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Grizzly basketballers impress coach

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GRIZZLY BASKETBALLERS
IMPRESS COACH



um sports

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MISSOULA---

The University of Montana's new basketball coach was impressed with the Grizzly basketballers after Friday night's 86-70 win over the UM freshmen.

Lou Rocheleau, who became the Grizzly basketball coach last March, said his players are in better condition than last year and are setting up the offense.

"For us to win we must setup the triple post offense and have the patients to get the good shot," Rocheleau said. While Montana's varsity did setup in the offense the Grizzlies did not shoot particularly well.

Rocheleau said his players were forcing their shots and that accounted for the 36.9 per cent field goal average.

The new coach said the timing also had a lot to do with the low percentage from the field.

Rocheleau made some changes in the offensive lineup. Friday night he moved Howard to forward and put Lonzo Lewis at center. "Ray (Howard) moves better facing the basket while Lonzo seems to go to the boards better from the center spot," he said.

The Montana coach was impressed with Jeff Nord. The 5-8 Missoula sophomore hit three of three from the field and six of eight from the charity stripe. Nord is a 4.0 student majoring in history.

Ray Howard hit 14 points but gathered in 16 rebound to lead the varsity.

Other players drawing praise from Rocheleau were Earl Tye, sophomore forward; Mike Vernon, junior guard; Willie Bascus, junior forward and Don Wetzel, senior guard.

Rocheleau also announced his travelling squad Monday. He said it would include the five that started last Friday, Lewis, Howard, Vernon, Wetzel and Tye and Howard Clark, Nord, Kirk Johnson, Larry Chapman, Jim Walker and Mike Heroux. Bascus and Van Van Duesen will be eligible after fall quarter.

(more)

page two

Frosh coach Jack McWhorter was generally pleased with the performance of the freshmen. "We shot the better percentage last Friday night, but they just out rebounded us," he said. The freshmen shot 46 per cent from the field but only gathered in 30 rebounds. The varsity hauled down 60 rebounds.

Drawing praise from McWhorter was center Cris Anderson from Olympia, Wash. He hit six of six from the field and two of two from the free throw line to tie Howard for the leading game scorer with 14.

McWhorter also had good things to say about two Washington forwards, Mike Hubbard and Scott Hollenbeck. Hubbard, a Seattle native and Hollenbeck, from Spokane, scored 13 apiece.

McWhorter said the two starting guards, Kevin Rocheleau and Robin Selvig, did not have a good night from the field and only tallied four points each.

The Cub coach did say Jerome Langston, a Philadelphia native, did an outstanding job. He tallied 10 points from his guard post.

Both Rocheleau and McWhorter said the defenses looked good. They praised their hustle and alertness.

The Grizzlies open their season against Augustana on Dec. 1 in Sioux Falls, S.D. and return home on Dec. 14 to meet Washington State. The Cubs open play on Dec. 4 against Miles City Community College on Dec. 4 and return home on Dec. 14 to meet North Idaho J.C. in a preliminary game before the UM-WSU clash.