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Main Hall to Main St.

Vol. 7, No. 5

Connecting Campus and Community

June 2001

New turf coming to Washington-Grizzly Stadium

The University of Montana Grizzly football team will maul opponents on a new playing field this fall, thanks to a \$1 million gift from an anonymous donor.

Chuck Maes, assistant athletic director of business affairs, said the donation will replace Washington-Grizzly Stadium's natural grass field with SprinTurf, an artificial playing surface that uses synthetic "grass" over a unique rubber in-fill. The new surface is supposed to stay springy in cold Montana weather, drain well and not give players rug burns like traditional Astroturf.

"This stuff is really amazing," Maes said. "You can't tell it's not real grass."

The state Board of Regents gave UM approval April 6 to spend up to \$1.3 million for a synthetic football field and possibly add stadium lights. Maes said the new turf should be completely installed by the end of July.

Maes said players and coaches wanted a new field surface to combat the frigid and wet playing conditions that hit Montana in the fall. Players often face cold conditions in which their shoe cleats can't

penetrate frozen natural turf. And in wet, snowy conditions, natural turf often became muddy and slick.

"This really negates the speed and

of West Conshohocken, Penn., was the way to go — especially since SprinTurf uses a rubber in-fill instead of sand, which can get rock hard in cold weather.

Maes said the new turf will cost about \$800,000. He said it's guaranteed for eight years and should last 10 to 15 years with proper maintenance. He said Intercollegiate Athletics chose a natural dark-green color for the artificial grass, which will be imported from Holland. The numbers, markings and UM Grizzly logo on the new field will be permanent, eliminating the need to paint, and they should always look crisp and sharp. Athletics also would like to add a UM maroon strip around the fringe of the field.

Another advantage of the new surface is that players will be able to practice on the field without worrying about tearing it up before a big game.

Maes said local contractors have donated much of the cost and labor for installing the new surface. George Mungas of Philipsburg did the excavation work at



Goodbye grass: It doesn't look like much now, but the Grizzlies should have a new artificial playing surface by the end of July. (UM photo)

mobility of our guys," Maes said.

UM athletic officials investigated several types of turf before making a purchase. They even had two team leaders from the 2000 season — quarterback Drew Miller and halfback Yohance Humphery — test various types of playing surfaces. Both thought the turf provided by SprinTurf Inc.

will carry through into adulthood.

Gordon Opel, hospital director of community services, said Community Medical Center donated start-up funding for the Sports Health Institute, while UM's Intercollegiate Athletics will provide the training expertise used in its own programs. The hospital also will offer staffing assistance for the institute when called upon.

Opel said the institute already has started a pilot project at Missoula's Loyola-Sacred Heart High School.

(Continued on back page)

UM, Community Medical Center create sports institute

Community Medical Center and UM have partnered to create a unique center, the Sports Health Institute, which will educate area students about avoiding athletic injuries and staying fit into adulthood.

The institute is the brainchild of Dr. Michael Schutte, a surgeon with Northern Rockies Orthopaedic Specialists. He said the new center will work to curb sports-related injuries by providing a pipeline for improved exercise science to reach

Montana's coaches and students.

"I've seen high school programs where 16 of 20 athletes are injured in one sport," Schutte said. "This type of thing has been happening for the past 10 years, and the popularity of sports keeps growing. We can do better by providing improved guidelines for training."

He said the institute will teach all students — not just young athletes — how to train, stay fit and avoid injuries. He hopes to instill proper fitness habits in young people that

UM Calendar

Wednesday, June 27

Summer orientation—for incoming students, through June 29. Call (406) 243-2332 for information.

Monday, July 2

UM summer session begins—second 5-week session, through Aug. 3. For more information, call 243-6014.

Wednesday, July 4

Independence Day—UM offices closed.

Sunday, July 8

Volleyball camp—Individual Skills Camp for players entering 7th grade, led by UM head coach Nikki Best, through July 11. For a brochure, call (406) 243-4397 or e-mail masers@mso.umt.edu.

Tuesday, July 10

Concert—Steve Earle and the Dukes, 8 p.m., University Theatre. Tickets \$25/advance or \$27/day of show, available at Tic-It-E-Z outlets or by calling (888) MONTANA.

Wednesday, July 11

Summer orientation—for incoming students, through July 13. Call (406) 243-2332 for information.

Thursday, July 12

Volleyball camp—Team Challenge Camp, through July 15. For a brochure, call (406) 243-4397 or e-mail masers@mso.umt.edu.

Monday, July 23

Grizzly Cage Camp—basketball day camp for boys entering grades 1-10, led by Grizzly coach Don Holst, through July 27. For a brochure, call (406) 243-5334.

Sunday, July 29

Grizzly Soccer Camp—girls' residential camp for ages 12-18, led by UM assistant coaches Erik Oman and Erik Snyder, through Aug. 3. For a brochure, call (406) 243-4378.

Monday, July 30

Lady Griz Cage Camp—basketball day camp for grades 1-12, through Aug. 2, led by coach Robin Selvig. For a brochure, call (406) 243-5334 or e-mail rocheleaua@mso.umt.edu.



Bear Briefs

Ceramic Summer—Two special exhibits celebrating ceramic art from ancient Asia to contemporary Montana are on display this summer at UM's Museum of the Fine Arts. "Ancient Fires," an exhibit of Chinese ceramics and antiquities from the collection of Nelson Chang, is in the Henry Meloy Gallery. The exhibit will show about one-tenth of the Chang collection, the largest privately owned collection of Chinese antiquities in the world. The second exhibit, "A Founder's Song," is on display in the Paxson Gallery to honor the life and art of Peter Meloy, co-founder of Helena's Archie Bray Foundation and brother of Henry Meloy. Both exhibits run through Sept. 1.

Documenting Anaconda—A documentary produced by UM radio-television students has received the National Mark of Excellence award from the Society for Professional Journalists. The award went to "Anaconda: The Legacy," which examines the history and aftereffects of mining in a western Montana community. The documentary was produced by UM's Student Documentary Unit during spring semester 2000, and it aired on Montana PBS. This is the fifth such award in the documentary unit's 15-year history.

Mammals on Parade—Hairy, warm-blooded critters were the toast of the town June 16-20 when more than 500 mammal experts from around the world were at UM for the 81st annual meeting of the American Society of Mammalogists. UM biology Professor Kerry Foresman said mammalogists from places as far-flung as Mexico, Japan, South Africa, Germany and

Finland came to town. "It's quite an honor for Missoula to host this event," Foresman said. "The last time this meeting was held here was 1975." The yearly meeting of ASM provided opportunities for members to share recent discoveries in a wide variety of topics such as genetics, ecology, conservation and natural history. In recent years UM has been a magnet for international science and research conferences.

Big Business Awards—School of Business Administration students received more than 80 scholarship awards totaling about \$130,000 during last month's 54th Annual Scholarship Awards Banquet.

Protecting Books—A new fire suppression system is being installed at UM's Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library to protect the library's \$50 million collection. The Legislature provided \$250,000 for the new sprinkler system, which will comprise four miles of pipe installed in the ceilings on all five library levels. The rare and unusual items in Special Collections will receive a high-tech misting sprinkler system — perhaps the only one in Montana. Local contractors began work on the new fire suppression system in May, and library patrons should expect some construction noise. Currently, the library has smoke detectors but no fire suppression system.

Excellent Accounting—UM's School of Business Administration joined an elite group this spring when its undergraduate and graduate accounting programs achieved separate accreditation from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business International. Of the 405 AACSB International-accredited business programs worldwide, only 156 have separate accounting accreditation between their undergraduate and graduate programs. UM has the first business school in Montana to achieve this stature and is one of only 10 schools in the surrounding five-state region to be so recognized.

New Turf — *continued*

a reduced rate, and Northern Specialty Supply Inc. of Missoula provided the pipe drainage system. Northern Specialty also made drinkable water available on the sidelines.

Maes said the drainage system is already working well. When Missoula was hit by nearly 2 inches of rain and snow early in June, the field was dry hours after the storm.

He said UM will be the first Big Sky Conference university to use SprinTurf. Workers will arrive to begin installing the

new surface at the beginning of July.

While the turf is going in, the lights will have to wait. Maes said UM will do a feasibility study to investigate how to install lights that won't get in the way of possible future stadium expansions.

The new field will be officially unveiled during the Great Griz Encounter from 3 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 19. Intercollegiate Athletics Director Wayne Hogan, Grizzly head coach Joe Glenn and UM President George Dennison will be on hand for a 4:15 p.m. ribbon-cutting ceremony on the field.



The University of
Montana

Main Hall to Main Street is published by University Relations at The University of Montana. Send questions, comments or suggestions to Rita Munzenrider, editor, 327 Brantly Hall, Missoula, MT, 59812, or call (406) 243-4824. Photos are by Todd Goodrich. Terry Brenner, Brenda Day, David Purviance, Cary Shimek and Patia Stephens are contributing editors and writers.