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University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations

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GRIZZLIES FAVORED  
IN BIG SKY SLOPE MEET

BRUNELL/mps  
sports one  
2/26/70

## sports

MISSOULA-----

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Eleven schools and approximately one hundred skiers will compete in the Big Sky Conference finals and NCAA Qualifying Meet this weekend at Missoula's Snow Bowl.

Skiers from universities from Alaska to Colorado including Canadian schools will compete in the three day meet that runs from Feb. 27 - March 1. Four events are scheduled; downhill, slalom, cross country and jumping.

Rusty Lynns, University of Montana ski coach, has received entry blanks from such too ski schools as the Air Force Academy and the University of Washington.

Favored schools in the meet, according to Lyons, are Air Force, Washington, Montana's undefeated Grizzlies and MontanaState.

The Grizzlies are favored to capture the Big Sky crown. In 1968 the Tips finished second in the conference finals and third among the NCAA qualifying schools. Montana State won the conference title while the University of Washington captured first in the overall meet.

In the Big Sky part of the meet, Weber's Rob Bell is favored to take the slalom and downhill event while Montana's Gary Keltz should easily win the cross-country. Montana State's Sam Bartow should be the man to beat in the jumping.

The Grizzlies have the strongest overall team in the Big Sky this year. Tom Zachery, Craig Montier, Ken Hugos and Jan Wessel have shown strong in the alpine events, downhill and slalom. In their last outing at Ogden, Zachery won the downhill and Montana took three out of the first five places.

The Tips seem even stronger in the nordic events (jumping and cross country). In Ogden two weeks ago the Grizzlies dominated both the jumping and cross country with Alan Anderson winning jumping and Keltz coasting to the cross country top spot.

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In the overall competition the Air Force looks like the team to beat. The young aviators are especially strong in the nordic competition and should win not only the overall competition at Snow Bown but should take the NCAA title too.

Last year's winner at Snow Bowl, the University of Washington also looks strong in both the alpine and nordic. The Huskies usually have a strong all around team, although little is known about UW's 1970 team.

The strongest entry from the north comes from the Calgary country. The University of Calgary proved real strong in the Banff competition in January and looks like the team to beat in Canada.

Not only does Montana have Keltz in the cross country, but the Butte native is an excellent jumper. The Grizzlies have plenty of depth to back up Keltz and Anderson in jumping and cross country.

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