

University of Montana

ScholarWorks at University of Montana

University of Montana News Releases, 1928,
1956-present

University Relations

12-3-1969

University of Montana's Velez runs 2nd fastest 2-mile

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/newsreleases>

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Recommended Citation

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations, "University of Montana's Velez runs 2nd fastest 2-mile" (1969). *University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present*. 5361.
<https://scholarworks.umt.edu/newsreleases/5361>

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the University Relations at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact scholarworks@mso.umt.edu.



um



sports

UM'S VELEZ RUNS
2ND FASTEST 2-MILE

schwartz/js
12/3/69
sports one

MISSOULA---

Information Services • University of Montana • Missoula, Montana 59801 • (406) 243-2522

What does a top track man do in his spare time on a vacation? If you're University of

Montana's Ray Velez, you run.

In fact, Velez, from San Bernardino, Calif., ran so well, he became the second fastest two-miler in UM history last Tuesday, although the mark will have to be classified "unofficial."

Velez, a wiry 130-pounder, who was a major factor in UM winning the Big Sky cross-country championships this year, decided to run with the UCLA team during the Thanksgiving holidays, just to keep in shape.

Running in a special two-mile event, Velez finished fifth, and the watch read 9:03.1.

Officially, the best 2-mile outdoor mark for any UM athlete is 8:59.0 by Doug Brown in 1967. Indoors, Brown has an 8:51.0 to his credit, accomplished in 1965.

"I was in shape, running on UCLA's \$150,000 Tartan track, and the low altitude helped as well as the tough competition," Velez said. "I don't think I can ever do as well at higher altitude." Los Angeles is 340 feet above sea level, Missoula, 3,200.

There were 11 members of the UCLA cross-country team in the race with Velez. Winning time was 8:53 by Neil Sybert. Ron Fister, Ruben Mejia and Hartzell Alpizar were second, third and fourth, respectively.

The UCLA team was third in Pacific-8 cross-country team competition last season.

Harley
Montana's coach/Lewis was highly pleased by Velez' performance and said "it was a great effort for this time of the year."

Lewis has submitted Velez' name to various indoor track invitational meets in Canada, where he hopes to compete this season.

Velez is 22 and majoring in physical education and history. He expects to graduate in December 1970 but expects to enter military service. Velez is a member of the Reserve Officer Training Corps.

###