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Grizzlies set school record in 1980 football season

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GRIZZLIES SET SCHOOL RECORD
IN 1980 FOOTBALL SEASON

MISSOULA--

Five records were set or tied by the 1980 University of Montana football team, which concluded its season last week.

There were two individual records established -- both by quarterbacks, and three team standards set or tied.

Freshman quarterback Marty Mornhinweg, a 5-10, 180-pounder from San Jose, Calif., tied a school record with four touchdown passes in a 42-7 home win over Eastern Washington University. The four TD passes also tied a team record. Montana QBs also passed for four scores in game against Eastern Washington (1950) and Portland State (1979).

Senior signal caller Bart Andrus (6-2, 190), from Sepulveda, Calif., set the other individual record in 1980. He connected on 69 of 119 passes during the season for a .580 percentage, setting a record in that category. The old mark was .521, set by Earl Keeley (63 of 121) in 1957.

The other team records set were most pass completions in a season (138) and most points (60 in a 60-27 win over Simon Fraser) for a modern-day scoring standard. UM has scored 58 points in games against Portland State (1968) and South Dakota State (1969).

"I think our program has really come a long way, although the record doesn't really indicate that," said first-year head coach Larry Donovan. The Grizzlies ended the season 3-7 overall (1-6 in the Big Sky Conference), although they won

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two out of their last four games.

"I also think that a lot of people in the state of Montana feel that we've got the start of a good football program here in Missoula," he said. "We are trying to kindle school and supporter spirit so we can get the outstanding athletes to attend the University."

"Player-wise we've instilled aggressiveness and enthusiasm the last half of the season, and hopefully that will carry over into the 1981 season," Donovan said.

A big reason for Donovan's optimistic outlook of next season is the youth of the team. Montana had 13 freshmen earn letters in 1980.

"Our future looks bright when you consider that our quarterback, tailback, two wide receivers and tight end were all freshmen in that last 80-yard drive against Nevada-Reno," he said. UM lost its finale, 10-7, in Reno.

One of those freshmen, QB Mornhinweg, passed for 874 yards in his initial season. Another, Brad Dantic, a wide receiver from Laurel, Mont., had 10 receptions for 295 yards and two TDs and seven rushes for 98 yards and two more scores. He had a 63-yard TD reception and a 57-yard TD run.

Tight end Brian Salonen from Great Falls, was one of the leading pass receivers on the team (15 for 180) and frosh Kelly Richardson, a converted QB to wide receiver, had seven catches for 78 yards.

Frosh tailback Curt McGinness was the team's fourth leading rusher (59 for 166 yards) and scored twice. He also had eight catches for 63 yards, threw one TD pass and had 129 yards on 10 kickoff returns.

Leaders in all offensive categories except rushing will be back for the 1981 season. Junior Mike Alex led the team in pass receiving yardage with 339 yards, while junior fullback Mike Hagen had the most catches with 26.

Hagen was the second leading rusher with 291 yards on 82 carries, and he had

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five touchdowns rushing. He had 223 yards in pass receiving. His 30 points let the team in scoring.

The leader in punt returns was junior Mickey Sutton who had 19 for 105 yards. He also led the squad in kickoff returns (14 for 225). Defensively, the 5-8 cornerback from Union City, Calif., also led the team with three interceptions, and was the top tackler in the secondary with 54.

Senior team captain and All-American candidate Kent Clausen had the most tackles on the team with 81. He was followed by noseguard Arnie Rigoni (58); linebacker Dave Gleason (56); linebacker Jim Hogan (51) and defensive back Jay Becker (51).

Offensively, the Grizzlies will lose three starters in QB Andrus, offensive tackle Brian McHugh, and wide receiver Bill Lane.

Defensively, UM will lose starters Clausen, Rigoni, Hogan, Becker, Bret Barrick (injured prior to the last three games) and Gleason.

However, freshmen DBs Gary Lowry, Tony Fudge and Paul Silovsky all return. "I think our premise that the good players serve as a catalyst to the whole team can be seen in what Wayne Harper did for us," Donovan noted. "He got people going on offense and defense."

Harper, a senior from Livingston, rushed for more than 100 yards in both of UM's last two games. He finished the year as Montana's leading rusher with 354 yards on 71 carries for a five-yard average and scored three times. He was named co-Big Sky Offensive Player of the Week for his 151 yards rushing in a 31-21 home win over Northern Arizona.

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