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Bob O'Billovich key figure in Montana's grid improvement

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FROM: Bob Gilluly
Sports News Editor
Montana State University

Missoula--- Montana quarterback Bob O'Billovich is the key figure in Montana's grid improvement this season, and further evidence of his worth was offered last week by John Mooney, veteran sports editor of the Salt Lake Tribune, who commented:

"It's a rarity when a passing quarterback can make the switch to directing traffic for a running team. Lee Grosscup had trouble in the transition...and that's just one of the things that makes Bob O'Billovich a remarkable quarterback for the Montana Grizzlies.

Last year, Montana was the passingest team in the conference with 1109 of its 1799 total yards coming from the air arm.... from leading the league in most of the passing phases to last place in the aerial game (this year) is quite a switch for Montana.

But its nothing for O'Billovich, who coach Ray Jenkins calls "the toughest all-around player in the league." Whereas most quarterbacks are somewhat pampered and spared the rigors of defensive play, O'Billovich is one of the best defensive men in the league.

He's grabbed seven passes for interceptions, and O'Billovich also leads the team in making tackles, coming up from his defensive right half spot to smear ball carriers. His runback of an interception for 44 yards set up one of the touchdowns scored against Utah State in that 14-12 thriller early in the season.

And, in the days of platooning football players, O'Billovich is remarkable in his 'iron man' role. Bobby-O has averaged 56 minutes a game this season."

Small wonder, then, that the Grizzly coaching staff is booming the 170-pound junior for All-Skyline honors this season.

