Montana Grizzlies to play Colorado State University

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MISSOULA, MONTANA---Back to earth and humbled by their 7-6 loss to Brigham Young, Montana's Grizzlies this Saturday face an improving Colorado State University crew in Fort Collins, Colorado. And coach Ray Jenkins says he hopes his Silvertips "have learned their lesson."

"We played poor offensive football in our loss to Brigham Young. Call it what you want—a letdown or overconfidence—the fact remains it was our poorest showing of the season," the coach said early this week.

Now the Grizzlies, dangerously close to the Skyline basement with a 1-3 league mark, must pull themselves up by their bootstraps if they hope to make a good showing against CSU. The Rams last weekend held down powerful Utah State to a 21-0 win in Logan, and Grizzly scout Hugh Davidson warns that the Rams can be doubly tough on their home field.

From an offensive standpoint, Grizzly blocking and backfield running was the most obvious weakness against BYU. The Silvertips were partially hurt when starting tailback Terry Dillon was shaken up on the opening kickoff and did not perform up to par for the rest of the afternoon. The injury was not serious, and Jenkins is confident that Dillon will rebound against CSU. Montana fullback Gary Smith again was a tower of running strength against BYU, but wingback Pat Dodson was well contained by the Cougars.

Defensively, the Silvertips held BUY to 192 yards rushing and passing—good enough to beat most teams providing your own offense doesn't break down. Grizzly pass defenders were lax in three instances, and the Montanans counted themselves lucky when two BUY men dropped passes that could have gone for touchdowns.