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Grizzly baseball team leaves for eight game road trip; Cinder squad training progresses

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MISSOULA, Mont., April____Sporting anemic batting and fielding figures, the Grizzly baseball squad this week leaves for an eight game road trip in Idaho and Utah.

With only one regular hitting over .300 and three hitting under .200, Grizzly coach Hal Sherbeck is not particularly happy about facing three conference foes, all of whom are rated better than average.

Montana took a severe thrashing in two games with the Gonzaga Bulldogs in Missoula Friday, 10-7 and 14-4. The Zags treated four Silvertip hurlers with scorn, combing Montana pitching for 31 hits, including nine extra-base blows.

While Montana hit well against the Bulldogs in the afternoon contest, they scarcely could get a loud foul off two different hurlers in the night cap.

Sherbeck still is searching for solid performers at first and third, although John Thomas, who leads the team in hitting, likely will prove to be the answer at the initial sack.

Montana will have two more non-conference games before stepping into the Utah Hornet's nest. The Grizzlies play a twin bill with Idaho State College Wednesday before opening their conference season Friday with the defending western division champs, Utah State.

Although Sherbeck does not plan on using his top hurlers for the Bengal tilts, he is counting on the two games to sharpen the batting and fielding eyes of his charges.

Besides Thomas, the only other Grizzly hitting the ball with any authority is catcher Chuck Bennett. The sturdy backstop is hitting .294 but has a double, triple and some run to his credit.

(more)
Most effective pitcher this season has been Rollie Stoleson, who has worked two games and, in nine innings, has been tagged for just one earned run. He has given up only five hits and has struck out 11 and walked but three.

Montana's team batting average is a very anemic .199 and the team fielding mark of .896 isn't much better. The Grizzly defenders have committed 20 errors in five games.

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CINDER SQUAD TRAINING PROGRESSES

Saturday's time trials for Montana's track team proved only that early season predictions about the Grizzly cinder squad were only too true.

Montana will be strong in the 440, 880, mile relay and hurdles, but no where in the sprints and distance events. The mile relay team clipped off a 3:26.5 after all the participants had run off other events. Bill Anderson, a conference point winner last year, stepped off a 1:57.4 in the half-mile---seven seconds better than his time a year ago this date.

Quarter-mile times were good, considering the weather and time available for practice. Mike Granbois clocked the distance in :51.0 and Mike DeSilva was just a shade behind with :51.2.

On the other hand, times in the 100 and 220 were so bad that Coach Harry Adams shuddered every time he mentioned them.

Field trials were in about the same shape. Russ Sheriff threw the discus 149 feet, 3 inches and Ken Wersland tossed the shot 46 feet, 2 inches. Beyond that, nothing.

One bright spot in the field events is the return of Hal Utsond to competition. As a freshman in 1953, Utsond threw the javelin 192 feet, 1 inch and broad jumped 23 feet, 1 3/4 inches. If he can measure anywhere near his yearling marks, Montana will be a little stronger in the field events.

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