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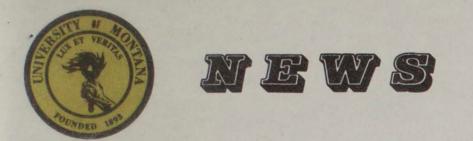
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BIG SPORTS WEEKEND ON TAP IN MISSOULA; BASKETBALL, SWIMMING, AND WRESTLING

MISSOULA --

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A big weekend of University of Montana sports is on tap starting Friday, and Grizzly sports fans can see three different sports without walking the length of a city block.

Friday at 3 p.m., Fred Stetson's swimming team, pointing toward the defense of its Big Sky Conference championship in one week, will battle Eastern Washington College and Montana State's Bobcat Swim Club.

Utah State was originally scheduled to visit Missoula for the meet, but condemnation of the school's swimming pool caused abandonment of its program this year.

The Grizzly swimmers defeated Eastern Washington earlier this year with little difficulty. The Bobcat Club, not under the auspices of the Montana State athletic department, was supposed to come to Missoula Jan. 6 but cancelled due to poor weather conditions.

Friday night at 7:30, the University freshman basketball team will do battle with Montana State's yearlings for the third time this season. One month ago, in Bozeman, the two teams split, with the Cubs winning the first encounter 88-84, and the Bobkittens grabbing the second, 85-76.

Montana coaches Del Carroll and John (Doc) Holliday hope their charges can perform as they did in the first game between the two teams. The Cubs are smaller overall, but rely heavily on quickness and good outside shooting.

Cub starters will be Don Wetzel of Cut Bank and Mike Heroux of Menasha, Wis. at guards; Tony Bertuca of Chicago, Ill. at center, and Les Gordon of Dillon and Jerry

(Cork) Hill of Columbia Falls at forwards.

Bobkitten starters will be Gene Lewis of Missoula and Dean Kratovil of Billings at forwards; Tex Taylor of Edgar at center, and Cal Winslow and Jim Petek, both of Billings, at guards.

The two teams will meet again Saturday night at 6 p.m. before the varsity squads tangle at 8 p.m.

The Grizzlies will be seeking revenge from the two defeats inflicted by the Bobcats nearly a month ago in Bozeman. Montana stayed in the first one, finally losing 83-79, but the Bobcats ran away in the second one, 107-76.

A sellout crowd is expected for the Saturday night battle in the Harry Adams Field House.

Starting for the Grizzlies will be Greg Hanson, Missoula senior, and Rick Johnston, Albuquerque, N.M. senior, at guards; Don Parsons, Richland, Wash. senior, at center; and Mark and Max Agather, Libby sophomores, at forwards.

The Bobcats, under Coach Roger Craft, will start Jay Harrington, 6-0, and Warren Daniels, 6-3, at guards; Jack Gillespie, 6-9, at center; and Don Luce, 6-4, and Greg Harris, 6-6, at forwards.

Grizzly coaches Ron Nord and Bob Cope realize their charges will have to put the stopper on Gillespie, who tallied 40 and 35 points against the Silvertips in Bozeman.

"We'll have some surprises ready for them when they get here," Cope and Nord said Thursday.

Wrestling is also on the agenda for this weekend. Gene Davis' matmen will tangle with defending Big Sky champion Idaho State Friday night immediately following the Cub-Bobkitten game, and then will battle Eastern Washington State College Saturday night after the Grizzly-Bobcat game.

The Grizzly grapplers dropped a pair of meets last weekend, losing to Big Bend Community College of Moses Lake, Wash. 13-28, and to Washington State University, 11-27.

Davis wasn't pleased with the performances of his squad in the two Washington meets, but said, "We've got a good opportunity to show what kind of stuff we're made of this weekend."