

# UW Nordic team looks to three-peat at nationals

**BY BOOMERANG STAFF**

After finishing in first place in all eight races this season, the University of Wyoming Nordic women's and men's ski teams hope to end the season unbeaten at next week's United States Collegiate Ski and Snowboard Association National Championships at the Brundage Mountain Resort, just outside of McCall, Idaho.

The Cowgirls will be seeking their third consecutive national title. The championships begin with a 1.5 kilometer sprint race on Tuesday; the 15km freestyle race March 9; the 8.5km classic race March 11; and the relay on March 12.

Members of the UW women's

team include Kristen and Kari Boroff, a senior and freshman, respectively, from Pinedale; Erika Edgely, a senior from Lake Placid, N.Y.; Christine Robinson, a senior from Casper; Melissa Gangl, a sophomore from Casper; and Ava Bell, a junior from Laramie.

"The women's team as a whole is actually faster and has more depth than the teams from the last two seasons," said Wyoming coach Christi Boggs, technology coordinator in the UW College of Education. "The seniors on this team want to go out on top, so they are extremely motivated. Barring any unpleasant surprises, they will be hard to beat."

All of the UW women have

attended the national meet in the past with the exception of first-year skier, Kari Boroff, who is ranked second on the team behind her sister. Kristen Boroff and Gangl placed second in different races at last year's national competition behind three-time national champion racer, Jennifer Kinner of Casper.

"Kristen has made a huge jump in speed and is looking to be as fast as Jennifer was," Boggs said. "If she can just stay healthy and ski well she'll be hard to catch."

On the men's team are juniors Riley Hopeman and Joe Howdyshell, sophomores Collin McRann and Josh Peterson, and freshmen Ben Miller and Brain

Sebade, all from Lander; and Adam Alspach, junior of Casper.

The Cowboys return all of its athletes, except the two freshmen and Howdyshell, who is a transfer student from the United States Military Academy.

"All of them are skiing faster than last season, and with the addition of Joe, who placed second at nationals last year for the academy, we are amazingly solid and seem to have the best shot at the title of any men's team we've had in the past," Boggs said.

Both Hopeman and Kristen Boroff have won every race this season, and the pair should be favored to win individual titles at the national meet.