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## Grizzly Sports Column

University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations

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FROM: BOB GILLULY  
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MONTANA UNIVERSITY

RELEASE THURSDAY, APRIL 14

GRIZZLY SPORTS COLUMN

MISSOULA---One of Montana's best all-around athletes of recent history, John Lands, has revealed that he has signed a contract to play professional football with the Vancouver, B.C., Lions of the Canadian Professional League.

Lands, who twice earned All-Skyline honors in football, signed a bonus contract that requires him to report for training in mid-summer with the Lions. He was signed by line coach Don Branby of the Canadian team, a former Montana University end coach who tutored Lands during his collegiate career.

Big John, a 6-4, 205 pound senior, has won letters in three sports at MSU. Aside from leading the Skyline football teams in pass receptions in 1958 and 1959, John also was a valued member of Frosty Cox's basketball team this past season. His best cage display this year was a 25-point output against Montana State College. Lands also won a letter in track in 1959, performing as a broad jumper and javelin thrower.

Lands said he decided on the Vancouver team because he felt he would be more useful to their organization. "I can play ball immediately in Canada, where it might take two or three years of riding the bench to make the grade in U.S. pro ball," he commented.

Lands will join two other former Skyline stars who recently signed with Vancouver--guard Lonnie Dennis of BYU and quarterback Jim Walden of Wyoming. Both were selected with Lands on the 1959 All-Skyline team.

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