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Grizzly sports column

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GRIZZLY SPORTS COLUMN

MISSOULA---The first national collegiate ski meet ever held in Montana is scheduled this weekend at Bridger Bowl near Bozeman, and Montana University has two prime entries in slalom expert Rudy Ruana and jumper John Manz.

Like swimming, skiing is one of the fastest-growing sports at MSU and around the state generally. And Grizzly coaches Bob Steele and Homer Anderson say the Montana entries in the NCAA match won't take a back seat to anyone. "The quality of talent here at MSU has improved tremendously in the past few seasons, and Montana State College also has had some fine ski teams in recent years."

Ruana, a junior from Milltown, should rate as one of the best five or six collegiate slalom men in the nation. The blond Grizzly captured first place in the slalom event 10 days ago in the NCAA qualifying meet at Bridger Bowl, turning in his fastest time of the season. Ruana previously had won first places in two other collegiate meets this season. In 1958 he was 7th in the NCAA slalom.

Manz is a junior who specializes in the jumping events and cross-country race. He hails from New Haven, Conn., and has been a member of the MSU ski team for three seasons.

The University coaches also have long been active in the slat sport. Steele is a University forestry professor who has been skiing for a number of years. Anderson is the MSU Public Service director who was active in establishing Bridger Bowl as a major ski run several years ago.

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