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GRIZZLY WRESTLERS OPEN BIG SKY
SEASON/HOST MSU FRIDAY, DEC.14

MISSOULA--

The University of Montana wrestling team starts its "official" season this Friday afternoon, hosting inter-state rival Montana State University in its Big Sky Conference opener. The match will begin at 4 p.m. in Dahlberg Arena, located in Adams Field House.

First-year coach Jerry Hicks' team is coming off a 20-20 draw with visiting North Idaho College last Thursday. Prior to that the Grizzlies placed second in the Bobcat Invitational in Bozeman.

"It was a good team effort against Northern Idaho," Hicks said. "If we can keep improving, especially in the lower weights, we're going to win a lot of matches. They've (the team) already improved a lot so far."

Thus far this season, senior co-captain Scott Morton (190) a senior from Spokane, Wash., is the winningest Grizzly. He has a 9-3 overall record. Morton, who redshirted last season, was second in the recent Bobcat Invitational, and was third in the Big Sky two years ago.

Probably the most improved wrestler is junior Neil Freitas (177), who is 8-4 overall and titlist in the Bobcat Invitational. He has three pins. Freitas is from Yerrington, Nev.

Grizzly co-captain Brad Benn is 6-2-1, and was third in the Big Sky last season. He is a senior from Olympia, Wash.

(over)

GRIZZLY WRESTERS--add one

The tentative lineup for the Grizzlies Friday:

118 -- Doug Forrest (3-5-0)

126 -- Mike Tice (3-7)

134 -- John Carver (5-6-1)

142 -- Jim Brubaker (0-1)

158 -- Kelly Morton (7-5)

167 -- Matt Popham (6-6) or Jim Clowes (0-0)

177 -- Neil Freitas (8-4)

190 -- Scott Morton (9-3)

Heavyweight -- Myke Miller (3-2)

NEXT GRIZZLY WRESTLING MATCH: Sunday, Dec. 16, at the University of Washington Invitational in Seattle.

UM will be off after the tourney until Jan. 11, 1980, when they host Idaho State in a Big Sky match in Missoula. It starts at 4:30 p.m.

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