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Montana State University football practice update

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MISSOULA---Although Montana grid coach Ray Jenkins currently is in Boulder, Colo., enjoying a short vacation, the Grizzly grid staff has its work cut out for itself during the next month.

Jenkins will attend the Sun Valley, Idaho, grid coaching clinic August 8-10, then will return to Missoula August 11. The evening of August 11 will be devoted to an organizational meeting of the Silvertip Quarterback Club, an MSU booster club. Then, on August 14 Jenkins and publicist Bob Gilluly embark for Salt Lake City and the Skyline Conference fall football meeting.

Following this, Jenkins and staff will journey to Great Falls to view the Montana high school Shrine game on August 20. This will be followed by 10 days of staff meetings and preparation for opening football drills on Sept. 1.

The final 10 days of preparation will find each staff member working 10 to 12 hours daily. Equipment manager Ruppert Holland must have 50 sets of practice uniforms ready for use, as well as dummies and a score of other items. Trainer Naseby Rhinehart will ready his tape-and-injury room for fast service.

Other staff members will handle the thousand-and-one other chores that must be accomplished before the opening drill. This includes setting up dormitory space for the gridgers, who will arrive nearly three weeks ahead of the regular MSU students; establishing a training table and lunchroom in one of the dorms; intensive study of offensive and defensive patterns to determine each day's practice schedule; a physical exam for each gridger before practice opens; and a picture and publicity session on August 31 for the benefit of the MSU News Service and western Montana newspapers and radio stations.

Once workouts start on the first of September, the intensiveness of the schedule doesn't let up. Gridgers will spend four to six hours on the field for the first few days, and their other waking hours will be devoted to skull sessions and written exams.

Then comes the easy part--the opening game on Sept. 10.

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