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Recommended Citation

University of Montana-Missoula. Office of University Relations, "Big weekend for the Grizzlies" (1970). *University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present.* 5544. https://scholarworks.umt.edu/newsreleases/5544

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BIG WEEKEND FOR THE GRIZZLIES

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Again this weekend Montana must come up with three big conference wins to stay in the running for the Big Sky basketball title.

The Grizzlies boast a 3-3 league mark and are sitting in the third position behind conference leader Weber State that boasts a 8-1 mark and top contender Idaho State with a 6-3 mark.

Not only is this a must weekend for the Grizzlies who play Gonzaga Friday and Saturday night and Idaho on Monday, but the Bengals and Wildcats meet head on in Pocatello for two. clashes this weekend.

If Weber and Idaho State split the series or the Bengals win both, Montana with three important wins could move up into the second slot or possibly be tied for the league lead.

"With all speculation aside," Coach Bob Cope said, "our kids know how important every game is from here on in. We must take one at a time and not overlook anybody."

Montana is finally picking up some rhythm on the floor, Cope said. "We are implementing our offense better and have developed the patience to wait for the opening and the good shot. That explains why Montana is leading the Big Sky in field goal percentage!"

Cope will start Dave Gustafson, Don Wetzel, Ray Howard, Willie Flowers and Howard Clark against Gonzaga, and Idaho.

Gonzaga's 2-6 Bulldogs are expected to start the league's leading field goal percentage shooter Tom Hunt at one guard and deadeye Doug Rehaume at the other backcourt spot. Up front the Bulldogs will go with 6-8 Bill Quigg at center, lightning quick Jim Bresnahan at one forward slot and Howard Buford at the other.

As to what to expect from Bonzaga. Montana assistant coach Lou Rocheleau, who handles the scouting chores for the Grizzlies, said "almost anything." In the six games he's seen them play, the Bulldogs used a variety of offenses and defenses, however he believes Gonzaga will stick to a basic man-to-man defense and a 1-3-1 offense.

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Monday evening Idaho will probably start Tim Cummings and Marvin Williams at guards, John Nelson at center and Adrian Prince and Malcolm Taylor at forwards.

The Vandals are notorious for using zone defenses and ball control offenses, typical of Northwestern United States basketball.

The Cubs will play all three preliminary games starting at 6 p.m. each evening. Friday and Saturday the Montana frosh meet Malmstrom AFB and Monday the Idaho frosh come to town.

1969-70 UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA VARSITY BASKETBALL STATISTICS (Seventeen Games 6-11) (Conference 3-3)

GAMES	PLAYER	FG-FGA	PCT.	FT-FTA	PCT.	SH.M.	REB	PF	ASSISTS	PTS.	AVG.
16	Flowers	91-203	.443	35-59	.593	136	111	38	27	217	13.6
16	Harrell	49-118	.424	27-49	.551	91	81	36	14	125	7.8
17	Clark	34-74	.459	41-58	.707	57	100	47	14	109	6.4
17	Gustafson	115-214	.537	87-104	.837	116	32	32	59	318	18.7
7	Ross	35-101	.347	20-32	.625	68	13	18	37	90	12.9
17	Wetzel	67-123	.577	28-43	.651	71	35	40	30	162	9.5
14	Bascus	19-52	.365	7-16	.438	42	46	24	14	45	3.2
10	Lewis	6-14	.429	8-15	.533	15	22	11	3	20	2.0
17	Howard	50-99	.505	44-58	.759	63	118	63	41	144	8.5
13	Heroux	14-33	.424	9-17	.529	27	15	22	15	43	3.3
9	Rbinehart	7-10	.700	1-4	.250	7	9	12	2	15	1.6
5	Clawson	2-6	.333	2-3	.667	5	3	1	0	6	1.2
7	Saunders	30-58	.517	11-26	.423	43	64	16	7	71	10.2
6	Yule	1-4	.250	0-2	.000	5	8	8	2	2	. 333

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UM TOTALS	523-1128	.464	319-479	.668	765	737	43.3	368	1376	80.9
OPP. TOTALS	558-1211	.461	363-534	.679	824	690	40.6	356	1480	87.1