



University of Great Falls  
**ARGONAUTS**

## **SPORTS INFORMATION \* NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Great Falls Cross Country to Host Historic Frontier Conference Meet**

**Great Falls, MT** – This Friday, November 5, the University of Great Falls Cross Country Team will be hosting the Frontier Conference Championships at Eagle Falls Golf Course. The men's 8 kilometer race is scheduled to start at 11 am and the women's 5 kilometer race is set to begin at 11:45 am. "It is an honor for our cross country teams to host this championship meet. Our team has actually never had a home cross country meet in school history so the student-athletes are really excited to showcase all of their hard work in front of the home crowd," explained University of Great Falls **Interim Athletic Director Gary Ehnes**.

Not only is this the first time in school history for the Argos to host the NAIA National Qualifying Meet, but it is the first time in the history of the Frontier Conference that six schools will be competing in the meet. Montana Tech will be sending a complete men's and women's team to the meet for the first time in their school history. Five runners are needed to have a scoring team.

With six teams competing, the top men's and top women's team earns an automatic bid to the NAIA National Cross Country Championship Meet in Vancouver, Washington on November 19. The top 5 individuals that are not on a qualifying team and finish in the top 15 overall will also earn a spot to the national meet.

The conference meet will feature four nationally ranked teams as of the latest NAIA Coach's poll on October 27. The University of Great Falls men's team was ranked #24 behind Lewis Clark State College men's team who ranked #13. Carroll College women's team captured the #16 ranking as Lewis Clark State College women's team ranked #24.

In 2009, the Lady Argo Cross Country team finished second overall in the Frontier Conference Championship with the men's team finishing third. Great Falls has sent individuals to the NAIA National Championship Meet over the past three years under the leadership of Head Coach Jim Brewer. The national

qualifiers comprised of **Alejandra Borunda** (2007), **Shane Donaldson** and **Jared Reyes** (2008), and **Tiffany (Gibson) Elias** (2009).

“We’re hopeful this is not our senior men’s captains **Cullen Cantwell (Everett, WA)** and **Mitchell Elias’ (Monroe, WA)** last race. The men’s team has had a phenomenal season highlighted by their race in Salem, Oregon in early October beating several nationally ranked teams including # 19 Vanguard University and #23 Concordia University (Oregon). Our men know they can compete at the national level but it’s a matter of letting our legs do the talking and qualifying for the meet. Our conference has really improved the past four years so it will be a great race at Eagle Falls,” stated **Head Coach Jim Brewer**.

“Our women’s team has steadily improved all season long with almost everyone setting significant personal records at one race or another. I really think our women will surprise some teams at the conference meet. We also have some individuals with a great shot at qualifying for the national meet. We don’t have any seniors on the women’s side, so we’ll be even stronger next year with everyone returning,” explained Brewer.