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University of Montana basketballers working on ball control

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sports one



MISSOULA---



sports

A brief look at the five game University of Montana basketball stats show a high scoring Information Services • University of Montana • Missoula, Montana 59801 • (406) 243-2522 Tip cage squad but an even higher scoring opposition.

Montana coach Bob Cope said, after looking over the figures one would think the Grizzlies are not playing defense.

This is not the case, Cope said. "We are playing good defense, but we are giving the other team the cheap shots on turnovers."

The Tip mentor blames the Montana offense for the early season problems. He said, "Just like in football, the offense complements the defense. This year the best football defense for Grizzlies was a clock eating offense. We have to settle down and take good shots and play a ball control game and most of all eliminate the turnovers."

Montana has produced some high scores this season and average better than 76.8 points per game. The Grizzly opponents are averaging 94.2 points per contest.

While the Grizzlies are not averaging the 79.8 points per game that the 1968-69 cager squad did last season after five games, Montana is playing a much tougher schedule this season.

The Tips have played NCAA finalist Colorado State, second place finisher in the Pacific 8 Washington State, Pacific 8 contender Oregon and a surprise powerhouse Denver University.

Cope said the only real bad game the team had was against Denver University. Montana lost 92-58 in the Colorado capitol city.

An individual statistical breakdown shows senior Willie Flowers leading the scoring with 90 points and an 18.0 average. However, the talented transfer has to take a second seat in rebounding as junior redshirt Howard Clark paces the Grizzlies with 48. Flowers has 40 rebounds in five games.

Dave Gustafson has the best charity percentage among the starters connecting on 13 of 15 for 86.7 per cent. Gustafson, John Harrell, Clark and Flowers are shooting near the five hundred mark from the field.

Harold Ross, senior guard leads the assists column for Montana with 21.

Montana will resume play in Salt Lake against the University of Utah on December 26.

1969-70 UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA VARSITY BASKETBALL STATISTICS
(Five Games: 1-4)

PLAYER	FG-FGA	PCT.	FT-FTA	PCT.	SH.M.	REB.	AVG.	PF	ASSISTS	PTS.	AVG.
Flowers	37-83	.446	16-29	.552	53	40	8.0	19	9	90	18.0
Harrell	24-51	.471	16-25	.640	36	23	4.6	6	2	64	12.8
Clark	20-40	.500	20-28	.714	28	48	9.6	17	9	60	12.0
Gustafson	23-48	.479	13-15	.867	27	15	3.0	9	14	59	11.8
Ross	18-63	.286	14-21	.667	42	11	2.5	15	21	50	10.0
Wetzel	4-10	.400	5-6	.833	7	5	1.0	6	1	13	2.6
Bascus	3-12	.250	1-1	1.000	9	6	1.2	9	3	7	1.4
Lewis	3-8	.375	4-7	.571	8	11	2.5	6	1	10	2.0
Howard	7-20	.350	6-8	.750	15	26	5.2	16	4	20	4.0
Heroux	2-9	.222	2-2	1.000	7	1	.250	5	0	6	1.2
Rhinehart	2-2	1.000	1-2	.500	1	2	.500	1	1	5	1.25
Clawson	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	1	0	.000	0	0	0	0.0

TEAM REBOUNDS--49

UM TOTALS	143-347	.412	98-144	.680	243	207	41.4	113		384	76.8
OPP. TOTALS	186-408	.456	98-153	.639	277	248	49.6	112		471	94.2

UM	OPPONENT	OPP	WHERE	TOP SCORER (UM)	TOP REBOUNDER (UM)
(W) 91	E. Washington	81	Missoula, Mont.	Clark--22	Clark--17
(L) 58	U. Denver	92	Denver, Colo.	Clark--11	Clark--8
(L) 77	Colo. State	100	Ft. Collins, Colo.	Harrell--20 Flowers--20	Howard--8
(L) 81	Oregon	92	Eugene, Ore.	Flowers--24	Clark--11
(L) 77	Washington St.	106	Pullman, Wash.	Flowers--23	Flowers--11