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Grizzly Sports Columns

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MISSOULA---On the outskirts of Salt Lake City, nestled near the foothills of the Wasatch Mountains, is an institution known as the University of Utah. There's also another foothill at Utah, and this one is designed to plague the Montana Grizzlies next Monday.

It's Bill (The Hill) McGill, a 6-10 giant who is remarkably adept at stuffing basketballs through the hoop. McGill and a host of other talented mates comprise one of the nation's best basketball teams. Montana has the dubious honor of playing the opening Skyline Conference game against the Utes Monday night in Salt Lake City.

"Utah has one of the strongest Skyline teams in recent years, and we'll have to play forty minutes of perfect basketball to stay in the game," coach Frosty Cox comments. And the Montana coach has reason to worry. A week ago Utah knocked off the nation's number three team, Ohio State. In their first eight games the Utes averaged 92 points per tussle.

McGill, a sophomore, has paced Utah with a 22-point scoring average. But a number of other performers can steal the show—including junior college transfer Allan Holmes, and lettermen Gary Chestang, Carney Crisler, Rich Ruffell and Jim Rhead.

All in all, it points to a very rugged opener for the smaller Grizzlies.