5-13-1969

Film review indicates tip gridders progressing

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations

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University of Montana football coaches, quieter about upcoming prospects after last season's disappointment, are opening up a little more after two weeks of 1969 spring drills.

First assistant Jack Elway, speaking for the staff after the group, including Elway, head man Jack Swarthout and assistants Wally Brown, Ron Nord and Bill Becher, reviewed films of Saturday's controlled game scrimmage, displayed at least some optimism.

"We're very happy with the way the scrimmage went offensively," Elway said, "especially since that's what the scrimmage concentrated on.

"We feel that the team is progressing at a good rate, but we also know there is still a lot of work to do. The kids are enthusiastic, they're hitting, and they seem to be eager to improve themselves."

Elway said there were some outstanding, and in some cases surprising, individual performances during the workout.

Perhaps the biggest, most pleasant surprise has been the offensive work of halfback Casey Reilly, a freshman from Anaconda. Reilly caught a 40-yard touchdown pass during the game, and also got away on a 60-yard scoring run.

"Casey's doing everything well for us," Elway said. "He's showing up as a fine runner and receiver, and he's doing a great job of blocking as well."

Another halfback, junior Arnie Blancas of Sumner, Wash., had several long runs during the contest, and Elway pointed out that his blocking was also good.

Quarterback Ray Brum, the one-year veteran from Honolulu, came in for some praise on both his running and passing performances.

Another young Montanan, Andy Antonovich of Butte, has been somewhat of a surprise as a freshman.

"We knew Andy would be a good defensive tackle, but we didn't have any idea that he would improve as rapidly as he has," Elway said.

The Grizzlies will have another controlled game scrimmage for filming Saturday at 10 a.m., and Elway indicated the public is welcome to attend.

The scrimmage has been moved to the morning to avoid conflict with the second day of the Big Sky Conference track, tennis and golf championships.