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AUGUSTANA AND SOUTHERN COLORADO
HAVE VETERAN TEAMS

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When the Montana Grizzlies make their first home appearances of the young basketball season Thursday and Friday night they will be up against two veteran teams in Augustana and Southern Colorado.

Augustana, Thursday night's opponent, has ten lettermen back from last year's fine 17-9 club and the Vikings are being touted as the favorites to capture the North Central Conference Crown.

The Vikings are 1-1 on the season after whipping Concordia (Minn.) 101-68 and losing a heartbreaker to Kearney State 73-72. They are led by 6-9 Yugoslavian center Davor Rukavina. Last year Rukavina was the first freshman in North Central Conference history to make first team all-conference. He is averaging 16 points and eight rebounds after the two 1973 games.

Tom Mulso, a 6-6 forward, and Neil Klutman, a 6-2 guard, are also averaging in double figures for the Vikings, with respective 13 and 12 point figures.

Southern Colorado brings a 2-0 record into Friday night's game. The Indians beat Western State 66-62 and then surprised Air Force 67-60 on the Academy's home floor.

Southern Colorado also has three individuals scoring in double figures. Forward Tom Peterson is averaging 16.5 points, forward Paul Gronewoller is averaging 13.0 and highly regarded Charles Cox, a three-year letterman, is averaging 11.0 points.

Center Ken McKenzie paces Montana in both scoring and rebounding with a 25 point average and 13.3 rebound average. Montana's other starters and their point and rebound averages are guards Robin Selvig (10.7 and 1.7) and Ben DeMers (7.3 and 2.0) and forwards Larry Smedley (10.7 and 3.3) and Tim Stambaugh (5.7 and 5.0).

Both varsity games begin at 7:30 p.m. The Cubs play 5:30 preliminaries against the Montana State Bobkittens and Spokane Falls Community College.