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MEDIA RELEASE

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BIG SKY REGION COLLEGE RODEO
SCHEDULED AT UM APRIL 8-10

MISSOULA--

Beaming bright lights, pounding rubber soles and a glistening hardwood floor welcome most crowds to the UM Field House. But bucking steers, saddles, Stetsons and mounds of dirt will surprise spectators April 8-10 as the UM Rodeo Club hosts its annual Big Sky Region college rodeo.

Bill Brown, UM Rodeo Club adviser, said the arena floor will be covered to a depth of about 12 inches by dirt spread over tarps and plywood.

Men's events will include saddle broncs, bareback broncs, steer wrestling, calf roping, bull riding and team roping. Women will vie for titles in breakaway roping, goat tying, barrel racing and team roping. Qualifying rounds will be held at 7:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday, April 8 and 9, with the finals on Saturday night. Rodeo prizes include team trophies, trophy belt buckles and cash jackpots.

Teams are expected from Miles City Community College, Western Montana College, Eastern Montana College, Northern Montana College, the University of Montana, Montana State University and 1981 national champion Dawson Community College. All teams are members of the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association.

Brown expects MSU's team, which is part of their intercollegiate athletic program, to dominate the men's events.

The UM club's biggest strength is its women's team. "We have the two best breakaway ropers in the region," Brown said, referring to Lisa and Stacy Warburtons, sisters from Hamilton.

"They rope like men; they are aggressive," he said. "They rope to win or they don't place. They're good team ropers, too."

(over)

Malika Brown, a freshman and the daughter of UM professor Joseph Epes Brown, rounds out the women's team.

According to Bill Brown, the UM men could place in bull, bareback, saddle bronc and steer wrestling events.

"I look forward to the men's team being better than they've ever been and to the women winning it," Brown said.

Along with a good bucking stock, draft horse teams and gunfighter acts are scheduled to add a "little atmosphere and give the folks a good show," Brown said. The Outlaws, a real "shoot-em' up" act, will be a special final night attraction.

Tickets for each of the performances are available at Grizzly Grocery, Eli's Tapes and Records, Worden's Market, the Field House ticket window and the University Center ticket office. Admission will be \$2.50 students/seniors; \$4.00 adults; and \$5.00 reserved seating.

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