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Basketball coach Frosty Cox says basketball team is ready for gain against University of Idaho

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FROM: BOB GILLULY
SPORTS NEWS EDITOR
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

112458

MISSOULA, MONT.--Coach Frosty Cox has pronounced his sophomore-laden basketball Grizzlies ready for action after the cagers competed in two "satisfactory" intersquad games Friday and Saturday night.

The Grizzlies have another week of drills to prepare for their opener Dec. 1 against Idaho at the MSU Fieldhouse.

Cox was particularly happy with the consistent play of his yearlings. Although the White team, composed mostly of veterans, twice stopped a Gold team made up entirely of sophomores, the youngersters gave the veterans a real scare. The Whites squeezed out a 51-48 win Friday night, then used a fast break to advantage Saturday to win going away, 71-55.

Among the sophomores, guards Mike Allen and Paul Miller, center Duane Ruegsegger and forward Kay Roberts branded themselves as real threats. Forward Terry Screnar played with the veterans and turned in two consistent games.

Among the lettermen, junior guard Dan Balko stamped himself as a definite All-Skyline threat, tallying 47 points in the two games. Forward Darrol Dunham played tough defensive ball and centers Marv Suttles and Dave Shelby showed improvement. Transfer guard Vince Ignatowicz played good all-around ball.

"We'll have depth this season," Cox commented. "There are 12 men of nearly equal talent on the squad, and all of them will see action this season."

An estimated 600 Grizzly fans who watched the teams in action Saturday were surprised to see the Coxmen work a fast break in the second half. Cox, noted for his ball-control teams, hadn't set his squads to running in earnest in three previous seasons.

(more)

Cox explained, however, that it was a control-type fast break. "We won't run helter-skelter all over the floor."

It appeared that the guard position is the strongest on the team. Balko is a definite starter, but Ignatowicz was pressed hard by Allen and Miller. Allen tallied 31 points in the two games and Miller 22, although Ignatowicz played a steadier floor and defensive game.

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