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Grizzlies back to formal workouts

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations
Montana's 10-0 Grizzlies donned the pads for the first time since the final win of the season two weeks ago against South Dakota State, 58-0.

Since the final game, the Tips have received a bid to the Camellia Bowl and have been taking conditioning workouts under the careful guidance of UM trainer Nase Rhinehart.

Montana's coaches have been on the recruiting trail since the final clash and returned to Missoula for a Thanksgiving feast and to prepare for Monday's workout.

The Grizzlies coaching staff is realigning the squad to compensate for the seven players lost due to NCAA eligibility rulings for junior college transfers. When Montana first received the bid, eight players were ineligible, however, Dr. Earl Lory, faculty athletic representative, checked credit records and found punter John Ochoa eligible.

Coach Jack Swarthout's Tips are working outside while the weather permits, however they can move into the Adams Field House if necessary. The team leaves for Sacramento Wednesday, Dec. 10 for the Dec. 13 engagement with the North Dakota State Bisons.

Swarthout said the boys are a little rusty but are still in good shape. "We've got a lot of work to do in these two weeks. North Dakota is a solid ball club all the way around."

The Bisons averaged 474.6 yards per game offense and totalled 4271 yards in 1969. Of the 4271 yards, 3163 were rushing yards.

In the aerial department, the Bisons bombed opponents for 1108 yards completing 87 of 173 passes.

Montana gained 4548 yards in ten games averaging 454.8 yards per contest. The Grizzlies netted 3315 rushing yards and 1220 yards passing.

North Dakota State was number one in the College Division ratings and the Tips number two.