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GRIZZLY DEPTH AT QUARTERBACK BRINGS QUESTION
OF "WHO WILL START?"

MISSOULA--

Immediately after the University of Montana swelled its quarterback ranks to five
early this week, Grizzly fans began to wonder which of the five Tip signal callers is
likely to nail down a starting slot.

Grizzly assistant coach Wally Brown discussed the problem Thursday after being
flooded with questions regarding the position.

"As of right now," Brown said, "Ed Steiner is still number one as far as the coaching
staff is concerned."

Steiner, senior Jim Searles, and JC transfer Ron Baines fought it out for the spot in
spring drills. Since that time, recruiting efforts have landed 6-3, 215-pound Mark Mochel
of Yakima JC, 6-3, 190-pound Pete Mullins of City College of San Francisco, and 5-8, 160-
pound Al Gordon of Coalinga JC in California. With these additions, Baines has been moved
to split end, and appears to be a likely starter there.

Brown said that both Steiner and Searles have experience behind center, but the 6-1,
200-pound Steiner gained the edge in spring practice.

"Ed performed exceptionally well during spring drills, especially after sitting out
last season with an injury," Brown said. "He had a terrific spring game as well."

Brown said coaches were highly impressed with Steiner's running and throwing ability,
and his pin-point timing on the difficult option play.

Searles, who started the first few games his sophomore year and some during his junior
season, is rated right behind Steiner and ahead of Mochel.

"Mullins and Gordon both have fine junior college records," Brown said, "but they
have to show something to us before they can push Steiner, Searles and Mochel.
"Mullins is an excellent passer, according to his JC statistics and films we've seen on him," Brown continued. "But he is not a running quarterback, and he does not know the option play. He can be taught the option, but it will take time for him to work into it."

The coaches believe that a good team needs to have at least three good, sound quarterbacks, and they hope to find at least three among Steiner, Searles, Mochel, Mullins and Gordon.

"If we get three good ones out of this group," Brown said, "there's a possibility that the other two may see most of their action on defense."

With fall practice set to begin Aug. 31 at the Adams Field House, interested fans will be watching closely the battle among quarterbacks for a starting spot, a battle that promises to be one of the best in many years of Grizzly football.