12-17-1957

Grizzlies hit the practice boards in preparation of Utah Redskins game; Grid schedule announced; Grizzly gridders rank high in national statistics

University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations
MISSOULA, Mont., Dec. ______ With only one game remaining between them and the league opener with the powerful Redskins of Utah University January 4, Montana's hot and cold Grizzlies hit the practice boards with a will this week in an effort to iron out some of the kinks that have hindered the Silvertip cage machine.

The Grizzly cagers host the Montana State Bobcats on December 23 then resume practice sessions for another two weeks.

Although Coach Frosty Cox is not looking beyond the Montana State game, he made it clear that the tilt between the ancient rivals had no added importance.

"The game is important---all games are important," Cox declared. "Montana State has a tough, dangerous club but we're not pointing for them any more than we would point for any other team on our schedule."

Cox said he believed that the Grizzlies are farther along this year than they were a year ago at this time. "We lost three straight games last season before we got a pair of wins against Washington State here at home. This year we have a 3-3 record and have one more game to play before the conference season.

Cox said he felt that the Bobcats, despite their impressive record of five wins and but one loss, could be beaten by the Grizzlies if the Montana cagers "play basketball."

He said that the MSC fast break could cause the Grizzlies some trouble but felt it could be stopped with the proper defense. "Apparently Utah State found some way to do it Saturday night," he said.

A six game statistical breakdown of Grizzly scoring finds junior forward Jim Powell leading the Grizzly den in points with 81-- a 13.5 per-game average.
Junior Darroll Dunham, previous high scorer, slipped in the Washington State doubleton last week and now is second in the scoring parade with 76. Dunham also relinquished his lead in the rebounding department to a revitalized Russ Sheriff. The 6-7 veteran center came alive in the two WSC tilts and now has 69 rebounds to his credit—two more than Dunham.

Dunham, however, still has the team's individual high in the rebounding department—20 against Washington State at Pullman early this year—and leads the club in field goal shooting percentage with 41.3 per cent.

Senior guard Hal Erickson is third in point production with 66, followed by Dan Balko with 59, Sheriff with 46, Clancy Waters with 30, Marv Suttles with 17 and Dave Shelby with 8.

Grizzly team offense slipped slightly in the past three games but the team defense improved tremendously. Montana now is averaging 64.2 points per game, the same average as the team finished with last season, but slightly under the 64.6 average posted in the first three tilts this season.

Defensively the Silvertips, while still two points off the league leading mark of last season have lopped three points off opponent's average totals. During the first three games Montana allowed an average of 67.6 points per game but the overall six-game average shows a reduction to 64.7 points a game.

GRID SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED

A nine-game 1958 grid schedule, with open dates on either end, was announced this week by G. P. (Jiggs) Dahlberg, Montana athletic director.

With Sept. 14 open, and the possibility of obtaining an early season non-conference tilt remote at this juncture, the Grizzlies likely will open football wars with the University of Utah at Salt Lake City.

Three more road games follow before the Silvertips return to Dornblaser Field to host the Utah State Aggies Oct. 18—a date likely to be chosen for Homecoming.

(more)
The Grizzlies close out their season with two non-conference games—Idaho and Montana State—both at Missoula. In the event that a Sept. 14 opener is not available, Dahlberg said that the athletic department would try to pick up a 10th game on Nov. 22.

Coach Jerry Williams stressed the need for a complete slate. "We're going to try to place Earl Keeley and Larry Myers at the top of the national statistics heap next season, and we'll need 10 games to do it."

Williams pointed out that because the Grizzlies played only nine games this year, the team's Skyline total offense ranking fell from fourth to seventh. "That one extra game makes all the difference in the world," he declared.

Williams said he hoped to pick up an additional game during the NCAA convention next spring.

The 1958 schedule is almost identical to the 1957 slate. Last fall the Grizzlies opened at Salt Lake City then trekked to Billings to play the Cowboys. A game at Provo with BYU, the team that eventually ended the season in second place, followed before Montana returned home.

This season the third game is with rising New Mexico, a team that most assuredly will seek revenge for the defeat this fall that started the young Lobo pack on the way downhill.

The Montana University 1958 football schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 14</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 20</td>
<td>Utah University</td>
<td>At Salt Lake City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 27</td>
<td>Wyoming University</td>
<td>At Billings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 4</td>
<td>New Mexico University</td>
<td>At Albuquerque</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 11</td>
<td>Denver University</td>
<td>At Denver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 18</td>
<td>Utah State University</td>
<td>At Missoula</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 25</td>
<td>Brigham Young University</td>
<td>At Missoula</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 1</td>
<td>Colorado State University</td>
<td>At Fort Collins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 8</td>
<td>Idaho University</td>
<td>At Missoula</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 15</td>
<td>Montana State College</td>
<td>At Missoula</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 22</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GRIZZLY GRIDDERS RANK HIGH IN NATIONAL STATISTICS

Montana's stellar quarterback Earl Keeley, handicapped by injury and appearing in but six of nine games, still managed to end the season ranked 15th in the nation in forward passing.

Larry Myers, junior end, finished the season within 13th place among the nation's pass receiving leaders.

Team-wise, Montana was 26th in forward passing offense, 14th in punt returns and 16th in point after touchdown completion percentage.

The statistics released this week by the National Collegiate Athletic Bureau show that Keeley completed 63 of 121 passes for 797 yards, six touchdowns and a completion average of 52.1 per cent.

Myers caught 25 aerials for 349 yards and three touchdowns.

--00--

A release this week from Williamson National Rating System in Houston, Texas, shows that Stan Renning, Montana's All-America guard, was the third leading vote getter among the nation's guards in All-America balloting in the Williamson poll and, consequently, was placed on Williamson's 1957 All-America second team.

This All-America team results from balanced voting obtained from replies to questionnaires sent the college athletic departments of the nation.