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Grizzlies to face what may be aroused group of bengals in homecoming tilt Saturday

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MISSOULA--

Idaho State University will have a couple of major things urging them on this Saturday when they invade Dornblaser Stadium at 1:30 p.m. for the University of Montana's Homecoming tilt.

First, the Bengals haven't won a game this year in five starts. Second, starting linebacker Otis Thomas may miss the game because of the death of his mother, and if he does, the game will be dedicated to him by his teammates.

And finally, the Bengals have a reputation for being tough against the Grizzlies. The Bengals have beaten the Grizzlies two out of three times since the Big Sky Conference started operations in the fall of 1964. The overall series stands at five to three in Montana's favor, dating back to the first meeting in 1921, when the Grizzlies won 25-0.


Last year, Idaho State won on a field goal in the final minute, 17-14, following a disputed 15-yard penalty against the Grizzlies which set up the boot.

Montana lost its first game of the season last week, bringing its record to 4-1 following victories over North Dakota, South Dakota, Weber State and the University of the Pacific.

Bengal losses have been to New Mexico, 3-24; South Dakota State, 22-24; Idaho, 6-16; Tulsa, 0-58, and Montana State, 7-24.
With the exception of the Tulsa clash, the Bengals have played good football throughout the season, and last week outgained the Montana State Bobcats on the ground and through the air.

Idaho State relies heavily on its passing attack, which features school record-breaking quarterback Bill Ingram, a senior this year. Ingram has completed 45 of 120 passes for 546 yards, hitting favorite receiver Jim Rackley, and end, most often. Rackley has caught 11 bombs for 153 yards and one touchdown.

Leading the Idaho State ground game are halfback Mike Acker and fullback Joe Clark.

Montana will work again this week without the services of sophomore wingback Roy Robinson, who may or may not be ready for next week's final home tilt with Northern Arizona University, the nation's number eight ranked small college squad.

The Grizzlies have not thrown much this year, but hope to do more aerial work this weekend. The running game remains strong even without Robinson, with fullback Bryan Magnuson, the team's leading rusher, carrying the bulk of the load with help from tailbacks Willie Jones and Gartha Morgan. Rick Strauss, a junior, will fill in for Robinson.

Coach Jack Swarthout anticipates a rugged game with the Bangals.

"Idaho State will be real tough despite their five losses," Swarthout said Thursday. "They haven't played badly all year in losing, and we're going to have to be ready for their passing attack."

Offensive starters for Montana this week will be ends Jim Kelly and Ron Baines; tackles Lon Howard and Bill Waters; guards Ole Hedstrom and Herb White; center Rick Sparks or Ed Dawson; quarterback Ed Steiner; tailback Jones or Morgan; wingback Strauss, and fullback Magnuson.

Idaho State, offensively, will go with ends Rackley and Craig Coye; tackles Alex Laigo and Buddy Hiram; guards Bernie Silva and Larry Bender; center Joe McGrath; quarterback Ingram; tailback Acker; wingback Bill Satterfield, and fullback Clark.