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Montana Grizzlies to play North Dakota Sioux in opening game

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MISSOULA, MONTANA--The Montana University Grizzlies will attempt to break a 13-game losing streak extending through two seasons when they open the 1959 campaign Saturday against a tough band of North Dakota Sioux. Game time is 1:30 at Dornblaser Stadium.

Last victory for the Silvertips was a 21-6 upset over New Mexico on Oct. 26, 1957. The Grizzlies finished the remainder of the '57 campaign without a win and also couldn't score a triumph during the 1958 season.

"I sure hope we can break the streak against North Dakota," coach Ray Jenkins said, "but I don't think there's any sense in fooling ourselves. It's going to be a rugged opener for us. The Sioux have a strong ball club and we must be considered underdogs."

Jenkins sent his squad through a tough offensive scrimmage in Missoula yesterday and expressed satisfaction at the way practice has gone to date. The Grizzlies will use basically the same offense they utilized last season, although several new plays have been added. The system will include a heavy mixture of power single wing formations, sprinkled with wing-T plays.

The Montana-North Dakota clash will be a reunion for both clubs after an 11-year layoff. Montana and North Dakota last met on the gridiron in 1948, with the Grizzlies gaining a 47-7 victory. In five games between the schools the Silvertips have won three and North Dakota one, with one tie.

The Nodaks, defending North Central champions, have outstanding strength at halfback, fullback and at interior line spots, according to end coach (more)
Don Branby, who scouted the Sioux in their spring game. They appear inexperienced at quarterback and end.

The same holds true for the Grizzlies, who will suit up about 25 sophomores among the 43-man squad. The starting Montana combination will be comprised heavily of veterans, but inexperienced men will be depended upon in several key spots.

A "very tentative" starting lineup announced by Jenkins includes John Lands and Howard Schwend, ends; John Gregor and John Meese, tackles; John Dixon and Mike Emerson, guards; Jim Johnson, center; Hank Greminger and Russ Grant, halfbacks; Clyde Gossert, fullback; and Phil Griffin, quarterback. All but Gossert, a sophomore, are veterans.


With no students on campus yet, ticket manager Bob Dundas expects a game crowd not to exceed 5,000. The Missoula County high school band has been invited to put on pre-game and halftime ceremonies.

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