Montana gridders open practice for the 1958 season with note of urgency; Silvertip slants

University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations

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"Urgency will be the keynote" when Montana University gridders open practice for the 1950 season on Sept. 1, head coach Ray Jenkins announced this week.

"We will have less than three weeks of practice to prepare for our Sept. 20 opener against Utah at Salt Lake City. And we've got a world of things to do in that amount of time," Jenkins said.

Added to the note of urgency will be a general question mark concerning Montana's All-American guard candidate, Stan Renning. "Stan the Ram" suffered a broken nose in a softball game in Great Falls last week.

Renning, who had never previously suffered an injury in two tough campaigns with the Grizzlies, will report for the Sept. 1 practice date, but may not have any contact work for a week of 10 days.

"I doubt that the broken nose will impair his work on the gridiron, providing it does not affect his breathing," Jenkins commented.

Forty-nine men have been invited to report for practice. This includes 21 lettermen, 10 sophomore candidates, 2 service returnees, 6 non-lettermen, and 10 transfer prospects.

The gridders will take physical exams, check out equipment and pose for pictures on Sunday, August 31. MSU photographer Dick Harris is preparing to take about 1000 pictures in a Sunday afternoon session, and Montana sports writers and sportscasters have been invited to participate.
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A training table will be set up in Brantly Hall, women's dorm, where the gridders will eat until school starts in late September. Several Montana ranchers have donated Montana cattle to help "beef up" the Grizzlies.

Two-hour morning and afternoon practice sessions will be held each day, preceded by chalk talks and strategy sessions by the players and coaches.

Intensive training will continue through Sept. 16, then the Silvertips will taper off before leaving for Salt Lake City on Sept. 19.

In successive weekends Montana will play Wyoming at Billings, New Mexico at Albuquerque, Denver at Denver, Utah State at Missoula (Homecoming), Brigham Young at Missoula, Colorado State at Fort Collins, Idaho at Missoula, Montana State College at Missoula, and a Thanksgiving Day game against San Diego University at San Diego.

"Four games on the road to start the season is a tough row to hoe," Jenkins said. "We will probably be underdogs in most of our games this season, but I still feel that we can spring some surprises."

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Skyline coaches expressed great interest in the new MSU ruling on married players. Coach Ray Jenkins, at the annual football meeting in Salt Lake City last weekend, explained that students may be dropped from teams if they marry. This is at the discretion of the coach, however.

Crying towels were in great evidence at the meeting. Even Hal Kopp, whose BYU team is generally given an inside track on the Skyline title, got into the act. "We've got a lot of problems," he moaned, mentioning in passing that the Cougars have 29 lettermen and last season had the best frosh team in the history of the school.

Another comment by the Skyline coaches: virtually every team in the conference has a wealth of tackles this year. John Kapele of BYU, Sal Cesario of Denver, and Mason Rose of New Mexico are the standouts, while Dale Memmelaar of Wyoming, a great tackle, has been shifted to end. Montana's two sophomores, John Gregor, Shelby, and John Meese, Woodside, Calif., may be two of the best sophs in the league.

QUICKIES: MSU football coaches Hugh Davidson, Don Branby and Hal Sherbeck assisted Sam Jankovich and Roy Bray in preparing the west team for a victory in the annual high school Shrine game in Great Falls last weekend. ....... Equipment manager Ruppert Holland announced that the Silvertip gridders will wear white home jersies and gold traveling suits this fall. ...........