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Grizzlies after seventh win in finale against Portland State

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MISSOULA--

The Montana Grizzlies hope to cap an already successful football season with another win Saturday in Portland, Ore. against the Portland State Vikings.

For one of the few times this season, the Grizzlies would have to be considered favorites to win the game, as the Vikings are 4-4 on the season, and the Grizzlies 6-3 with a tougher schedule.

Coach Jack Swarthout's biggest fear is that his Grizzlies might suffer a letdown after last week's heartbreaking loss to powerful Utah State in Logan, 20-14.

It was the second straight loss for the Grizzlies, who won their first four, lost one, won two more, then lost two. However, most Grizzly players have indicated a strong desire to roll against the Vikings, who last week were beaten 40-21 by Weber State, a team Montana nipped 13-12.

The Vikings won their opener 36-13 over Southern Oregon before dropping three straight to Montana State, 7-52, Linfield College 0-24, and Sacramento State 21-23. Then they won three straight over Western Washington 21-16, British Columbia 61-0, and Central Washington, 13-6 before losing to Weber.

The Viks are a constant threat to opposing defenses because of their outstanding passing game featuring senior quarterback Ed Gorman, ranked fifth in the nation among small college passers. Gorman has completed 153 of 310 passes (49.3 per cent) for 1664 yards and 12 touchdowns.

Favorite receivers for Gorman have been tight end Don Suloff, 43 catches for 475 yards and five touchdowns; flanker Dan Withers, 36 for 465 yards and two TD's, and more
flanker Dennis Birenbaum, 35 grabs for 334 yards and one score.

In their first eight games, the Vikings have gone to the air an average of 41 times per game, with over half of their offensive plays during the season being passes.

It will be the last game for 12 Grizzly seniors, including Jim Searles, Ed Steiner, Wes Appelt and Larry Huggins of Missoula; Willie Jones of Monroe, Mich.; Gary Smith of Pittsburgh, Pa.; Dewey Allen of Kalispell; Don Molloy of Malta; Bryan Magnuson of Hopkins, Minn.; Rod Lung of Sacramento, Calif.; Bob Graham of San Mateo, Calif., and Gib Brumback of Walla Walla, Wash.

Magnuson, a fullback and the leading Grizzly rusher, has 717 yards going into Saturday's tilt, and he may carry the ball quite a few times in an effort to get closer to the 1,000-yard mark. The big blond has averaged 5.2 yards per carry, tops in the Big Sky Conference.

Steiner, the Tip quarterback, is the leader in total offense with 760 yards passing and running, followed by Magnuson with his 717 yards on the ground.

Probable offensive starters for the Grizzlies are ends Jim Kelly and Ron Baines; tackles Lon Howard and Appelt; guards Butch Ortiz and Herb White; center Rick Sparks; quarterback Steiner; halfbacks Jones and Rick Strauss, and fullback Magnuson.

Defensively, Swarthout will probably go with ends Ken Jernberg and Huggins; tackles Graham and John Stedham; middle guard Mike McCann; linebackers Bob Beers and Greg Paresa or Rich Unruh; and defensive backs Smith, Mick O'Neill, Mace Gray and LaRue Nelson.

Portland State mentor Jerry Lyons, in his fifth year at PSC, will probably go with offensive starters Suloff and Tom Dearborn at ends; Ken Raddle and Tom Fee at tackles; Bruce Janes and Rick Young at guards; Tom Calkins at center; Gorman at quarterback; Jim Heard at fullback; Joe Talbott at tailback, and Withers at flanker.

Defensive starters should be ends Terry Livermore and John Ranstad; tackles Gene Davis and Hank Barton; middle guard Barry Cripe; linebackers Dale Pfleiger and Brett Crouser; monster Dick Cook; and defensive backs Billie Frazier, Tom Oberg and Val Thompson.

Game time is 2:30 p.m. MST.