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FROM: BOB GILLULY

SPORTS NEWS EDITOR MONTANA UNIVERSITY

RELEASE THURSDAY, DEC. 10

GRIZZLY SPORTS COLUMN

MISSOULA---Montana University swimmers embark in quest of a Skyline championship this weekend, opening their season with a dual meet against Washington State University tankers Saturday night in Missoula.

Coach Bud Wallace--who concedes that this year's swim crew is the best in the history of MSU--commented that his tankers are "just itching" to start out their season successfully. "We've been working out for two months now, and the fellows are eager for competition," Wallace says.

Leading the Silvertips into action are six lettermen--butterfly expert Ivan Jacobsen, who holds two Skyline records; freestyler Bob McKinnon, diver Bill Brubaker, backstroker Doug James, breaststroker Wayne Veeneman, and freestyler Ralph Fitzpatrick of West Glacier.

Two promising transfers are Gerald Tisue and Scott Stewart, from Santa Monica Junior College. Tisue is a highly versatile swimmer and probably will be entered in three or four events. Stewart is a diver primarily.

Topnotch sophomores include sprinter Gary Homme from Fort Benton, diver Gary Groshelle, Laurel; and John Vaught and Hibbie Junginger of Missoula.

Homme, who had never tasted swimming competition until he entered the University, has already unofficially cracked the Skyline 50-yard freestyle record.

Last season the Grizzlies were one of eight teams in the nation that were undefeated in dual meet competition. Over the past two seasons, the Montana tankers have won 15 of 16 dual meets.