

University of Montana

## ScholarWorks at University of Montana

---

Main Hall to Main Street, 2005-2010

University Relations

---

1-1-1996

### Main Hall to Main Street, January 1996

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/mainhallmainstreet>

**Let us know how access to this document benefits you.**

---

#### Recommended Citation

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations, "Main Hall to Main Street, January 1996" (1996). *Main Hall to Main Street, 2005-2010*. 8.

<https://scholarworks.umt.edu/mainhallmainstreet/8>

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the University Relations at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in Main Hall to Main Street, 2005-2010 by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact [scholarworks@mso.umt.edu](mailto:scholarworks@mso.umt.edu).



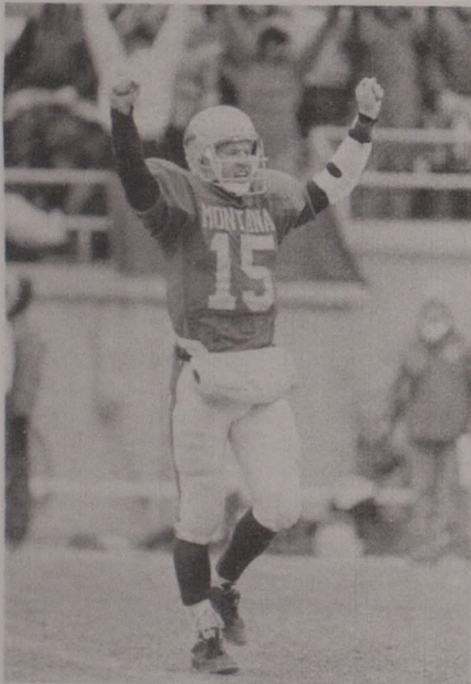
# Main Hall to Main St.

Vol. 2, No. 1

Connecting Campus and Community

January 1996

## Superstar quarterback shines until the end



The No. 15 Griz jersey retires with Dave

Promotional posters for the 1995 Grizzly football season dubbed star quarterback Dave Dickenson "The Legend of the Fall." By the end of the season, Dickenson had become a Montana football legend for all time.

The senior quarterback who led UM to its first national championship title set 26 school records and 14 Big Sky Conference and NCAA Division I-AA records along the way.

He capped off his college football career by winning the Walter Payton Award as the best offensive player in Division I-AA, an achievement that once again cast UM in a national sports spotlight.

"Super Dave" made the grades as well as the points, earning high honors as a student-athlete and attending UM on a Presidential Leadership Scholarship his first four years. A pre-med student with a 3.84 grade point average, he was named to the 1995 GTE Academic All-American team.

He was one of only 17 players in college football to receive an \$18,000 scholarship for post-graduate study from the

National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame in recognition of his accomplishments on the field and in the classroom. The organization added an extra \$3,000 scholarship for medical school.

"I've not coached one like him before," said Head Coach Don Read. "He's so complete. He does so many things so well. He truly is special."

UM President George Dennison said Dickenson "exemplifies the very best we can imagine in a student-athlete. All around, he's probably the most outstanding scholar athlete we've ever had. In his own inimitable way, Dave Dickenson has done more for collegiate athletics and The University of Montana than anyone I know."

As football fans continue swapping favorite memories of the 1995 Grizzlies, many wonder what comes next in the 23-year-old quarterback's remarkable career. Dave wonders himself, and hopes that playing professional football in the United

(continued on page 3)

## Griz championship makes season merry for merchants

If you didn't get a Grizzly championship shirt for Christmas, you may be alone.

A survey of Southgate Mall stores showed that clothing commemorating UM's first national championship topped the list of best-selling items during the week between the Dec. 16 game and Christmas Eve. Thousands of T-shirts, hats and sweatshirts sold faster than they could be stocked. And that made local retailers as jolly as the fans.

"Everybody in Missoula and Missoula County had a Grizzly Christmas," said Keith L. Wright, manager of Hennessy's. "People here in Montana probably bought more Grizzly merchandise per capita than some of the NFL cities."

Long lines awaited mall merchants each morning when they opened for business.

"It was a madhouse," said April Schow, manager of Shirtworks. "Marshall has no idea what a stampede is."

Shirtworks sold 12 dozen Grizzly championship shirts before the game was even played. The tiny T-shirt shop sold more than 12,000 the following week.

"All I can say is 'thanks Griz, we had a great Christmas,'" Schow said.

More than 40 official designs have been approved for sale, said Bryan Thornton, manager of the UC Bookstore.

Lee Boman, store leader for JC Penney, said the national victory turned sales around for the entire season. Boman noted that the Southgate Mall store rang up more Grizzly national championship merchandise sales than its sister store in Madison, Wisc., recorded when the University of Wisconsin Badgers won the

Rose Bowl in 1994.

"We were having a mediocre month until Dec. 16, and when we won the game, sales improved significantly," Boman said. "Ever since the football game, business has been wonderful. The customers were in a great mood. In my career, I've never seen anything like this before. We feel like winners as a community. This win has sparked optimism, generosity and happiness."

Shannon Holmes, retail manager at Universal Athletics, fielded phone orders from Griz fans all over the country, from Kentucky to Oregon.

Holmes said sales slowed after Christmas, but championship memorabilia was still selling steadily, and that probably will continue. After all, he said, "They're national champions for a year."

# Dickenson, dream team de

If ever there was a football team that could go all the way, it was this one. Even those who aren't ordinarily football faithfuls became diehard Grizzly followers in the final weeks. Fans, new and old, are still dizzy from the 22-20 championship victory and subsequent celebrations. The Griz are still the talk of the town.

"Nobody wants to forget this one," says Gordy Fix, owner of the Press Box and a fervid fan.

## Thanks for the memories

The victory will be savored for years. Each game had its share of memories, as did the community celebrations that followed the champions' homecoming. Here are some to be treasured:

**Powerhouse season**—By year's end, Dickenson outranked every other college quarterback in the nation in passing yards, despite being pulled in the third quarter from more than half of the Grizzlies' fifteen games because of comfortable point spreads. Coach Don Read says he's never had a season where his backups have seen so much playing time.

**Shutouts**—The Griz became the first team in NCAA Division I-AA playoff history to post back-to-back shutouts with unforgettable scores: Eastern Kentucky, 48-0; Georgia Southern, 45-0. The Grizzlies scored a total of 163 points in three playoff games while holding their playoff opponents to just 14.

**Quick quarterback**—A bad snap on the 18 yard line midway through the second quarter of the Eastern Kentucky game shot behind the Griz. In true Dickenson style, the alert quarterback scrambled for the ball—with five opponents bearing down on him—and heaved it to wide receiver Joe Douglas, who carried it to the one-yard line before he was run out of bounds. One play later—touchdown!

**Did you see that?**—Wide receiver Nathan Dolan treated fans to the season's



Fans stay until the bitterly cold end to hear the championship-bound 1995 Griz sing "Up With Montana" for the last time at home after the Stephen F. Austin semifinal game.

most amazing catch in the Georgia Southern quarterfinal game. Dolan leapt horizontally to the turf and brought in a spectacular one-handed catch. The following week, Dolan pulled in a 23-yard Dickenson toss to score the first touchdown of his college career. The score came just 28 seconds before halftime in the Stephen F. Austin game to lift the Grizzlies to a 35-14 lead and a major momentum change.

**Sweet score**—70-14.

**Sounds of victory**—Most of the record-setting 18,523 fans in Washington-Grizzly Stadium didn't leave the stadium Dec. 9, even after the game ended and the Texas team had cleared the field. They stood in the chilling wind to hear their 1995 Grizzlies sing the fight song, "Up With Montana," one final time. Coach Don Read started the tradition of singing the song to fans after each victory when he came to UM in 1986.

**Winning kick**—Andy Larson kicked the game-winning 25-yard field goal with 39 seconds left to play. (Remember, he saved the

day in the Northern Arizona game, too.) Marshall's kicker failed a 63-yard attempt in the final seconds; the ball bounced on the 3-yard line. Final score: 22-20. "I can't believe it happened to me," Larson told the *Missoulian* moments after the most

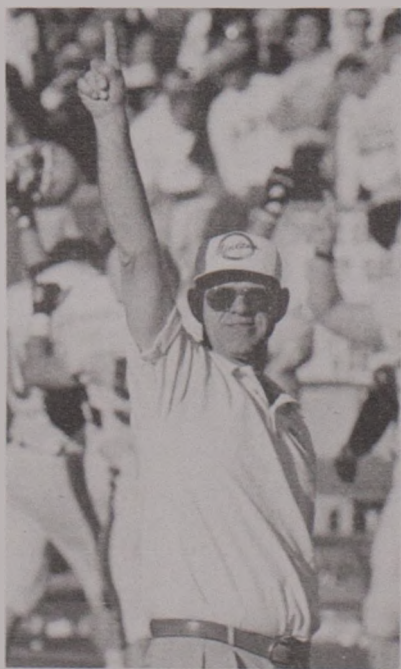
important kick of his career. "It's the best feeling I've ever had in my whole life. Every time I look at that scoreboard I almost break out crying."

**We are the champions**—Missoula gave the 1995 NCAA Division I-AA champion Grizzlies a heroes' welcome Saturday night. Thousands of screaming fans, index fingers held high, sang Queen's "We Are the Champions" as the team filed off the buses that brought them from their charter flight.

UM's ROTC cannon boomed and fireworks blazed as the champs grinned from the stage.

The welcome home cheers continued as the team buses rolled into town from the airport led by a police and fire truck escort. Spontaneous cheering erupted from the streets as motorists pulled over for the lights and sirens, then realized the emergency vehicles were actually guiding their Grizzlies home to campus.

"It was unreal," recalls Gordy Fix, who rode on one of the team buses. "There were tears in the eyes of the players as they ran from one side of the bus to the other to see the fans cheering. This is just a class city."



No. 1 Coach Don Read signals the Grizzlies' new national standing and sets a new Missoula trend.



Members of UM's Big Sky Winds marching band cheered along with 2,500 faithful Griz fans at Marshall Stadium.

# ver national championship

**Payton presentation**—Tears in the eyes of the entire Dickenson family brought the same to the eyes of many audience members as the superstar quarterback accepted the 1995 Walter Payton Award.

**So long, No. 15**—UM Athletic Director Wayne Hogan, when retiring Dickenson's jersey, said: "Never again, never again, will the No. 15 be worn by a Montana player."

**Coaching Clinton**—Dickenson and Read received a congratulatory telephone call from President Clinton. In his trademark encouraging manner, Read told Clinton, "Keep up the good work, Mr. President."



Coach Read and team claim their championship trophy

**Long lines**—Thousands of Griz fans waited in line for hours just to put cham-

pionship T-shirts and sweatshirts under the tree as proof that we weren't all dreaming this extraordinary community Christmas gift.

**We won**—President George Dennison, during the Dec. 18 celebration at the Harry Adams Field House, set the record straight that the Thundering Herd didn't just let the game go: "Let no one dispute the facts! The Grizzlies won the national championship! No one gave it to them. They rose to the occasion and prevailed in a fair contest under adverse circumstances. We're proud of them and what they stand for and represent as an example to all of us and the nation."

## Superstar

continued

States or Canada will be part of his future. He intends to someday be a family doctor, but for now, medical school is at least a year away.

"There's more I want to accomplish," the quarterback said. "I'd like to continue playing as long as my body can put up with it and the talents are there. If it's not going to work, so be it, I'll move on. I'll focus on the career I've had."

The rest of the nation caught a glimpse of his brilliant career only last month. Faithful Grizzly followers had watched their favorite quarterback bud during his two previous starting seasons, but it wasn't until the record-shattering 1995 season that Dave Dickenson really became a household name in Missoula.

In November the Grizzlies captured their second Big Sky Conference crown in three seasons and local headlines proclaimed: "Dave Dickenson is a God."

Suddenly, the anonymity that the quarterback had relished off the field disappeared. Until the playoff games, Dave wasn't easily recognized when out of his No. 15 jersey. The blond, bespectacled, blue-eyed quarterback no longer blended into the Missoula crowd.

"Off the field, I'd just rather be in the background," he confessed.

A Great Falls native, Dave was still a toddler when he tossed his first football. For as long as his parents, Bob and Sue Dickenson, can remember, their son loved to get balls of any kind for Christmas.

"As soon as it snowed, we'd be out there playing football for sure," said Dave, remi-

niscing about front yard games along the banks of the Missouri River with neighborhood buddies and big brother Craig, now a special teams assistant coach for the Grizzlies. His mother said that's where her quarterback son learned to deftly dodge and duck his opponents.

It was seventh grade before the youngest member of the Dickenson clan played organized football.

His storybook career as a quarterback started at C.M. Russell High School, where he led the Rustlers to two consecutive state football championships.

He graduated at the top of his high school class with a 4.0 grade point average and wanted a college where he could continue to excel in both academics and athletics.

Dave was drawn to UM by Read's belief that the best students make the best athletes.

If he doesn't make it to the pros, Dave said he'll take a year off after graduating this spring. He'll trade the pressures of the limelight for a year of no demands except taking the medical school entrance exams and applying to medical schools.

And, he said, "I would like to take care of Dave Dickenson a little more."

Eight months from now, Grizzly fans will flock back to the stadium at the base of Mount Sentinel in search of new stars to track in the 1996 season.

But Washington-Grizzly Stadium will never be quite the same without the confident quarterback in the No. 15 jersey.

Dave's brother Craig, perhaps, speaks for all Grizzlies and their fans: "I'll miss seeing that guy out there playing.

"It's really bittersweet. You'd like to see him still playing, but you want him to move on to play at a higher level. I'm going to miss him a lot."



President George Dennison invited a few friends to the Oval the week after the game to savor the taste of victory with a wieners roast. Mayor Dan Kemmis (second from right) provided the West Virginia specialty hot dogs sent to him by the Huntington mayor as payoff on a game bet.

### Dinner with Grizzlies set for Friday, Feb. 9

The public is invited to a banquet honoring Coach Don Read and the 1995 Grizzly football team Friday, Feb. 9. A no-host cocktail and social hour will begin at 7 p.m. in the Copper Commons, followed by dinner at 8 p.m. in the University Center Ballroom. Dinner tickets cost \$30 each. Corporate tables will be available. For more information, call Cathy Grothe, athletic promotions director, 243-4336. Call 243-4051 for tickets.

# Bass brings nostalgia to UM stage

Internationally acclaimed opera bass Kevin Maynor will grace a UM stage next month to relive the songs that made legendary actor and singer Paul Robeson famous in the 1930s.

Maynor will present "The Repertoire of Paul Robeson" at 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 1, in the Music Recital Hall. His visit is sponsored by the 1995-96 President's Lecture Series in conjunction with UM's Martin Luther King Jr. Committee.

Robeson, also a bass, was known for his renditions of spirituals in movies and on stage. His most famous song was "Ol' Man River" from the 1928 musical *Showboat*.

Maynor has performed in more than 40 operas in five languages, frequently in the role of a king, as in "Amahl and the Night Visitors" and "Aida." Critics have hailed him as "impressively regal and brilliant" and his voice as "dark, rich, booming and powerful."

A Fulbright scholarship winner, Maynor became the first apprentice artist from the West to study at the Bolshoi Theater in Moscow, Russia. He has performed with the Chicago Lyric Opera, Santa Fe Opera, Virginia Opera, Opera Illinois, New York Lyric Opera and Chicago Opera Theater.



Maynor

## UM offers MBA program at night

If you want to keep your day job and earn a master's degree in business administration after work, a new program offered by UM can help.

The School of Business Administration and UM's Center for Continuing Education and Summer Programs have teamed up to offer the evening MBA program in Missoula. Applications are being accepted for classes that start next September.

Graduate business courses will be of-

fered in the evenings and on weekends for people who are unable to take classes during conventional university hours.

UM's business school is among the top business schools nationwide and is accredited by the American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business.

Call Daniel Smith at UM's Center for Continuing Education, 243-4616, or management Professor Nader Shooshtari, 243-2728, for more information.

## Hammers ring in another year of new UM construction

Two old buildings soon will sport a new look as UM enters another phase of construction and renovation projects in 1996.

The sale of revenue bonds in late November cleared the way for renovation and expansion work to begin on the University Theatre and the Harry Adams Field House as early as this summer.

Meanwhile, another level will be added to the parking structure next to the Mansfield Library as soon as spring semester classes end. Construction will begin this spring on a 48-unit family housing complex next to the K. Ross Toole Housing Complex, which is currently under construction. Within the next two years, new buildings will be constructed for the Center for Continuing Education and UM's Printing Services.

"The projects themselves are logical ones," said UM President George

Dennison. "More importantly, these are construction projects with a revenue stream to pay for themselves through rentals and so forth."

No state tax money is involved in the upcoming projects. The bonds will be repaid over the next 20 years with user fees.

Private investors, including many Montanans, purchased \$34.4 million in revenue bonds to finance construction and renovation projects at each of UM's four campuses. About \$22.4 million will go toward projects at the Missoula campus.

The curtain will fall after Aug. 1 on performances at the University Theatre. A popular venue for concerts, the theater will close for at least a year for a \$2 million overhaul that will improve acoustics, seating and public comfort.

The theater, built in 1935 as part of UM's original Student Union Building, has deteriorated to the point where it is

### UM Calendar

**Monday, Jan. 15**  
Holiday—Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

**Friday, Jan. 19**  
Basketball—Lady Griz vs. Montana State University (KPAX-TV), 8:05 p.m., Dahlberg Arena.

**Wednesday, Jan. 24**  
Orientation and registration—through Friday, Jan. 26.

**Thursday, Jan. 25**  
Board of Regents meeting—Helena, Thursday & Friday.

**Friday, Jan. 26**  
Basketball—Lady Griz vs. Boise State (Prime Sports NW), 8:07 p.m., Dahlberg Arena.

**Saturday, Jan. 27**  
Basketball—Lady Griz vs. Idaho State, 7:30 p.m., Dahlberg Arena.

**Monday, Jan. 29**  
Instruction begins—spring semester.

**Thursday, Feb. 8**  
UC Valentine Art Fair—10 a.m.-6 p.m. Thursday & Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday.



Main Hall to Main Street is published monthly by University Communications at The University of Montana—Missoula. Send questions, comments or suggestions to Rita Munzenrider, editor, 317 Brantly Hall, Missoula, MT 59812, or call 243-4824. UM photos by Todd Goodrich.