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Another toughie Saturday for the Grizzlies

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FrIday night it was nationally ranked University of Puget Sound and Saturday it is nationally ranked Washington invading the Adams Field House for a clash with Bob Cope’s Grizzlies.

Puget Sound is rated fourth in national NAIA college polls while the University of Washington has consistently broke into the top twenty in the 1970 Associated and United Press International college basketball polls.

"Saying that the University of Washington is loaded is an under statement," Montana coach Cope said. Last year Washington beat the Grizzlies by two, 62-60 in Seattle and it was George Irvine who upset Montana’s applecart.

Irvine is back this year for the Huskies and currently tenth in national field goal percentage shooting. He has connected on 121 of 196 from the field for a 62 per cent pace.

Reports from Seattle indicate that sophomore center Steve Hawes and playmaker guard Rafael Stone are still sidelined with hairline leg fractures. Hawes is touted as the best center ever to play prep basketball in Washington. He is a Seattle native.

Washington is 3-2 in Pacific-8 Conference action while Montana is 2-3 in Big Sky action.

Montana’s have a return engagement with Flathead Community College Saturday evening. In the first game two weeks ago the Mountaineers swept to a 99-87 win behind a 29 point effort by forward Mike Vernon and a 23 point splurge by flashy little guard Eddie Trails. Jeff Nord connected for 20 for the Cubs.

Flathead is 13-3 for the season while the Cubs maintain a 2-4 marking. Montana’s frosh and the Mountaineers square off at 6 p.m. Saturday in the Adams Field House.