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Grizzly coaches pleased with baseballers

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GRIZZLY COACHES
PLEASED WITH BASEBALLERS

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MISSOULA--

After the first nine games, Coach Lem Elway is pleased with the progress of his University of Montana baseball team.

The Grizzlies opened the season at the Banana Belt Tourney in Lewiston, Ida., last week and ended that five game schedule with a 3-2 record. Montana lost to Washington State in the opener, 7-0; defeated Idaho State, 2-1; dropped a game to Puget Sound, 8-2, and defeated Eastern Washington and Montana State, 9-3 and 4-0 respectively.

The Grizzlies then travelled to the Seattle area for doubleheaders with Washington and Puget Sound. The Huskies took Montana, 4-0, in both contests and the Loggers dumped the Grizzlies 7-2 and 3-1.

Elway said he was particularly pleased with his young pitchers. Missoula freshman Randy Smith hurled a one-hitter at Montana State in the 4-0 Grizzly win while Whitefish freshman Bob Hayes stunned Idaho State with a three-hitter.

Elway said Tom Bertleson and senior Larry Slocum played some clutch baseball knocking in runs when the Tips needed them. Bertleson is Montana's leading hitter with a .379 averaged while Slocum and sophomore Kendall Kallevig are batting .333.

The Montana coach said his team will work on tightening up the infield this week. "We made a lot of little mistakes that I want to get ironed out before this weekend."

Elway said the team is batting .237 which isn't bad for this time of year. "We're hitting the ball and sooner or later it's going to start dropping in." In 219 bats, Montana has recorded only 44 strikeouts and has collected 52 hits.

The Montana pitchers have a 4.18 ERA total; however, Randy Smith has a 0.00 and Hayes a 2.97.

Montana's other hurlers have faced some pretty rugged competition, Elway said. However, he believes Gary Smith, Kendall Kallevig and Mike Potter will start winning.

more

GRIZZLY COACH PLEASED WITH BASEBALLERS--2

Elway said he is impressed with the attitude of his team. "They are approaching the game with good spirit and work hard in practice."

Montana travels to Boise this week for a doubleheader with Boise State College on Thursday and are entered in the Boise Classic Friday and Saturday. Friday Montana plays Lewis and Clark College, Lewiston, Ida., and College of Southern Idaho. Saturday the Grizzlies face Boise State and the league defending champions, Weber.

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