOGS IN LOOP MEET DESPITE CLAIMS BY FAVORED IDAHO STATE

MISSOULA---

Idaho State experts may say otherwise, but Harley Lewis, University of Montana cross country coach, says the Grizzlies will have to be rated as underdogs with only a slight chance for even second place at the Big Sky Cross Country Championships this Saturday at Pocatello, Idaho.

Lewis was firm in his statement that it would take quite some doing for the defending champion Grizzlies to come out on top, but he did admit that sophomore Wade Jacobsen of Simms would have to be considered the individual favorite, since he is undefeated in five outings this fall.

"But even Wade's standing is questionable," Lewis said, "because, although he has beaten every runner he has faced this fall, he has not run against Weber State's Bob Wallace, and Wallace has been running real well." Jacobsen has beaten every other conference runner.

"If every one on our team runs his lifetime best, we would have only a fair chance at a conference victory," Lewis stated. "The whole thing rides in the hearts of my seven men."

Montana has competed in five meets this fall, and has won but two. In the opening meet, the Eastern Montana Invitational at Billings, the Grizzlies easily outdistanced Eastern Montana, Kearney State of Nebraska, and Rocky Mountain College of Billings. Jacobsen set an Eastern course record in that one.

Early in October, the Grizzlies finished second, close behind Whitworth College, in the Eastern Washington State College Invitational at Cheney, Wash. The Grizzlies placed ahead of Central Washington, Eastern Washington, Whitman College and Gonzaga University.

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One week later, the Grizzly harriers travelled to Moscow, Idaho for the University of Idaho Invitational, and this time finished third behind Washington State and Whitworth, and ahead of Idaho and Eastern Washington.

On Oct. 19, the Grizzlies lost badly, 24-35, in a dual meet with Idaho State at Pocatello, but Jacobsen won again in course record time.

Montana had its own invitational meet two weeks ago, and scored a perfect tally of 15 points in beating Montana State and Eastern Washington as Jacobsen made it five in a row. The Grizzlies were idle last weekend.

Running for Montana in the Big Sky Meet Saturday, with their finishes in the five completed meets shown in order in parentheses, will be the following:

Jacobsen (five firsts); junior Ray Velez of San Bernadino, Calif. (3rd, 4th, 5th, 4th and 2nd); freshman Howie Johnson of Anaconda (6th, 7th, 14th, 7th and 3rd); senior Mick Harrington of Missoula (14th, 21st, didn't run, 11th and 4th); sophomore Ray Ballew of Sunburst (didn't run, didn't run, 25th, 12th and 5th); freshman Tim O'Hare of Billings (15th, 22nd, 23rd, 13th and 8th), and sophomore Steve Linse of Snohomish, Wash. (didn't run, 18th, didn't run, didn't run, and 10th).