5-21-1968

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GRIZZLY TRACK TEAM IMPROVES GREATLY,
BUT DISAPPOINTMENT OVER LOOP LOSS BIG

MISSOULA--

Four University of Montana tracksters have qualified for NCAA competition in six
different events, and the Grizzlies had a good season, perhaps even a great one---but
the second-place finish at last weekend's Big Sky Conference Championships in Ogden,
Utah took some fire out of an otherwise hot spring.

The four qualifiers are junior Mike Lyngstad of Columbia Falls in the Javelin (239-5);
junior Tim Stark of Polson in the intermediate hurdles (52.1 seconds); senior Willie Jones
of Monroe, Mich. in the 100 (9.4), 220 (20.7) and long jump (24-2½) and sophomore Roy
Robinson of Glasgow in the 100 (9.4), 220 (21.4) and high hurdles (14.2).

The Grizzlies have never sent more than two competitors to the NCAA meet.

There was great improvement over the 1967 Big Sky meet, when Montana took second some
60 points behind champ Idaho State. This year, the difference between the two was only 10
points, but many members of the Grizzly squad will tell you that Idaho State should have
been on the short end, and not Montana.

Coach Harley Lewis, happy all year long with the improvement shown by his young squad
(only three seniors this year), mirrored the disappointment of his squad.

"We should have taken it," Lewis said. "We made some mental errors, and in a meet as
close as that one, one mistake would have been too many."

True, the Grizzlies fell down in some of their strongest events (most notably distance
runs), but there were some surprises of different magnitude, also.

Freshman Pat Schruth of Billings in the triple jump (45-10½), juniors Ron Baines of
Tacoma, Wash. and Ron Langworthy of Billings in the high jump (6-7½ and 6-6½, respectively),
Jones in the 100, 220 and long jump (9.4, 20.7 and 24-2\(\frac{1}{2}\)), and Robinson in the 100 and high hurdles (9.4 and 14.2) came through in great style and must have brightened things a little for Lewis and their teammates.

Through the 1968 season, the Grizzlies won every scoring meet they entered as a full team, and three times racked up more than 100 points, once in a quadrangular meet. They re-established their track superiority over Montana State, at least for the time being, with a smashing 104-41 victory. And they helped other Big Sky schools put the league on the track map.

And it was a record-setting year for the Grizzlies, as both Dornblaser Stadium and school marks fell in pretty large numbers.

Junior Mick Harrington of Missoula cracked school and stadium marks in the 880-yard run with a fine time of 1:51.9.

Robinson, known before this year as a hurdler and just a fair sprinter, became more than a fair sprinter when he tied a stadium record in the 100-yard dash with a 9.5 effort and breezed through in 9.43 at the league meet for second place behind teammate Jones. His best previous 100-yard dash time had been 9.7 seconds.

Jones' 20.7-second effort in the 220 put him in a two-way tie for the fastest 220 by a collegiate runner this spring, and tied a 30-year-old school record. His broad jump of 24-2\(\frac{1}{2}\) is a new school mark, even though it placed second in the Big Sky meet.

Stark whipped through the 440-yard intermediate hurdles in 52.2 seconds against Eastern Washington one week before the loop finals for a stadium and school mark, then rewrote the school record with a 52.1-second go for first place at Ogden.

Lyngstad's throw of 233 feet, 8 inches in Missoula established a new Dornblaser mark, and earlier in the spring, his mighty toss of 239 feet, five inches established a school record which he might very well break again next year as a senior.

In the 440-yard relay, there were two more records. Sophomore Bob Zins of Great Falls, senior Tom Gopp of N. Canton, Ohio, Robinson and Jones breezed through in 41.5 seconds for new stadium and school marks, and then the same group, with Baines running in place of Gopp, remade the school record with a 41.1 effort at the conference meet.

Record-setting became the byword for Grizzly trackmen in 1968, and this year's crew, which will return en masse with the exception of Gopp, Jones and distance man Fred Friesz of Billings, to build on the precedent they established in 1968.