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BUTTE'S KATHY BENDER, MICHIGAN'S WILLIE JONES
SELECTED AS ATHLETES OF THE YEAR

MISSOULA--

A 16-year-old high school junior from Butte and a senior track and football star from the University of Montana have been selected as this year's female and male athletes of the year by the University of Montana Alumni Association.

The two are Kathy Bender of Girl's Central High School in Butte, and Willie Jones of Monroe, Michigan.

Miss Bender was selected on the basis of her outstanding performances in competitive swimming. She has been the Montana State diving champion for the past five years, and also won a championship when she was only eight years old.

Her mother is volunteer swim coach at the Butte YMCA.

The attractive star, who is also an excellent gymnast, started competing in the senior women's division when she was 10, and won the title five times. When she didn't win it, her sister Pam came out on top.

This year, Miss Bender entered six events in the three-meter low board competition at the AAU Region 11 Meet and won five of them. The meet included divers from Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota and South Dakota and featured junior and senior women's competition in both high and low board events.

She took four of four firsts in the three-meter synchronizing event for senior women from 15-17 years of age.

At this year's Spokane, Wash., Chronicle Park meet she took second place after finishing in first for the two previous years. This affair brings swimmers and divers from Montana, Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, Canada, Alaska and Arizona.

She won two first places at this year's Seafare Meet in Seattle competing against swimmers from the northwestern United States.

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As a result of her many successful meets this year, Miss Bender was named "Swimmer of the Year" at the Montana AAU Convention in Great Falls.

Willie Jones has been an outstanding and versatile athlete at the University since entering as a freshman in 1964. He was selected for his outstanding achievements in track last spring, when he took three first places at the Big Sky Conference Track and Field Meet.

Jones set conference records in both the 100- and 220-yard dashes, with times of 9.4 seconds and 21.1 seconds, respectively. He took first in the broad jump with a leap of 23 feet, 1 3/4 inches, just five inches short of the league mark. His performances in these events plus a part in the 440-yard relay netted him 31.75 points to make him the highest scoring individual at the meet.

He went to the NCAA Track and Field Meet last spring, but did not place, even though he ran the 100-yard dash in 9.5 seconds.

In football, as a sophomore, Jones led the Grizzlies in scoring with seven touchdowns for 42 points. He led the squad in kickoff returns, caught five passes for 120 yards and three touchdowns, averaged six yards per carry playing behind All-Conference tailback Paul Connelly, and was third on the team in total offense with 298 yards.

Last year, Jones was hampered by injuries, but still finished fifth on the squad in rushing yardage, was sixth in total offense, third in kickoff returns, and third in scoring.

Last year's recipients were Bob Palmer, outstanding University of Montana wrestler, and noted Missoula golfer Helen Tremper.