Earl Kelley fractures left collar bone during Montana-Montana State game last week; Miscellaneous

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MISSOULA, Mont., Nov. Montana, which, like the other Skyline schools, fared badly in non-conference action last weekend, this week returns to conference strife with its season finale against Colorado State University on Dornblaser Field.

The game, which Montana once was favored to win, now must be rated a toss-up. The reason for the reversal is the loss to the Grizzlies of Earl Keeley's stellar quarterbacking services.

Keeley, who fractured his left collar bone while making a tackle in the late stages of the Montana-Montana State game last week, had provided the spark that had ignited a smouldering Silvertip offense.

Keeley, with only six games to his credit, had completed 63 of 121 passes for 797 yards and six touchdowns--good for the No. 3 spot in the Skyline.

The battle Saturday shapes up as a tilt between the also-rans in the Conference. A Grizzly victory would cinch a sixth-place finish. A CSU win would lift the Coloags out of the Skyline T cellar and doom the Silvertips to a seventh place ranking.

Coach Jerry Williams, with the ace passer sidelined, this week stressed his ground offensive. Grizzly backs, which were hampered by a muddy field Saturday, likely will find the heavy turf of Dornblaser Field more to their liking.

The Silvertips have ground out 1,321 yards on the ground in eight games, averaging 165 yards a game and 3.8 yards per individual carry.

A good deal of practice time will be devoted to rushing defense too, Williams indicated Monday. He pointed out that Montana will have to contain a bevy of extremely fast backs led by the sophomore sensation, Frank Gupton.

The game likely will be settled on the ground. C.S.U. has not yet this season depended on passing for its primary yardage and a Keeley-less Montana will not likely take to the air lanes if there is a chance to score on the ground.

(more)
Quarterbacking chores will be handled by two sophomores—Phil Griffin of Chicago and Bruce Olson of Missoula. Senior left end Pete Rhinehart still is a question mark. The three-year veteran was injured in the New Mexico game and Montana coaches will not know until late this week whether Rhinehart will be ready for action.

Another senior, guard Bill Hand, who missed the Bobcat game, will be on hand for the season's windup. No other injuries were apparent during drills early this week and the Grizzly lineup should remain the same for the C.S.U. game.

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GRIZZLY CUBS POST 3-1 SEASON MARK AGAINST RUGGED COMPETITION

The Grizzly yearlings, coached by Hal Sherbeck and Joe DeLuca, wrapped up a successful season Saturday night by defeating a highly regarded Wenatchee Junior College team 13-0.

The victory gave the Cubs a 3-1 season record.

The Saturday tilt, billed as a battle between two passing quarterbacks, turned out to be a slug-fest in the line. Both Montana touchdowns were scored by linemen as the result of Wenatchee fumbles. End Ted McElhenney plucked a loose ball in mid-air and rambled across the double stripe for a tally and guard John Matte pounced on a fumble in the Wenatchee end zone for the other six-pointer.

Sherbeck said his backfield performed well, but "the line won the game."

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MISCELLANEOUS

Grizzly guard Stan Renning, who last week was nominated by the Associated Press for possible All-America honors, ran wild in the Montana-Montana State game Saturday. The junior from Great Falls, Mont., played an outstanding game at guard and linebacker, pounced on a Bobcat fumble, his fifth recovery of the year, and was named outstanding lineman of the game by a poll of sportswriters and broadcaster. Renning also leads the Grizzlies in pass interceptions with three.