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GRIZZLY HARRIERS FINISH FOURTH IN USTFF CROSS COUNTRY EVENT

MISSOULA---

University of Montana senior Fred Friesz ran fourth for the first five miles of the six-mile United States Track and Field Federation Cross Country championships Thursday, but suffered stomach cramps, had to drop out momentarily, then came back to finish 27th in a field of 198 runners.

Although Wade Jacobsen was the top Grizzly finisher in 21st place, Montana still came away from Ft. Collins, Colo. with a fourth-place team finish in the national event, and rated second among the college teams entered.

Other Grizzly runners finishing in the meet held in 20-degree weather, 40 mile-per-hour winds and 10 inches of snow, were Ray Velez, 35th; Ray Ballew, 51st; Steve Linse, 60th, and Mick Harrington, 75th.

Former Montana distance ace Doug Brown, now attending the University of Wyoming, finished 15th in the event running for the Cowboy Track Club, headquartered at the Laramie school, which took the team title.

Following the Cowboy Track Club were the BYU Track Club, Western Michigan University, Montana, Colorado, Colorado State, Houston, Air Force and Southern Illinois University.

The individual winner was Arjan Gelling of North Dakota University, followed by Ray Barres of BYU, Jim Murphy of the Air Force, Duane Richey of the University of Pittsburgh and Wayne Jensen of the championship Cowboy team.

Montana coach Harley Lewis, whose team had won the Big Sky Conference championship Nov. 11 in Missoula, was pleased with the performances of his runners, especially Friesz.

"I feel quite certain Fred could have finished in the top five if he hadn't come down with cramps," Lewis said. "But I'm extremely proud that he didn't quit. Actually, 27th was a good finish after dropping out for awhile.

"And I was proud of the other five also," he said.