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Grizzly Sports Column

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GRIZZLY SPORT COLUMN

MISSOULA----With the big Interscholastic track meet less than a month away, it's a good bet that some champions will be dethroned and some records will fall when the 54th running of the "Climax of the High School Year" is concluded on the MSU campus May 21.

Defending title holders are Park County of Livingston, Class AA; Sidney high school, Class A; Hamilton high school, Class B; and Broadwater of Townsend, Class C. Whether these champions can repeat in 1960 is a big question mark that probably won't be answered until the meet is over. Livingston is bound to have plenty of competition from Billings, Butte, Helena and Missoula. Sidney's long tenure in the Class A ranks has already been threatened by Glendive. Both Hamilton and Townsend have lost many of their 1959 stars.

The Interscholastic meet always produces some "unknowns" who grab the spotlight from the better-known competitors. Last season it was Bob Hoppe of Townsend and Chuck Miller of Twin Bridges, who put on one of the most stirring high jump duels ever staged in the state. Hoppe eventually ended as the winner at six feet, six inches. But Miller didn't quit until he reached six feet-five, and both men cracked the former Montana high school record.

This year it's possible that one of the oldest records will be broken--the javelin toss. Both Ken Cristison of Flathead and Bob Miller of Great Falls have come close to the 197-foot throw made by Roy Gustafson of Corvallis in 1938. Two other stars--Larry Questad and Al Sarisky of Park County--have come close to breaking records in the sprints and hurdles.

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