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Jack Swarthout lauds defensive unit following grizzlies' fourth win

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MISSOULA--

"Our defense won the game for us."

That's how Montana Grizzly coach Jack Swarthout summed up Saturday's 21-7 win over the University of the Pacific, the fourth straight without a loss for the Bruins this year.

"Pacific's defense was real good, too," Swarthout said. "Their stunting confused our blocking, so it wasn't as good in the offensive line as it has been. But that's our fault, not the fault of the kids."

Swarthout had a lot of praise for Pacific quarterback Bob Lee, who bombed the Montana defense 29 times, completing 15.

"Lee was a great passer, but our defensive backs rose to the occasion and really came through," Swarthout commented. The Grizzlies intercepted five Tiger passes.

"I was real happy with the way the kids took advantage of their opportunities," Swarthout continued. "They hustled well to block on the punt and interception returns. We counted six blocks on Unruh's run for a touchdown."

Rich Unruh is the sophomore linebacker who intercepted two passes, returned them for 108 yards and one TD, and recovered a fumble to set up the second Montana tally. He was second string before Saturday's game.

"Our defense did an excellent job of containing their running game," Swarthout said. "Bob Beers had 16 tackles, Bob Graham played a great game and is improving steadily, and of course, Gary Smith played his usual fine game, finally getting an interception, and when it really counted."
The head coach also praised the blocking and tackling of safety LaRue Nelson.

"Offensively, I'd have to say Willie Jones carried better than anybody," Swarthout said. "Roy Robinson also did a fine job, despite Pacific's stunting defense."

Looking forward to the coming weekend, Swarhtout commented that Idaho, despite their big 41-14 loss to Montana State, will be another tough foe for the Silvertips.

"Idaho hits real well, even though they're a real young ball club," Swarthout said. "And we've got to realize that everybody will be out to get us now, and that any team can beat us out of the ones we have left to play."

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