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UM SKIERS OPEN
SEASON IN BOZEMAN

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The University of Montana ski team opens its season this weekend in Bozeman with potentially the strongest team in the history of the school.

Rusty Lyons, Tips slope coach, said his skiers have an excellent chance at breaking Montana State's dominance of the Big Sky. "We are young and talented and will be strong in the slalom and cross country events," he said.

Montana in 1969 finished second to the Bobcats at the Big Sky meet in Missoula with 331 culminative points out of a possible 400. MSU won the championship with 359 points. The Big Sky meet will be in Missoula again this year.

Gary Keltz, a Butte sophomore, is the top nordic skier returning from the 1969 squad. Kentz placed fourth in the senior stunted cross country finals last winter and achieved the same position in the Big Sky jumping. Lyons said this year the Mining City skier has a good chance to win the cross country and should do well again in the jumping. The men who beat Keltz have graduated.

Others returning that placed in the conference meet in 1969 are Jan Wessel, Oslo, Norway 12th in the downhill and seventh in jumping; Mickey Hagedsted, Kalispell, 15th in the downhill and sixth in jumping; and Kenn Hugos, Missoula, ninth in the slalom.

Lyons said these men form the nucleus of a strong team this season and even stronger team in 1971. The coach said all, with the exception of Wessel, are sophomores and juniors.

"At Bozeman this weekend," Lyon said, "we'll find out how our skiers will fare against Big Sky opponents." Montana will compete against MSU, Idaho, Weber State and possibly the University of Calgary.

Making the Bozeman jaunt along with the veterans are sophomores Craig Menteer and Mike Dillon of Spokane, junior Tim Potter, Washington, Conn. and two freshmen, Alan Alanderson, Minneapolis, Minn. and Tom Zachary, McCall, Ida.

The next Montana competition will be in Banff, Alberta, on January 30, 31 and February 1.