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GRIZZLIES OPEN 1980 SEASON
AGAINST SIMON FRASER UNIV.

MISSOULA --

The "Team of the 80s," also known as the University of Montana football team, begins the 1980 season this Saturday, Sept. 13, hosting Simon Fraser University in Missoula's Dornblaser Field. Kickoff is at 1:30 p.m.

The game is the second for coach Rod Woodward's Clansmen, who lost 10-9 to the University of Calgary last Saturday at home in a rain-marred contest.

Simon Fraser was 3-6 last season. The team had wins over Montana Tech (42-20), Western Washington (29-0) and Central Washington (23-9). The Grizzlies and Clansmen had only one common opponent last year. Montana lost to Nevada-Reno, 27-20, while SFU lost to the Wolf Pack, 35-3.

This is Woodward's first season as head coach. It is UM's Larry Donovan's first game as a head coach at any level.

Woodward inherited a team which included 18 returning starters, 10 of whom are back on offense. There are 26 lettermen returning. SFU is an NAIA Independent.

Key returnees for SFU are quarterback Dave Amer (103 of 202 for 1,349 yards and 10 TDs); offensive guard Dan Ferrone; tight end Dave Purves (22 catches for 262 yards); safety Hazen Henderson and defensive end Steve Decol.

Montana returns 11 starters, six of whom are on defense. Those back for the "Copper Stoppers" on defense include lineman Pat Curry (Billings); Bret Barrick (Lewistown); Arnie Rigoni (Chicago); linebackers Kent Clausen (Missoula); Jim Hogan (Lacey, Wash.) and strong safety Jay Becker (Atlantic, Iowa).

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The five starters back on offense are tailback Rocky Klever (Anchorage); lineman Pat Norwood (Billings); Carlton Lamb (Las Vegas); Brian McHugh (Spokane) and wide receiver Bill Lane (Englewood, CO).

All-American candidate Clausen was named defensive captain, while Klever was named by his teammates as the offensive captain. Clausen had 110 tackles in seven games last season, before being sidelined with a back injury. Klever rushed for 679 yards and scored nine times, leading the Grizzlies in both categories in '79.

Montana returns 32 lettermen from a team that was 3-7 (2-5 in the Big Sky Conference).

The Grizzlies travel to Portland State next Saturday, Sept. 20, to play the Vikings in a non-conference game. UM is back in Missoula the following weekend, hosting the University of Idaho in the conference opener for both teams.

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