Montana Grizzlies to resume three-day-practice schedule

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.umt.edu/newsreleases

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Recommended Citation

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the University Relations at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact scholarworks@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA, Mont., Sept. _____ The Montana Grizzlies, recipients of a sound physical thumping by a well-conditioned and hard hitting Wyoming team last Saturday, loosened up aching muscles Sunday afternoon and then returned to work with a vengeance Monday.

With only three practice days remaining before Montana ventures into the hostile Utah country for a Friday night bout with the young, but rapidly improving Brigham Young Cougars, Coach Jerry Williams expressed dismay at his team's physical condition.

"I had an idea we still were out of shape," Williams commented, "but I didn't realize how badly until after the Wyoming game."

The Wyoming tilt, played at Billings and won by the Cowpokes 20-0, cost Montana, for a week at least, the services of Russ Grant, a fleet sophomore wingback and the second leading ground gainer on the Grizzly squad.

Grant suffered a slight, but painful shoulder separation, and physicians doubt that he'll be ready for contact work before next Monday.

With Ervin (Tank) Rosera and junior transfer Jerry Young running well at fullback, Williams Monday shifted junior fullback, Bob Everson, to the wingback slot.

Chances of Montana picking up its first league victory in three starts Friday night went glimmering with the report that Earl Keeley, who would, if he were in good health, be Montana's No. 1 QB, still is badly crippled by bursitis in his throwing arm.

That the Grizzlies need a chucker who can hit his receivers was brought home with a shock Saturday when but five of 18 passes connected and those only for 46 yards.
On two occasions Silvertip receivers were free, clear and goalward bound only to have the ball thrown just beyond their reach.

While Montana's over-all defensive game improved over the previous week's performance, the offense did not. Six fumbles, two of which were lost, damaging penalties and dropped and incompleted passes contributed to an offensive effort that sputtered and stuttered for a mere 143 yards.

Pass defense, which virtually was non-existent in the Utah game tightened up and allowed the Cowboy throwers to complete only nine of 22. Three 'Poke passes were intercepted, two by Montana's stellar guard Stan Renning.

The Grizzlies' ground defense also showed marked improvement. Against Kansas State, which later smothered Brigham Young, Wyoming rushed 240 yards. Against Montana, the Cowboys rushed 220 yards with the bulk of the yardage coming in the first half. The Cowboy's Greg Maushart, who rambled for 155 yards against K-State, was held to 67 yards by the rapidly improving Silvertips line.

Despite the fact that Brigham Young predominately is a sophomore team, it will, however, rate the favorites position in the Montana tilt.

This is due to the fact that Montana has no passer to compare with the rifle arm of the Cougar's Carroll Johnston; that while BYU's team is sophomore-studded, they, nevertheless, unquestionably are the best sophomores in the conference; and that the game will be played in the Cougar's lair in Provo.

The respect that Montana's coaching staff has for Brigham Young's entry into Skyline grid wars was summed up the other day by one of Montana's mentors:

"I'm just thankful that we're playing BYU early in the season. I'd hate to meet that club when those kids hit their stride," was the coach's comment.

# # # #
HERE AND THERE

Montana's players were impressed tremendously with the poise and skill of Wyoming's Larry Zowada. Unless the Grizzlies meet a quarterback that can surpass Zowada's performance last Saturday, he almost certainly will get the Silver-tip's nod in the all-conference voting that will follow the season.

###

John Dixon, junior tackle from Spokane, played one of the best games of his career Saturday against Wyoming. However, because of a numeral change that occurred after the game programs were printed, Dixon's efforts on the field were credited to a player that has not been on the squad for more than three weeks. On the basis of his performance, Dixon, who has been shifted from position to position during his playing career, may have earned a starting shot in the Brigham Young game.

###