Basketball practice begins

University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations
MISSOULA—

Monday marks the beginning of the 1973-74 basketball season at the University of Montana.

Eight lettermen will be on hand as Coach Jud Heathcote sends his charges through the first day of pre-season practice.

The lettermen are Ken McKenzie, 6-9 junior center from Port Coquitlam, British Columbia; Robin Selvig, 6-2 senior guard from Outlook; Kevin Rocheleau, 5-9 senior guard from Missoula; Larry Smedley, 6-6½ junior forward from Vancouver, Washington; Eric Hays, 6-3 junior forward from Junction City, Oregon; Tom Peck, 5-10 junior guard from Libby; Mark Nord, 6-0 junior guard from Missoula; and Scott Hollenbeck, 6-6 senior forward-center from Spokane, Washington.

McKenzie and Smedley are the top returning scorers, having averaged 12 and 7.3 points, respectively, during the 1972-73 season. McKenzie was last year's leading rebounder with a 9.5 average.

Other varsity candidates include redshirt Jim Darby, 6-11 sophomore center from Vancouver, British Columbia; 1972-73 squadman Carnail Banks, 5-11 senior guard from Chicago, Illinois; Rick McGinnis, 6-3 sophomore forward from Missoula, and Tim Stambaugh, 6-7 sophomore forward from Portland, Oregon.

Two members of last year's freshman team, 6-7 Jim Swain and 6-8½ Tim Blaine are also candidates for berths on the varsity. Swain is from Billings and Blaine is from Albany, Oregon.

Heathcote said freshman guard Ben DeMers, a 6-3 all-state performer on Missoula Sentinel's Class AA champions last year, will play on the varsity this year. "We have four other freshmen recruits who may be able to play varsity ball this year," Heathcote said.

The squad will practice in Adams Fieldhouse, with the frosh team practicing at 2:00 p.m. and the varsity taking the floor at 3:30 each afternoon.

Montana opens the season against San Jose State University in San Jose, California, Nov. 30.