

2018 Montana Cup
(recap by Dan Crawford)

If you have lived in Montana any time at all. You know how fickle the weather can be. However one constant in Great Falls is the wind! Especially in the fall. Setting up Friday was no exception. We started out with rocks in our pockets to keep from blowing away in the 15-20 MPH sustained winds. The set up crew looked at each other with concern... Was our layout still going to be there for The Saturday race or were we going to be picking Orange "tumbleweeds" off the fences?? Saturday morning came and the first to arrive was pleased to see flagging and orange cones where they were supposed to be. In fact, conditions were much better than expected — gorgeous, cloudless sky and ideal temperatures in the mid-50s. While there was certainly some wind on the course, it was nowhere near as intense as Set up on Friday.

The first runners Started showing up around 10 for the women's race start at noon. At the gun competitors experienced a challenging course that took advantage of the rolling hills of the Anaconda Hills Golf Course. Those that have run this course before recognized the first mile as it was part of the last MT cup held here and High school XC course. Miles 2 and 3 were a surprise as the golf course had closed for the season and we were able to take runners to the back 9 and run the more difficult hills there. These miles had a great mix of long gradual hills and short steep inclines to gently grind your legs to a pulp...YOU'RE WELCOME! We completed the race with one last steep incline and a fast sprint for the last 200 yards to finish.

Following the meet, participants travelled to the Pit Stop for the awards ceremony, lunch, and camaraderie. At that gathering, Run Wild Missoula Executive Director Tony Banovich announced that Missoula's Meg Brooker had been inducted into the Montana Cup Hall of Fame (congrats Meg!):

<https://montanacup.wordpress.com/hof/>

Team Summary

Open Women: Missoula

Masters Women: Helena

Open Men: Missoula

Masters Men: Helena

All Montana Cup -- Women's Open

- 1) Mary Owen, Billings
- 2) Nicole Murray, Butte
- 3) Marilee Woyth, Great Falls
- 4) Ana Brown, Bozeman
- 5) Katy White, Missoula
- 6) Elizabeth Paddock, Missoula
- 7) Alyson Zellner, Great Falls

All Montana Cup -- Women's Masters

- 1) Nicole Murray, Butte
- 2) Alyson Zellner, Great Falls
- 3) Debbie Gibson, Helena
- 4) Cori Stern, Missoula
- 5) Emily Thiessen, Helena
- 6) Leigh Holleman, Bozeman
- 7) Beth Shumate, Helena

All Montana Cup -- Women's Junior

- 1) Hailey Nielson, Butte
- 2) Kylee Wetzel, Helena
- 3) Odessa Zentz, Helena
- 4) Ella Krumm, Helena
- 5) Annie Menden, Helena
- 6) Willa McArdle, Helena
- 7) Elisabeth Davidson, Helena

All Montana Cup -- Men's Open

- 1) Nicolas Composto, Missoula
- 2) Jorey Egeland, Billings
- 3) Cesar Mireles, Billings
- 4) Jesse Zentz, Helena
- 5) Monte Cole, Helena
- 6) Jimmy Grant, Missoula
- 7) Graydon Curry, Bozeman

All Montana Cup -- Men's Masters

- 1) Jesse Zentz, Helena
- 2) Jimmy Grant, Missoula
- 3) Chad Carr, Bozeman
- 4) Patrick Judge, Helena
- 5) Bill Brist, Great Falls
- 6) Kyle Strode, Helena
- 7) David Morris, Helena

All Montana Cup -- Men's Junior

- 1) Jonah Fisher, Helena
- 2) Henry Kakalecik, Great Falls
- 3) Sam Sullivan, Helena
- 4) Tyler Jost, Helena
- 5) Jacob Curry, Helena
- 6) Ethan Nelson, Helena
- 7) Ian Lovshin, Helena