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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GRIZZLY TRACK COACH NAMED TO WORK WITH U.S. OLYMPIC TEAM THIS SUMMER

MISSOULA--

University of Montana track coach Harley Lewis was notified by telephone Monday that he is one of some 10 to 15 track coaches across the nation selected to work with U.S. Olympic team members at the Olympic Development and Study Program at S. Lake Tahoe, Calif.

The testing and altitude study program will begin July 15 and continue through the middle of September. Besides the competitors and coaches, a medical staff and trainers will be on hand to assist.

Lewis worked last summer near Flagstaff, Ariz. on a program designed to study the effects of altitude change on possible Olympic contestants, since the 1968 games will be held in Mexico City at an altitude higher than that to which most U.S. athletes are accustomed.

His work in 1967 was concerned only with distance runners, but this summer's study program will encompass all contestants in all events that will be staged at the Olympics.

Up to 17 competitors will have a crack at berths in each event according to this qualification schedule: the top service competitor; the six top finalists in the NCAA Championships; the top six from the AAU Championships; the top two from the NCAA College Division Championships, and the top two NAIA finalists.

All of these qualifiers will compete in a special Olympic Selection Meet in Los Angeles prior to the Development and Study Program. Lewis said between 6 and 10 in each event will go to S. Lake Tahoe for the full program or for as long as they can stay.

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Beginning Sept. 15, the team members will compete in a meet that will follow exactly the same schedule of events as at Mexico City, and exactly 28 days earlier. They will run the same number of trials and finals that they will face at the Olympics, and at the same time of day as they will take place at Mexico City.

Decathlon trials will take place Sept. 6 and 7, with the walking trials set for Sept. 9 and 12. Marathon practice will be held at Alamosa, Colo.

"I'm delighted about being selected," Lewis said. "It's the kind of opportunity any track coach hopes for."

Supervisor of the program will be Bill Bowerman, head track coach at the University of Oregon, who was in charge of the program in which Lewis participated last summer at Flagstaff.