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Griz get first win; host NAU for Homecoming

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GRIZ GET FIRST WIN;
HOST NAU FOR HOMECOMING

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MISSOULA--

The University of Montana's new football season, the one of Big Sky play and home games, continues Saturday when the Lumberjacks of Northern Arizona visit Missoula for UM's homecoming game.

Following three straight losses, the Grizzlies began the new season on the right note Saturday with a 24-13 win over Weber State in their first home and Big Sky game of the fall.

Despite Weber State's 13 points, Coach Jack Swarthout credited the UM defense with a shutout. "Our offense gets credit for all the points scored in that game," Swarthout said.

Indeed. After rolling to a 24-0 lead the UM offense turned the ball over twice inside its own three-yard line. On the first occasion a fumble on the exchange between quarterback Rock Svennungsen and fullback Bob Smith resulted in a three-yard touchdown run for Weber State linebacker Jerry Merz. Moments later Svennungsen fumbled the ball away on the UM two-yard line. Weber took four plays to score on the stingy UM defensive unit.

Earlier, Svennungsen had capped two UM drives with three- and 12-yard touchdown runs. Montana's other points came on a 10-yard run by Smith and a 31-yard field goal by freshman Bruce Carlson.

"The offense got a little careless after we gained the big lead, but I was pleased with the improvement it has shown," Swarthout said. "Wyatt McCraw ran well (104 yards in 11 carries) and the line did a good job."

Montana's swarming defensive play pleased Swarthout. "The defense has really jelled," he said. "They are playing with enthusiasm."

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"Ron Rosenberg is playing great football for us and the rest of the defensive unit is hustling and playing hardnosed football," the UM mentor commented.

The Grizzlies take a 1-3 season record and a 1-0 Big Sky mark into Saturday's game with Northern Arizona. NAU brings a 2-3 season record and a 1-1 Big Sky slate into UM's Homecoming contest.

Kickoff for Saturday's game is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. Mountain time. UM Ticket Manager Gary Hughes reports a number of good seats are available for the game, and that reserved seat and general admission tickets are on sale at the Fieldhouse Ticket Office.

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