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9-18-60

FROM: BOB GILLULY
SPORTS NEWS EDITOR
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

MISSOULA, MONTANA --- Montana University Grizzlies open their 1960 home schedule Saturday afternoon by hosting a gigantic band of Utah State Aggies, and Silvertip mentor Ray Jenkins says he will emphasize his passing game this weekend.

Fresh from a creditable showing against Wyoming University, the Grizzlies and Jenkins feel that their key to success against USU rests in an improved aerial showing. "The Aggies are simply too big for us in the line. We'll have to go over them," Jenkins commented.

Improvement in the passing department won't be a simple matter, however. In contrast to the 1959 Grizzly season, passing apparently isn't a strong point of the 1960 MSU aggregation. Montana throwers have connected only four times in 20 attempts this fall, and none of the completions have figured in scoring drives.

The Silvertips still have two good throwers in Bob O'Billovich and John Schulz, but talent in the reception department isn't as strong as last season. So far this year, only two Grizzly ends--sophomore Bill Bouchee and junior Glenn Sorenson--have grabbed passes. Halfbacks Pat Dodson and Ron Werba have the other completions.

The Aggies, victors over a rugged Texas Western outfit last Saturday, will start a line averaging about 215 pounds. Anchored by tackle Merlin Olsen, the USU line probably is one of the toughest in the Skyline. Coach John Ralston has 22 lettermen on hand, as well as a host of California junior college transfers.

Performance praise in Montana's 14-0 loss to Wyoming last Saturday went to veterans backs O'Billovich and Gary Smith, with Grizzly tackle John Gregor also turning in a rugged defensive game.

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"We didn't do a real good job offensively, but our defensive efforts were 100 percent improved," Jenkins commented. The Grizzlies threatened twice in the contest, once losing a TD when Dodson caught a pass barely out of the end zone. Montana also drove to the Wyoming five late in the game on the strength of Schulz' passing, but time ran out.

Dodson was the only top running threat in the contest, gaining 53 yards on eight carries. His sophomore running mate, Terry Dillon, had a subpar afternoon with only 28 yards rushing.

Only injury in the contest was a severely wrenched knee suffered by guard Jack Rudio, an affliction that probably will keep the Helena junior out of action for several weeks. Ends Howard Schwend and Sorenson didn't see action against the Cowpokes because of injuries, but probably will be ready for the Utags.

Jenkins will go with his regular starting group of ends Dale Berry and Gene Moe, tackles Gregor and Ed Herber or Mike Thomson, guards John Matte and Larry Beddes, center Jim Johnson, quarterback O'Billovich, halfbacks Dodson and Dillon, and fullback Smith against Utah State. Grizzly punting specialist Paul Gustafson also is listed as a semi-starter after averaging 45 yards per boot against Wyoming.

"It will be a real rugged contest," Jenkins summarized. "Utah State has one of the improved clubs in the Skyline, and we'll have to show continued improvement, particularly in the passing department, to win."

Following Saturday's encounter, the Grizzlies will prepare for their October 1 Homecoming contest against the University of Idaho.

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