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### Cope reflects on first University of Montana hoop win

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COPE REFLECTS ON  
FIRST UM HOOP WIN

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MISSOULA---

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One down, 25 to go.

Sounds simple, but the University of Montana basketball team has a lot of work ahead of them and Coach Bob Cope knows it.

The Grizzlies defeated Eastern Washington, 91-81 Saturday night in their home opener here, with five men in double figures, led by Howard Clark's 22 points and 21 by Willie Flowers.

"Defensively, most of the time we played pretty well," Cope said.

"But there are a few things we have to iron out, and it's just a matter of time until the boys get to know each other and work together a little better."

Cope wasn't happy with the team's 20 turnovers, against Eastern Washington and wants to see the offense hitting better than a 46 per cent clip from the field.

He said Montana's fast-break attack worked well in the first game, and expects to see improvement in that area "once the players get more experience under their belts."

The Grizzlies are facing a tougher opening schedule than in past years, with Denver, Colorado State, Oregon, Washington State and Utah next opponents in that order.

Cope doesn't believe the team's in top shape physically, but says the team will be razor-sharp by the time Big Sky Conference play begins Jan. 16 against Idaho State.

Next home game for UM is Jan. 10 against Boise State. Montana has 14 home games scheduled.

Against Eastern Washington, the Grizzlies clicked on 29 of 63 shots from the field and sank 33 of 45 free throws.

Harold Ross scored 17, John Harrell 11 and Dave Gustafson added 10 in the win over EWC.

Last year, Montana was 9-17 overall and 3-11 in conference play, but Cope sees the team as "bigger and stronger physically than we've been."  
Wednesday night's game against Denver will be aired via KGVO radio beginning at 8.

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