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NEWS RELEASE

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Jan. 2, 1997

UM FOOTBALL STARS HAUL IN SCHOLARSHIPS FOR POST-GRADUATE STUDY

MISSOULA --

Two standouts in the Montana Grizzlies' defensive line will tackle post-graduate study next year with \$5,000 scholarships from the NCAA, distinguishing The University of Montana as the only Division I school to bring in two of the prestigious awards.

Free safety Blaine McElmurry of Troy and linebacker Mike Bouchee of Missoula are among 19 Division I players selected for the scholarships, said Jim Lopach, UM's NCAA faculty representative.

"This is great news," Lopach said, "that our program can be so successful athletically and academically.

"The competition was very tough, and there we are with two," he said, noting that the list of Division I scholarship winners includes Heisman Trophy winner Daniel Wuerffel of Florida and players from such schools as Stanford, Nebraska, Washington, Ohio State and Arizona State.

To win the scholarships, students must be top performers in the classroom and on the playing field, and they must "have behaved, both on and off the field, in a manner that has brought credit to the student-athlete, the institution and intercollegiate athletics," according to NCAA criteria.

Bouchee and McElmurry, defensive line starters and honors students who carry rigorous course loads, exemplify those values, Lopach said.

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Bouchee, a business major who plans to attend law school, has maintained a grade-point average of 3.54. A member of the Golden Key National Honors Society, he has been a fixture on UM's Dean's List since 1992. His parents are William and Phyllis Bouchee of Missoula.

McElmurry, recently named to the GTE Academic All-American first team, is a pre-med microbiology major with a 3.5 grade point average. He plans to continue his studies in medical school. His parents are Rich and Chris McElmurry of Troy.

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