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Montana University swimmers win eight events in division finals

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MISSOULA—Montana University swimmers, winners of eight events in division finals last weekend, engage in Skyline title splashing this weekend in the University of New Mexico pool at Albuquerque, N.M. The meet opens Thursday.

The Grizzlies finished second behind a strong University of Utah tank crew in the western division finals at Missoula last Saturday. And, surprisingly enough, the Montana tankers won more races than the Utes. But Utah’s overall depth paid off for many extra places.

Montana mentor Bud Wallace flatly predicts that his tankmen are good for third place or better in the championship match. "We stand an excellent chance of winning six or seven events, and this should be enough to move us into contention with the favorites, Utah and Wyoming," he commented.

Wyoming’s new ace, Jerry Lipman, was the only eastern division swimmer who matched Montana’s times in the eight events won by the Grizzlies last weekend. Lipman and Montana’s Ivan Jacobsen are far ahead of the field in the butterfly races, and their duels this weekend should be among the best matches of the title fray. Montana sophomore Gary Homme will be among the leaders in both freestyle sprints.

Junior Wayne Veeneman, the most improved performer on the squad, will probably rate as favorite in both breaststroke events. Veeneman was under the conference record in winning both races last week. Diver Bill Brubaker, second in the conference last season, will battle for a title with Russ Sneddon of Utah and Lyle Parker of New Mexico.

Montana’s medley relay team, timed in a record-breaking 4:03.5 last week, is an odds-on favorite to retain their Skyline title. And distance ace Bob McKinnon is capable of winning plenty of points in the freestyle events. Others who could score are backstroker Doug James, diver Gary Groshelle, and freestylers John Vaught and Bob Schuette.

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