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Grizzlies hold the Skyline Conference basketball title in its grasp; Baseball; Pitchers; Catchers; Infielders; Outfielders

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MISSOULA, Mont., Feb. Although unable to claim it, Montana's often out-shot, but never out-fought, Grizzlies hold the Skyline Conference basketball title firmly in its grasp.

But whether Colorado State, with a 9-3 record, or Wyoming, with a 10-2 mark, can wrest it from the Silvertips this week, remains in question.

CSU, smarting from the defeat pasted on them last week by the Cowboys, storm into the Montana Fieldhouse Thursday night with but one thought in mind:

Trounce the Grizzlies and maintain a mathematical chance at the elusive Skyline diadem. Their chief rivals, Wyoming, face a resurgent Utah Redskin at Salt Lake the same night.

The weekend is fraught with possibilities. Saturday night Wyoming and Tony Windis come to Missoula for a possible title-clinching game, while Colorado State invades Salt Lake City.

Both teams undoubtedly regard Montana as the lesser of two evils since Utah snapped out of its slump. And both clubs will be gunning for a sure victory over the Grizzlies.

The task might be much more difficult than either team bargained for. With Jim Powell and Russ Sheriff at last finding the range, Montana will be difficult to deal with on the Fieldhouse floor. The Grizzlies have been out-shot, percentage wise, in their last three outings, but definitely have not been out-hustled. Should the shooting eyes of some of the faltering squad members come back this weekend, it could be a long night for both the Rams and the Cowboys.

The Fieldhouse ticket office reports that while there may be a few empty seats Thursday for the Colorado State tilt, the Wyoming game Saturday night likely will be a sell-out.

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Baseball

Twenty-six candidates for Montana's varsity baseball squad reported for initial drills Saturday. Included among the 26 were 13 lettermen and four non-lettering squad members from last season.

The team took advantage of Missoula's mild weather and worked out of doors Saturday and Monday. Coach Hal Sherbeck said the team would continue to work outside as long as the weather conditions remained favorable.

The MSU Fieldhouse will be available for track and baseball practice March 9.

The Grizzly horsehiders will leave for Lewiston, Idaho March 21 for a week of concentrated training and a four-team tourney. Montana, Idaho University, Washington State College and Oregon State College will clash in a three-game tournament March 27-29.

The Grizzlies appear to lack only a top southpaw chucker and a first baseman but the other positions seem solid.

Leading the returning lettermen is shortstop Jerry Daley, who hit .329 last year and could be considered the class of the league in that position. Four big right-handed pitchers return—Bruce Montgomery (2-4); Charley Moore (3-2); Rollie Stoleson (3-2) and Douglas LeBrun (1-1). Montana's ace left-hander, Larry Schulz, was injured severely in an auto accident last summer and no longer can compete.

Montana's outfield is solid in veterans with Gordon Hunt, Don Williamson and George Knapp. But newcomers Larry Myers, an ace centerfielder from Los Angeles Valley Junior College, and George Vucurovich, a star with the Butte Copper league, may break into the starting lineup.

Chuck Bennett, slugging catcher, returns to man that post along with able alternate Manny Haigs. Bennett hit .298 last season and was second in runs batted in.

Sherbeck said he expects more than 30 candidates out for drills by the end of this week.
This year’s squad will be, if nothing else, one of the best dressed baseball teams in the conference. The Silvertips have sparkling new uniforms—blue-grey flannel with dark blue pin stripes and dark blue hats.

Players drawing practice suits include:

**PITCHERS**

Rollie Stoleson, *#; Charley Moore, *#1 Bruce Montgomery, *#; Douglas LeBrun, *#; Eugene DeBruin; Robert Jones.

**CATCHERS**

Charlie Bennett, *#; Manny Haigs, *#; Howard Hanson; Bob Russ; Glen McGivney, * .

**INFIELDERS**

Jerry Daley, *#; Don Johnson, *#; Bob Vogel; Duane Anderson, *#;

John Thomas; Don Robirds, * ; Curt Jacobson; Bill Redmond, *#; George Pramenko.

**OUTFIELDERS**

Gordon Hunt, *#; Larry Myers; Don Williamson, *#; Gary Mitcheson;

George Knapp, *; George Vucurovich.

* — Veterans

# — Lettermen