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Depth may be key factor for tips against South Dakota

University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations

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MISSOULA—

The University of Montana, with some key players out with injuries, may have to call on depth in large fashion this weekend in its game with the University of South Dakota at Vermillion.

The Grizzlies and Coyotes will meet Saturday night at 6:30 p.m. MDT.

Last Saturday, the Grizzlies had a successful opener against the University of North Dakota in Billings, coming out on the good end of a 37-10 score. South Dakota was successful also, handing Mankato State College of Minnesota a 28-14 loss on the road.

Several Grizzlies sustained injuries of varying degrees against the Sioux, but only two are definitely out of the lineup for Saturday night. Ole Hedstrom, starting defensive tackle, and Al Luis, starting split end offensively, will miss the South Dakota game with knee injuries. Luis may be out for the following weekend as well.

Although the Grizzlies scored heavily against the Sioux in Billings, Coach Jack Swarthout indicated that the yardage gained on the ground should have been more than the 182 garnered.

"Our backs weren't running as hard as they should have been," he said. "The offensive line generally speaking did an excellent job of opening the holes. We hope our backs were just suffering from first game jitters and will come back strong against South Dakota."

Roy Robinson, junior tailback from Glasgow and the fastest man on the squad, will be back in action Saturday, probably as starting tailback. Robinson was fighting an injury sustained midway through preseason drills.
Swarthout will start Jim Kelly at tight end; Bill Gutman at strong tackle; Bill Waters at strong guard; Byron Lovell at center; Tom Lavery or Lon Howard at quick guard; Mike McCann or Tuufuli Uperesa at quick tackle, and Jim Enos or Bob Guptill at split end.

Backfield starters will be Pete Mullins at quarterback; Robinson or Mike Buzzard at tailback; Ron Baines at slotback, and Rick Strauss or Tony Gabriel at fullback.

Offensively, the Coyotes will counter with left end Ron Gerhardt; left tackle John Kohler; left guard Tim Mojzik; center Tom Hanafan; right guard Jim Qujek; right tackle Tony Glass; right end Roger Larson; quarterback Jim Foster; left halfback Steve Chambers; fullback Dan Hankins, and right halfback Bob Koch (cook).

Koch led Coyote rushers in the Mankato State contest with 54 yards on 10 carries. Foster rushed for 45 yards on 13 tries and completed 10 of 25 passes for 159 yards and 2 touchdowns.

Defensively, the Grizzlies will come back with left end Herb White; left tackle Ron Garske; left linebacker Bob Beers; middle guard John Talolutu; right linebacker Greg Paresa; right tackle John Stedham; right end Mike Glennon; left halfback Gartha Morgan; left safety Mick O'Neil; right safety Mace Gray, and right halfback Larue Nelson.

The 40-man squad will leave Missoula at 7:15 a.m. Saturday, and will arrive back at Johnson-Bell Field at 2:45 p.m. Sunday.

"It's always nice to have a crowd greet you whether you win or lose," Swarthout said.