Could be toughest game of year; Utah State invades Grizzlyland

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MISSOULA—University of Montana football fans can expect to see plenty of top-notch action Saturday in what promises to be one of the finest Homecoming grid battles in UM history.

Utah State's Aggies invade the Silvertip lair at Dornblaser Stadium Saturday at 1:30 p.m. A capacity crowd of more than 11,000 is anticipated. Pre-game ceremonies will include a brief dedication of the new stadium by UM Pres. Robert T. Pantzer.

Coach Jack Swarthout and his charges have been working hard during the past few days preparing for what should be the Grizzlies' toughest opponent of the 1968 season. Last year, in Logan, Utah, the Aggies won out 20-14 in an exciting contest.

Utah State head coach Chuck Mills, like Swarthout in his second year at the helm, boasts an all-veteran backfield which features a superb passing and running quarterback in John Pappas; a big, fast running back in Altie Taylor; a fine blocking and running fullback in Frank Nunn, and perhaps the best pass receiver in the nation in flanker Mike O'Shea.

"We're going to have to play our best brand of football to beat this outfit," Swarthout said this week.

Several Grizzlies who have been out with injuries will be available for duty Saturday. They include defensive lineman Ole Hedstrom of Laurel, offensive guard Bill Waters of Troy, and split end Al Luis of Orland, Calif. All are juniors.

Tailback Roy Robinson, injured against Portland State last Saturday, and fullback Rick Strauss, out for the past 10 days, are not expected to play Saturday against Utah State.

Swarthout and his four assistants have made several tactical changes, especially on defense, that they hope will aid in stopping the vaunted Aggie attack.
Probable offensive starters for the Grizzlies will be tight end Jim Kelly, Seattle, Wash. senior; strong tackle Bill Gutman, Seattle junior; strong guard Waters; center Dave Urie, Chico, Calif. junior; quick guard Lon Howard, Centralia, Wash. senior; quick tackle Tuufuli Uperesa, Honolulu, Haw. junior; split end Jim Enos, Port Angeles, Wash. junior; quarterback Ray Brum, Honolulu junior; tailback Gartha Morgan, Seattle senior; slotback Ron Baines, Tacoma, Wash. senior, and fullback Doug Bain, Kalispell junior.

Defensively, Swarthout will probably start left end Herb White, Ecorse, Mich. senior; left tackle Jim Nordstrom, Vancouver, Wash. sophomore; middle guard Larry Stranahan, Missoula sophomore; right tackle John Stedham, Chehalis, Wash. junior; right end Mike Glennon, Billings junior; left linebacker Bob Beers, Beaverton, Ore. senior; right linebacker Greg Paresa, Kahului, Haw. senior; left halfback Pat Schruth, Billings sophomore; left safety Mick O'Neill, Walla Walla, Wash. senior; right safety John Waxham, Mountlake Terrace, Wash. sophomore, and right halfback Larue Nelson, New Orleans, La. senior.

In addition to his veteran backfield, Utah State Coach Mills will probably go offensively with senior split end Ken DeMartini; junior left tackle Bruce Jacobson; junior left guard Dan Erickson; junior center Ted Zimmerman; senior right guard Chuck Hahn; senior right tackle Wayne Lamb, and senior tight end Jack Mooney.

Defensive starters should be senior left end Ron Labrum; senior left tackle Doug Gosnell; junior middle guard Mike Becklund; senior right tackle Ray Watrin; junior right end Phil Olsen; junior left linebacker Gary Anderson; junior right linebacker Dana Schulz; senior left halfback Chuck Myrick; junior left safety Rod Jones; senior right safety Chuck Detwiler; and, senior right halfback Jimmy Smith.

Detwiler, O'Shea and Taylor are all being boomed as All-America candidates. Phil Olsen, a 252-pounder, is the "little" brother of Los Angeles Ram defensive lineman Merlin, a former graduate of Utah State.