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Grizzlies after fifth straight home win

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sports

GRIZZLIES AFTER FIFTH
STRAIGHT HOME WIN

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The Montana Grizzlies will be seeking their fifth straight home victory Tuesday night against the winless Pioneers of Cal, State University at Hayward.

While the Pioneers are 0-6 going into a game with Montana State's Bobcats Monday night, the Grizzlies are 4-2 and have the momentum of triumphs over Pacific-8 and Western Athletic Conference foes this past weekend.

The Grizzlies pasted Washington State by a 72-49 count on Friday night and slipped by the University of Wyoming, 58-49, Saturday night.

Hayward State has losses to Cal. Poly SLO, 87-84, Pacific, 102-68, San Jose State, 68-67, Pepperdine, 87-57, Westmont College, 78-62, and Boise State, 87-76.

The Pioneers' brother combination of Walt and Robert Lewis provides most of the team's scoring punch. Six-foot 4-inch Walt is averaging better than 14 points from his forward position and 6-2 Robert has a 12 point average.

Saturday night in Boise, Idaho, the Pioneers had Boise State down at the half, 40-30, before succumbing to a second half Bronco surge.

UM coach Jud Heathcote was very pleased with the play of the Grizzlies against Washington State on Friday night, but felt that his team was not as sharp in the Saturday night contest with Wyoming.

"I think it's a major accomplishment to beat Pac-8 and Western Athletic Conference teams on consecutive nights. I felt that everyone played well against WSU, with Larry Smedley giving us a big boost when he came off the bench to score 12 points," Heathcote said. The Grizzly mentor also praised the efforts of center Ken McKenzie, forward Earl Tye, and guards Kevin Rocheleau and Mike Murray.

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"Ken and Earl turned/fine games and shut off the inside play of both teams' big man. Kevin played well in his first game of the season and Mike turned in his usual consistent game," Heathcote said.

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Montana's tough zone defense, headed by the inside play of Tye and McKenzie, forced both WSU and UW to take the long-range shot, and the inability of either team to hit from the outside was instrumental in Montana's two triumphs.

The Cougars and Cowboys managed only 11 successful close-range baskets (shots taken from within the key) in the two games, while the Grizzlies were canning 22 such shots.

WSU's center, Mike Dolven, and Wyoming's post man, 6-10 Rod Penner, were shut off in the two contests. Dolven was limited to eight points and seven rebounds and Penner, an All-WAC performer last year, managed only six points and seven rebounds.

Murray continues to lead Montana in scoring and has an even 20 point average through six games. Murray is hitting on 56 per cent of his field tries and 75 per cent of his gift tosses. Field goal percentage honors go to Earl Tye. Tye, who had a perfect eight for eight from the field over the weekend, is connecting on 68 per cent of his tries from the field.

McKenzie leads the team in rebounding with^a 9.0 average and is the second leading scorer with a 14.5 figure. Tye is the runnerup in the rebound category with a 6.5 average.

There will be no preliminary to Tuesday night's game. The varsity contest will begin at 7:30.

Montana's next game is Dec. 23 in Corvallis, Ore., against Oregon State.

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