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Montana basketball update

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MISSOULA, MONTANA---"We'll have to hustle constantly and keep mistakes to a minimum," Montana basketball coach Frosty Cox told his cagers this week as they prepared for their season's opener Saturday against a veteran crew of Idaho Vandals in Moscow.

On the basis of last weekend's intersquad scrimmages, Cox has picked a "starting three", but still is undecided about two positions. And he's also worried about the ragged offensive work his Grizzlies accomplished last week. "We didn't run our patterns and screens well, and there also were numerous defensive mistakes," the mentor commented. Rebounding--a bugaboo last season--does appear to be improved.

Grizzly starters will include veteran forward Duane Ruegsegger, letterman guard Bob O'Billovich, and sophomore center Steve Lowry. Junior forward Dan Sullivan may get a starting nod, although senior Kay Roberts could win the job this week. At the other guard position, Cox hasn't had wholly satisfactory work from senior Paul Miller, junior Ron Quilling, or soph Ray Lucien. Best bet for most action at this spot is Miller, with Lucien backing him up.

Ruegsegger, Montana's top returning pointmaker, led the squad in scoring, 55 points, in two scrimmages last weekend. Lowry did a fine rebounding job and also scored well, while O'Billovich turned in fine performances after only three days of practice since the football season concluded.

Although ragged play was expected in both intersquad tilts, Cox said improvement must be accomplished before the Grizzlies can develop into a workable unit.

In addition to the men above named, Cox will fill out his traveling squad with letterman guard Butch Hendricks and soph guard Larry Riley. Soph center Alvin Ford, who played well in both scrimmages, won't be eligible for competition until winter quarter.