Dahlberg scholarship established

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The University of Montana Athletic Department has established the George P. "Jiggs" Dahlberg Scholarship to honor the former athletic director and head basketball coach at the Missoula university.

Dahlberg will retire from the University in June after 33 years of service. He is an instructor in the physical education department now.

UM Athletic Director Jack Swarthout said the scholarship will be a four year award and will cover books, tuition, board and room. It will be given to the outstanding Montana high school senior planning to attend the University of Montana in Missoula. The prep student must demonstrate academic, civic and athletic excellence.

Swarthout said the scholarship will be funded through the athletic department this year but in the future it is hoped a foundation will be established to finance the award.

This will be the highest award given by the University of Montana athletic department and will be awarded yearly, Swarthout said.

A permanent plaque will be on display in the Harry Adams Field House with the names of the recipients engraved on the award. Each recipient will receive a plaque also.

Jiggs Dahlberg is a native of Butte and was an outstanding basketball and football player for Butte High School and the University of Montana.

Dahlberg had three brothers that also played for the Grizzlies. Harry "Swede", Oscar and Al.

Jiggs Dahlberg was an outstanding football and basketball player for the Tips from 1921-25. He received his B.A. degree in physical education in 1925 from the Missoula university.
DAHLBERG SCHOLARSHIP--2

From 1925-37, Dahlberg coached football, basketball and track in Montana and Washington high schools. At Miles City, Dahlberg won the 1928 state football championship.

In 1937 he returned to the University of Montana as head basketball coach and assistant coach in football.

Dahlberg took a leave of absence in 1943 from the University and coached baseball at Ft. Lawton, Wash. His teams won the industrial, military and community pro-baseball leagues by winning 60 of 68 games.

In 1945 Dahlberg returned to the University of Montana assuming his previous duties. In 1948 he retired from football coaching and in 1954 was named athletic director.

Dahlberg retired from the basketball coaching job in 1955 to become a full time athletic director. His record coaching Grizzly hard-court teams was 221-223.

In 1961 Dahlberg resigned as athletic director at Montana and devoted his time to teaching duties at the University.

Swarthout said, "It is only fitting that we of the athletic department and University of Montana establish a scholarship in his honor."

"Jiggs Dahlberg is a tremendous man that has devoted his life to helping young men. He recognized the need for a well-rounded person prepared to face all aspects of life and prepared the people he taught and coached in that manner." Swarthout said.

"Men of the caliber of Jiggs Dahlberg contribute more to a University, community and state than it is possible to honor," Swarthout concluded. "He will be hard to replace."

The award will be presented at the Montana Interscholastic Track and Field Meet in Missoula May 22-23.

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