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Jack Daniels discusses his interest in winning a spot on the U.S. Pentathlon team in 1960

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MISSOULA, MONTANA—Montana University's Jack Daniels, the only Montana native son ever to compete in the Olympic Games, says he will attempt to win a spot on the U.S. Pentathlon team in 1960, but right now he's concerned with his studies more than athletics.

Daniels is currently enrolled in the Royal Gymnastic Central Institute in Stockholm, Sweden—the only foreigner to be accepted to the Swedish advanced school this year. Daniels is combining a tough physical education course with graduate studies in anatomy and psychology.

"We have four hours of physical education workouts every day," he told University professor Dr. Charles Hertler in a recent letter. "This consists of everything from track to swimming to soccer, handball, cross-country running and skiing and skating.

"I'm easily the worst man on the field in soccer, and no one wants me on his team," he jokes. "But I'm doing better in swimming and basketball."

Daniels went on to say that he doubts if any teams in America will ever import Swedish basketball players. "They very seldom play the sport, and when they do, they look like cub bears with boxing gloves and roller skates," he comments.

Daniels is a native of Helmville and starred on Montana University swimming teams in the early 50's. After entering the service he won a spot on the 1956 U.S. Olympic team. In Olympic competition in Australia he won 11th place overall in the Pentathlon and was among the individual leaders in the swimming phase of the Pentathlon.

Daniels is married to the former Muriel Griffin of Missoula. He also is a member of the recently-elected Montana Sports Hall of Fame.

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