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Big fullback arrives in Missoula to play for Grizzlies in 1968

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations

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MISSOULA---

When Jack Swarthout and his assistants lost fullback Bryan Magnuson to graduation after the 1967 football season, the search began for an at least adequate replacement for the 220-pounder, described by the UM coaches as "the best fullback we've ever coached."

The result: a junior college fullback who not only outweighs Magnuson, but can nearly match him in speed.

Tony Gabriel, 6-3, 230-pound standout fullback for the past two years at Cameron, Okla. Junior College, arrived in Missoula Saturday night to enroll in classes and begin spring football April 5.

Swarthout, in announcing Gabriel's arrival, said, "Replacing Magnuson is not an easy task, but I think Gabriel, if he comes through according to his reputation, will be more than adequate at the fullback spot."

The big fellow carries his 230 pounds well, and has covered the 100-yard dash in 10.2 seconds in uniform. Magnuson had done a 10 flat century.

Gabriel, who has also seen grid action as a defensive end during his high school and JC careers, is a native of South River, N.J.