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Dave Guffey Sports Information Director 406/243-2522

guffey/stc state, opp 3-24-80 GRIZZLY TRACKSTERS TRAVEL TO SPOKANE TO MEET COUGARS, VANDALS SATURDAY

MISSOULA--

The University of Montana men's track team will have a difficult season opener this Saturday, March 29, when it travels to Spokane to meet Washington State University and the University of Idaho in a three-way meet.

"It will be a very tough opener, very tough," said Grizzly coach Marshall Clark, who guided UM to a fourth-place finish in the recent Big Sky Conference indoor meet. "Our sprint relay and sprints will be questionable with the loss of Geoff Grassle (grades)."

Clark said he expects the Grizzlies to be strong in the middle distances with Guy Rogers and Larry Weber; distances with Tom Raunig and Dave Gordon; and the hurdles, with Dale Giem, Tim Fox, Bob Tobin and Jack Schuster.

Clark noted that senior Brad Sheldon, who was one of the members of UM's NCAA qualifying two-mile relay (indoor) team, will redshirt this season to concentrate on his studies.

"We haven't had our team together for a couple of weeks (UM just ended its spring break) and a lot of things are untested," Clark said. "We are not sure where we are in the shot put, discus, javelin, and, as I mentioned earlier, we are definitely weak in the sprints."

UM's nomination for Big Sky Trackster of the Week is Fox, who placed first in the highs (14.5) and second in the intermediate hurdles (54.4) in the Oregon State Invitational last week. Both times were electronic.

GRIZZLY TRACKSTERS--add one

Best marks for UM athletes who have competed in invitationals:

400IH

Tim Fox, 53.47e, 3-15-80

110M HH

Tim Fox, 14.5e, 3-17-80

10,000M

Tom Raunig, 29:38.0e, 3-15-80 Dave Gordon, 29:56.0e, 3-15-80

1500M

Mike Brady, 3:55.0e, 3-15-80

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