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EASTERN MONTANA MEET
CANCELED

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MISSOULA--

The Montana-Eastern Montana cross country meet scheduled for Saturday has been canceled due to scheduling difficulties, Harley Lewis said Wednesday.

Lewis, in his fifth year as Grizzly track and cross country coach, said it might be a good thing the meet was canceled. "I think five mile races on five consecutive weekends might be too much for us to handle." The next Montana action will be in Vancouver, B.C. when the Grizzlies take on the Vancouver Olympic Club in Stanley Park, one of the most scenic courses the Montana runners will compete on this year.

The Montana coach said the 25-30 win over Idaho State last weekend was a great psychological lift to his runners. It was the first time a Lewis-coached cross country team has defeated Idaho State in Pocatello.

Lewis said his runners ran very well and he feels Wade Jacobsen can beat Mike Isola in the Big Sky finals. The ISU senior broke the tape for the five mile course in a record 25:10 time. Jacobsen was right behind Isola with 25:11. The old course record was set by Scott Brainhurst, Utah, 1970 at 26:06.

"Wade let Isola get too far ahead and couldn't catch him on the kick. He'll have to break him before the final stretch," Lewis said. The next time the two runners meet is in the Big Sky meet on November 14 in Bozeman over a five mile course.

In Saturday's meet, the first five runners finished in record time. ISU's Nelson Karagu was third with 25:33 and Montana's George Cook, Wes Priestly and Boyd Collins were fourth, fifth and sixth consecutively. Cook and Priestly were under 26 minutes and Collins ran 26:09.

Other Montana finishers included Bob Malkemes, eighth at 26:33, Al Stockdale, eleventh at 27:08 and Howard Johnson, thirteenth at 27:34.

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Lewis said after the ISU meet that the championship battle should be between Montana and Idaho State. Northern Arizona will be a close third.

In comparing times between the three schools, Lewis said it will be hard to beat NAU sophomore Richard Sliney, who is yet to be defeated. Sliney is 4-0 and has run 30:19 for 5.9 miles, which is equivalent to a 25:22 five mile.

Sliney has run against some of the toughest competition in the nation. In the University of Arizona Invitational he defeated runners from UTEP (University of Texas El Paso) which was the 1969 NCAA cross country championship team. Last year UTEP runners ran three, five, nine, twenty-six and thirty-one in the national meet in New York. The entire UTEP team is back in 1970.

Sliney's English teammate, Richard Selby, will also be tough to beat. Selby ran 32:05 in the 5.9 mile and last weekend against the University of Arizona he ran 22:47 for four miles in a dual meet at Flagstaff. The time would have been better at sea level as Flagstaff is 6,000 feet in elevation. Sliney's winning time last week was 21:44.2.

The other NAU runners are farther back and shouldn't pose a threat to Montana and Idaho State runners, Lewis said.

Lewis has his runners taking light workouts this week and will leave for Vancouver next Friday.

Montana is 2-1 in the season, losing only to Washington State in the Idaho Invitational two weeks ago. Idaho State is 3-1.

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