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KEY GRIZZLY ERRORS
SHOW UP IN FILMS

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MISSOULA --

A missed blocking assignment here and there that could have spelled the difference between a small gain and a touchdown showed up Tuesday in the films of the University of Montana's 14-7 victory Saturday over the University of South Dakota.

And although Grizzly coach Jack Swarthout was generally pleased with his team's opening victory at Memorial Stadium in Great Falls, he and the coaching staff had sharp-tongued criticism for the erring players.

Swarthout feels the defending Big Sky champs have to display greater scoring power if they are going to put together a third straight perfect season.

The Silvertips have lost only two games in the last two years, those to North Dakota State in the Camellia Bowls of 1969 and 1970.

"We liked the way the offense moved the ball, and we were pleased with execution," Swarthout told his team Tuesday morning. "But we've got to get more points on the scoreboard," he added. The Grizzlies scored an average of 32 points per game last year enroute to a 10-0 regular season. Their opponents scored an average of 13.4.

Swarthout had expected a low-scoring, ball control type of game with both teams using the "Texas Y" offense. Head coach Joe Salem's Coyotes instituted the triple option formation for the first time this year, and Swarthout was impressed with their handling of it.

USD lost 17 lettermen from last year's squad, but had enough veterans spread throughout the lineup to make a good showing. "They don't have a green team," Swarthout said.

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Ball control has been the Grizzlies' strong suit in the past two seasons, and they played that game well again on Saturday. UM carried the ball twice as many times as South Dakota did -- 68 to 34 -- and outgained the Coyotes, 335 yards to 100. Veteran halfbacks Steve Caputo and Casey Reilly had a good day with 123 and 102 yards respectively.

UM quarterback Gary Berding, whom Swarthout praised for his sound decisions on the option plays, threw the ball 11 times and completed four for 14 yards. The team from Vermillion connected on only two of 11, but gained 44 yards in the air.

Swarthout's defensive unit is less experienced than his offensive one, but he is happy with the way the defense is progressing. The men who make the tackles came under some criticism for missed assignments on pass plays and were shown over and over again the play that burned them -- an 85-yard punt return for a touchdown by John Sanders.

The big mistake on that one, Swarthout explained, was that the team committed itself too much to one side of the field.

Swarthout had praise for outside linebacker Bruce Spencer, who gathered in a South Dakota fumble on the Grizzly one-yard line.

The University of Montana has two weeks to iron out mistakes. The team's next game is Sept. 18 against the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks.

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