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Former University of Montana coach returns with rabbits

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FORMER UM COACH
RETURNS WITH RABBITS

brunell/gm
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sports one



sports

MISSOULA---

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In three short years since leaving Missoula, Dave Kragthorpe has become head football coach at South Dakota State University.

Kragthorpe served three years under Hugh Davidson at the University of Montana before moving to Brookings to become assistant football coach at SDSU.

The Jackrabbits started the season with a young and inexperienced ballclub, but Kragthorpe has brought the Jackrabbits along in 1969 and now appear to be a formidable obstacle in Montana's path to 10-0 and a possible bowl bid.

South Dakota started jelling in the North Dakota University game on Oct. 11 after three previous losses. The Jackrabbits edged the Sioux, 19-13 and followed up with two narrow wins over rival South Dakota University and Youngstown, 20-14 and 17-16, respectively.

Then came last week's contest against the number one rated North Dakota State Bisons. The top rated Herd had to come from behind in the dying moments of the clash to score 14 quick points to turn the tide on Kragthorpe's crew, 20-17.

Statistically, the Rabbits came out ahead out-rushing North Dakota 141 to 108 yards and dominated the game until the last six minutes. Said Coach Kragthorpe, "Had we gotten that second extra point I think we would have dumped North Dakota State." South Dakota missed the conversion after their last touchdown and gave the momentum to the Bison.

While the Jackrabbits have been slipping by opponents, the Grizzlies have overwhelmed their foe. However, in the last weeks Montana has had its troubles getting the previously potent triple option offense clicking. Coach Jack Swarthout said, "The last two games our offense has let the defense down. We've concentrated on blocking assignments and hitting the holes this week."

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"There has been alot of pressure on us the last few weeks and everybody is out to put feathers in their caps by knocking us off. This week we're going to settle down and play football like we did in the first seven games," Swarthout said.

Comparing scores against common opponents finds Montana beating North Dakota University, 24-10, and the Tips taking the University of South Dakota, 31-20. SDSU squeaked by North Dakota, 19-13, and edged South Dakota, 20-14.

Statistics for the Saturday foe are not as impressive as Montana's. The Tips are well on their way to accumulating over 4,000 yards in total offense while the Jackrabbits have just over 2200 yards for the year.

Montana will start Doug Bain, split end, Bill Gutman and Tuufuli Uperesa, tackles, Willie Postler and John Stedham, guards, Ray Stachnik, center, Ray Brum, quarterback, Arnie Blancas and Mike Buzzard, halfbacks and Les Kent, fullback.

Defensively the Tips will use Jim Nordstrom and John Talalotu, ends, Larry Stranahan and Larry Miller, tackles, Bill Sterns, Marty Frustaci and Tim Gallagher, linebackers, Pat Schruth and Roy Robinson, cornerbacks, John Waxham, strong safety and Karl Stein, free safety.

South Dakota will start Tom Settje, split end, Joel Hibbs and Tom Jones, tackles, Luther Onken and Cal Riesgaard, guards, Bob Kendall, John Moller, quarterback, Mike Noyes, wingback, Tim Elliott, fullback and Tim Keller, tailback.

Defensively, the Rabbits will go with Tim Roth and Ray Spellman, ends, Tony Lorenz and Mike Miller, tackles, Alan Allen, Jim Heinitz and Jim Langer linebackers, Jim Kempainen, Bob Ellwanger, cornerbacks, Rolland Vorraht, free safety and Chuck Kavanagh, strong safety.

Game time is 1:30 Saturday afternoon, however there will be a pep rally in downtown Missoula at 7:45 in the morning.

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