Grizzly netters on another road trip for three matches in three days

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The University of Montana tennis team, with four straight victories behind it, heads south this week for three matches in three days beginning Thursday.

Idaho State will be the Grizzlies' first opponent in Pocatello Thursday. Friday the Tips will battle Utah State University in Logan, and Saturday the opposition will be provided by nationally-ranked Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah.

Coach Tom Whiddon knows little about Idaho State, but expects them to be the weakest of this week's three opponents. Utah State would rank in the middle as far as strength goes, Whiddon thinks.

Brigham Young is ranked fourth nationally among collegiate teams, and recently lost only 5-4 to first-ranked University of Southern California.

"I don't expect us to beat BYU, but I would hope the boys would make a good showing against them and hopefully take the other two teams," Whiddon said.

Rick Ferrell of Spokane, Wash. will play number one singles for the Grizzlies, with Steve Meloy of Helena number two, Brian Kekich of Missoula three, Bud Schatz of Missoula four, Kerry Bunker of Great Falls five, and Rod Richardson of Billings six.

Either Bill Brownell of Livingston or Berry Ormsbee of Hamilton will go along as a substitute.

Ferrell and Kekich will team up for the number one doubles team, with Meloy and Schatz playing two and Bunker and Richardson three.

The Grizzlies extended their winning string to four straight Saturday in Bozeman by dumping Montana State University 9-0 and Eastern Montana College 7-0. Whiddon was extremely pleased with the fact that the Grizzlies didn't even lose one set during the two matches.