

University of Montana

## ScholarWorks at University of Montana

---

University of Montana News Releases, 1928,  
1956-present

University Relations

---

9-9-1969

### Defensive interior line progressing with new pro-type defense, Brown says

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/newsreleases>

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

---

#### Recommended Citation

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations, "Defensive interior line progressing with new pro-type defense, Brown says" (1969). *University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present*. 5076.

<https://scholarworks.umt.edu/newsreleases/5076>

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the University Relations at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact [scholarworks@mso.umt.edu](mailto:scholarworks@mso.umt.edu).



DEFENSIVE INTERIOR LINE PROGRESSING  
WITH NEW PRO-TYPE DEFENSE, BROWN SAYS

bill schwanke/mm  
9/9/69  
sports one & football



## sports

Information Services • University of Montana • Missoula, Montana 59801 • (406) 243-2522  
MISSOULA--

Montana's defensive line, along with its linebackers, has one goal for its part of UM Football '69: to outshine the 1968 front seven which set a UM record for defense against the rushing game.

Assistant coach Wally Brown, who oversees the defensive linemen, feels the goal will be tough to reach, and he said Tuesday it will take at least two games for him to determine whether it is indeed attainable.

"We're running a new defense, a pro-type, and we're still in a learning process," Brown said. "We're extremely young on the line, with only one senior, but we have some experience in there to work with."

The only full-time starter who returned from the record-setting front seven is junior defensive captain and end Jim Nordstrom, 6-2, 210 from Vancouver, Wash. Also back are part-time starters Larry Stranahan of Missoula, a tackle, and John Talalotu, an end.

Two-year veteran Mike McCann garnered most of his experience at UM to date as an offensive lineman.

"We're running several different types of defensive sets, with most of them featuring a front four," Brown explained. "All types have different stunts charges, and other variations to add difficulty to the learning process."

Brown, like the other UM coaches, has players who don't play just on one side or the other, but can go from either side.

Manning the left end spot as a starter will be Nordstrom, while Talalotu will start at right end. Backing up on either side will be Wayne Hall and, if necessary, Montana's All-America candidate at offensive tackle, Tuufuli Uperesa.

"Nordstrom gives us good leadership and knowledge," Brown said. "He's tough, and controls his side well."

"Talalotu learned this new position during spring practice and fall pre-season  
more

DEFENSIVE LINE--2--

workouts, and he learned will," Brown said. "He's exceptionally quick, a good hitter, and he should be exciting to watch this fall."

The 5-10, 200 pounder from Aiea, Haw. worked last year as a middle guard.

The 5-11, 195-pound Hall, who backs up either side, transferred this fall from Golden West College, California. His home town there is Westminster. Brown said Hall is small, but quick and agile, and he gets to the ball well.

Brown said the 6-3, 240-pound Uperesa, also from Aiea, could be playing a lot of defense at either end or tackle, depending on game situations. He said Uperesa was All-Washington and All-America honorable mention defensively at Wenatchee College before coming to Montana.

"With his quickness, strength, and agility, he can be as great on defense as he is offensively," Brown commented.

A four-way battle for two starting tackle spots is going among Stranahan, McCann, and newcomers Larry Miller and Gene Baldwin.

Stranahan, 6-0, 225 from Missoula, has the most experience of all, having redshirted one season before playing last season. "He's finally rounding into good shape," Brown said. "He reads running plays very well."

McCann, 6-2, 207 from Renton, Wash., enters his third season after being switched to defense. Brown called him "an excellent pass rusher with good speed and hitting ability.

"Miller has excellent quickness and agility for a man 5-9 and 240 pounds," Brown said. "Since he always played middle guard before at Grays Harbor College, he is learning tackle play in our new pro defense. He's coming along fast."

Baldwin is fresh from two years with the armed forces which included a stint in Viet Nam. The 6-2 1/2, 235-pounder from Spokane, Wash. played one year at Yakima College before entering the military, and hasn't played for two years. He had to cut 30 pounds before fall practice began, so he took longer getting in shape.

"Gene's starting to pick up some of the quickness and agility he showed at Yakima when he was All-Washington first team there in 1967," Brown said.

Summing up, Brown said the defensive line could be real tough because of its overall quickness, if it adapts quickly to new systems.