Montana Grizzlies to open football season with game against North Dakota

University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations
MISSOULA--Montana's Grizzlies open their football slate Saturday night against North Dakota at Grand Forks, and coach Ray Jenkins is more concerned with mental blocks than he is with blocks of a physical nature.

"I still don't know if we're ready to play football," the mentor commented early this week. "We're in fair physical shape, and we haven't had any major injuries. But there have been entirely too many missed assignments and other mental boners in our scrimmages."

The coach has named a squad of eleven veterans for opening-gun duty against the Sioux, but stressed that most of his performers should see action. "We're going to do a lot of experimenting, and I feel that we should have two fairly strong units ready for action. I know one thing--if the veterans don't have the desire, the sophomores will get into the game in a hurry."

Lettermen Howard Schwend and Dale Berry have been tabbed as starters at the end positions, with standout senior John Gregor and junior Mike Thomson winning the nod at tackle. Guards will be team sparkplug John Matte and veteran Larry Beddes, with junior Gary Schwertfeger scheduled to start at center.

Bullet Bob O'Billovich will be the quarterback, with veterans Jim Grasky and Tom Sullivan at the halfbacks. Fullback will be filled by letterman Gary Smith.

Others slated for action are Ends Glenn Sorenson, Gene Moe and Bill Bouchee; tackles Ed Herber, Dave Kosiur and Carl Schwertfeger; guards Jim