MSU-Northern Starts Cross Country This Fall  
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MSU-Northern News Services

Havre - MSU-Northern recently announced their decision to begin men's and women's Cross Country this fall.

Northern's Athletic Director Christian Oberquell explained the main two-fold reasoning behind pursuing this athletics addition. "We want to help grow our Athletics programs and do what we can to help the Frontier Conference," Oberquell explained. For the Frontier Conference to be affiliated with the NAIA in Cross Country, six teams must participate within the Conference. Northern hopes its choice to start Cross Country will inspire other schools to pursue the opportunity as well. The Frontier Conference is looking for growth overall, hoping to persuade every school (within the Frontier Conference) to introduce each sport the others have so they will all compete in the same sports.

The school is aiming to recruit ten runners for the women's team and ten for the men's. They need five athletes to compete but would like to secure ten for this first season. Recruiters will scour the Hi-Line for future Lights runners, as there are strong cross country programs in and around the Havre area. If more students walk on, that will be a welcomed development.

Cross country is a low-maintenance sport in regards to equipment and meets. The travel for these meets will not be as extensive and arduous as it is for some sports, with almost every meet being held in the state of Montana. The individual times will qualify the individuals and teams for the national meet. Cross country is the perfect addition to Northern’s sports lineup at the present time since it is not an expensive sport to implement and operate, and the school already has money set aside from a past team implementation that did not come to fruition. The teams will use the route already in place on the MSUN campus, so there will not be extra costs for the construction of training facilities.

Northern's Athletic Department and the college as a whole is excited to see the MSU-Northern cross country teams' futures unfold and shine like stunning Northern Lights.

Montana State University-Northern  
P.O. Box 7751  
Havre, MT 59501-7751  
Phone: 406-265-3727  
Contact: Jim Potter, Director of University Relations  
potterj@msun.edu