

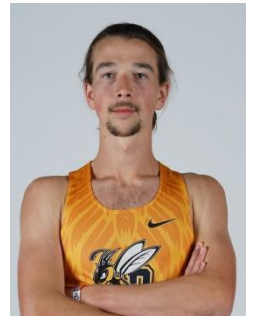
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Montana Mile Kicks Off State Games

The 2025 Montana Mile, sponsored by Billings West End Walmart, marks the 34rd race for men and the 26th race for women. The race is one of the most anticipated events of the Big Sky State Games Opening Ceremonies at Lockwood High School Stadium and is scheduled at approximately 8:15-8:30 p.m. Friday, July 18. The Montana Mile is an invitational race featuring some of the state's fastest high school, college, and post-collegiate milers.

Ase Ackerman

Ase Ackerman had a successful athletic career at Montana State University Billings, competing in both track and field and cross country. The former Dawson County High School runner was named a team captain for the Yellowjackets. He received GNAC All-Conference in 3000M steeplechase and 1500M and holds the 8K and 1500M school records. Ackerman was a second-place finish in the 2023 Montana Mile and this will be his sixth year competing in the Montana Mile.



Chase Drange

Chase Drange is participating in his second Montana Mile. Drange is a former Cross Country and Track athlete at Tiffin University in Ohio. Drange graduated high school from Custer County in Miles City and earned a third place in the Eastern Class A Championships in the 800M. Drange was a scoring member of the Tiffin cross country and track and field team, marking a best last year in the 1500M with a time of 4:06.42.



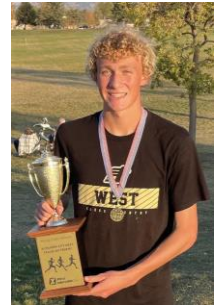
Jackson Duffey

Jackson Duffey will be competing in his second Montana Mile. Duffey is a former Cross Country and Track Athlete at Rocky Mountain College graduating in 2022. While in college, Jackson qualified for NAIA Nationals all four years and was a two time National qualifier in the 5K Track event during the 2022 Indoor and Outdoor Seasons. Duffey graduated high school from Ronan High School and earned the designation as an All State Cross country runner and two time All State Track. Duffey is the former Cross Country coach at Rocky Mountain College.



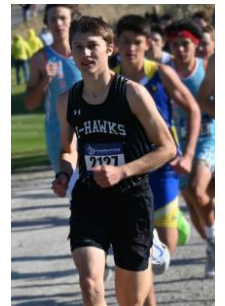
Kye Mcabee

Kye Mcabee will be competing in his first Montana Mile. Mcabee will be a Senior at Billings West High School in the Fall. Mcabee has the school record for the 1600M. he was the Montana AA Eastern Divisional Champion, and 2024 City Cross Country Champion. This last year Mcabee placed 6th in the 1600M and 9th in the 3200M at Class AA State. Mcabee competed at the 2025 Nike Outdoor Nationals in Eugene Oregon.



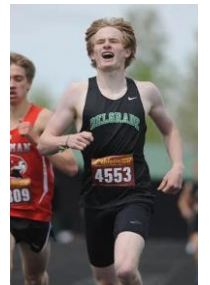
Austin Schellig

Austin Schellig will be a Senior at Joliet High School and competing in his first Montana Mile. Schellig holds the Class B State Record in the 800M as well as the Joliet High School Record in the 800M, 1600M, 5k, and anchored the school record setting 4x400M relay. Schellig won first place in the 2025 Class B State in the 800M and 1600M. He was named the 2024 Montana USATF Athlete of the Year.



Wilson Schmidt

Wilson Schmidt will participate in his first Montana Mile. He attends Belgrade High School and will be a Senior. Schmidt has the Belgrade High School Record in the 1600M, 800M, and 400M as well as the State Record in the 800M. Schmidt was the 2025 Class AA State Champion in the 800M, 1600M, and cross country.



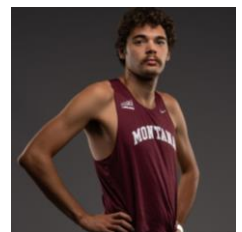
Finn Schretenthaler

Finn Schretenthaler attends Park High School and will be a Senior this fall. Schretenthaler holds the Class A 1600M Record and the Park High School Record in the 1600M, 3200M, 800M, and 5K. Schretenthaler is a State Champion in the 3200M and 1600M as well as Class A Cross Country Champion in Both 2024 and 2023. This will be Finn's first time competing in the Montana Mile.



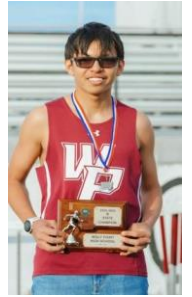
Carson Steckelberg

This Fall, Carson Steckelberg will be entering his Junior year at University of Montana. Steckelberg competes for the University of Montana Cross Country and Track and Field teams. He currently holds the school records at Gallatin High School for the 1600M, 3200M, and 5K in cross country. Carson was a three-time All-State for cross country and two-time All-State for track. He will be running in the Montana Mile for the fifth consecutive year. Carson won the 2024 Montana Mile.



Peyton Summers

Peyton Summers will be a Sophomore at Dawson Community College in the fall. Summers holds the Montana Class B cross country State Record and he also holds Wolf Point High school records in the 5K, 3200M, 1600M, and 800M. At the 2024 State B Track meet, Summers placed first in the 1600M, 3200M, 4x400M, and third in the 800M. This will be Summers' second year competing in the Montana Mile.



Levi Taylor

Former Laurel Locomotive and Montana State University standout Levi Taylor will be making his fifth appearance in the Mile. Levi is the school record holder at Laurel High School in the 1600M and the 3200M. He is also part of the record holding team in the distance medley relay at MSU. He is a three-time NCAA All-American. He competed in the 2024 NCAA National Championships in the steeplechase taking home 12th place and qualifying for the Olympic Trials.



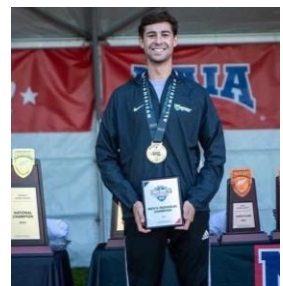
Caleb Tomac

Caleb Tomac attends Rocky Mountain College and will be a Sophomore this coming fall. Tomac attended Havre High School and was the Class A State Champion in the 800M. Tomac also earned the designation as All-State in track and field for 3 years in High School and holds the Rocky Mountain College Freshman record in the 1500M. This will be Tomac's first Montana Mile.



Jackson Wilson

Jackson Wilson attended Douglas High School in Box Elder, South Dakota and is a former Rocky Mountain College athlete. Wilson won NAIA Nationals in Cross Country and was a 9x NAIA All American. Wilson holds the Rocky Mountain College school records in the Indoor 3K, Outdoor 5K, Indoor 1 Mile, Indoor 5K, Outdoor 10K, and 8K Cross Country. Wilson was also named the NAIA Runner of The Year. This will be Wilson's first Montana Mile.



Women's Field

Karis Brightwings-Pease

Karis Brightwings-Pease will be a Junior this fall at Hardin High School. Brightwings-Pease holds the 1600M and 3200M school records. She has also won titles in the State A cross country championships as well as qualifying for the 2025 State Class A Track



Championships in the 1600M and placing sixth 3200M. This will be her third time competing in the Montana Mile.

Cecily Eagleton

Cecily Eagleton attended Sugar Salem High School in Idaho and will be a Senior at Montana State University Billings this coming fall. While in high school, Eagleton qualified for the State Cross Country and Track Meets and she placed 2nd in Class 3A State in the 3200M. Eagleton was a scoring member of the MSU-Billings Cross Country team at the GNAC conference championship meet. Cecily also qualified for the GNAC Conference Championship Track meet in the steeplechase. This will be Eagleton's first time competing in the Montana Mile.



Natalie Hodgskiss

Natalie Hodgskiss will be a Junior at Choteau High School this fall. Hodgskiss holds the school record in the 800M and 1600M. Natalie is also a 2x Class B State Champion in the 1600M and placed second in state in the 800M. This will be Hodgskiss's second Montana Mile.



Ali Keith

Ali Keith currently attends college at Cal State University Monterey Bay where she will be a Senior this fall. She has had multiple achievements throughout her running career, including All-State cross country, 5K record holder at Billings West High School, and has the school records at Cal State University Monterey Bay for the Cross Country 5k, Track 5K, and 4x400M. This will be her third time running the Montana Mile.



Addison Kegel

Addison Kegel will be a freshman at Billings Central High School. Kegel holds school records at Ben Steele Middle School in the 1600M, 800M, 400M, 4x400M and she holds the City Middle School records in the 1600M, 800M, 4x400M. Kegel was the City Cross Country Champion and Track Champion in the 1600M, 800M, 400M, 4x400M. Kegel was also the Nike Cross Country Regional Meet Middle School Champion and she attended the Nike Outdoor Nationals Track meet where she earned second in the mile in her age Division. This will be her second Montana Mile.



Sydney Little Light

Sydney Little Light graduated from Rocky Mountain College in 2023, where she holds records in nearly every distance event. Little Light is the 2022 and 2023 Montana Mile champion and will be running for her fourth time. The Hardin High graduate is a seven time NAIA All-American and the 2022 NAIA 1500M Outdoor



Track and Field National Champion. Little Light was also the 2022 Ultimate Warrior Champion. She was named Frontier Conference Athlete of the Week 28 times in her running career. Little Light ran for Eastern Kentucky while finishing her masters degree. She placed second in the Atlantic Sun Conference Championship Meet and holds the mile record at Eastern Kentucky.

Sage Brooks

Sage Brooks will be a fifth year Senior at Oregon State University this fall. Brooks was the 2020 Montana Mile Champion. The Missoula native holds the 1600M school record at Hellgate High School. She was also designated as Oregon State's Newcomer of the Year. Brooks placed at the MPSF Indoor Conference meet in the Mile and 3k. Brooks earned the designation of second team all conference West Coast Conference in 2024. This will be Brooks' fourth Montana Mile

Madeline Severson

Madeline Severson recently graduated from Montana State University Billings with a degree in Environmental Studies. Severson holds the school record at Manhattan High School in the 400M. Severson was also the team captain and scoring member of the Women's Cross Country Team at MSU-Billings. Severson also qualified for the GNAC Cross Country and Track Championship Meets all four years of college. This will be Severson's first Montana Mile.



The Athlete Fun Zone at Lockwood High School opens at 5:00 p.m. Parade of Athletes at 7:15 p.m. and the Montana 100 Meter followed by the Montana Mile at approximately 8:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Admission is free to the Opening Ceremonies. For more information, call 406-254-7426 or go to bigskygames.org.

The 2025 Montana Mile is sponsored by Billings West End Walmart. Opening Ceremonies is sponsored by Wendy's. Major Sponsors of the State Games are Kampgrounds of America (KOA), First Interstate Bank, Rebel River Creative and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Montana.