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Dave Guffey
Sports Information Director
406/243-2522

Information Services, University of Montana, Missoula, MT 59812

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guffey/stc
state, big sky

GRIZ BEGIN FOOTBALL PRACTICE,
HOST SKYWRITERS AUGUST 27TH

MISSOULA--

Those lazy days of summer will soon come to an end for more than 80 collegiate football hopefuls, as the University of Montana fall football practice begins Monday, Aug. 27.

Coach Gene Carlson and his staff also welcome a large contingent of Big Sky Conference media that same day, as the 2nd Annual Big Sky Conference Skywriters Tour makes its swing through Missoula.

There are 41 returning lettermen expected in camp Monday. The Grizzlies also return 17 lettermen; nine on defense and eight on offense. UM was 5-6 overall last season and 4-2 in the Big Sky Conference. They tied for second in the Big Sky -- their best finish in eight seasons.

There are four all-conference selections returning on defense. All-American candidate Kent Clausen leads the way. The Grizzlies' top tackler last year (102), Clausen picked off four passes and ran one back for a touchdown. Free safety Greg Dunn, cornerback Scot Ferda and end Sam Martin were also chosen for the Big Sky's defensive "dream team."

Offensive lineman Guy Bingham (6-3, 240) and tight end Allen Green (6-3, 225) were All-Big Sky first teamers on offense last year. Junior tailback Rocky Klever (6-3, 215), UM's leader in total offense last year, is another key returnee. He gained 815 yards last year, and was named Big Sky Offensive Player of the Week twice.

(over)

GRIZ BEGIN FOOTBALL PRACTICE--2

Clausen was picked as the Big Sky's top defensive player once.

UM will hold its practices behind Harry Adams Field House. Scrimmages will be held there and at Dornblaser Stadium. Practice and scrimmage times will be announced at a later date.

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NOTE: A two-part series on UM's offensive and defensive teams will be released the week of Aug. 27-31.