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Grizzly Sports Column

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MISSOULA—If individual performances are any criterion, Montana's football squad is considerably improved this season. Skyline Conference statistics show that four Grizzlies currently are among the leaders in grid warfare.

First and foremost is end John Lands, an All-Skyline performer in 1958 who has led the pack in pass-catching since the first week of the 1959 season. Lands, a 6-4 Negro who maintains a B average in his anthropology major, is probably the most versatile athlete at Montana University in the past 10 years. Big John also shines in basketball and track.

Close on his heels is sophomore passing wizard Bob O'Billovich of Butte, who has been among the top two passers in the league for the past month. Small but tough is the byword for Bob, who has completed 50 per cent of his tosses so far this season.

The best punter in recent years at the University is sophomore Paul Gustafson, who has averaged 44 yards a punt in five contests. The stocky Canadian likes to kick line drives, rather than high spirals. His best this season was a 68-yard quick kick against Denver.

Senior handyman Hank Greminger also has the best percentage among Skyline punt returners. The veteran halfback has averaged over 20 yards on punt returns this season.

Contrast these performances to 1958, and most observers will agree that the 1959 Grizzlies are improved. Last season, only Lands was among the individual leaders in the Conference.