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SWARTHOUT SAYS GRIZZLIES DID GOOD JOB,
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MISSOULA--

It was a game with a lot of ifs in it.

If Montana had scored with fourth down and one to go for a touchdown, the Grizzlies might not have lost to Montana State, 14-8, but might have won 15-14.

If Montana State hadn't fumbled twice in key situations, it might have scored one or two more times and Montana might not have scored at all.

If Ed Steiner had given the ball to Bryan Magnuson on the fourth and one belly option play, the Grizzlies might have scored and gone on to win.

If Bryan Magnuson hadn't fumbled just before breaking into the clear at the Montana 39-yard line, Montana State might not have scored its second touchdown.

If the Grizzlies had been able to hold down Don Hass, things might have been different.

But, there are a lot of ifs in a lot of football games, and now the Montana Grizzlies must settle for their 6-2 record to date, and try to improve on it in the next two weeks.

Coach Jack Swarthout was naturally sorry about the loss to Montana State, but he didn't really think his Grizzlies did badly.

"We had our chances and didn't do it," he said, "but overall I think we did a good job. We just didn't take advantage of our breaks."

Assistant Wally Brown also had some comments after the game.

"It was a good, clean game, and both sides hit plenty hard," he said. "We wanted to win it, we had the chance, but we didn't win. But our kids gave their all, and it was a great game."
It was another of those situations the Grizzlies have faced before. They were behind 14-0 at halftime, a deficit that perhaps many on hand didn't think they could overcome.

But the Bruins did come back, and for a moment, late in the third and early in the fourth quarter, it looked like they might win it.

Don Hass had fumbled on the Bobcat 31, and five plays later the Grizzlies had a first down on the Cat seven.

Three times Grizzly runners went into the Bobcat defensive line, moving the ball to the one. Then came the fatal play, when Steiner and Magnuson, both with the ball, went off tackle. Steiner pulled the ball away, Magnuson went into the end zone untouched, and Steiner was stopped short.

What would have happened had Magnuson had the ball no one can tell.

The Grizzlies' one touchdown came quickly and easily after a Bobcat quick kick gave Montana possession on the Montana State 47.

After one running play, Steiner hit tailback Rick Strauss in the flat, wide open, and Strauss rambled to the Bobcat seven. On the next play, Steiner again found Strauss alone, this time in the end zone, and it was 14-6. For the third straight time, Steiner clicked to Strauss, this time for the two-point conversion. That was the last of the scoring for either team.

Swarthout praised several individuals for outstanding performances, including Magnuson, who picked up 93 yards on 18 carries; sophomore defensive tackle John Stedham who made five tackles, all unassisted; linebacker Bob Beers, who had 17 stops, and defensive end Larry Huggins, who was in on eight tackles during the game.

This weekend, the Grizzlies face another rugged foe in Utah State University, a team which whipped Brigham Young University 30-9 Saturday.

"We're going to try and get them," Swarthout said. "Our kids were unhappy about losing last week, naturally, but I know they want to, and can, come back."