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Grizzly baseball practice begins; Grizzlies to play Wyoming and Colorado State University; Nine games remaining in the 1960-1961 season

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MISSOULA—Seventeen men including six lettermen answered Grizzly diamond coach Hal Sherbeck's first call for baseball practice last week.

While spring training ordinarily is associated with a Florida jaunt, Grizzly diamond hopefuls flock to the gym for push-ups, catch and a chance at an automatic pitching machine.

Sherbeck said that five more candidates will turn out after the end of basketball season. They include lettermen Bob O'Billich and Dick Held in the infield and Butch Hendricks, a pitcher. Other hopefuls now playing basketball are pitcher Kay Roberts and outfielder Ron Quilling.

A regular on the Grizzly nine last year, John Matte, will not play this season because of a schedule conflict.

The first contest on the Grizzly schedule is at the Lewiston, Idaho tournament following the end of winter quarter in mid-March. There Montana will face Washington State, Idaho Gonzaga and possibly some junior colleges.

Returning lettermen include pitcher Ed Komac, outfielders Al Craig and Jim Johnson, infielders Tom Peterson and Norris Barnhill and catcher Chuck Miltonberger. Newcomers to the squad include outfielders Bill Bouchee and Glenn Sorenson; infielders Paul Miller, Hal Westberg, Rex Robey, Gary Johnson and Jim Forman. Mound hopefuls include Joe Farrell, Bryson Taylor, Dave Oswald and Jerry Rogers.

Sherbeck has help in coaching this season by former Grizzly backstop Floyd Ayers who has completed his eligibility in the Diamond sport.

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MISSOULA--After splitting the mythical state title with Montana State College's cagers, MSU's Grizzlies are looking forward to a pair of Skyline Conference contests this weekend against Wyoming and Colorado State University. The Silvertips currently have a record of nine wins and five losses.

Both games are slated for the Grizzly lair with the Wyoming five in the Field House Thursday night and league-leading Colorado State Saturday.

The Cowboys, coached by Bill Strannigan, mopped up the Skyline cellar last season but have proven a mild surprise this time around. With a record of six wins and ten defeats, including a two and three conference mark, the Cowboys will be out to whip the Grizzlies in Missoula, a trick they haven't turned in many years.

Last weekend the Cowboys fell hard before the Grizzlies' other foe, Colorado State University on the Aggies' home court in Fort Collins, Colorado.

The Cowboys boast a tall club led by transfers Curtis Jimerson and Earl Nau. Both guards, Jimerson stands 6-2 and Nau 5-11. And, the Laramie five has a pair of 6-8 centers they can throw at the 'Tips.

The Grizzlies will allow an advantage to Colorado State University also in the height department. Head Coach Jim Williams' Aggies will probably start five men over the six foot mark and can alternate between a 6-7 and 6-9 pivot-man.

The CSU five are currently riding a five game winning streak and stand atop the Skyline standings with five wins and no losses. Overall they have ten wins and five losses this season.

Other than proving they are still state co-champs last weekend, the Grizzlies may have found a partial answer to their problem of height and a steady starting five.

Coach Frosty Cox's "big three", center Steve Lowry, guard Bob O'Billovich and forward Dan Sullivan, were augmented last weekend on a regular basis by reserve forward Kay Roberts, a 6-3 senior who had spent most of his time warming the bench this season.

(more)
Roberts began to hit the basket with regularity for the first time in his three years of Grizzly basketball in the 'Cat contests and was a big aid in the rebound department. The Newton, Kansas senior hit seven points in the first game and 11 in the wind-up of the series. He pulled a total of 18 rebounds off the board in the two games.

The other starting post at guard probably will go to sophomore Ray Lucien or senior Paul Miller.

Miller, a high school team-mate of Roberts, has been less than effective in the scoring column until this season. The 6 foot senior turned in several good floor games this season and should give Lucien a run for the other guard position.

The Grizzlies will be short-handed this weekend with guard Ron Quilling out of action for two weeks with a broken nose suffered prior to the Bobcat games.

Quilling should be ready for the invasion of Billy "The Hill" McGill and associates when Utah journeys to Missoula for a return contest February 11.

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MISSOULA--With nine games remaining in the 1960-61 season, all Skyline Conference contests, Montana's big center Steve Lowry holds a firm lead among Grizzly scorers. The 6-7 Red Lodge sophomore has a total of 212 points this season for an average of 15.2 points in 14 games. Lowry also has a handy lead in the rebound department with a total of 194.

Number two man in the scoring column for the Grizzlies is guard Bob O'Billovich with a total of 198 points, an average of 14 points per game. Dan Sullivan, a 6-6 junior forward, is second to Lowry in rebounds with a total of 173.

It was Sullivan's top two individual performances last weekend that led the Grizzlies to their first victory in Montana State College's Fieldhouse. Sullivan hit for 23 points in the first game when the 'Tips were victorious and 19 in a losing effort the second night.

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