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Grizzly swimmer hope for title repeat

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GRIZZLY SWIMMERS HOPE
FOR TITLE REPEAT
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sports state



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MISSOULA--

Winners of the Big Sky Conference championship the past six years, the University of Montana Swimming team will be hard pressed to repeat in 1972 according to coach Fred Stetson.

"We have several front-runners but lack of depth will hurt us," Stetson said.

"We should be able to win a number of individual titles but first place is only seven points and another team can pick up that many by placing men in third and fourth in an event."

The conference meet gives points to six places--a 7 for first, 5 for second, 4 for third and so on.

Montana won the championship quite handily last year with a total of 169 points to runner up Idaho State's 129 points. Weber was third with 106.

Four individuals who were responsible for 62 of the points last year have graduated. The four, Kurt Von Tagen, Fred Poole, Dave Allen and Jerry Homstad, accounted for six individual titles and Poole, Von Tagen and Homstad swam on winning relay teams.

Stetson can find condolence in the return of Dave Garard of Missoula who won three individual championships in 1971 and Tom Ridley who won the 1650 yard freestyle and placed second to Von Tagen in the 500 yard freestyle last spring.

Two former All-American swimmers provide first place potential for Montana this year. John Collier, a high school All-American from Santa Rosa, Calif., will replace Homstad in the Butterfly event and allow Garard to concentrate solely on freestyle this year. Dave Morse, a junior college All-American last year at Santa Barbara City College, will replace Von Tagen in the distance freestyle events and along with Ridley provides Montana, again, with a powerful one-two punch in these events.

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Montana returns several other point scorers from last year, most notably Bob Heinrich in the diving where he placed second at one meter and third at three meters. Steve Kerr, a freshman from St. Charles, Ill., will provide backup to Heinrich.

Idaho State appears to be the strongest challenge to Montana's domination of Big Sky swimming, especially if two junior college All-Americans attend the Pocatello institute this semester as they have indicated.

Montana opens its season this weekend in Missoula against Washington State University at 2 p.m. Saturday.

Of WSU Stetson says, "They beat us last year with their depth but I expect some very good races Saturday. This is an early meet which places us at a disadvantage condition-wise. I usually try to schedule the first meet in late January but this was the only date WSU had available."

Stetson said that WSU does not normally do very well in the Pacific 8 conference and feels the main difference between them and Big Sky teams is their depth.

On a comparison with the Big Sky and the competitors at the NCAA finals the Grizzly coach says he feels that Garard and Collier are capable of qualifying for the NCAA finals.

Following Saturday's dual meet the Montana team will have three weeks for conditioning before hosting the University of Idaho Jan. 28. Then the Grizzly pool will be the site of the Montana AAU Seniors meet Jan. 29 and 30.

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1972 UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA SWIMMING ROSTER AND SCHEDULE

<u>NAME</u>	<u>YR.</u>	<u>HT.</u>	<u>WT.</u>	<u>HOMETOWN</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
John Daehn	Jr.	6-0	175	Sidney	Breastroke
Dave Garard	Jr.	5-10	164	Missoula	Freestyle
Steve Turkiewicz	Jr.	6-3	165	Camarill, Calif.	Freestyle
Bob Heinrich	Soph.	5-7	135	Missoula	Diving
Greg Hejzmanek	Soph.	6-0	175	Missoula	Freestyle
Andy Hlicks	Soph.	5-10	159	Danville, Calif.	Breastroke
Gary Jensen	Soph.	6-2	200	Billings	Backstroke
Larry McCarthy	Soph.	6-2	179	Butte	Butterfly
Dave Morse	Soph.	5-10	160	Santa Barbara, Calif.	Freestyle
Gregg Mortensen	Soph.	6-2	170	Helena	Backstroke
Sid Parini	Soph.	6-2	183	Butte	Freestyle
Tom Ridley	Soph.	5-11	160	Hanford, Calif.	Freestyle
Dan Cederburg	Fr.	6-0	160	Havre	Breaststroke
John Collier	Fr.	5-8	140	Santa Rosa, Calif.	Butterfly
John Kafentzis	Fr.	6-3	170	Helena	Freestyle
Steve Kerr	Fr.	6-1	165	St. Charles, Ill.	Diving
Jim Marshall	Fr.	5-11	150	Santa Rosa, Calif.	Backstroke
John Roemer	Fr.	5-11	155	Missoula	Freestyle

SCHEDULE

Jan. 8	Washington State University	Missoula	2 p.m.
Jan. 28	University of Idaho	Missoula	2 p.m.
Jan. 29, 30	Montana AAU Senior Meet	Missoula	9 a.m.
Feb. 4	Central Washington State College	Ellensburg	2 p.m.
Feb. 5,6	Puget Sound University	Tacoma	2 p.m.
Feb. 11	Idaho State University	Missoula	2 p.m.
Feb. 12	Weber State	Missoula	2 p.m.
Feb. 19	Gonzaga, University of Idaho	Spokane	2 p.m.
Mar. 2-4	Big Sky Conference Championships	Ogden, Utah	
Mar. 23-25	NCAA Championships	West Point, N.Y.	

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