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Montana opens cross country season

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE



sports

MISSOULA ---

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Saturday morning the 1970 Grizzly cross country team opens its season in defense of the Big Sky crown in Missoula against the Weber State Wildcats.

Last November Harley Lewis's runners swept the first three places in the conference finals at Moscow, Ida. and won the title for the second time in the five years Lewis has coached at Montana.

Only one runner is gone from last season and Lewis has two time titlist Wade Jacobsen returning along with third place conference winner George Cook. Ray Valez, second place finisher, is helping Lewis coach the squad this season.

In 1969, Montana opened its season whitewashing Weber, 15-45, in Ogden and went undefeated. This year Lewis again opens with the Wildcats at 11 a.m. Saturday at the University of Montana Golf Course.

Last Saturday, Weber competed in the University of Nevada-Las Vegas Invitational and coach Chick Hislop had five freshmen competing. Fourteen teams competed in the event and Weber placed tenth.

The Las Vegas meet pitted the runners according to their place in time trials prior to the meet and the number one runners from each school competed against each other and so on down through number seven.

The top Weber finisher was freshman John Wolthius who placed sixth in the sixth man division. He is Weber's number two runner currently behind senior Brian Hansen.

Montana spent last Saturday tuning up for the 1970 season. Lewis ran a time trial over a three mile course at the UM Golf Course. Wade Jacobsen and George Cook were clocked at 15:27 in a tie for first and Lewis was pleased with their times. Last year Jacobsen was clocked at 15:29 in the first time trial over the same course.

(more)

MONTANA OPENS CROSS COUNTRY SEASON -- 2

Freshman Wes Priestly, Spokane, finished third at 15:32 with sophomore Boyd Collins finishing a surprising fourth at 15:43. Spokane freshman Mark Ryan was fifth with 15:45.

Lewis said the time split of 18 seconds between the first and fifth runner isn't too bad; however, the 23 second split between the first and seventh runner was not quite as pleasing.

Montana's sixth runner Saturday will be sophomore Bob Malkemes and the seventh man will be Tim O'Hare. The others competing for the Grizzlies are Howard Johnson, Al Stockdale and Dick Miller.

Weber will have five freshmen and senior Hansen running Saturday. Competing along with Wolthus among newcomers are Bruce Carling, Robert Hyde, Gary Harris and Dan Walker.

Lewis said Montana will have its work cut out for it in defense of the conference title. Newcomer Northern Arizona is favored to dethrone the Grizzlies and Idaho State is again rated a power.

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