Montana gridders to open practice for the 1958 season on September 1

University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations
MISSOULA, MONT., AUG—Montana University gridders, 45 to 50 of them, will open practice for the 1958 season on Sept. 1, head coach Ray Jenkins announced this week.

Twenty-three lettermen, 10 prospects from the 1957 freshman team, three non-letter winners from 1957, and 10 or 12 transfers will report Aug. 31 to draw uniforms, take physical exams and pose for pictures.

Less than three weeks of workouts will follow before the Grizzlies depart for their opener with Utah University at Salt Lake City on Sept. 20.

"It's going to be three weeks of hard work," Jenkins commented. "We necessarily will have to spend time on conditioning and fundamentals. Then we can get down to the business of perfecting an attack and developing our defense."

Coaches have been sending letters regularly to the Silvertips this summer, and each player has been assigned a reporting weight. Anyone reporting with extra poundage has been promised "plenty of extra work."

Following the Utah opener, the Grizzlies meet Wyoming at Billings Sept. 27, New Mexico at Albuquerque Oct. 4, Denver at Denver Oct. 10, Utah State at Missoula for Homecoming Oct. 18, Brigham Young at Missoula Oct. 25, Colorado State U. at Fort Collins Nov. 1, Idaho at Missoula Nov. 8, Montana State College at Missoula Nov. 15, and San Diego University at San Diego Nov. 27.

Fifteen lettermen were lost from the squad that finished in a tie for sixth in the Skyline in 1957. Biggest loss was in the end department, where four seniors departed, including co-captains Terry Hurley and Pete Rhinehart.

One blow that hurt, however, wasn't one that came through graduation. Quarterback Earl Keeley, touted for All-Skyline honors this fall, elected to play professional ball for Vancouver, B.C.
"We're certainly going to miss Keeley," was Jenkins' simple comment.

Other departures include one 1957 letterman who was dropped last week for breaking training rules. This involved an altercation in a Missoula tavern. Another non-lettering returnee was dropped for scholastic reasons.

Regular coaches' conferences will start August 4, and Jenkins and assistants Hugh Davidson, Don Branby, Tom Parry and Hal Sherbeck will spend the first week viewing 1957 game films to acquaint themselves with the capabilities of the returning Grizzlies.

Letters will be sent to the gridders about Aug. 20, calling them to the Grizzly camp. A training table will be set up, and the players will be assigned team sleeping quarters in a University dormitory.

Two-hour morning and afternoon practice sessions are slated through Sept. 16, then the squad will taper off before leaving for Salt Lake City on Sept. 19.

University freshmen will report to Sherbeck for practice on Sept. 29, and a tough four-game schedule is in the offing for the Cubs.


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