Montana State University arrive in Albuquerque for New Mexico game

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Missoula, Montana---A Montana grid traveling party of 35 arrived in Albuquerque, N. M., Friday afternoon with an admonition from coach Ray Jenkins that they'll have to play one of their better games of the season to beat New Mexico Saturday.

"We're behind the eight-ball in about three respects," Jenkins said before the team departed. "In the first place, New Mexico has been coming along fast since losing five games in midseason due to injuries. They've run up a string of three straight Skyline wins."

"And, we've had particular problems with the Lobo wing-T offense in the past two seasons. They worked their off-tackle slants in perfection in the past two games with us, and we'll have to have great performances from tackles John Gregor, Carl Schwertfeger, Dave Kosiur and Ed Herber to remain in contention."

"And finally, it's New Mexico's Homecoming game against us, and we'll be faced with a crowd of about 25,000 yelling for a Lobo victory."

The Silvertips spent most of the week working on defensive adjustments for the New Mexico tilt, but Jenkins also had the Grizzlies polishing their offensive blocking and timing. "We had a poor offensive afternoon against Utah last week, and must do a better job in the running department," he said.

It's the season finale for the Grizzlies, who have a 5-4 mark. In Skyline play Montana is 2-4, and a victory over the Lobos would assure Montana of no worse than fifth place in the loop--the highest ranking the Grizzlies have ever enjoyed in 10 seasons of Skyline competition.

Montana seniors John Matte and John Gregor were elected honorary season captains by the team early in the week, and the two line sparkplugs will act in that capacity Saturday.