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Wayne Veeneman on swimming

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(Editor's note: The following story was written by Wayne Veeneman, Montana University varsity swimmer from Idaho Falls, Idaho, as an assignment for one of his physical education courses at the University.)

By Wayne Veeneman

MISSOULA, MONTANA---Swimming, like wrestling, is one of the fastest-growing sports in Montana, and its impact has already been felt at Montana University, which boasts one of the strongest freshman teams in the Skyline.

The fact that MSU currently has eight Montana men on its freshman team is in itself startling. Prior to this year, very few Montanans had ever starred on Grizzly tank teams. And only one--Olympic performer Jack Daniels--had ever won a Skyline title.

This year the Grizzlies boast two strong Montana sophomores on the varsity team--sprinter Gary Homme, Fort Benton, and diver Gary Groshelle, Laurel. Homme was close to two Skyline records in winning matches last weekend in the western division meet, and Groshelle has been a consistent point-winner in diving this season.

At the freshman level, coach Bud Wallace has several fine performers. One of them--Glenn Jones of Butte--actually outswam everybody last week in the division 1500-yard freestyle race. Jones, swimming an exhibition race, took first in the event with a time of 20:05.8 minutes, just 25 seconds off the Skyline record.

Other good frosh prospects are Steve Johnson and Ed Hale, Big Timber; Doug Brown, Helena; and Bob Dick, Reg Martin, Harold Felter and Dale Roske, Missoula. Five of the eight were active in high school competition.

At the high school level, swimming teams are competing at Deer Lodge, Missoula, Butte, Miles City, Bozeman, Great Falls, Billings and Helena. Three cities also have YMCA or YWCA swimming programs. A third activity in the state is AAU swimming, which has centered in the Miles City area under the direction of AAU chairman Dave Rivenes.

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