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GRIZZLIES CONTINUE TOUGH BIG SKY ROAD TRIP AGAINST HIGH SCORING IDAHO STATE MONDAY

MISSOULA--

The Montana Grizzlies will wrap up a three-game Big Sky Conference road trip Monday night against the nation's seventh highest scoring cage contingent, the Idaho State University Bengals.

The Grizzlies opened conference play Friday and Saturday nights in Ogden, Utah against rugged Weber State College.

The Bengals went into Friday and Saturday night action against Montana State University sporting a 5-3 win-loss record and averaging 94.8 points per game.

The Bengals, whose colorful head coach Claude Retherford had to resign because of ill health, are currently under the coaching eye of young former assistant coach Dan Miller, who apparently has taken over the helm in fine form.

The Bengals reached their 5-3 mark by beating College of Idaho, 100-72; Northern Arizona, 95-86; Colorado State University, 100-89; Pan American, 83-76 and Arkansas, 77-75.

They were defeated by powerful Wyoming, 115-96; Virginia Tech, 103-76, and Xavier of Ohio, 101-84.

Besides their national ranking in scoring, the Bengals sport two players who are high on their respective lists in both individual scoring and rebounding among the nation's major college players.

Ron Boone, a 6-3 senior guard, has climbed from 24th to 15th in individual scoring with 26.2 points per game, and 6-5 senior forward Ed Wilson, according to latest NCAA stats, is ranked second nationally in rebounding with 22.2 per game.

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Wilson set an Idaho State single game rebounding mark with 30 against Pan American, which has a 7-foot center.

The Bengals finished seventh in the holiday All-College Tournament in Oklahoma City late in December.

Through their first five games, the Bengals had five players averaging in double figures in scoring.

Boone was the leader, followed by Chuck Parks at 19.4 (his average has since dropped to around 14); Wilson with 18.4; 6-6 senior forward Ralph McGee with 11.6, and 6-7 junior center Tom Baird with 10.8.

These players have been the mainstays in the Bengal attack, with only five other players scoring at all.

Grizzly coaches Ron Nord and Bob Cope will stick with the same starters who went against Weber State during the weekend.

At center will be Don Parsons, 6-7, and the team's second leading scorer. Forwards will be 6-8 sophomore Tom Jones and 6-4 junior Ron Moore, and the guards will be 6-1 sophomore John Cheek and 6-0 senior Rick Johnston.

Both coaches feel if they can stop the Bengals offensively, they should be able to come out with a victory. Idaho State's defense had given up 87-6 points per game in their first five outings.

The Grizzlies will return home Tuesday to begin preparations for home contests against Gonzaga University Jan. 12 and 13 and the University of Idaho Jan. 15.