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Gridders will be short on numbers but still enthusiastic

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MISSOULA, SEPT. — First analysis of the 1956 edition of the Montana Grizzlies shows that the gridders will be short on numbers but long on enthusiasm and conditioning, head coach Ray Jenkins said this week.

"With only 43 men in camp, we are facing a definite manpower problem. On the other hand, all 43 showed up in fine shape Sunday—as fine a conditioned team as I've seen on the first day of practice."

The gridders whipped through their first "Grizzly Mile", 15 fast laps around the practice field, with enthusiasm Sunday. Although four men have been assigned to a Fat Man's training table, even these four shed a considerable amount of weight during the summer.

No injuries, aside from the usual aching muscles, cropped up early this week. All-American guard candidate Stan Renning, Great Falls, who suffered a broken nose in a softball game two weeks ago, is rounding into shape quickly, and will take part in the first full-scale scrimmage slated Saturday afternoon.

Practice sessions Tuesday and Wednesday were devoted to introducing about 10 multiple-offense plays a day. Defensive drills and line blocking also were stressed.

Of the 43 gridders, 21 are lettermen. Ten sophomore candidates are pressing for jobs, and 11 transfers and one 1957 squad member round out the team.

(more)
Two lettermen service returnees—end Pete Muri, Rosebud, and guard Carl Strand, Bremerton, Wash.—will be a definite shot in the arm. Muri lettered in 1954 and was one of the better sophomores on the squad that year. Strand, a 1955 letterman, will press Renning and Dale Sparber, Cashmere, Wash., for a starting guard post.


Sophomore candidates are end Dale Berry, White Sulphur Springs; tackle John Gregor, Shelby; halfback Ron Grekul, Edmonton, Alta.; center Jim Johnson, Missoula; end Roy Lynn, Missoula, guard John Matte, Missoula, tackle John Meese, Woodside, Calif.; fullback Jim Neal, Billings; end Howard Schwend, Bridger; fullback Dean Swenson, Clarkston, Wash.; and quarterback Tim Grattan, Missoula.

Transfers are tackle Al Pelayo, center Gene Jessup, end John Lands and halfback Bob Stansberry (Havre), from Wenatchee Junior College; tackle Jim Earp, from Vallejo Junior College; former serviceman guard Mike Emerson, Lewistown, Idaho; former serviceman guard Dick Dobbs, who played last year with Camp Pendleton Marines; and transfers who played spring ball—tackle Don Dupuis, Polson; halfback Henry Greminger, Alhambra, Calif; and center Bob Nearents, Pasco, Wash. A 1957 non-letterman squad member is tackle Tom Kane, Couer d'Alene, Idaho.