Montana Grizzlies to play San Diego University Pioneers
Thanksgiving evening

University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations

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MISSOULA--Hoping to avert the worst football record in the history of the University, the Montana Grizzlies will enplane Wednesday for San Diego, California, and a Thanksgiving evening date with the San Diego University Pioneers.

The worse Grizzly season to date was 1942, when Clyde Carpenter's Silvertips had a 0-8 mark. If the 'Tips salvage a victory against San Diego, it will match several other 1-9 season records turned in by Montana football teams.

Coach Ray Jenkins hustled the Silvertips through three torrid scrimmages late last week, and stressed defensive maneuvers early this week.

"We've been faced with our regular problems--sharpening up the defense and polishing our offensive game," the coach said.

The Grizzly mentor was justifiably concerned about how to defense the Pioneers. They have two of the fastest small-college backs in the nation in service veterans Bob Keyes and Tom Gates. Their quarterback, Jan Carter, is recognized as an outstanding passer. He completed 13 of 15 aerials in the Pioneers' last outing against Pepperdine.

Only in their second season of intercollegiate football, the Pioneers boast a 7-1 season record. Their only defeat was a 31-6 pasting administered by Montana State College. "But they've improved considerably since that game," was the comment of Grizzly end coach Don Branby, who scouted SDU against Pepperdine.

Grizzly starters against the Pioneers will be John Lands and Pete Muri, ends; Al Pelayo and John Gregor, tackles; Mike Emerson and Dale Sparber, guards; center, Jim Johnson; quarterback, Phil Griffin; left halfback, Howard Johnson; right halfback, Hank Greminger and fullback, Tom Sorenson.
With the pronouncement from trainer Naseby Rhinehart that All-American Stan Renning won't play in his final collegiate game, Jenkins placed the burden of holding down the guard spot on the shoulders of Emerson, a capable sophomore.

No other Grizzlies are hurting. Greminger spent two days in the MSU infirmary last week with a mild leg infection, but is back in harness. Guard Montana Bockman missed two days of practice to go to Butte to take a draft physical exam.

MSU alumni in the San Diego area plan to hold a "Meet the Grizzlies" reception for team members and the coaching staff on Thanksgiving afternoon, and also will sit in a group at the game.

The Grizzlies will return Friday.

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