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Joe DeLuca to assist Jerry Williams in coaching football team

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FROM: J. D. Coleman
Sports Information
Montana University
Missoula, Montana

September 11, 1957

MISSOULA, Mont., Sept. _____ One of Montana's great linemen of the recent past, Joe DeLuca, 25, All-Skyline guard in 1953 and 1954 and All-America mention in 1954, returned to the Grizzly camp this fall to assist Head Coach Jerry Williams as a graduate assistant line and freshman coach.

The 5-10, 210-pounder, who calls Weed, Calif., home, has been working with the varsity guards during fall drills, but will handle the freshman line when the yearlings turn out Oct. 2. He will begin work toward a master's degree when fall quarter opens Sept. 30.

DeLuca won admiration and acclaim throughout the Skyline during his three-year playing career for his outstanding performances as a guard and linebacker for the Silvertips. He was one of the five Montana seniors named to the Skyline team to play in the Salad Bowl at Phoenix, Ariz., Jan. 2, 1955, and received accolades for his tremendous line play during the game.

Following his graduation DeLuca earned a shot with the professional British Columbia Lions but an injury and a service call cut his pro career short.

He spent two years in the Army and was released from active duty early this fall in the grade of corporal.

"Big Joe" has a set of vocal cords to match his physique and his voice can be heard booming over the practice field as he leads the perspiring Grizzly hopefuls in conditioning drills or sends them toiling up the "switchback" on Mt. Sentinel, the convenient mountain that looms directly behind Montana's Dornblaser Field.

(more)

DeLuca
2-2-2-2-2-2

DeLuca, who is unmarried, lives with the team in Craig Hall and as a proctor, keeps a wary eye out for any young Silvertip who might feel the 10:30 training curfew is cramping his style.

DeLuca played one year of football at Olympic (Wash.) Junior College under John Zeger and came to Montana when the latter took over the line coaching duties here in 1952.

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