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sports one

SWARTHOUT LAUDS SPEED OF OFFENSIVE BACKFIELD; SPECIAL PRAISE TO QUARTERBACKS

MISSOULA---

This is the fourth in a series of articles on various phases of the 1967 University of Montana football team. One article remains, that being a discussion of the offensive line, coached by Wally Brown.

Head University of Montana football coach Jack Swarthout, whose main concentration this fall has been on the Grizzly offensive backfield, is generally pleased with the work being done by his backs.

"There is some lack of depth and good size in our backfield," Swarthout says, "but we have more speed than in past years at Montana."

Quarterbacks drew special praise from the head mentor three days before the Tips leave for Grand Forks, N.D. to open the 1967 season against the North Dakota Sioux.

"Our quarterbacks are doing a good job," said Swarthout. "Ed Steiner is well-balanced between running and passing, and Jim Searles has shown vast improvement in both areas, especially passing."

Junior college transfer Pete Mullins, who missed spring ball, was credited by Swarthout with showing signs of working into good passing form. The other quarterback, Mark Mochel, has begun working at tight end.

Fullback depth is good, with big, speedy Bryan Magnuson holding down a starting spot. Magnuson is 6-1, 220 pounds, and runs the 100 in 10 flat.

"Bryan should be a real good fullback for us," Swarthout said, "and he's got excellent backup help from senior Rod Lung, a hard worker with desire and good speed."

The third fullback, transfer John McBurrows, has been slowed by a knee injury during most of fall practice, but should be back in action before too long.

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Starting halfbacks Willie Jones and Roy Robinson are highly regarded by the new Grizzly head coach.

"Willie is small, but he has plenty of speed to make up for it," Swarthout said.

"Robinson is inexperienced, but shows signs of being an excellent back and a good receiver."

Backup halfbacks are Rick Strauss and Don Molloy. Swarthout says Strauss is a hard worker, and a good receiver with fair speed. Molloy is also working hard, but has been slowed by a hamstring muscle injury.

The Grizzly head coach is convinced, however, that the over-all speed in his backfield, plus the passing strength of his quarterbacks, should make the Grizzlies a threat from anywhere on the field this fall.