Flu bug strikes Grizzly wrestling team; only five to compete in Boise tournament

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Recommended Citation
University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations, "Flu bug strikes Grizzly wrestling team; only five to compete in Boise tournament" (1968). University of Montana News Releases. 4233.
http://scholarworks.umt.edu/newsreleases/4233
MISSOULA--

The flu bug is becoming important in many ways around the country, and for the University of Montana wrestling team, already thin depth-wise, it has become very important.

Coach Mick Delaney will take only five men to this week's Boise College Invitational Tournament in Idaho because of the flu bug. Ordinarily, he said, he would take 11. Delaney reported Thursday that six of his best wrestlers are in the UM infirmary fighting the illness.

The Boise event will feature eight teams, including four from the Big Sky Conference. Competing in the tournament will be Montana, Boise College, Idaho State University, the University of Idaho, Weber State College, Utah State University, the College of Idaho, and the College of Eastern Oregon.

Idaho State will likely carry the favorite's role into the two-day event. The Bengal wrestlers are undefeated in two matches this season, having beaten Utah State and Montana in dual meets. ISU sports 10 straight meet victories over the past two years, and is expected to cop the Big Sky title again this year.

Wrestling for Montana will be Pat Cheney, 130-pound freshman from Bethesda, Md.; Wayne Monts, 145-pound freshman from Great Falls; Gary Littleton, 152-pound freshman from Petersburg, Alaska; Ron Mehrens, 191-pound junior from Butte, and Rick Sparks, heavyweight from Butte.

The Grizzlies were whitewashed 39-0 by Idaho State last Saturday in Pocatello. Here are the individual results of that meet:

123--Mike Thomas, UM, pinned by Dave Smith in 6:25; 130--Pat Cheney, UM, forfeited;
FLU BUG STRIKES--2--

137—Wayne Monts, UM, pinned by Dave Abel in 6:30; 145—Ken Yachechak, UM, pinned by Dave Morrison in 6:23; 152—Wayne Mathews, UM, lost 7-2 decision to Roger Anderson; 160—Tom Cooper, UM, lost 10-7 decision to Tim Shade; 167—Doug Robbins, UM, pinned by Vern Hall in 4:03; 177—Steve Baldock, UM, lost 8-0 decision to Leroy Harris; heavyweight—Larry Stranahan, UM, pinned by Carlton Tanaka in 4:08.

Delaney indicated that his squad is concentrating mainly on conditioning, and hopes to reach peak condition by January. He indicated that the flu problem will delay the conditioning program somewhat.