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Grizzlies perform well in first week of Spring drills

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GRIZZLIES PERFORM WELL IN
FIRST WEEK OF SPRING DRILLS

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sports one

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MISSOULA--

Following the University of Montana's first week of spring drills Grizzly coach Jack Swarthout expressed satisfaction with the performance of the 60 varsity hopefuls that were on hand for last week's opening practices.

Most of the athletes turned up in very good condition and Swarthout had his charges hitting at full speed before the week's end. A Saturday scrimmage at Dornblaser Stadium capped the week's activities.

"We performed very well in the scrimmage, had no major injuries and the enthusiasm was excellent," Swarthout said in summing up the Saturday morning session. "Jay Baumberger is the front runner at quarterback and he did a fine job Saturday. He threw the ball exceptionally well and directed the offense effectively. The offensive line, which had been a question mark, is looking very promising as a few players we have moved around are doing well."

The Montana staff moved Cliff Burnett (6-7, 245) and Jim Hann (6-1, 210) from tight end to the offensive line. Hann has taken over as an offensive tackle and Burnett is vieing for a guard slot with returning backup guard Ron Richards. Burnett has more speed than Richards, but the 6-4, 240 Butte product is a very consistent performer who makes few mistakes.

The Montana staff has made other position changes in an attempt to give certain positions more depth and to put individuals in positions that match their capabilities.

Jim Olson, a split end in 1971, has been shifted to halfback, Jerry Cooley has been moved from linebacker to center, Rick Dodds from free safety to outside linebacker and Ray Wilbur from outside linebacker to strong safety.

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Swarthout said that his staff's goal in spring practice is to evaluate material and to stress fundamentals. Fundamentals are emphasized in order to establish the instinctive responses necessary in the game of football. Secondly, the sessions serve as an opportunity to evaluate personnel and to try new things with these individuals. The probable starting lineup for the season's opening game is generally developed in the drills as there are only two weeks of practice in the fall prior to the first game and this short period is devoted to polishing the fundamental habits picked up in April and May.

In their continuing efforts to attain these goals the Grizzlies will work out on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons and hold Saturday scrimmages at Dornblaser Stadium.

Two intrasquad games will cap the spring sessions. On Friday night (April 28) the Grizzly gridders play a contest in Butte and then the following Saturday they close out spring football with the annual intrasquad game at Dornblaser Stadium in Missoula.

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