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GRIZZLIES OPEN BIG SKY PLAY AGAINST IDAHO;
HOPE TO BOUNCE BACK IN REGIONAL TV CONTEST

MISSOULA---

Jack Swarthout's Montana Grizzlies, smarting from a 50-3 lashing at the hands of Utah State last Saturday, hope to bounce back big in their Big Sky Conference opener against the University of Idaho Saturday in Moscow.

The regionally televised game (ABC) will begin at 2:35 p.m. MDT.

Idaho's passing combo of quarterback Steve Olson and flanker Jerry Hendren has rewritten the record books at Idaho and in the Big Sky Conference. Through the first four games, which have brought Idaho a 2-2 overall record (1-1 in league), Olson has completed 85 of 161 passes for 1,112 yards and five touchdowns. A sophomore who redshirted last year, he is the nation's college division total offense leader.

Hendren, a junior, is the all-time pass receiving leader at Idaho with another full season remaining for him. This season, he has grabbed 44 aerials for 666 yards and five TD's.

The Vandals will pass from 40-60 times at least against the Grizzlies, who were stung by accurate passing against Utah State last Saturday. The Aggies completed 17 of 24.

Idaho can also count on some fine running from backs Rob Young, who has rushed for 464 yards on 85 carries, and they hope from Jim Pearsall, a top conference rusher last season, who has been out of action since the opening game, a 17-14 loss to Montana State.

In their other three outings, the Vandals have lost to Washington State, 14-7, and defeated Idaho State, 35-15, and University of the Pacific, 31-14.

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Swarthout has had problems with his offensive backfield, mainly at the tailback position. A rash of injuries through the first four games has made it impossible for him to start the same four in any two consecutive games. The starters against Idaho will not be entirely the same as against Utah State.

The three who started one week ago, and will do so Saturday, are quarterback Ray Brum, Honolulu, Hawaii junior; slotback Ron Baines, Tacoma, Wash. senior, and fullback Rick Strauss, Polson senior. The new starter will be tailback Mike Buzzard, Mt. Vernon, Wash. junior. Gartha Morgan, who started at tailback against Utah State, is injured.

Starting in the offensive line for the Silvertips will be tight end Jim Kelly, Seattle, Wash. senior; strong tackle Bill Gutman, Seattle junior, or Mike McCann, Renton, Wash. junior; strong guard Bill Waters, Troy junior; center Dave Urie, Chico, Calif. junior; quick guard Lon Howard, Centralia, Wash. senior; quick tackle Tuufuli Uperesa, Honolulu junior; and split end Al Luis, Orland, Calif. junior.

Defensive line starters will be left end Herb White, Ecorse, Mich. senior; left tackle Ole Hedstrom, Laurel junior; middle guard Larry Stranahan, Missoula sophomore, or John Talolutu, Honolulu junior; right tackle Ron Garske, Chico, Calif. junior, and right end Tim Gallagher, Kalispell sophomore.

Starting at left linebacker will be All-America senior Bob Beers of Beaverton, Ore. His counterpart at right linebacker will be senior Greg Paresa of Kahului, Hawaii.

Backfield starters will be halfbacks Pat Schruth, Billings sophomore, and Larue Nelson, New Orleans, La. senior, and safeties Mick O'Neill, Walla Walla, Wash. senior, and John Waxham, Mountlake Terrace, Wash. sophomore.

Television coverage of the contest will begin at 2:15 p.m. MDT.

Montana's 40-man travelling squad will leave Missoula by air at 11 a.m. Saturday. They will return Saturday night at 9.