Grizzle Sports Column

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Dear Editor:

The Grizzly Sports Column is somewhat different (and considerably longer) this week, and for good reason. First of all, the Montana coaching staff feels there is a great need for a story such as this, with a full explanation of what high school prospects must do to receive and retain a University athletic scholarship. Secondly, this editor feels that the day of the dumb athlete is long gone--today's athlete must measure up in the classroom as well as on the field of competition.

Regards,

Bob Gilluly

Bob Gilluly

Few Montanans are aware, as an example, that the University cannot award an athletic scholarship to a student who graduated in the lower third of his high school class. This is a Skyline regulation, and Grizzly coaches agree with the idea wholeheartedly.

"Non-Skyline schools in our area have recruited a number of good prospects, since they can offer scholarships to lower-third high school students. But we feel that we are ahead in the long run, since these prospects often cannot maintain satisfactory grades," Dahlberg says.

Another limitation, legislated by the NCAA and the Skyline, is a rule forbidding scholarship aid to transfer students until they become eligible for competition, which normally is one whole year in the Skyline. This tends to discourage wholesale "raids" from other institutions.

(more)
GRIZZLY SPORTS COLUMN

MISSOULA—Contrary to the adage that brawn and brains do not mix, Montana University athletes are demonstrating that they are above-average students. They must, since their scholarship aid depends upon classroom achievement.

"If an athlete cannot be a satisfactory student, his scholarship aid is cancelled," MSU Athletic Director George Dahlberg comments. "We insist that athletes be acceptable students for three reasons--first of all, that is their primary aim in attending an institution. Secondly, they must be good students to remain eligible for competition. And finally, the athletes must conform to very rigid standards set down by the Skyline Conference and the National Collegiate Athletic Association."

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As far as actual aid is concerned, the maximum allowed in the Skyline is free room and board, payment of fees, loan of books, and a part-time job that pays $15 monthly. Partial scholarships also are awarded, largely on the basis of proficiency and need.

To remain eligible for competition, athletes must pass an average of 36 credits yearly with a C average or better. If a student drops below this level, the student's scholarship is dropped.

The results of such regulations are shown in cumulative grade averages. In 1958-59, for example, MSU athletes as a whole had a higher grade average than the University Men's index. Track coach Harry Adams twice pointed out the fact that his cindermen had a cumulative B average during two quarters. This fall, football coach Ray Jenkins lost only one of 50 gridders because of scholastic ineligibility. Cage mentor Forrest Cox has not lost a basketball letterman through ineligibility in three seasons.

The Grizzly coaches offer these tips to prospective college athletes:

1. Have all scholarship offers put in writing. This policy is followed at MSU, and the Skyline Conference requires it.
2. Each prospect is allowed one free trip to visit any campus. Do not accept any more than this--NCAA rules expressly forbid free trips for family members and girl friends. Also, do not accept any gifts from an institution that is attempting to recruit you.
3. Payment of any extra money, whether it be from the institution or an alumni "sponsor", is forbidden.
4. Above all, inspect a school's academic record ahead of its athletic reputation, in determining which school to attend.
5. Attend a Montana institution.
FROM: BOB GILLULY  
SPORTS NEWS EDITOR  
MONTANA UNIVERSITY

PRELIMINARY BASKETBALL PROSPECTUS

(Note: Montana's official Winter Sports brochure will be mailed about Nov. 20)

THE GRIZZLY ROSTER

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**-letters won at MSU  
x--will report at end of football season  
(weights and heights listed are unofficial)

THE GRIZZLY COACH

Forrest B. (Frosty) Cox

Currently embarking on his fifth season as head basketball coach at Montana, the volatile Cox is one of the most respected cage mentors in the Rocky Mountain area. Never blessed with the amount of material other coaches can boast of, Cox has re-established a winning tradition at Montana. In the past three seasons, his teams have come in fourth, tied for fourth, and third in the Skyline. A 1930 graduate of Kansas University, Cox put in 15 seasons as head coach at Colorado University from 1935 to 1950. He retired briefly in 1950, then accepted the head job at Montana in 1955. His Montana record is 49-45 and his career record is 199-134.

(more)
THE PRESEASON PICTURE

Blessed with more experience and somewhat more depth than normal, the Grizzlies' most obvious problem at the present time is lack of height. Only letterman in the big man category is center Duane Ruegsegger, who measures 6-5. A good-looking sophomore prospect is 6-6 forward Dan Sullivan. Terry Screnar, one of the top sophomore forwards in the Skyline last season, stands 6-3, and junior letterman Kay Roberts is a good rebounder at 6-2.

Other than these men, however, most of the talent is spread among small performers. A good bet for some All-America honors in 1959-60 is Dapper Dan Balko, the 5-10 guard who made All-Skyline last season and was the loop's second best scorer. Running mate Vince Ignatowicz is another topflight guard who is the best long-distance gunner on the team.

Other Grizzlies expected to provide some help are lettermen guard Paul Miller and forward John Lands, and sophomores Ron Quilling, Jim Harris and Bob O'Billovich.

THE GRIZZLY SCHEDULE

Dec. 1 IDAHO AT MISSOULA
Dec. 4 Washington State at Pullman
Dec. 5 Idaho at Moscow
Dec. 9 SOUTH DAKOTA AT MISSOULA
Dec. 11 Oregon State at Corvallis
Dec. 12 Oregon State at Corvallis
Dec. 23 NEBRASKA AT MISSOULA
Jan. 4 *Utah at Salt Lake City
Jan. 9 *BRIGHAM YOUNG AT MISSOULA
Jan. 14 *Denver at Denver
Jan. 16 *New Mexico at Albuquerque
Jan. 23 *UTAH STATE AT MISSOULA
Jan. 28 Montana State at Bozeman
Feb. 1 Montana State at Missoula
Feb. 5 MONTANA STATE AT MISSOULA
Feb. 6 *Wyoming at Laramie
Feb. 10 *Colorado State at Ft. Collins
Feb. 13 WASHINGTON STATE AT MISSOULA
Feb. 18 *UTAH AT MISSOULA
Feb. 20 *NEW MEXICO AT MISSOULA
Feb. 25 *DENVER AT MISSOULA
Feb. 27 *Utah State at Logan
Mar. 3 *Brigham Young at Provo
Mar. 5 *COLORADO STATE AT MISSOULA
Mar. 5 *WYOMING AT MISSOULA

*--Skyline Conference Games

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