Montana basketball squad preparing for game against University of Idaho

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MISSOULA, Mont., Nov.____ Montana's basketball squad this week entered final drills in preparations for the opening of the 1957-58 season Dec. 2 against the University of Idaho at Moscow.

The following night the Silvertips move over into Washington for a go at the Washington State Cougars.

The Grizzlies took Sunday off after turning in commendable performances in two intra-squad clashes Friday and Saturday.

The games were the third and fourth of the open-to-the-public practice tilts that were staged this year by Coach Forrest B. (Frosty) Cox.

In the final performance the two teams battled it out through two over-time periods before the Reds managed to pull the game out of the fire 79-74.

Unlike the games two weeks ago, when the team was divided with veterans on one squad and transfers and sophomores on the other, the teams Friday and Saturday were more evenly matched.

The varsity performed without the services of senior center Russ Sheriff, who slightly injured his knee in practice last week. The injury is not serious, however, and Sheriff is expected to be ready for action Monday.

Junior Darroll Dunham made a strong bid for a berth on the starting lineup with sterling play both evenings. It was Dunham's last second field goal and free throw that clinched the victory for his team Saturday. In the four games, the 6-5, 170-pound Dunham poured in 62 points in addition to doing yeoman duty under the boards.

A 5-10 sophomore, Dan Balko of Great Falls, also trotted out his scoring wares for the coach's benefit. (more)
Playing an outstanding game on defense by holding high-scoring senior Clancy Waters to four and nine points during the two evenings, Balko snapped the cords for 10 and 23 points to bring his four-game practice total to 68—the tops for the entire squad.

Veteran Hal Erickson averaged 12 points a contest and played his usual standout defensive and floor game. Transfers Marv Suttles and Dave Shelby, the "big men", who first were figured only to add bench strength behind Sheriff, have, by their performances, indicated that fierce competition likely will rage for the starting pivot slot.

Montana opens its home season Dec. 7 against the Buffaloes of Colorado University, the first game of a five-contest home stand. Following the Buffs into Missoula will be Idaho's Vandals; Washington State for a double-header; and the Bobcats of Montana State College.

The Silvertips open the conference season the hard way on Jan. 4, with a tilt at Salt Lake City with the Utah Redskins—pre-season favorites to cop the Skyline crown.

Montana's basketball ticket manager, Bob Dundas, declared Monday that there still were many choice reserved seats remaining unsold. He urged fans to order early in order to insure themselves of good accommodations.