Montana State University football spring workouts update

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MISSOULA--"We're further ahead than last year," Montana University football coach Ray Jenkins summarized in Missoula after the first week of spring grid workouts at MSU. Stress was laid on offensive patterns last week, but emphasis will shift this week to defensive maneuvers.

Jenkins singled out nearly 20 individuals for special praise after a full-scale offensive scrimmage last Saturday. "We really knocked heads, and the whole squad of 60 men showed good spirit and hustle," he added. Among veterans on the first team who solidified their positions were tackle John Gregor, ends Howard Schwend and Dale Berry, guard Larry Beddes, center Gary Schwertfeger, fullback Gary Smith and quarterback John Schulz.

Newcomers who looked sharp during the session were end Bill Bouchee, guards Dan Peters and Jim Bartell, halfbacks Terry Dillon and Steve Wood, quarterback Paul Miller and fullback Don Shotliff. Transfer tackles Ed Herber and Carl Schwertfeger, along with end Mike Trotter, were sharp despite their unfamiliarity with the Grizzly system.

"We still need more speed in the line, particularly at the tackle positions," Jenkins said. "If we can sharpen up our timing and really 'fire out' on blocking, our whole game will be improved 100 per cent."

Only two injuries have marred workouts to date. Freshman guard Paul Ricci probably will miss the remainder of spring practice due to a knee injury, and Smith is sidelined for about a week with a shoulder separation. Jenkins expects to shift some of his players to different positions in the next two weeks in an effort to put together a topnotch defensive team. The spring game, an intersquad affair, is scheduled for May 19.