

University of Montana

ScholarWorks at University of Montana

University of Montana News Releases, 1928,
1956-present

University Relations

3-12-1968

1968 Grizzly track team could be best in University history

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/newsreleases>

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Recommended Citation

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations, "1968 Grizzly track team could be best in University history" (1968). *University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present*. 3396.
<https://scholarworks.umt.edu/newsreleases/3396>

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the University Relations at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact scholarworks@mso.umt.edu.



NEWS

INFORMATION SERVICES UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

MISSOULA, MONTANA 59801

Phone (406) 243-2522

IMMEDIATELY

schwanke/js
3-12-68
sports one

1968 GRIZZLY TRACK TEAM COULD BE BEST IN UNIVERSITY HISTORY

MISSOULA---

"We've got depth in every event, more speed in track events and added help on the field. We should be strong, perhaps the best in the school's history, if we don't reach our peak too soon."

University of Montana track fortunes for 1968 appear bright, if these words from head coach Harley Lewis are any indication.

The Grizzlies finished second in Big Sky Conference championship competition last spring, and suffered only a few losses through graduation from that squad.

Montana tracksters took six first places in last year's meet, and the three individuals who piled up these firsts return this spring.

Speedster Willie Jones of Monroe, Mich., triple winner and high point man for the meet, will be back to defend his wins in the 100 and 200-yard dashes and the long jump. He holds conference records of 9.4 and 21.1 seconds in the sprints, and was less than six inches short of the mark in the long jump.

Distance ace Fred Friesz of Billings, NCAA All-America in the six-mile run, will be back to compete in the mile and three-mile events he won last year.

The third individual champ was javelin thrower Mike Lyngstad, of Columbia Falls, whose winning toss of 220 feet, 4½ inches was not a conference mark, but did indicate that Christensen's record of 232 feet for Montana State may be in jeopardy this fall.

But now for the depth.

Backing Jones in the 100-yard dash will be Larue Nelson of New Orleans, La. (9.5), Ron Baines of Tacoma, Wash. (9.6), Tom Gopp of N. Canton, Ohio (9.6), and Jerry (Cork) Hill of Columbia Falls (9.8).

more

In the 220-yard dash, Jones will be backed by Nelson (21.4) and Gopp (21.6).

Prospects look real good again in the 440-yard dash, with several strong returnees from last spring. Back are Daryl Gadbrow of Missoula (48.3), Carl Thompson of Missoula (48.6), workhorse Gopp (48.0), along with newcomers Bob Zins, Randy Hahn (48.6) and one-year veteran Dave Nebel, all of Great Falls,

Lewis' half-mile corps in three deep, with the best performance turned in by Mick Harrington of Missoula (1:53). Helping out will be Duane Spethman of Boulder, a converted 440 man (1:56) and frosh Ray Ballew of Sunburst (1:57).

Friesz will have strong support in the longer distances, with Doug Brown's long-standing marks in the one and three-mile runs in jeopardy. Friesz has run the mile in 4:15, and will be pushed by Ray Velez of San Bernadino, Calif. (4:17), Wade Jacobson of Simms (4:17) and Steve Linse of Snohomish, Wash. (4:21). All are freshmen.

Roy Robinson of Glasgow will be in his first spring of competition in the high hurdles after making his mark during the winter in two major indoor meets at Seattle and Vancouver, B.C.

Robinson has done the highs in 14.4 seconds, and depth in that event includes Sid Rhinehart of Missoula (14.9) and freshman Bruce Moerer of Billings, who ran a 14.7 in high school.

In the intermediate hurdles, veteran Tim Stark of Polson returns to vie with Moerer and Dick Koontz of Billings, both freshmen.

Competing in the shot put for the Silvertips will be freshman Mark Doane of Hardin, transfer Howie Roth of Kennewick, Wash., and sophomore Steve Henderson of Columbus.

Carl Erland, transfer from Kent, Wash., will lead Grizzly discus men, and will get plenty of help from Doane and sophomore Jim Clawson of Missoula.

Lyngstad, who has already equalled his winning throw in the javelin in pre-season workouts, will be helped by sophomore Dave Gustafson of Vaughn, who has already thrown over 200 feet, and freshman Dan Mason of Superior, also capable of going over 200 feet.

Jones will be back in the long jump, and will be aided by past Interscholastic champ Koontz and sophomore Marty Palagi of Great Falls.

The Bruins will be strong in the high jump this spring, with school record-holder Ron Baines of Tacoma, Wash., who has gone 6-8, vying with Ron Langworthy of Billings and jumping-jack basketball player Stan Yoder of Ft. Wayne, Ind.

Baines will also work in the pole vault, with strong support from freshman Dan Monahan of Billings.

"One thing that is really going to help us this spring is the fact that football coach Jack Swarthout has released some of his kids from spring football so they can work at track full time," Lewis said.

"This should help improve their performances somewhat."

Lewis is especially pleased that many of his tracksters are underclassmen, and that these young competitors are already pushing the veterans that remain on the squad.

"We'll be going strong for that conference title this year," Lewis said. "With our added depth, we should be right in the thick of things by that time."

The league meet is scheduled for May 17-18 in Ogden, Utah.