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Grizzlies win game against Brigham Young University

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MISSOULA--"Let's not stay up in the clouds too long—we've got a game this weekend that will be fully as tough as any we've played this season," Montana football coach Ray Jenkins told his fired-up Grizzlies early this week.

The Montanans, after a 12-0 upset over Brigham Young last Saturday at Provo, will attempt to make it two in a row this Saturday in Missoula, hosting a hot-and-cold Denver aggregation. Jenkins, in the unfamiliar role of having a 50-50 chance of winning two Skyline games in succession, struck a solid note of warning. "If you fellows decide to ride on your glory, Denver will win by three touchdowns," he told the Grizzlies.

End coach Don Branby was inclined to disregard Denver's 15-0 loss to Colorado State last weekend. The Montana scout says the Pioneers will be tough. "Denver made a couple defensive mistakes against CSU, but their offensive game worked fairly well against one of the toughest defensive teams in the Conference."

Against Colorado State, Denver made more first downs and more yards rushing than the Rams. Their total offensive yardage—212--was nearly identical to Montana's effort against BYU.

Only one Grizzly remains on the doubtful list for action Saturday—but that could be a major loss. Sophomore end Glenn Sorenson, who is rapidly developing into one of the best defensive wingmen on the team, suffered ankle and knee injuries in the Cougar clash. The 200-pounder will see limited action if he plays at all.

Rejoining the team this week was fullback Russ Grant, who missed the BYU game with a gashed leg.

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Recapping the Brigham Young game, Jenkins emphasized that "it was a team victory." The Grizzly coach gave a full measure of credit to his second team—dubbed the Alley Rats—for stopping the Cougar offensive drive midway in the second half.

"The second unit did a tremendous job of relief in the second half, and they performed so well that I could afford to give the regulars a rest. This enabled the first string to come back for an insurance TD late in the game."

"If anyone should be singled out for a special word of praise, it should go to junior tackle John Gregor, who played the best game of his career," Jenkins added. Gregor did a perfect job on defense, plugging up the Cougar off-tackle slants. On offense his blocking was crisper and led the way to several good gains around end and through tackle.

Other Grizzlies who turned in a good defensive job were linemen John Matte and Larry Beddes, and linebackers Jim Johnson, Gary Schwertfeger and Gary Smith.

Montana's pass defense, whipped into good shape by back coach Hugh Davidson, limited BYU to four completions and 44 yards. The Grizzlies added two key interceptions—one by Bob O'Billovich that set up the final Grizzly TD. The other was by halfback Paul Gustafson, who rambled 42 yards with the errant aerial to stop a BYU offensive drive early in the second quarter.

Offensively, the show belonged to O'Billovich and three improved Montana tailbacks—Jim Grasky, Jerry Dotson and Gustafson. Grasky and veteran Hank Greminger were the best rushers in the contest. Dotson and Gustafson devoted part of their efforts to keeping Brigham Young at bay with tremendous punts. Except for one well-placed boot by Dotson that traveled only 22 yards, the Grizzly punters averaged 45 yards on eight kicks. The best of the evening was by Dotson, who got off a 58-yarder from his own two-yard line.

Other incidents that contributed to the victory were Gregor's fumble recovery that set up the first Montana touchdown, and a good tackle by Gustafson, Greminger and Floyd Bethke in stopping a BYU drive on the Montana two.

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