Grizzly sports column

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MISSOULA--Denver University's withdrawal from Skyline football competition shall not mean a general break-up of the conference at this time. Although the announcement from D.U. caught most Skyline schools off-guard, it did not surprise them.

Denver has made no bones about the fact that football cost the school more than it was worth and rumors of dropping the grid game have been around for a long time. Also, the big sport at Denver is not football or basketball, it's hockey.

Scheduling athletic events that encompass eight to ten sports is no easy job and takes time. If for no other reason, this may keep the Skyline together for a long time to come.

Montana's Grizzlies may have lost veteran forward Duane Ruegsegger via the grade route, but they are still going to be a tough team for any Skyline club to beat.

After three games last weekend the Montana club, beginning to reach mid-season form, travels south to meet two clubs picked to battle for the Skyline title; Utah State on Jan. 20 and the University of Utah on Jan. 21.

The Grizzly's starting lineup will probably include four Montana boys: forwards Larry Riley, Roundup; Dan Sullivan, Butte; guards Bob O'Billovich, Butte; and Steve Lowry, Red Lodge. The fifth man slated to start is Ray Lucien from Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

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