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The University of Montana

NEWS RELEASE

University Communications
Missoula, MT 59812
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Dec. 11, 1995

CHARTERS TO W. VIRGINIA BLOSSOM AS 'GRIZ MANIA' SWEEPS COMMUNITY MISSOULA --

Charter flights are popping up all over as Grizzly fans vie to fly to West Virginia to witness The University of Montana's first-ever bid for a I-AA national football championship.

As of Monday afternoon, eight charter planes had been lined up for Grizzly fans by six Missoula travel agencies, said Alumni Association Director Bill Johnston. Two charters are planned from Great Falls, and charter flights are also planned from Billings and Butte, he said.

"It has been unbelievable," Johnston said. "Every travel agency in town has been busy trying to keep up with the demand. This town has gone Griz crazy. It's Griz Mania."

A few charter seats to Huntington, W.Va., were still available late Monday afternoon; interested fans should call their travel agents, Johnston said.

It appears the only thing limiting the number of fans winging their way to West Virginia is the number of available tickets to the championship game against Marshall University. All 2,500 game tickets allotted to UM have been sold, with a waiting list of about 100 as of late Monday afternoon, said Field House Manager Gary Hughes. Hughes said he has been selling the tickets to travel agents for the passengers on their charter flights to use.

"Right now we're out of (game) tickets," Hughes said. "If any flights cancel, there will be some tickets available." It is uncertain UM will negotiate for more game tickets, Hughes said.

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KR
Local, Butte, Billings, Great Falls
Charters.rl