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Grizzlies ahead in rushing game

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GRIZZLIES AHEAD
IN RUSHING GAME

mathew/le
10-21-71
sports one

um sports



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As the University of Montana Grizzlies head into the seventh game of the 1971 football season, Homecoming Saturday with University of the Pacific, they are ahead of last year's season average in rushing, but behind the 1970 title team in most other categories.

Despite the loss of two All-American runners, Arnie Blancas and Les Kent, the 1971 Grizzly ground game is galloping ahead at a record rate. Last weekend's 469 rushing yards advanced the UM total to 2,183, or 363.5 yards per game. The 1970 team averaged 334.5 yards per game enroute to its record-breaking total of 3,334. At this team's present rate, it would surpass that total after four more games. (The Grizzlies actually have five games left because this year's schedule is one game longer than last year's.)

Another record being threatened this year is the 972 yards gained rushing by Kent in 1969. Senior 205-lb halfback Steve Caputo, a backfield alternate with Kent last year, is gaining an average of 124 yards per game for 741 yards so far this year.

At Caputo's present rate, he will easily surpass 1,000 yards, a milestone for a running back, and a record at Montana.

The 1971 team cannot match the 1970 team in total yardage, however. This season the Silvertips are getting 27.7 yards per game in the air versus 95.1 per game last year. Nor can they match the 1970 scoring pace -- 26.7 points per game compared to 31 last year.

But where the 1971 Grizzlies are most behind last year is in defense. UM is holding down the opponent's passing game this year to an average of 159.1 yards per game versus 161.7 last season, but allowing 148.8 yards per game on the ground while the 1970 squad allowed only 69.9. This year's opponents are scoring an average of 23 points each game while last year's opponents could muster only 13.4

more

Caputo is far and away the leading ground gainer for UM this year and is running for an average of 6.6 yards per carry, but is tied for the scoring lead (24 points) with fullbacks Jeff Hoffmann and Buddy Walsh.

Caputo's fellow halfback Casey Reilly is second highest so far in net rushing yardage with 452. His 7.2 yards per carry is best on the team for a significant number of runs.

This year's squad of rushers (11 have carried the ball so far) is ahead of 1970's team rushing pace with 5.8 yards per carry versus 4.6.

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1971 UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA FOOTBALL STATISTICS OCT. 16, 1971

SCORES: 4-2

UM 14, USD 7
UM 38, CAL POLY 14
UM 12, UI 21

UM 27, UND 14
UM 24, BSC 47
UM 45, ISU 35

TEAM STATISTICS	UM	OPP
First Downs	102	92
Rush	98	48
Pass	8	44
Penalty	7	10
Rush Plays	378	225
Rush Yards	2,356	1,073
Rush Yards Lost	164	158
NET RUSH	2,183	893
Pass Attempts	58	181
Pass Completes	15	84
Passes Intercepted	6	15
NET YARDS PASS	166	955
Punts/Yds/Blkd	29/1103/0	34/1235/0
Punt Average	37.9	36.3
Fumbles/Lost	26/15	16/8
Penalties/Yds	45/414	33/292
Touchdowns	24	21
Rush	19	11
Pass	0	6
Other	3	2
PAT Kick	19/24	18/20
PAT Run/Pass	0/0	1/1
Field Goals	3/5	2/4
Total Points	160	138

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TDS.
Sterns	1	1	1	0
Peters	5	48	9.6	1
Dempsey	3	2	.7	0
Dennehy	3	33	11	1
Spencer	2	9	4.5	0
Reynolds	1	0	0	0

SCORING	TDS.	R	P	K	FG	Pts.
Caputo	4	4	0	0	0	24
Berding	3	3	0	0	0	18
Hoffmann	4	4	0	0	0	24
Turnquist	0	0	0	13/16	2/3	18
Peters	1	1	0	0	0	6
Dennehy	1	1	0	0	0	6
Walsh	4	4	0	0	0	24
Reilly	2	2	0	0	0	12
Gaskins	1	1	0	0	0	6
Welch	1	1	0	0	0	6
Olson	1	1	0	0	0	6

PASSING	Att	Comp	Pct	Int	Yds	TDS.
Berding	41	12	.293	6	158	0
Baumberger	14	3	.214	1	38	0
Caputo	2	0	0	0	0	0
Hann	1	0	0	0	0	0

RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TDS.
Caputo	2	26	13	0
Walker	2	30	15	0
Olson	3	61	15.2	0
Welch	1	9	9	0
Hoffmann	3	-13	-4.3	0
Kottke	1	29	29	0
Burnett	1	16	16	0
Hann	1	7	7	0

RUSH	TC	YG	YL	NET	AVG.	TDS.
Caputo	112	757	16	741	6.6	4
Reilly	63	479	27	452	7.2	2
Berding	66	338	73	265	4.0	3
Hoffmann	48	259	0	259	5.4	4
Olson	6	78	8	70	11.7	1
Kottke	15	45	5	42	2.8	0
Walsh	46	276	6	270	5.9	4
Baumberger	6	10	0	10	1.7	0
Gaskins	12	38	0	38	3.2	1
Schillinger	1	1	0	1	1	0
Hann	3	39	5	34	11.3	0
TOTALS	378	2322	140	2182	5.8	19

TOTALS OFFENSE	Plays	Rush	Pass	Total
Caputo	115	741	26	741
Reilly	63	452	0	452
Berding	107	265	124	389
Hoffmann	46	259	-12	259
Olson	10	70	61	70
Kottke	16	42	29	42
Walsh	46	270	0	270
Welch	1	0	9	9
Baumberger	20	7	38	45
Gaskins	12	38	0	38
Schillinger	1	1	0	1
Hann	5	34	7	34
TOTALS	438	2,182	237	2,350

PUNT RETURNS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TDS.
Olson	5	30	6	0
Dennehy	3	3	1	0
Kottke	8	38	4.8	0
Peters	1	0	0	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TDS.
Olson	7	112	16	0
Caputo	2	35	17.5	0
Kottke	8	141	17.6	0
Reilly	2	0	0	0
Rosenburg	2	9	4.5	0