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Montana Grizzlies to concentrate on defense after loss against Brigham Young University; Bobby O'Billovich takes over scoring lead; Grizzly Statistics--For Seven Games; Silvertips slants

University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations

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FROM: John Bennitt
Sports News Editor
Montana State University

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

MISSOULA--Following a 74-66 loss to Brigham Young University at Provo, Utah, Montana's Grizzlies will be concentrating on correcting defensive mistakes in preparation for their first home conference contest of the season when they host Denver University Thursday night.

The Grizzlies showed their lack of experience at BYU last weekend by giving away several easy shots that contributed to the Cougars' impressive 50 per cent field goal average. The Montana cagers also suffered because of the loss of their leading scorer, Duane Ruegsegger, who remained at home to make up an incomplete grade from last quarter.

Whether or not the tall senior from Billings will see action the rest of this season will not be known until later this week when his grades are sent to the registrar. The two-year lettermen averaged 15.2 points-per-game for coach Frosty Cox's squad in six pre-season games.

Cox said after the BYU game that Ruegsegger's rebounding and scoring talents would have helped the Silvertips in their initial loop encounter. However, the Montana mentor commented that MSU defensive mistakes paved the way for the BYU victory.

Last weekend Denver split a pair by dumping Wyoming and then falling to Colorado State. The Pioneers, coached by Hoyt Brawner, sport one of the loop's top won-lost records in recent years but are likely to run hot and cold this season.

Like Montana, Denver faces a rebuilding problem and will be forced to use shophomores and men who have seem comparatively little experience in the past seasons.
At least three sophomores, Tim Vezie, Lenny Reynolds and Dennis Hodge, are slated as probable starters Thursday night with the remainder of the Pioneer five consisting of senior veterans Tom Hollis and Bob Grinstead. Other Pioneers likely to see action are transfer center William Mumma and guard Gary Baxstrom, both sophomores.

Last season Montana and Denver split, the Grizzlies winning 70-67 early in the season and the Pioneers winning 79-70 near the end of the conference campaign.

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MISSOULA -- Bobby O'Bilovich took over the Grizzly scoring lead last weekend as he topped all scorers in Montana's bout with BYU in adding 24 points to the Grizzly side of the scorebook.

The Butte junior also was the first Grizzly to top the century mark in the cage sport this season. His 102 points were 11 better than previous leader Duane Ruegsegger's record. Ruegsegger, however, missed the BYU game and still claims the top scoring average for the Silvertips this season.

In rebounding big Steve Lowry continues to hold the team lead with a total of 98 takedowns. Dan Sullivan has pulled 68 off the boards. As a team, the MSU cagers have outrebounded their opponents 368 to 304 in seven games.

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Athletic News Service

MONTANA UNIVERSITY, Missoula
### GRIZZLY STATISTICS -- For Seven Games

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>FGA-FGM</th>
<th>FTA-FTM</th>
<th>Reb.</th>
<th>PF</th>
<th>Pts</th>
<th>Avg.</th>
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<td>Duane Ruegsegger, F</td>
<td>95-36</td>
<td>23-19</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>91</td>
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<td>Steve Lowry, C</td>
<td>64-28</td>
<td>69-36</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>92</td>
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<td>Bob O'Bilovich, G</td>
<td>109-38</td>
<td>31-26</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>102</td>
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<td>Dan Sullivan, F</td>
<td>89-32</td>
<td>21-14</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>16</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<td>1</td>
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#### Team Rebounds

- MONTANA TOTALS: 459-171
- OPPOSITION TOTALS: 427-150

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### SILVERTIP SLANTS

When Denver comes to the Field House Thursday night, their tall center, 6-7 Bob Grinstead, may have a few second thoughts. Last season he broke his ankle playing against the Grizzlies and scouting reports indicate he still favors the old injury. The broken ankle kept him out of all but eleven contests last season and may have cost him early stardom for the Pioneers.

In spite of the Grizzlies' loss to BYU last weekend, their 58 point defensive average may still place them among the nation's top-twenty clubs in that department. Top defensive team thus far this season is Santa Clara with an average of 48 points-per-game for their opponents. At the bottom of the defensive "top twenty" is Texas A&M with an average of 58.8. No other Skyline club has been able to crack either the offensive or defensive top twenty except for Utah, ranked number 11 offensively.

The Grizzlies host three cage teams in five days beginning with Denver Thursday night. New Mexico comes to the Field House Saturday night and Idaho completes the trio of contests Monday night. Frosty Cox's squad then travels to Salt Lake for contests with Utah State and Utah.