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Montana baseball squad to play Montana State College

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MISSOULA--The Montana baseball squad moves into Helena Saturday for two non-Skyline games with Montana State College, and both contests will be among the toughest the improved Grizzlies have played all season.

The doubleheader was moved to Montana's Capitol City this week when MSC officials determined that the new Bobcat diamond will not be ready for play. Two seven-inning games will be played, starting at 1:30 at Helena's Legion Park.

"We're really on the spot," coach Hal Sherbeck told his tossers early in the week. "The Bobcats beat us twice in Missoula a month ago, and I just hope our hitting doesn't go sour like it did the last time we played MSC."

Sherbeck was referring to 8-3 and 2-1 losses dealt Montana by MSC pitchers Con Strzelcyzk and Keith Strandberg in April. Grizzly hitters managed only nine base hits in the two games.

Of late, Grizzly hitting has left little to be desired. The Montanans show a team batting average of .309 in Skyline contests, and two performers--sophomore ace Butch Hendricks and All-Skyline Terry Screnar--boast averages well over the .400 mark. Hendricks has a .469 percentage in Skyline games, while slugger Screnar is at the .459 level with 12 extra-base hits to his credit.

Pitching, which turned sour when Montana lost 10-9 and 13-11 games to Utah last week, has been erratic lately. Hendricks tossed a fine game against BYU 10 days ago, but he was solidly tagged in the Utah series. Neither Ken Wimett or Ed Komac have been effective since the Utah tour in April.

Sherbeck expects to go with his usual lineup of catcher Chuck Miltenberger, first-sacker Screnar, second baseman Dick Held, shortstop Bob O'Billovich, third baseman John Matte, and outfielders Al Craig, Jim Johnson and Floyd Ayers. Hendricks will patrol an outfield spot when not pitching, and others who may see duty are infielders Tom Peterson and Norris Barnhill, and outfielders Gary Oswald and Ron Quilling.

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