History of football at Montana State University to be published by Montana State University Press

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MISSOULA, JUNE (00) -- Note to sports fans: Football has changed; not only the shape of the ball (which used to look like an inflated cantaloupe), not only the raiment of the warriors (who used to dress in something that looked like bloomers), but also the language of sports reporters (that used to sound like something intended for the society page).

These are conclusions to be drawn from "The Grizzly Gridiron," a 200 page history of football at Montana State University, now being readied by Montana State University Press. The book was authored by Bob Gilluly, third-generation Montana newspaperman and currently sports news editor for MSU. Gilluly turned the Grizzly football records all the way back to the school's first clash in 1897, when the University football laddies went into the fray against a team of townies. One memorable fact about that season was that the coach called himself off the bench to get into the line on several occasions.

Gilluly's compilation includes a year-to-year account of every MSU grid season since, plus a complete list of Grizzly lettermen, sketches of the all-time Grizzly greats, a 25 page picture section, and a considerable anecdotage. According to Jack Ryan, Director of Publications, "This is the most extensive athletic history ever undertaken in Montana. The book has been about two years in preparation and presents a tremendous amount of historical data."

-30-