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Grizzlies must win this weekend

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GRIZZLIES MUST
WIN THIS WEEKEND

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IMMEDIATELY

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MISSOULA--

If the University of Montana basketball team is to salvage a decent record in 1971, it will have to be the record in Big Sky Conference games.

The Grizzlies are 3-13 with eight games remaining and six of the games are at home. It is impossible for Montana to register a record above .500 in overall action, but with a 1-5 conference mark, it would be possible to achieve a 9-5 Big Sky record.

Coach Lou Rocheleau knows it will be difficult to win all eight, but with six contests in Missoula he believes the chances are good to win the better share of them.

Montana fans saw a glimmer of light following the Montana State win in Bozeman two weeks ago; however, the fire was quickly extinguished by the run-and-gun Oral Roberts Titans, Puget Sound Loggers and Portland State Vikings.

Montana was in the Oral Roberts game at the half, 43-33, but that was it. The Grizzlies dropped 111-79, 89-50 and 93-79 decisions.

Saturday night, Montana hosts Gonzaga, a team that defeated Montana, 81-73, in Spokane last month. If the Grizzlies can catch fire against the Bulldogs and beat Idaho Monday night, the glimmer of light could reappear. Both are in the Adams Field House.

The Grizzly's problem is no secret--they haven't been able to hit the bucket all year. Opponents have outshot Montana 46 per cent to 39 per cent from the field and 71 per cent to 61 per cent from the free throw line. The Tips have outrebounded the opponents 809-716.

Saturday night the Tips face the league's leading field goal shooting team. Gonzaga is shooting 47 per cent in conference action and is closely followed by Idaho with 46 per cent.

Gonzaga and Idaho are teams that look for the good shot. They like to run from a set offense and rarely force the fast-break.

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The Bulldogs have two tricky guards in Chris Nikola and Tom Hunt. Both like to work the give-and-go around 6-8 center Bill Quigg. When a team shuts off the give-and-go, Quigg will either work for the shot himself or hit his forward, Howard Burford, Jim Bresnahan: or Gil Evans.

The secret to beating Idaho is containing guard-forward Malcolm Taylor, the league's second leading scorer with a 23.4 point average, and guard Tim Cummings. Cummings is eight in Big Sky scoring with a 15.4 average, and fourth in conference field goal percentage with 49 per cent rate.

The Vandals also have veterans manning the other starting slots. Seniors Adrian Prince, John Nelson and Marv Williams are seasoned and capable of blistering any opponent.

On the brighter side for Montana, guard Don Wetzel is still the league's best free throw shooter with a 90 per cent completion rate. Weber's Willard Sojourner is hitting 90 per cent from the line, also.

The Grizzly's Ray Howard is third in Big Sky rebounding with a 10.5 average and Montana is second to Weber in team rebounding.

Game time for both contests is 8 p.m. and preliminaries will precede the two games.

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