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GRIZZLIES HAVE IMPRESSIVE SPRING SPORTS RECORD

Boasting a combined record of 22-5 at the halfway point of the season University of Montana spring sports teams--track and field, golf, tennis and baseball--are optimistic about high finishes in the Big Sky Conference.

Grizzly tennis (6-0) and track (2-0) teams are undefeated in outdoor competition. Montana's golfers are 5-1, and the baseball nine is 9-4.

It isn't the best spring ever at UM, however. Last year's crews had similar marks at this point and finished as high in their conference as any group in the school's history. The golf team won its third straight Big Sky title, tennis and baseball squads were second and the trackmen placed third. The spring surge left Montana a breath away from the Big Sky all-around trophy for 10 sports.

The trackmen won't be expected to win the conference crown as Idaho State, three-time winner, is reported to have one of its finest squads ever. Montana could finish second with a team that is strong in every flat race but weak in all field events but the high jump and javelin throw.

In three meets, counting the Montana State Indoor in which a limited squad was third but won eight events, UM thinclads have 27 first places. Opponents from nine other schools have combined for 20 victories.

Undefeated thus far are Willie Jones (100, 9.7 sec. and 220, 22.3), Darrel Gadbow (440, 48.9), Bob Gibson (880, 1:55.1), Fred Freisz (2-mile, 9:15.8), mile relay (3:20.9) and 440 relay (42.7). Neither relay team has been pushed this season according to Coach Harley Lewis.

Defeated but setting a new school records are javelin thrower Mike Lyngstad, 219-5 1/2, and high jumper Ron Baines, 6-8 1/2.
The tennis team's best showing was a 7-2 conquest of defending champion Idaho. Coach Brian Sharkey's netters also downed Washington State 5-4.

Undefeated in six singles matches are John Alexander, Bob Andreozzi and Eric LaPointe. Surprisingly enough, Andreozzi and LaPointe's record as a doubles team is only 1-5.

In doubles the Steve Meloy-Ron Wendte pair has a perfect record after five matches.

Golf Coach Ed Chinske feels his squad will have its toughest test in four years to repeat as league champions. Gone are three all-conference players that built Montana into a links power.

Back this year are Gary Koprivica, all conference, and John Warren, a member of all title squads. They are joined by freshman Rick Carpenter, one of the state's top interscholastic swingers last year.

Koprivica was medalist as the Grizzlies were second behind Washington State in the 36-hole, six-team Banana Belt Tournament at Lewiston, Idaho, early this spring. Carpenter tied for top honors and was second in UM's other meets, both quadrangulars scored on a dual meet basis.

Baseballers were 3-2 at the Banana Belt tourney and won five straight after that but have dropped two of the last three contests with second baseman Dewey Allen, the team's leader and a slick fielder, on the sidelines with a wrenched knee.

Allen is expected to rejoin the squad this weekend for the important series with league-leader Idaho. Still, the Grizzlies, lacking hitting strength and weak at all infield spots but second, will be pushed to finish in the league's top three.

Continued good pitching by a staff that has a 2.43 earned run average to date is the main hope for Coach Lowell Grunwald's nine.