Jerry Williams to place more stress on Grizzlies' offense line; Miscellaneous

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MISSOULA, Mont., Oct. "We finally got our pass defense whipped, but we had to work all week on it and consequently our offense suffered," coach Jerry Williams declared after the Brigham Young game, which the Grizzlies lost 20-7.

"This week we're going to place more stress on offense; but we won't neglect any of the other phases of the game."

Two Grizzlies are on the sidelines indefinitely as a result of the BYU tilt, Roy Bray, senior quarterback, with a shoulder separation and Bill Harden with a severely pinched nerve in the shoulder.

Russ Grant, sophomore wingback, and Charlie Moore, junior center, who suffered injuries earlier and missed the BYU game, should be in shape for Saturday's homecoming tilt with Denver.

The Pioneers, touted by scribes in pre-season picks as a possible contender for the Skyline diadem, have dropped three straight games, the latest a sound thrashing at the hands of Colorado State University.

Two of the Hilltopper's losses were to non-conference opponents, while Montana's three defeats all have been at the hands of Skyline foes.

Saturday will be Montana's big chance to start a drive out of the conference basement and Williams is well aware of the import of the game.

Williams, while definitely on the glum side over the prospect of having Bray, his best defensive backfield man, and Harden, a crashing linebacker and competent center, on the sidelines, still voiced some optimism about Montana's chances with Denver.
"This team has shown remarkable improvement in the past three weeks. Considering the fact that we've had to devote nearly all our attention to defense, the offense hasn't done too badly," he asserted. "With Keeley and Grant back in the line-up, we should start rolling offensively again."

"What a lot of people fail to realize about this team is the fact that we missed a total of 20 practice sessions because of the flu," Williams declared. "That's what the flu did to us. We were lucky to be able to field a team against Utah."

A quick look at the total offense statistics shows Montana's offensive failings. The Grizzlies have gained 503 yards, rushing and passing, in 172 plays. This averages out to 2.9 yards a play, well under the four-yard average which is accepted as the criterion for a successful offense.

The Grizzlies will be seeking to raise this average Saturday afternoon against the Pioneers on Dornblaser Field.
MISCELLANEOUS

Influenza, which earlier caused such havoc with the varsity, now is attacking the frosh squad. Freshman coach Hal Sherbeck Monday reported that about half his squad is down with the flu. The malady may well have a similar effect on the yearlings' football campaign, since they open their season against a strong Montana State frosh team Oct. 18 at Bozeman.

Stan (The Magnificent) Renning, Friday night was voted for the third week in a row, outstanding lineman of the game. Renning intercepted a BYU pass to run his total in that department to three and, by a press box estimate, was in on about 80 per cent of the tackles.

Montana's failure to come through with a convincing running assault likely was due to the fact that Matt Gorsich, Grizzlies' fine junior halfback, was unable to play for most of the game. A severe clout on the head early in the game gave Matt a temporary case of amnesia. He was unable to remember his play assignments until the following day.

The Grizzlies, riddled in their first game of the season by Utah's fine passers, Friday night served notice they would be exceedingly tough to pass against by holding Carroll Johnston, the Skyline's top passer in 1956, to just 36 yards.