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Alumni Athlete for the Year awards

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The University of Montana Alumni Association will present its Athlete of the Year and Woman Athlete of the Year awards at the Homecoming singing-on-the-steps at Main Hall Friday, Oct. 29, at 7:15 p. m., Hugh F. Edwards, executive secretary of the association, announced.

Tapped for the awards by unanimous vote of the Alumni Council are Grizzly gridiron star Paul Connelly, physical education senior from Muskegon, Mich., and champion skier Eleanor Bennett, Great Falls, a 1964 graduate of the University.

The outstanding athletes are cited for "having exemplified at all times the highest standards of skill, courage and personal conduct, in conformity with the best traditions of the University and the state ..."

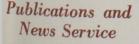
Connelly, co-captain of the Grizzly team, leads the Sky Line Conference in rushing. In his first season of play for the Grizzlies last year, the transfer student from the University of Colorado was named to the Big Sky Conference All-Star team and to the Utah State All-Opponent team. He led the conference in kick-off returns and was second in rushing yardage with 595 yards.

Grizzly Coach Hugh Davidson calls the 160-pound, 5'7" tailback "the hardest hitting back I have coached."

Connelly is married and the father of a son. His parents are Mr. and Mrs. John Connelly of Muskegon, Mich.

Miss Bennett was named first alternate on the 1964 U. S. Winter Olympic women's ski team. In 1963, the year of the Olympic trials, she ranked third nationally in slalom and fourth in downhill racing. That year she won second place in combined standings in the Harriman Cup races at Sun Valley, Idaho.

(more)





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This fall Miss Bennett became director of girls' physical education at Charles M. Russell High School, Great Falls, and coach of the Great Falls City Ski Team, comprised of members from both public high schools. The latter assignment makes her the only woman ski coach in the state. She taught last year in Spokane.

Her parents are Mr. and Mrs. Charles G. Bennett of St. Regis.

The UM Alumni Association initiated the awards at Homecoming last year, Edwards said. The first recipients were Doug Brown, Red Lodge, and Sylvia White, Butte. Brown, a member of the National Collegiate Athletic Association's All-America cross country and track squads, continues to pace the University's track team. Miss White, member of the 1964 U.S. Winter Olympic delegation, is also a student at the University.