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Grizzlies prepare for Denver University game

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10-6-60

FROM: BOB GILLULY
SPORTS NEWS EDITOR
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

MISSOULA, MONTANA--There will be no change in Montana's 2-2 football record this weekend, but the Grizzlies already are hard at work preparing for their Oct. 15 contest with Denver University in Denver. "This is a good time for us to have a weekend off, but we've still got a lot of work to accomplish in the next ten days," coach Ray Jenkins commented.

The Grizzlies polished off Idaho for the first time in nine long seasons, 18-14, last Saturday. This doesn't mean, however, that the Silvertips have solved all their problems.

"We made a fine comeback effort to win that game, but we still made quite a few mistakes," the mentor told his squad early this week. "If we expect to best Denver we'll have to improve considerably."

Montana's pass defense efforts against a strong Vandal aerial game were satisfactory but not tremendous. The Vandals completed 13 of 28 for 112 yards. Grizzly defenders gave up several short completions, yet were tough enough to keep the Vandals from scoring through the air.

The Silvertips will undoubtedly face a semblance of the same type of attack against Denver. DU sophomore Ramiro Escandon is one of the top passers in the loop.

Montana defensive ends and linebackers also came in for their share of constructive criticism, but Jenkins was quick to point out that these men adjusted to Idaho's ground attack in the second half of the Vandal contest. "Idaho ran our ends very well in the first half, but we plugged them up in the second two periods."

(more)

Individually, Grizzly quarterback Bob O'Billovich was nothing short of great in the Idaho battle. The tough 170-pounder from Butte engineered all three Montana scoring drives, intercepted two Idaho passes and knocked down several others, and contributed about 10 defensive tackles. "It was one of the finest games at quarterback of any player I've ever coached," Jenkins commented.

Bobby-O, who still doesn't rank among the leaders in Skyline statistics, has been the definite sparkplug of an improved season for the Silvertips, and Jenkins frankly labels him as the best field general in the loop.

Others who turned in good games were workhorse fullback Gary Smith, halfbacks Terry Dillon and Pat Dodson, tackle John Gregor, guards John Matte and Jim Bartell, and centers Jim Johnson and Gary Schwertfeger.

Several other men, mostly spot performers, contributed to the Silvertip victory. Defensive halfback Rich Birgeneheier came up with a vital pass interception that set up Montana's winning touchdown. Handyman Ron Werba did another fine job on defense and as a blocking back. Kickoff specialist Jim Bansamer did a good job, and substitute end Mike Trotter grabbed two vital passes.

Dillon nursed a bruised knee into the Idaho contest and didn't see action in the first half. In the final 30 minutes, however, the 190-pound terror from Hopkins, Minn., rushed 61 yards on seven carries. With 10 days of healing time, bruising Terry should be at full strength for the Denver contest. No other Grizzlies, with the exception of bruises, are on the injured list.

Dodson leads Grizzly rushers with 213 yards for a 6.4 average in four games. Smith has a net of 193 yards for a 3.2 average, and Dillon has 178 for a 4.2 yards-per-carry mark. Slender John Schulz has hit six of 11 tosses for 103 yards, while O'Billovich has connected on six of 17 for 96 yards.

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