Montana State University opens swim season against Eastern Washington College

University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations

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MISSOULA--Montana State University swimmers open their 1958-59 season Jan. 9 with a dual meet against Eastern Washington College of Education in the new MSU pool.

Coach Bud Wallace expressed guarded optimism this week about the tank squad which he terms the best in the University's history. "We expect to be contenders for the Skyline conference title," he commented.

The swim coach made this observation on the strength of the Grizzly showing at the Inland Empire AAU meet in Spokane early in December, where the swimmers picked up 12 medals, and on the basis of outstanding relay swimming by four Oakland, Calif., swimmers--Bob McKinnon, Doug James, Ivan Jacobsen and Chet Jolly.

Other Grizzlies expected to pick up points in the 10-meet season are Wayne Veeneman, Ralph Fitzpatrick, John Stipe, Bill Reynolds, Phil Kimery, John Rider and Dick Willis. Experienced divers are Bill Brubaker and Bob Howell.

The biggest problem facing the swimmers--an inadequate budget--appears to have been solved. The team will receive an advance from the MSU athletic department to defray scholarship expenses. This budget allotment will be repaid at a later date through student store profits--a financing method approved recently by Central Board, student body governing group.

A new feature of the swim season will be the Montana high school invitational meet at Missoula Feb. 13. Wallace and the University will act as hosts to the first prep meet ever held in the state.

(more)
The swim schedule includes dual meets with Idaho State at Pocatello Jan. 17; Eastern Washington at Cheney, Jan. 23; University of British Columbia at Cheney Jan. 24; Idaho State at Missoula Jan. 31; Idaho at Missoula Feb. 6; Western Washington College of Education at Cheney Feb. 20; and Idaho at Moscow Feb. 21.

The western division Skyline meet, originally slated at Missoula, has been changed to Utah State University at Logan Feb. 25-27.

The University will host the Skyline Conference meet at Missoula March 5-7. Wallace added that he hopes to take three or four of his tankmen to the NCAA championships at Cornell University, N.Y., March 26-28.

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