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Grizzly Sports Column

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MISSOULA--"If I had a couple fellows who had to stoop to enter my doorway, we'd be in good shape," is the quip offered by Montana basketball coach Forrest (Frosty) Cox this week as he prepares his cagers for their opening match of the season next Tuesday against Idaho.

Not that his current group of cagers are a gang of midgets--but the Grizzlies will definitely not be a tall team this season. Junior center Duane Ruegsegger is a "mere" 6-5, fairly small for college pivot men. Another starter, sophomore Dan Sullivan, is the tallest man on the team at 6-6. Other starters will be guards Dan Balko (5-10) and Vince Ignatowicz (6-0), and forward Terry Screnar (6-3).

Heading up the bench section are two lettermen--guard Paul Miller and forward Kay Roberts. Others in line for possible action are sophomores Butch Hendricks, Ron Quilling, Bill Smith, King Hamilton and John Robinson.

Aside from the heighth problem, Cox also is hoping that his cagers don't start off as they did last season. In 1958, the Silvertips lost six in a row before finding themselves in late December. They started the Skyline battle in the same manner, but finished strong to compile a 7-7 record in the tough Mountain States loop.

An interesting sidelight to the Montana-Idaho clash will be the fact that the Grizzlies will be hoping to present Cox with the 200th victory of his coaching career. The Grizzly mentor has a 199-134 record in 19 seasons as a head coach, which ranks him second among coaches in the Skyline.

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