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NEWS

INFORMATION SERVICES UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

MISSOULA, MONTANA 59801

Phone (406) 243-2522

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CUBS FACE LONG LAYOFF DURING HOLIDAYS;
WILL START WORKING AGAIN JAN. 2

MISSOULA---

The Montana freshman Cubs, 1-1 after two games early this month, will not face game action on the basketball floor again until Jan. 12, when they open a three-game home stand against Gonzaga University's freshmen.

The Cubs opened their season Dec. 8 in Helena by clobbering the Carroll College freshmen, 104-75. Don Wetzel, Cut Bank's All-American high school guard, led in scoring in that one with 24 points, followed by his running mate, Mike Heroux of Menahsa, Wis., who tallied 23.

In the second game, against Northwest Community Junior College of Wyoming in Missoula Dec. 9, the Cubs fell to the Trappers, 94-82. Wetzel again paced the Cubs, this time with 26 points, and he got help from Heroux with 15, forward Les Gordon of Dillon with 14, and forward Cork Hill of Columbia Falls with 10.

Hill had a great night under the boards against the Trappers with 15 rebounds.

Coach Del Carroll was not unhappy with the outcome of the first two games.

"I'm well satisfied with the way the kids played," he said. "We shot best against Carroll, but we played a better overall game against Northwest Community."

Northwest Community was the fourth-ranked junior college in the country last year, and had four last-year men in its starting lineup. All of these had played more than 30 college-level games, compared to one for the Cubs.

"Most of our work has to be done on defense, especially switching on man-to-man coverage," Carroll said. "Our rollouts could be improved, too."

Carroll will have his squad back on the practice floor at the Field House Jan. 2, but he hopes his players will do a lot of running and shooting during the break.

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Carroll has been getting some outstanding work from some of his players, and although he does not wish to single out individuals, statistics from the first two games bear this out.

Wetzel, shooting 41.1 per cent from the field, has 50 points in the two games for a 25-point average. Heroux is second with 38 points and 19 per game, and forward Gordon has 22 points for 11 per game.

Center Tony Bertuca, only 6-2, is the leading field goal shooter among regulars, hitting on 8 of 14 for 57.1 per cent. Gordon is the best free throw shooter with 10 of 11 for 90.9 per cent.

Hill of Columbia Falls, a real jumping jack, leads in rebounding with 12 per game, followed by Gordon with 11 and Bertuca with 7.5.

The Cubs have fouled 40 times in the two games, but no one has been disqualified with five in one game.

As a team, the Cubs are shooting only 36.6 per cent from the field, compared to 44.8 per cent for their opponents, and that's why Carroll stressed the need for defensive work.

The Cubs have 16 games remaining on their 1967-68 schedule, including meetings with freshman teams from all of the Big Sky teams but Weber State.