Montana Grizzlies to play Oregon Ducks

University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations

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MISSOULA—Montana's rapidly-improving Grizzlies take on the Oregon Ducks Monday and Tuesday at Eugene, and Frosty Cox's cagers are again cast in the underdog role.

It also will be the first Montana invasion of the Pacific Coast since 1952, when Ed Chinske's football Grizzlies battled Oregon to a 14-14 tie.

"Although we've shown signs lately of breaking a scoring slump that has dogged us all season, I still feel that Oregon will be one of the toughest teams we'll play all season," Cox commented.

The Ducks twice upended BYU, 79-75 and 71-67, earlier in the season, and also stopped a strong Wichita University quint. They've lost one game to Oregon State, 68-60.

Prior to meeting Washington State Friday night at Missoula, Montana lost two contests to Idaho and dropped single games to Nebraska, Colorado and Montana State.

Likely Grizzly starters are 6-3 Darrol Dunham and 6-3 Terry Screnar, forwards; either 6-8 Dave Shelby or 6-6 Marv Suttles, center; and 5-11 Dan Balko and 6-0 Vince Ignatowicz, guards.

Balko and Ignatowicz have been the top scorers to date, but both Dunham and Screnar have improved rapidly since the season opened. The big problem is at the pivot. Neither Shelby or Suttles has scored consistently, although each has turned in creditable performances on occasion.

If Shelby gets the starting nod, he'll be opening a game just 40 miles from his home town. He played his high school ball at Albany, Oregon. The tall Grizzly transferred to Montana last season after putting in two seasons with Boise Junior College.