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### Golf great Miller Barber gives UM check from annual tournament

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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Feb. 27, 1998

**Contact:** Cate Sundeen, UM Foundation, (406) 243-2593.

### **GOLF GREAT MILLER BARBER GIVES UM CHECK FROM ANNUAL TOURNAMENT MISSOULA --**

While the minds of many Montanans will be on this winter's second Griz-Cat grudge match Saturday, a big payoff from a benefit golf tournament last summer could start fans itching for the fairways.

Golf great and part-time Missoula resident Miller Barber will present University of Montana President George Dennison with a \$50,000 check just before the cross-state basketball rivals take to the hardwood at UM Dahlberg Arena at 2 p.m. The donation is the proceeds of the 1997 Miller Barber Montana Pro-Am Golf Tournament.

Meanwhile, plans are under way for this year's tournament, slated for July 26-27, at the Missoula Country Club. As in years past, Barber is busy lining up professional golfers to play with Montana amateurs.

"This is a continuation of what has gotten bigger and better every year," Dennison said of the tournament. "We really do owe a lot to Miller."

The annual tourney began in 1991 when Barber invited five PGA tour professionals to play with 50 amateurs. In 1992, he designated the UM Foundation's Excellence Fund as beneficiary and donated \$12,000 from that year's proceeds. Last year's event drew 20 pros and celebrities and 80 amateurs. In all, the annual event has raised more than \$193,000 for UM.

Senior PGA and LPGA golf guests at past tournaments include Jim Colbert, Jim Dent, Larry

- more -

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Laroetti, Orville Moody, Walter Morgan, Sandra Palmer, J.C. Snead, David Stockton and Tom Weiskopf. Celebrities have included country western singer Clay Walker, former UM star and NBA player Larry Krystkowiak, Dallas Cowboys executive Gil Brandt and actor James B. Sikking.

Montanans can watch, play or sponsor the tournament. A dinner-auction will kick off this year's event on the evening of July 26, while the clinic and tournament start the morning of July 27.

For more information on the tournament, contact Shirley George or Cate Sundeen at the UM Foundation, P.O. Box 7159, Missoula, Mont., 59807-7159, or call (406) 243-4965 or (800) 443-2593.

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