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**California star inks with Montana**

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An All-Conference basketball center and discus thrower from San Mateo, Calif., has signed an NCAA letter of intent to attend the University of Montana in Missoula on an athletic scholarship, UM coaches Harley Lewis and Lou Rocheleau announced Wednesday.

Steve Ralston, a 6-7 and 220 lb. center for Hillsdale High School, will enroll at the Missoula university next fall and major in the biological sciences. He graduated from the San Mateo high school with honors.

Ralston is a three year letterman in basketball for Hillsdale High and is one of the top discus throwers in California. He has thrown the plate-shaped weight better than 190 ft.

Rocheleau, new UM basketball coach, said Ralston is a physical ballplayer and a great performer. "His qualities as a player and leader speak for themselves," the UM cage mentor said.

Lewis, Montana's cinders coach, said the 6-7 weightman is a quality performer and will be a valuable addition to the Grizzly program. He and sophomore Rob Andrew, who placed second in the Big Sky discus as a freshman in 1970, should provide some solid strength in that event for the Tips, Lewis added.

Ralston is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Ralston, San Mateo.

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