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# HICKS COMPLETES UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA WRESTLING RECRUITING/SIGNS FOUR MORE

MISSOULA--

Capping what he called "an excellent recruiting year," University of Montana wrestling coach Jerry Hicks put on the finishing touches recently, adding three in-state and one out-of-state athletes to the program.

"We had one disappointment in recruiting," said the second-year coach, who led the Grizzlies to second place in the Big Sky Conference last season. "But, other than that we got every kid we went after. I tried to fill in a couple of spots right away, and then went for overall depth. We succeeded in both areas."

The in-state prep is Greg Gleason from Billings West High School. He was the 1980 119-pound "AA" state champion in 1980, and third the previous season. His coach at Billings West High was Pete Reed.

Gleason was the MVP in the 1980 Billings Invitational Wrestling Tournament, winning his weight class in that event. He had a team-high 15 pins last season, and the fastest pin (39 seconds).

A math major, Gleason was a three-year letterman as a prep, and seven times the Montana AAU state champion. His high school record was 58-22-1. He will wrestle at 118 or 126 at UM.

The other UM freshman will be Jim Schneck (pronounced Shin-neck-ee), from Hoffman Estates High School in Hoffman Estates, Ill. His coach there was former Grizzly standout Otis Price, a Big Sky Conference champion at UM.

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## HICKS COMPLETES UM WRESTLING RECRUITING--add one

Schnecke was honorary captain his senior year, as well as district champion and state qualifier. He will wrestle at 142 or 150 pounds for the Grizzlies. His prep record was 63-26-2.

Two junior college products, both from Montana, will also join the UM program.

North Idaho Junior College transfers Bill Weldon and Mark Nelson will add "a lot of depth to our squad," Hicks said.

Weldon had an outstanding career at Missoula's Hellgate High School, where he was coached by Lanny Bryant. His record for the Knights was 63-7, and he won the state crown at 185 pounds twice.

He was a regional placer two times at North Idaho, which is coached by John Owen. He was also a two-time letterman there. He will wrestle at 190 pounds or heavyweight for the Grizzlies.

Nelson, from Whitehall, will be a junior (as Weldon will be). He also had a tremendous career at Whitehall High School. He had a 103-6 varsity record.

He is a two-time Montana state champion, and garnered two titles in AAU freestyle wrestling.

As a junior college freshmen he was regional winner, but was sidelined with an injury the following season. He will wrestle at 118 pounds for the Grizzlies.

Nelson plans to major in elementary education.

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