Montana University track coach Harry Adams trains for opening meet

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MISSOULA, MONTANA---With his opening meet still more than two weeks in the future, Montana University track coach Harry Adams faces one of the largest rebuilding jobs in recent seasons this spring.

Not only did Adams lose all but two of his Skyline point producers from last season—the Grizzly track team also has been depleted by the loss of five topnotch performers through injuries or ineligibility in the past 10 days.

Definitely out for the season are freshman high jumper Chuck Miller and frosh sprinter Larry Lewis, both of whom failed to survive the grade curve battle last quarter. Another topnotcher—hurdler Ed Whitelaw—underwent an appendectomy last week and will be out at least for a month. Veteran quarter-miler Ken Nelson has suffered a recurrence of chronic arch trouble, and trainer Naseby Rhinehart says the blond senior may not get back into action this season. Another 440 man, freshman Jon Shelton of Billings, has been sidelined with a foot injury.

Adams, despite losing some of his top personnel, was pleased with Grizzly performances in last weekend's time trials. Veteran weightman Ken Wersland and outstanding freshman Harley Lewis both turned in top performances in the shot and discus. Lewis and Wersland have both approached 49 feet in the shot put, and Wersland got off a 150-foot discus throw.

Sophomore miler Gary Wojtowick turned in a fast 3:14.9 time for the three-quarter mile run, and freshman Glynn DeVries was just a couple steps behind. Others who have shown well in the distances are senior Art DeVries and frosh Phil Dwight.

(more)
Freshman Tom Simpson ripped through a fifth of a mile in the excellent time of 38.9 seconds, with Sterling Wetasteon, Bill Walker, Pat Dodson, and John Datsopoulos close behind.

"Some of the times were very good for this early in the season," Adams commented. "We still are weak in several events, but it is encouraging to note that the younger performers are improving their marks virtually from day to day."

Adams does not have a capable man in the high hurdles, with the loss of Whitelaw. Best of several low hurdles prospects is freshman Gordon Pagenkopf. Unproven high jumpers are Mike Baker and Gary Carlson, while transfer Bill Glasier appears to be the only hope in the broad jump. Adams also doesn't have a capable javelin thrower. Dodson and sophomore Phil Harris will carry the load in the sprints. Co-captain Bill Anderson, along with freshmen Marv Miller and Dwight, should score points in the 880.

First meet for the Grizzlies is an April 23 date with Western Montana College of Education in Missoula. The week following the Grizzlies open their Skyline schedule by hosting Utah in a dual meet in Missoula.

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Missoula—Tim Aldrich of Missoula County High School, one of the top scorers in Montana's AA basketball league in 1959-60, has announced that he will enroll at MSU this fall.

The announcement was made at the MSU basketball banquet last Saturday in Missoula. Guests at the affair were some 15 Montana high school prospects and their coaches.

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