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## Montana has dirty players

University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations

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# um sports



MONTANA HAS  
DIRTY PLAYERS

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MISSOULA

Montana's Len Johnson is one of the dirtiest players on the Grizzly football team.

The Sacramento, Calif. senior lives in the trenches and when the ball is snapped he and four other interior offensive linemen combine brute strength and quickness to strike at the enemy.

Playing a line position is not a job for a pretty boy as Johnson puts it. "You have to forget about the color on your uniform and worry about movin' people," he said.

Johnson and fellow offensive linemen, Willie Postler, Ray Stachnik, Barry Darrow, Marty Frustaci, Steve Okoniewski and Greg Semple have provided the blocking that helped Montana backs set nine of 19 school team season rushing records.

He is the only veteran senior offensive lineman on the Montana team and coach Jack Swarthout depended on him to provide the experienced leadership in the trenches.

"Johnson and three other veteran linemen, Postler, Stachnik and Frustaci, provided the offensive guidance until our new men could adjust to the system," Swarthout said.

"We knew at the beginning of the season our offensive line would have to come through big. They were the most inexperienced unit on our team," the UM coach said. Montana lost three All-Big Sky interior offensive linemen, John Stedham and Bill Gutman, from the 1969 team and one, Tuufuli Uperesa, was twice selected All-American.

Johnson is known as Montana's utility lineman. He knows every position on the UM line and has played most of those positions at one time or another this season.

Johnson is 6-0 and 225 lbs. and is listed as Montana's starting left tackle. He is also listed as the backup to right tackle Steve Okoniewski and centers the ball on punts and placements.

Last year Johnson also substituted as an offensive guard for the Grizzlies.

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He had to sit out the 1969 Camellia Bowl but will be in the 1970 game and will get a chance to put his sideline frustrations of last year's bowl game to good use.

Johnson is the only Sacramento player listed on Montana's and North Dakota's rosters. He was an all-conference star at Rio Americano High School and earned the same honor at American River Junior College.

Swarthout calls him Mr. Consistency. "He's not a flashy player, but he always gets the job done," the Montana coach said.

The Montana coach also said he couldn't remember when Johnson last missed a game. "It must have been the Camellia Bowl," he said.

Mayfair Drive, Sacramento, Calif.

Johnson is the son of Mrs. Opal Johnson, 3400/ . Montana and North Dakota square off in the Sacramento bowl on Dec. 12. The Bison won the 1969 contest 30-3.

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