Montana Grizzlies to be underdog in game against Brigham Young Cougars

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MISSOULA, OCT. 23—Faced with the most distressing number of injuries in recent years, Ray Jenkins' Montana Grizzlies will be 24-point underdogs in Saturday's tussle with the powerful Brigham Young Cougars.

"We'll have, at best, about 30 men suited up Saturday," the coach said this week. Definitely not able to play against BYU are halfback Bob Everson, the team's leading rusher, who will be lost for three weeks with a breastbone separation; center Mick O'Brien, who underwent a knee operation Tuesday and will be lost for the season; and tackle Dick Leenhouts, who is nursing a hurt knee.

On the doubtful list are end John Lands, shoulder separation, and halfback Russ Grant, who has an injured leg. Others nursing bruises are tackle Al Pelayo and halfback Henry Greminger.

Previously lost for the season were first-string quarterback Bruce Olson, fullback Jerry Young, and tackle Tom Kane.

Thus, from the thin squad of 40 that opened the season for Montana, only about 30 are available for full-time duty.

The only bright spot in the Grizzly camp has been the return to form of backfield men Joe Pepe and Howard Johnson. Pepe played a partial game against Utah State last week, and his bad knee gave him no trouble. Johnson was pronounced fit for duty after three weeks of nursing injuries. Either Pepe or Johnson will start at the tailback spot Saturday.

(more)