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Grizzlies may set many marks Saturday

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As the University of Montana Grizzlies prepare for the final encounter of the season against South Dakota State Saturday, a quick look into the record books gives an indication of the Tip success in 1969.

The Grizzlies in 1968 hibernated with a 2-7 record and a 0-4 conference marking. The poor season was hard to swallow for the number one Tip in Montana and Jack Swarthout and his staff revitalized the UM football program to put it back on a building schedule.

Montanans were impressed by Coach Swarthout's first season, 1967. It was the first time the Grizzlies came out on top in the win-lose column since Doug Fessenden's 1947 total, 7-4.

In 1968 Montana expected a better showing than the 7-3 record of 1967. Many things went wrong most of which have long faded into the past.

While Montana prepares for the final game against the Jackrabbits, a Big Sky and school record check finds the 1969 Grizzlies setting, tying or possibly surpassing 48 records.

Twenty-five of the record possibilities are marks that Montana, as a team, have, will or could set. Twenty-two of the squad records will be attributed to the Tip offense, while three will go under the defensive column.

The reason the offense should set more records than the Montana defense is there are 261 individual and team offensive totals dotting the pages of the Big Sky and Montana books as compared with only 59 defensive marks.

Another reason for the Tip success was that last winter, Jack Swarthout and staff reorganized the offense. Montana put in the Texas Y or triple option offense.

The new attack has produced two new Big Sky rush records already and could possibly engulf three other team conference marks.

While the steam-rolling triple option has smashed league marks, the Montana team in 1969 has demolished every season ground figure in the UM records.
The Montana defense, also has taken its toll in school marks. While many of the outstanding performances are not recorded, the rushing allowance totals are. The Grizzlies in 1969 are well on the way to establishing new season defensive rush marks.

Not only has the Tip line impressed Montana fans and left imprints on the UM books, but the aerial defense squad piloted by Karl Stein has strengthened the 1968 defense lapse. Many attributed last year's Montana failure to a weak secondary.

The record books, a winning spirit and everyone fulfilling particular assignments have enabled Montana to chalk up a 9-0 record. Statistical indications prove that Coach Jack Swarthout has received nine team efforts in nine successive weeks. Swarthout will need the same effort this Saturday if the Tips expect to go 10-0 and have a shot at the number one rating.

Game time is 1:30 p.m. at new Dornblaser Stadium and some tickets remain. Ticket information may be obtained by calling or stopping at the Adams Field House.

UM FOOTBALL '69