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Grizzly get top Montana hurdler

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GRIZZLY GET TOP
MONTANA HURDLER

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MISSOULA--

The high hurdler with the best time in the 1970 Montana High School Track and Field Finals has signed an NCAA letter of intent to attend the University of Montana on a track and ski scholarship.

John Williamson, who was clocked at 14.6 seconds in the state high hurdle finals, will enroll at the Missoula university next fall and major in history and political science. He is a graduate of Gallatin County High, Bozeman.

Williamson not only won the high hurdles with the state's fastest time, but took the 180-yard low hurdles with a 19.9 clocking. He and Great Falls Russell's Smith tied for the top low hurdle time in 1970. Williamson's team also won the Class A title.

The Bozeman senior is a nordic skier and placed second in the state ski finals last winter. As a sophomore and junior, Williamson placed third in the state jumping competition and as a sophomore he competed in the Junior National Ski Finals.

In 1969 Williamson took third in the Montana low hurdle finals and fifth in the high hurdles. He also played football.

Grizzly track coach Harley Lewis said Williamson's time is better than the current Class AA and B state records and equals the Class C mark. Only Montana record holder Roy Robinson has a better time. Robinson's 14.4 second clocking is a state and Class A record. The former Grizzly (Robinson) also set a Big Sky high hurdle record last spring at 14.0 seconds in Ogden.

Lewis said considering the poor training conditions this spring due to a lack of good weather, Williamson's time is excellent.

He will compete also for the 1969 Big Sky champion Grizzly ski team coached by Rusty Lyons.

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