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Grizzly sports column

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MISSOULA---Montana football coach Ray Jenkins flatly predicts that Montana's Skyline opener with Wyoming Saturday in Billings "will be one of the toughest conference games we've played in the past several seasons."

The Grizzlies have never beaten Wyoming on the gridiron, and again this season it appears that the odds will definitely favor the Skyline defending champions.

Not that Montana isn't improved--the Grizzlies at the present time are considerably better than the team that lost a 21-14 thriller to Wyoming in 1958. But the Cowboys are loaded this season and have the personnel to outgun the Grizzlies at every position.

"If we can knock off Wyoming Saturday, it will be on the basis of spirit alone," Jenkins comments. "We don't have the manpower to match Wyoming. But I do think that we will have the desire."

Billings fans will have the opportunity to watch a number of eastern Montana Grizzlies in action during the contest. Among Montana gridders slated to play are sophomores Glenn Sorenson, Mike Thomson, Larry Beddes and Tim Jerhoff of Billings; Jim Grasky and Stan Hunton of Miles City; Howard Schwend of Bridger, and Rich Birgenheier of Harlowton. So, in a sense, it will be quite a "Homecoming" for a number of the Grizzlies.

And the Billings affair also will be a second Homecoming for an estimated 8,000 Montana and Wyoming fans. Both schools have scheduled alumni meetings before and after the game.

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