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MISSOULA

SWARTHOUT HAPPIER THAN EVER;
LAUDS GRIZZLY SPIRIT, PRIDE

MISSOULA--

University of Montana football coach Jack Swarthout usually doesn't say much on the Monday following a game, win or lose.

This week was no exception. But when he said what little he had to say, the grin on his face and the tone of his voice made it obvious that he was extremely happy, and perhaps a little excited.

"I just wish we coaches could put the spirit and pride of this team in a bottle, shake it up, and distribute it to each one of our future teams," Swarthout said.

The Grizzlies, preseason picks to be lucky to win more than one game in 1967, had just won their sixth out of seven, knocking off eighth ranked Northern Arizona University, a team whose offensive and defensive lines outweighed Montana's 40 to 50 pounds per man, 10-7.

"Those kids are just great," Swarthout continued. "It just amazes me that they can maintain such pride in themselves as a group week after week."

Swarthout's sentiments were echoed by his assistants.

"Those Northern Arizona linemen were up against a pretty tough crew," line coach Wally Brown said. "That was the best hitting we've done this year."

The other line coach, Bill Betcher, said, "There's no doubt about it, our boys rang a few bells out there Saturday."

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SWARTHOUT HAPPIER THAN EVER
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Linebacker Pinky Erickson, talking about the Grizzlies' last minute goal-line stand, chimed in with, "That was the finest goal-line effort I've ever seen."

Defensive backfield coach Jack Elway added, "It was simply a great all-around effort by some great kids."

Swarthout didn't want to single out any individuals on offense or defense, because he said it was strictly a team effort.

"The kids actually were higher for this game than we had anticipated they would be," Swarthout said. "They really meant business."

The head coach said he hopes the team will be even higher this Saturday when they tangle with Montana State in what could be the Big Sky Conference championship game. Montana State has clinched at least a share of the crown, but a Montana win could throw things into a two- or three-way tie for first involving the two Montana schools and Idaho.

"There's no doubt that we'll have to have a great effort to win this week," Swarthout said, "but I'm sure we'll be ready."

Two Grizzly defensive tackles, a first and second stringer at the same position, were out of action against Northern Arizona, but will be back for the Bobcats this Saturday. Bob Graham, the starter, and Mike Nicosia, his backup, injured themselves against Idaho State.

Still questionmarks are tailback Gartha Morgan, who hasn't seen much action since the Weber State game a month ago, and wingback Roy Robinson, who injured himself in practice two days before the Montana-Idaho game and hasn't seen action since. Morgan probably has the best chance of playing this week.