Game Day Kaimin, September 25, 1999

Associated Students of the University of Montana
Why Andy Petek is Grizzly Football

Think finesse, flash, glitter and grandeur is what Montana football is all about? Then you don’t know junior defensive end Andy Petek.

By Kevin Van Valkenburg

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They come along so very rarely, the men who epitomize Grizzly football. Heroes they are not, though heroic they often seem. They are players who will be remembered, even if their plays are not. Sometimes, they are stars. Sometimes they are underized quarterbacks who lead Montana to a National Championship against great odds.

Andy Petek, who has done something very different. He has sacrificed, something like this are so rare. He was as good as there was at that level," says UM linebacker coach David Reeves. "He was sideline to sideline; one of the great high school players to come out of Montana."

But stories like this are so rarely perfect. Petek was supposed to follow the men who epitomize Grizzly football.

"We felt like Andy was the premier linebacker in the state," coach Mick Dennehy said. "When we recruited him, it was for all intents and purposes to play (Jason Crebo's) position."

But Petek was just too good. Too strong and fast, maybe, for his own good. When several Montana defensive lineman went down with injuries, Petek's name came up the most in coaches' meetings. "As things unfolded, we ended up lacking some depth at the defensive end spot," Dennehy says. "We talked about making the move, but that it would only be for a year. We still wanted him as a linebacker."

Without question, he went down in a three point. Petek both struggled and shined that year. In two of Montana's biggest games, he flashed his brilliance, forcing a fumble that resulted in a touchdown against Division I power Wyoming and playing what Dennehy said was "just a great game" in Montana's tight playoff loss at McNeese State. It wasn't easy. At 210 pounds, Petek often took on offensive lineman who outweighed him by 100 pounds. He scrapped, clawed and crawled his way through the season, hoping to do anything to make Montana better.

"I think he had a better year as a true freshman than most guys have their second year," says defensive line coach Kraig Paulson. "I'm proud of him. He's like a rubber ball in that he keeps bouncing back. When I think of Andy, the words that come to mind are dependable and accountable."

Still, there was a word Petek wanted to hear more. Linebacker. It was in his heart. It was the one way he really knew how to play football. But it wasn't to be. Another year went by, this time with the promise of playing both positions. It didn't happen. Petek was too valuable at his new position to be moved. The linebacker corps became set and he was not a part of it. "We struggled with it," Dennehy says. "We had guys who were happy with the at the time. He would have played, but he probably wouldn't have taken every snap on the field. We wanted to play him as much as we could."

The compromise was held to get to play a stand-up defensive end sometimes, a hybrid of both lineman and linebacker. Last year against Weber State Montana used the defense and for the first time ever, Petek stood tall at linebacker much of the game. "Andy and I have a lot of long talks, but what I remember about that week is him saying to me, Dan, it's so nice to be able to run at them again," Oritozzi says. "But he never complained. He always just says, Whatever is good for the team."

Petek didn't play much linebacker the rest of that year, but one thing did happen. Before the season he was bestowed what is perhaps the greatest honor a
Montana vs. Weber State

Scot Heisel
GameDay Kaimin

What a difference a year can make. At least head UM football coach Mick Dennehy hopes it can.

Saturday's game against Weber State at Washington-Grizzly Stadium comes nearly one year to the day after a game in Ogden that Dennehy and his team would like to forget.

UM fell to 2-2 last season after a heartbreaking 27-20 loss to the Wildcats. That afternoon, Montana entered the fourth quarter with a six-point lead, but the wheels soon came off.

The Grizzlies were held to minus-two total yards in the final quarter. Meanwhile, Wildcat safety/kicker Scott Shields kicked two field goals in the final three minutes of the game to give Weber the win.

But the backbreaker for the Griz came on a botched WSU punt snap late in the game which Shields was able to turn into a 29-yard gain. At the time, the game was still close, but many who watched could tell that it was over after Shields' scramble.

“We didn’t show up and play offensively at all,” Dennehy said during last week’s practice. “I thought our defensive guys played pretty well, but we didn’t do anything on offense.”

One year later, the two teams are on similar tracts of success. Each opened the season by stomping out a Division II foe. Montana downed South Dakota 45-13 the same week that Weber rolled over Western State 33-3.

Each pulled off a close victory on the final play of their respective conference openers. For UM, it was a circus catch by sophomore receiver Etu Molden in the second overtime period against Cal State-Sacramento. For Weber, it was a last-second 45-yard field goal by junior kicker Mike Minnoch.

This time around there is one less Wildcat threat for the Grizzly boosters to worry about. Shields has moved on to greener pastures, drafted into the NFL by the Pittsburgh Steelers.

One parallel that might concern Griz fans just a bit, however, is the similarity between this year's injury list and that of last year's game in Ogden. When Montana took to the field last year, both defensive lineman Kelley Bryant and receiver Jim Farris were on the sideline.

On Saturday the Grizzlies will have to do without the services of two defensive linemen, senior end D.J. Colter and junior tackle Jeramiah Butenschoen. Each suffered ankle injuries in the Sacramento game and will be out for at least one more week.

And though Farris is healthy this year, his comrade from the receiving corps, junior Tanner Hancock, is not. Hancock, who

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Montana vs. Weber State

Grizzlies host Wildcats

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GameDay Kaimin, Saturday, September 25, 1999

Grizzly Defense

Jolymple 51 safety was the starter at the "Mike" linebacker position last season, collecting 11 tackles before being forced out of the line-up with a knee injury. He's back, with a season's worth of pent up aggression. Bad things, WSU, bad.

Humphrey 21 Yo Yo should be back at 100 percent this week after brushing his high against Sac State. He's averaging 5.9 yards per carry with a bum shoulder he re-injured against Idaho this week. Humphrey was part of a defense last year that Morgan Welch racked up 214 yards against.

Vince Huntsberger

Vince is already following up on his impressive freshman campaign, leading the team in tackles and earning Big Sky Player of the Week honors for his play against the Hornets two weeks ago. Montana may need his help stopping the run against Weber this week. Humphrey had a defensive spot last year that Morgan Welch racked up 214 yards against.

Grizzly Offense

Chase Raynock

Offensive Tackle

6-4, 215, SR, O/S, 200

Vince Huntsberger

Defensive End

5-11, 190, RS

Montana Grizzlies

1999 Record: 5-4 Overall, 2-1 Big Sky
1998 Record: 2-6 Overall, 1-0 Big Sky

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Defense

Vince Huntsberger

Defensive End

5-11, 190, RS

Numerical Roster

Probable starters in BOLD

1. Tanner Hancock
   WR 5-10 175 Sr.
2. Michael Smith
   WR 6-0 180 Fr.
3. Tony Young
   SS 6-0 185 Fr.
4. Jeremy Watkins
   FB/PR 6-0 175 Sr.
5. John Edwards
   QB/FS 6-3 195 Fr.
6. Andy Thompson
   QB 6-1 195 Jr.
7. Dreu Miller
   WR/RB 6-0 190 Jr.
8. James Brown
   WR 6-0 175 Jr.
9. Chris Luncy
   QSP 6-1 190 Jr.
10. Timmy Delaney
    WR 5-11 175 Sr.
11. Nick Walker
    RB 6-1 195 Jr.
12. Canoni Coleman
    C/ST 6-6 215 Fr.
13. Jeff Straka
    G/CB 6-1 190 Jr.
14. Elu Mofield
    WR 5-11 175 Sr.
15. Tommy Johnson
    RB 5-10 190 Sr.
16. Brandon Nunn
    LB 6-1 200 Jr.
17. Tony Brown
    CB 6-1 200 Jr.
18. Gannon Pawel
    CB/CR 6-0 190 Jr.
19. Matt Thompson
    WR 5-8 180 Jr.
20. Cole Dracup
    QSP 6-0 175 Jr.
21. Khris Happner
    K 6-10 177 Sr.
22. John Rehman
    SO 6-1 190 Jr.
23. Delaware Nad
    PTE 6-4 230 Sr.
24. Joel Roseberg
    RB 5-10 175 Fr.
25. Brad Chumski
    SS 5-10 195 Jr.
26. Ben Drostow
    WR 5-11 175 Jr.
27. Andy Petak
    DE/LB 6-3 200 Jr.
28. James Bailey
    FB 6-2 220 Jr.
29. Russ Greigow
    LB 6-3 200 Fr.
30. Jack McIvor
    LS 6-3 215 Jr.
31. Matt Stenzel
    LB 6-1 225 Jr.
32. Adam Boomser
    LB 6-2 230 Jr.
33. Spencer Frederick
    TE 6-3 240 Jr.
34. John Forjlager
    FB 6-2 220 Jr.
35. Jason Young
    LB 6-1 215 Sr.
36. Courtney Johnson
    LS 6-0 200 Fr.
37. Vince Huntsberger
    SS 5-11 190 Jr.
38. Dan Crizol
    LB 5-11 205 Sr.
39. Jeff Hakash
    LB 6-1 215 Jr.
40. Brad Weston
    RB 5-11 200 Jr.
41. Ryan Jollymore
    LB 6-2 235 Sr.
42. Chris Webb
    DE 6-4 225 Fr.
43. Chris Dorsett
    LS 6-2 215 Sr.
44. Paul Walker
    LS 6-0 215 Sr.
45. Marcus Wilson
    OLB 6-1 230 Sr.
46. Jeremy Haviland
    LB 6-1 230 Jr.
47. Cory Mattes
    DT 6-1 230 Jr.
48. Jeremy Gruen
    LB 6-1 215 Jr.
49. Casey Ryan
    CB 6-0 190 Jr.
50. Matt Thuesen
    GGC/OC 6-4 240 Jr.
51. Brionn Thuesen
    CB 6-4 250 Jr.
52. Kamakana Kamaile
    DT 6-4 225 Sr.
53. Paul Mocko
    OC 6-2 215 Sr.
54. Cory Short
    G/CB 6-2 215 Sr.
55. Dyllon McFarland
    OG 6-6 275 Jr.
56. Thacker Szybol
    OG 6-5 295 Sr.
57. Chase Raynock
    OT 6-7 305 Sr.
58. Eric Anger
    OT 6-6 285 Sr.
59. Justin Hancock
    WR 5-10 175 Jr.
60. Randy Amund
    WR 5-11 185 Jr.
61. Travis Walker
    WR/RB 6-1 195 Sr.
62. Ryan Hurt
    WR 6-0 190 Fr.
63. Jeff Haviland
    WR 5-10 170 Fr.
64. Brad Panek
    TE 6-5 240 Sr.
65. Curt Coble
    DT 6-0 265 Jr.
66. Joel Rad
    CB 6-1 205 Jr.
67. Tyler Martin
    DT 6-2 295 Jr.
68. Joel Anderson
    DE 5-11 225 Jr.
69. Kelley Bryant
    DT 6-2 295 Sr.
70. Kendall Pettis
    DE 6-3 215 Jr.
71. Justin Frederick
    DE 6-3 215 Jr.
72. Randy Amund
    WR 5-11 185 Jr.
73. Travis Walker
    WR 6-1 195 Sr.
74. Chase Raynock
    DT 6-2 230 Fr.
75. Cedric Howard
    DT 6-2 230 Fr.
76. Kelley Bryant
    DT 6-2 295 Sr.
77. Kendall Pettis
    DE 6-3 215 Jr.
78. Justin Frederick
    DE 6-3 215 Jr.
79. Calvin Coleman
    13 C
80. Jimmy Farris
    8 W
81. Chase Raynock
    74 T
82. Thacker Szybol
    73 G
83. Travis Walker
    84 W
84. Jeremy Watkins
    6 W
85. John Edwards
    6-1 295 Fr.
86. John Edwards
    6-1 295 Fr.
87. John Edwards
    6-1 295 Fr.
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97. John Edwards
    6-1 295 Fr.
98. John Edwards
    6-1 295 Fr.
99. John Edwards
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Yohance Humphrey

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GameDay Kaimin, Saturday, September 25, 1999
Montana vs. Weber State

**Offense**

Morgan Welch

RUNNER BACK

9-12, 1999, SENIOR FROM MONTANA, MONTANA

Davis started all eleven games last season, rushing 40 tack­

les. However, he was unable to gain much of the mileage,

due to WSU's other two QBs. Scott Shields and Anthony

Welch, who both shared most time at RB. The Griz attack by air.

Davis will likely have to shoulder the responsibility of hanging two targets in the

offense's backfield.

**Numerical Roster**

**Probable starters in **BOLD**

1. Jonn Junior CB 5-9 190 Jr.
2. Cole Cooper GS 6-2 200 Jr.
3. Spencer Sidota SS 6-2 195 Sr.
6. Derick Poole RB 6-1 205 Sr.
7. Jason Allen OLB 6-1 180 Jr.
10. Scott Garrett RB 5-11 205 Fr.
11. P.J. Delano WR 6-3 200 Fr.
12. Christian Kech WR 6-1 190 Fr.
13. Tyler Gradwell CB 5-11 185 Fr.
14. Wade Davis CB 5-11 185 Sr.
15. Darsity Harris CB 6-1 190 So.
16. Daryn Hues TE 6-4 250 Fr.
17. Damon Greenberry WR 5-11 170 Jr.
18. Aaron Pelch WR 5-11 170 Jr.
19. Anthony Johnson WR 5-11 170 Fr.
21. Ron James WR 5-11 170 Fr.
23. Myke Cooper RB 5-11 185 Jr.
24. Cardedrick Foreman CB 5-9 190 Jr.
25. Richard Clarke WR 6-3 235 Sr.
26. Tracy Sege RB 6-2 200 Jr.
27. Van Watters WR 6-1 190 Jr.
28. George Patterson RB 6-1 190 Jr.
29. Shawn Kojima FS 6-3 185 Fr.
30. Jimman Moror SS 6-1 195 Fr.
32. Anthony Johnson OLB 5-11 190 Fr.
33. William Kanemoto WR 5-10 190 Jr.
34. Marko Lardici SS 6-3 185 Fr.
35. Kevin Harmon CB 6-0 175 Jr.
36. Walter Talby WR 5-10 180 Jr.
37. Chad Miles RB 5-11 190 Jr.
38. Joey Sendlefoe P 5-10 190 Jr.
40. Randy Smith CB 5-9 185 Fr.
41. Aaron Welch DE 6-3 245 Sr.
42. Shane Kojima MLB 6-1 225 Jr.
43. Matt Dent CB 6-0 195 Sr.
44. Eric Ludness OL 6-6 205 Fr.
45. Nick Long OL 6-6 205 Fr.
46. OLB 6-6 205 Fr.
47. Mike Shannon CB 6-5 195 Jr.
49. Nalle McCoriel OL 6-5 225 Sr.
50. Matt McFarland OL 6-5 225 Sr.
51. Chris Wood CC 6-6 275 Jr.
52. Luke Rasmussen OC 6-6 275 Jr.
53. Damon Greenberry OT 6-4 275 So.
55. Derek Cloak LG 6-2 265 Jr.
56. Andrea Cloak OL 6-2 265 Jr.
57. Carson Barber OT 6-4 265 Jr.
59. Mark Morgan OL 6-6 265 Jr.
60. Matt McFarland OL 6-6 265 Jr.
61. Joe Blomquist DE 6-5 265 Sr.
62. Teddy Michael-Joseph TE 6-3 230 Fr.
63. John Jefferson WR 6-2 265 Sr.
64. John Nesti WR 6-4 265 Fr.
65. Jason Miller QR 6-1 265 Jr.
66. Randy Epperson DE 6-6 265 Sr.
67. Matt McFarland DE 6-6 265 Sr.
68. Ryan Campbell TE 6-4 220 Jr.
69. Ryan Prince TE 6-3 220 Jr.
70. Joel Barrow DT 6-2 265 Jr.
71. Ben Tabakul DT 6-4 235 Sr.
72. Josh Leslie DT 6-4 235 Jr.
Grizzlies host Wildcats

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3
averaged 32 yards in three kick-off returns against Sacramento, is still recovering from a bruised collarbone and will most likely sit out the entire game. All similarities aside, this year's game is different in one very important aspect — this time the Grizzlies are at home. "It's a huge difference for us," Dennehy said. "We've got a pretty remarkable record here. It's been a great place for us to play. Remarkable, indeed. The Grizzlies have won 47 of their last 50 home games since mid-1982.

The Wildcats have a 1-5 overall record in games at Washington-Grizzly Stadium, with their lone victory coming in 1987 by a score of 29-26. This year they bring a rushing attack that averages 220 yards per game and is rated second in the league, behind Idaho.

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GSU REMAINS TOPS IN I-AA
Matt Gourkas
GameDay Kamin
These polls are strange and fickle creatures. Sometimes it's hard to tell exactly where you stand.
Last week, three of the top five schools in Division I-AA saw action and all suffered losses. Of those three, only Georgia Southern remains among the upper elite on this week's poll: GUS, in fact, is still unscathed in their No. 1 ranking. This leaves a nagging question: just exactly who are these guys from Georgia Southern and why do they seem untouchable at the top of the moun-
They win and, of course, stay atop the polls. They lose, and still stay put as the choice for best Division I-AA team in the land. Take your pick, ESPN or ESPN Today, it doesn't matter — they got 'em both.
GSU, located 56 miles inland of Savannah, has 14,000 students and prides itself on being "the largest and most comprehensive center of higher education in the southern half of Georgia." In 1990, it also became the first fully-fledged university in that region for years after as an agricultural col-
Last week the Fighting Eagles of Georgia Southern lost to Oregon State, a team that the Grizzlies are 0-1 against this decade. The Eagles, though, were gunning for their first-ever win against a Division I school. And a valiant effort they made. A last minute play for the win fell short and the Eagles hit 6-4-1 to Dennis Erickson's revamped Broncos — a team that now is 3-0.
After the heartbreaker, they were voted No. 3 by the Stewards. The Eagle pandit really thought they might be dethroned as numero uno. Not to happen. Perhaps for good reason.
GSU has been in the I-AA championship game six times since 1985, including last year's loss to UMass. UM, however, has just as many appearances in that game in the 1990s as the Eagles do — two each.
It's too easy to make a case for the GUS number-one, even though GSU does have that loss. UM got spanked 52-4 in the first round of last year's playoff's by Western Illinois, a team that GUS dispatched off 42-14 in the second.
As if that means anything. That's why I-I-AA we have to play-
offs, as conjecture like this is left as grist for columns and tailgate parties. Coaches and sports edi-
tors can vote on teams they have never seen play, but fortunately we have the MSU in December that tells all. 

This is the stuff Genghis Khan wiped out entire populations on!
Compromising positions

Continued from page 2

Wearing this number doesn’t make you a great player, you’ve got to do that for yourself. I can play this game, it doesn’t matter where I’m at. I’m going to have a big year this year.

I’ve worked too hard not to.

Grizzly defensive player can receive: Jason Crebo passed jersey number 37 on to Petek. Ever since Tim Hauck wore No. 37 from 1987-89, before heading on to the NFL, a tradition has been passed down. The player who wears it must be from Montana, and he must uphold the standard of excellence set by the previous owner. Each player who wore the number had been a three-time, first team all-conference selection. In other words, it was big shoes to fill.

“When Jason called me to tell me he was going to give it to me, he was just really cool about it,” Petek said. “He told me about it and said not to worry about the pressure, to just play my game. He said don’t listen to what anyone has to say because they aren’t the ones on the field, and they have no idea what was going on.”

Andy Petek is not a number, but he has been judged by just that ever since that moment. He is a junior now and has made no all-conference teams, judged by just that ever since that moment. He is a player, you’ve got to do that yourself,” Petek says. “If to the same standard of those who have come before him. They never had to learn a new position in college. They never had to take one for the team like Petek did.

“Wearing this number doesn’t make you a great player, you’ve got to do that yourself,” Petek says. “If people think I’m not living up to this, they don’t understand. It’s a totally different position I’m playing. I can’t help that I got moved to defensive end, but I’m happy with my performance last year. I feel like I’m a solid player at my position. I can play this game, it doesn’t matter where I’m at. I’m going to have a big year this year. I’ve worked too hard not to.”

Petek did slave away, both in the weight room and while working for Big Sky Plumbing during the off-season. But one night, while driving home, all that changed.

“The night before my last day of work in Helena and I was riding back with my uncle and some friends,” Petek says. “A deer or something ran on the road and we had to swerve our Chevy truck out of the way. I remember it going off the road, coming back on and then the tail just sliding out to the left. We went into the ditch and rolled at least three times.”

Petek wasn’t wearing a seat belt and was ejected from the passenger window. Frantically, his friends searched for him, but they couldn’t find him. Finally, they located him some 25 yards away from the truck, out cold, cut up and bleeding.

“I must have been out a long time because the only thing I remember was getting into the ambulance,” he says. “There is no life-changing story to tell here. The doctors simply stitched him up and let him go the next day, covered in scars.

And what would have happened if he would have died, Petek is asked. “It would have sucked because I couldn’t have played football,” he says smiling.

In a way, Petek is a realistic football hero. He still struggles at times, though not often. He still worries about women and deals with pressure. He still wears No. 37, and carries himself like those who came before him. “A lot of us really look up to him and respect him because of that number,” Ori佐ti says, but adds that it has little to do with the big plays Petek makes.

“I love that guy,” Ori佐ti says. “I don’t get many plays at linebacker, but he’s always rooting for me so hard on special teams. He’s the first guy to greet me on the sidelines if I make a play, going crazy, happier than I am. He’s just a great guy.”

And to Dan Ori佐ti, that alone is worthy of wearing No. 37. Two good friends butting heads in exaltation after a play.

That is not Andy Petek the star, or the would-be linebacker, that’s just Andy Petek. That’s Grizzly football.