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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GRIZZLY WRESTLERS OPENING SEASON SATURDAY
IN DUAL MEET AGAINST TOUGH IDAHO STATE

MISSOULA---

The University of Montana's thin and relatively inexperienced wrestling team starts out its current season in as tough a manner as possible Saturday night in Pocatello against Idaho State University.

The Bengals are the defending Big Sky Conference champions, and are pre-season choices to cop the crown this time for the third straight season.

Coaches Mick Delaney and Bill Gilboe are working with a squad that will have some added faces after Christmas vacation. Montana usually doesn't open its wrestling season before Christmas, and several wrestlers are concentrating on studies to make sure they will be eligible next quarter.

Ten UM grapplers will make the trip to Idaho State. The Bengals are heavily favored, especially after they trounced Utah State University 27-12 one week ago.

"We're not as ready to wrestle as we'd like to be," Delaney said. "But this meet will be great experience for us."

Wrestling Saturday night for Montana will be:
- 123 pounds, Mike Thomas, freshman, Parkridge, Ill.;
- 130, Pat Cheney, sophomore, Bethesda, Md.;
- 137, Wayne Monts, freshman, Great Falls;
- 145, Ken Yachechak, junior, Smithtown, N.Y.;
- 152, Wayne Mathews, sophomore, Brisbane, Australia;
- 160, Tom Cooper, junior, Missoula;
- 167, Doug Robbins, junior, Great Falls;
- 177, Steve Baldock, freshman, Markham, Ill., or Larry Cocchiarella, freshman, Missoula, and heavyweight, Larry Stranahan, sophomore, Missoula.

Other meets scheduled this season are the Boise College Tournament (eight teams), Dec. 13-14 in Boise, Idaho; Eastern Montana dual meet Jan. 11 in Billings; UM Triangular with Big Bend Community College and Montana State Jan. 25 in Missoula; Montana State University Triangular with MSU and the University of Alberta Feb. 1 in Bozeman; Utah State Double Dual with USU, Weber State and Montana State Feb. 7-8, in Logan, Utah; University of Idaho dual meet Feb. 14 in Moscow, Idaho; Eastern Washington State College dual meet Feb. 15 in Cheney, Wash., and the Big Sky Conference Championships Feb. 21-22 in Missoula.