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NEWS RELEASE

March 8, 2005

Contact: Erika Swanger, co-chair, UM women's hockey team, (208) 720-2177.

WOMEN'S HOCKEY TOURNAMENT SKATES INTO MISSOULA

MISSOULA —

The University of Montana Women's Hockey Team will host a home tournament Saturday and Sunday, March 12-13. All games are free to the public and will be played at Glacier Ice Rink at the Missoula fairgrounds.

The skating Grizzlies will take to the ice from 3:20 to 4:20 p.m. Saturday and again from 6 to 7 p.m. that evening. Then on Sunday they will play from 7:20 to 8:20 a.m. A hockey skills competition will be held from 10 to 10:40 a.m., and the tournament's championship game is scheduled for 1:40 to 2:40 p.m.

Club women's hockey started at UM in 2000 and participation has increased each year. Club co-chair Erika Swanger said the club now includes 24 women who play teams from Whitefish, Bozeman, Helena, Great Falls, Idaho, Washington, Utah and Canada.

"We receive some funding from (the Associated Students of UM), but that doesn't cover even half of our ice costs for practice time," Swanger said. "We work hard to fund raise and also pay out-of-pocket for traveling and extra costs. We also are working to decrease expenses for new members. We were able to petition for money last year and complete 10 bags of equipment, so new players can rent equipment rather than buy at their own expense."

She said the club has organized a raffle and silent auction that will be held during the

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tournament. Raffle items include food certificates at various restaurants, a round of golf and clothing. Silent auction items include a women's hockey jersey, a Monte Dolack poster and more. Tickets are \$1 for one, \$5 for six or \$10 for 15. Tickets also will be available in the University Center the week before the tournament.

"We are excited for the tournament and hope to have a big crowd," Swanger said.

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