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Transfer Henry Saunders ready for cage duty next season

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TRANSFER HENRY SAUNDERS READY FOR CAGE DUTY NEXT SEASON

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MISSOULA---

Basketball transfer Henry Saunders has been at the University of Montana since late last year, but people in this area were the only ones who knew it.

Now UM basketball coaches Bob Cope and Lou Rocheleau think it's time to spread the word.

Saunders is a 6-8 center who played for one year at Pasadena City College of California, where Jerry Tarkanian, now at Cal State-Long Beach, was head coach at the time. Tarkanian will lecture at this summer's UM Coaching Clinic.

Overall, the Pasadena quint won 32 and lost 3 with Saunders at the pivot. Two of those losses came during the regular season, and the third was in the state's junior college championship tilt.

Saunders, who hopes to play pro ball when his college career is completed, started his cage career at Ottawa Hills High School in his home town of Grand Rapids, Mich. During his junior year, the team's front line averaged 6-6 and was complemented by 6-0 and 6-1 guards.

The Ottawa Hills team won the city league championship with a 17-0 mark, but lost its second game in the district tourney. One of Saunders' teammates at Ottawa Hills, Mike Coleman, is now playing for the University of Colorado.

For his senior year in high school, Saunders moved to Pasadena and played for John Muir High School, averaging 17 points per game before going to the city college.

Cope and Rocheleau are more than happy to have Saunders at the University.

"We feel that he is an outstanding pivot man, and that he could solve many of our problems," Cope said. "He has good speed, and scores real well underneath."

Saunders will have three years of eligibility as a Grizzly cager.