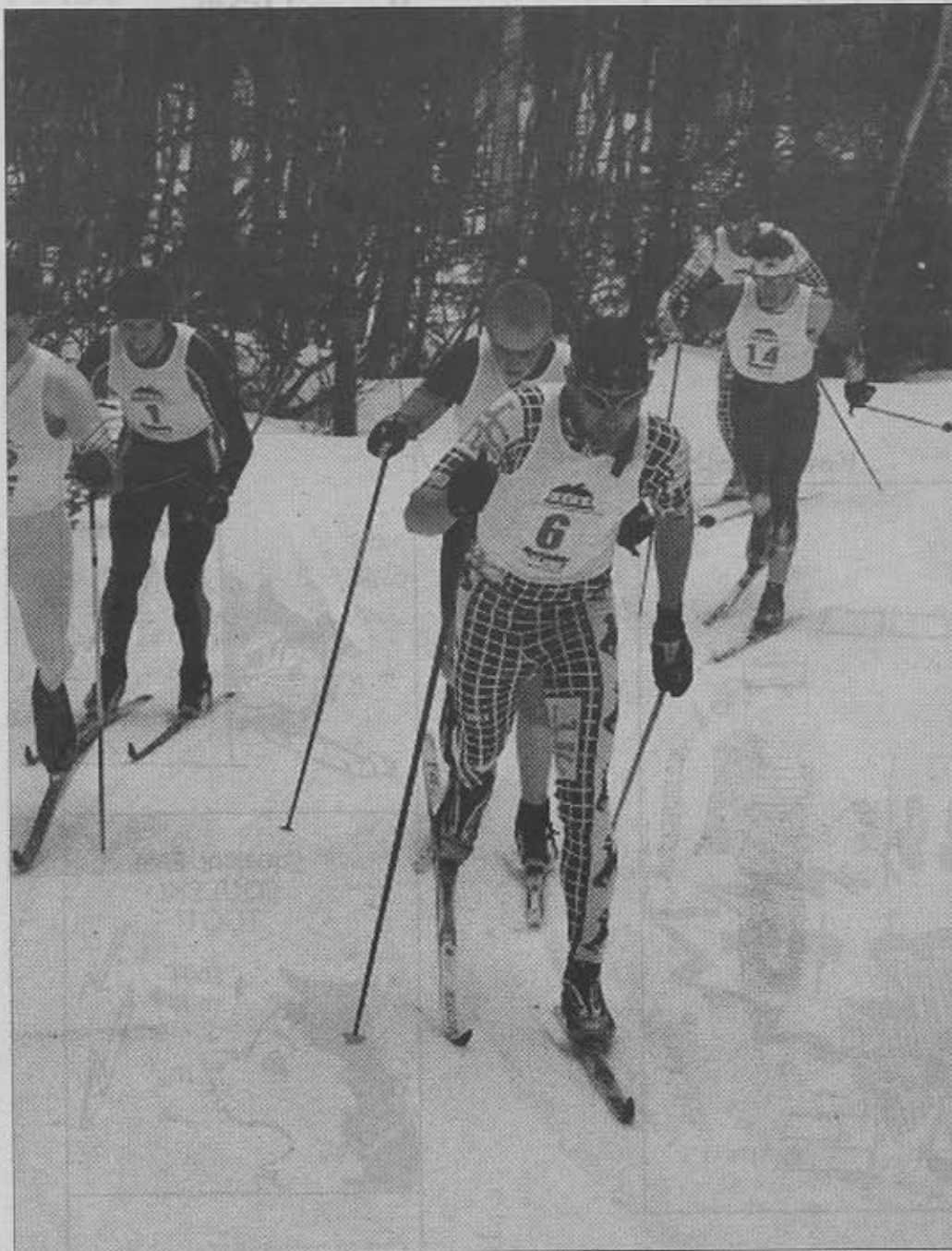


Nordic ski team hosts race tomorrow



Courtesy

Riley Hopeman outraces a pack of skiers during a recent competition. 28-29 skiers from Wyoming, as well as all the teams from the Mountain West Conference, will attend the annual Cowboy Chase near Happy Jack tomorrow.

Bobby Mills

Branding Iron Sports Editor

After spending most of the season on the road, the UW Nordic ski team comes home this weekend to play host for the annual Cowboy Chase on the Pole Mountain Ski Trails near Happy Jack.

At 10 a.m. tomorrow, a 7.5 km race will kick off the weekend, followed by Sunday's 15 km race that starts at 9:30 a.m.

"It's good because the [UW skiers] train on those trails at Happy Jack and it's nice because they won't have to travel very far," UW head coach Christi Boggs said Thursday in a telephone interview.

All teams in the Rocky Mountain Conference of the U.S. Collegiate Ski and Snowboard Association will be present for the races, except the Colorado School of Mines.

Wyoming is expected to have the largest contingency of skiers for the chase. Upwards of 28-29 UW skiers are expected to be present for the races.

Air Force's ski team will likely field

12-13 skiers, while Colorado State and Colorado Mountain College will also participate.

In addition, regular UW students who are not signed up with the club are encouraged to participate in the races. A \$15 registration fee is required for participation in one race and \$20 for the entire weekend. Registration will begin an hour before each race and will end when the race starts.

Individuals who want to participate may also register on line at the team's website: www.uwyo.edu/ski.

Despite being only a club sport, the UW ski team has been one of the best teams in the country over the last couple years.

The women's team took first in Nationals the last two years, while the men took third in 2004 and second in 2003.

"It's kind of cool because we're beating other schools that are varsity and have a lot more funding," Boggs said.

Two weeks after the chase, several team members will compete in the USAFA Invitational in Winter Park, Colo. Then they head off to the USCSA Nationals in McCall, Idaho to be held March 7-13.

