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Grizzly Sports Column

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MISSOULA—Lesson in desire: play collegiate football when you weigh 163 pounds and are the subject of mayhem once a week, with five or six hungry linemen charging at you.

"I don't mind it a bit," says Montana quarterback John Schulz, the passing wizard who is nicknamed "Shoulders" by his teammates because of his lean and lanky frame. Schulz, surprisingly enough, has never been injured in four seasons of high school ball at Loyola of Missoula and during his one season with the Grizzlies. But Montana fans shudder every time John is swarmed under or decides to carry the ball.

Schulz didn't start the season in spectacular manner. The tough Butte sophomore, Bob O'Billovich, had first call at quarterback. But John saw his share of action, then really came into his own when he completed seven of 10 aerials in the late stages of Montana's game with Utah State. He hit seven of 13 in the next game with New Mexico, then scored on 11 of 19 passes against Colorado State. When O'Billovich was hurt in the CSU game, Schulz took over against Montana State and completed enough passes to rank him ahead of O'Billovich in the passing department. Schulz also zoomed up among the four best throwers in the Skyline.

The Grizzly sophomore plays the coolest quarterbacking game Montana fans have seen in recent seasons. "I don't know how he does it—but John can dodge rushing linemen and throw the ball from the craziest positions better than any quarterback I've ever coached," Grizzly mentor Ray Jenkins comments.

John, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Schulz of Missoula, is a journalism major at the University.