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Cubs must overcome cold shooting; face bobkittens twice this weekend

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MISSOULA--

The University of Montana Cubs, plagued by cold shooting in their past three games, face perhaps their toughest test of the season when they take on Montana State's Bobkittens this Friday and Saturday in Bozeman.

In their past four outings, the frosh basketeers have shot 36.3, 36.1 and 23.2 per cent from the field while winning once and losing twice.

At Bozeman, the Cubs will have to improve shooting and floor work to keep up with the taller Bobcats, who are paced by 6-10 center Tex Taylor and 6-5 forward Dean Kratovil.

Coaches Del Carroll and John (Doc) Holliday will probably go with their usual starting lineup, including center Tony Bertuca of Chicago, forwards Les Gordon of Dillon and Jerry Hill of Columbia Falls, and guards Don Wetzel of Cut Bank and Mike Heroux of Menasha, Wis.

In action last weekend, the Cubs started Friday by defeating an All-Star team from UM, 78-69, despite the cold shooting. Saturday night, the freshmen dropped a 75-60 contest to Gonzaga's freshman, who came up with a 53.7 per cent effort from the field.

Monday night, the Cubs dropped a hard-fought game to Idaho's freshmen, 68-63. The game was marred by 58 fouls.

Wetzel continues to pace Cub scoring despite a severe drop in his point output over the weekend. The former Cut Bank star is averaging a respectable 17.6 points per game despite shooting only 33.3 per cent from the field.

Heroux and Gordon are the other Cubs scoring in double figures with 13.6 and 10 points per game, respectively.

Hill is leading Cub rebounding efforts, which despite their overall size have been superb, with 11.8 per game. On the season, the Cubs hold a rebounding edge over their bigger opponents. Hill is also leading in free throw percentage with 78.9 per cent.