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UM OPPONENTS ARE QUICK

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1/14/70
sports one + basketball

um sports



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When Idaho State coach Dan Miller brings his Bengals to the Adams Field House for Friday and Saturday night clashes with the University of Montana Grizzlies he brings with him one of the quickest teams the Tips will face this year.

Idaho State has two of the best guards in the business in O'Neil Simmons and Willie Humes. The two are averaging over 50 points per game and have led the Bengals to four straight Big Sky wins without a defeat.

Despite the fine performances by the two back court aces for Idaho State, the Bengals have a solid front court unit also. John Cullom, 6-5, Charley Barber, 6-8 and Abe Gibbons, 6-9, are strong and quick on the boards, Montana coach Bob Cope said. "They pull that ball off the boards and get it out of there fast and work the fast break extremely well," he stated.

"Taking everything into consideration though," Cope said, "we think our boys have the potential to beat Idaho State, if we put a full game together."

Friday night actually starts a new season for the Tips. The statistics for the conference are calculated beginning with the first conference game and this is where they count, the UM mentor said.

"Our guys have to give 110 percent for 100 percent of the playing time," Cope said. Actually, he feels some of the Grizzlies have turned in some outstanding performances. Sophomore Ray Howard is coming on strong and Cope believes he will be one of the greats. Against Boise State he hustled on offense and defense and did an extremely fine job until he ran into foul trouble.

Cope said other Montana players have turned in some outstanding performances, but suffered a bad game last week.

Friday's starters are still questionable for the Grizzlies. Cope might start Don Wetzel or Harold Ross at one guard position, Dave Gustafson at the other back court slot, Ray Howard at center, Willie Flowers at one forward spot and either John Harrell or Howard Clark at the other front court position.

"We want a combination that will give us everything they have for 40 minutes. This basketball is a team sport, and we want a team effort all-the-way," the Montana coach concluded.