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SWARTHOUT SAYS GRIZZLIES COULD HAVE WON
AGAINST UTAH STATE

MISSOULA---

Coach Jack Swarthout was pretty disappointed Monday after viewing films of the University of Montana's football loss to Utah State Saturday in Logan, Utah.

The final score of 20-14 indicated that the Grizzlies had played a good game against a team which has beaten some outstanding schools, including Memphis State, Brigham Young University, West Texas State and the University of the Pacific.

"We played well, but just not well enough to win," Swarthout said. "We had chances to win, but just didn't do it."

Swarthout said the Grizzlies could have beaten the Aggies, and that's quite a compliment to the Silvertips in itself. Utah State had the 10th best ground defense in the nation going into Saturday's game, limiting opponents to an average of 75 yards per game rushing. The best anyone had done on the ground previous to the Montana game was 111 yards rushing.

But the Grizzly offense clicked well enough to ground out 191 yards rushing against the stingy Aggie defense, paced by All-America candidate Bill (The Spoiler) Staley. And the Bruin passing game was at its best, with quarterback Ed Steiner throwing completions on nine of 17 tries for 95 yards and one touchdown.

Utah State head coach Chuck Mills was visibly impressed with the Grizzlies when he visited the locker room following the game.

"You people have done a tremendous job with this team," Mills said to Swarthout Saturday. "Nobody has done that well on the ground against this year. You should be real proud of those kids of yours. They hit hard and didn't quit."

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Grizzly linemen probably controlled the powerful Staley as well or better than anyone else has this year. The 243-pounder, who eats quarterbacks for breakfast and usually catches them behind the line seven or eight times per game, but he only got to Steiner once Saturday.

Swarthout singled out several individuals for their performances against the Utags, the four most prominent being Steiner, linebacker Bob Beers, fullback Bryan Magnuson and defensive end Larry Huggins.

Steiner, besides passing better than any other time this year, ran well and generally called a good game, picking excellent plays at the right times in many cases.

Beers, being mentioned as a small college All-America candidate, had his best tackle output of the season, with 21 tackles, six of them unassisted, to lead all defensive men in the game. He also broke up a pass.

Magnuson, the Grizzlies' leading rusher all year, drove for 94 yards on 21 carries, including a brilliant 38-yard run which set up the final Grizzly touchdown, which he scored from the four-yard line.

Huggins, who has performed well in all nine Grizzly games, turned the outside running attack of the Aggies inside many times during Saturday's fray.

The Grizzlies will wrap up their successful season Saturday in Portland against Portland State College. The Vikings are 4-4 thus far, losing last weekend to Weber State College 40-21 after leading 21-10 at halftime.

"The Vikings have a real strong passing game," Swarthout said, looking ahead, "and they'll throw from 30 to 40 times per game. Their quarterback, Ed Gorman, is a good one."

Gorman holds every Portland State passing record, and before the Weber State loss was ranked fifth among the nation's small college passers.

A win Saturday could give the Grizzlies a 733 record, their best since 1937, when Doug Fessenden coached his team to a 7-1 mark. Montana has been over 70 per cent in wins only three times since starting football in 1897.