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University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations, "MSU grid workouts" (1960). *University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present*. 735.

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8/12/60

FROM: BOB GILLULY
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MONTANA UNIVERSITY

FOR RELEASE FRIDAY, AUGUST 19

(Note: This is the first of three short articles dealing with MSU grid workouts, slated to open Sept. 1)

MISSOULA -- "We'll show some good overall improvement this season if our defensive units are stingier in giving up ground yardage," Montana University grid mentor Ray Jenkins commented this week in assessing one important phase of Grizzly play this season--defensive work.

The Silvertips, who ranked second in the nation last year in pass defense, hope to bolster their line potential in an effort to stop enemy ground attacks. If this can be accomplished, Jenkins looks for three or four victories this fall.

Heading up the defensive line are two veterans who should be among the best linemen in the Skyline this season--tackle John Gregor and guard John Matte, a real Mutt-Jeff combination. Gregor stands 6-4 and weighs 232 pounds, while Matte is a fireplug 187 pounds. At the other tackle spot will probably be transfer Ed Herber, backed up by junior Mike Thomson. At defensive end will be a 1959 standout, Glenn Sorenson, along with senior Howard Schwend, and sophomore Gene Moe.

Defensive linebackers include fullback Gary Smith, center Jim Johnson, and guard Larry Beddes, all of whom did rugged work last season. Backing them up are fullback Gary Ekegren, center Gary Schwertfeger, and guard Jim Bartell.

In the defensive backfield, Jenkins plans to experiment with all his halfbacks and quarterbacks. End Jim Harris may be a safety man, while QB Bob O'Billovich also is a good defender. Halfback Rich Birgenheier is a top defensive ace, while veteran Jim Grasky and newcomers Paul Miller, Steve Wood, and Terry Dillon also have shown defensive promise.

Fall grid shorkouts will open September 1 at the University, with fifty prospects slated to report.

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