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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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Compromising positions

BY KEVIN VAN VALKENBURG

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.

Other times they are gigantic men who seem to block out the sun, carrying the hopes of 20,000 fans on their back each time it's fourth and short. MVP awards await some, NFL careers for others. They are noticeable, and we are knowledgeable of what they do.

And then there is Andy Petek, who has done something very different. He has sacrificed, traded personal glory for the good of the team. He has looked like it had been lifted from a Greek epic? Wasn't it Petek who, in high school, possessed a body that seemed to fol-

low in the footsteps of three-time all-American Jason Crebo, become the next hellion of the Grizzly line-

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Montana vs. Weber State

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

Saturday's game against Weber State in 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 28-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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Grizzly Offense

Humphrey 21
Yo Yo should be back at 100 percent this week after breaking his high against Sac State. He’s averaging 5.9 yards per carry with a bum shoulder he’s injured for Sac State.

Grizzly Defense

Jollymore 51
Jollymore is the starter at the "Mike" linebacker position in the 3-4 defensive front. He’s got 71 tackles, including 11 sacks, and he’s been the 2A defensive player of the year. He’s got 12 tackles this year, which is the highest of the season. He’s averaged 5.9 yards per carry with a bum shoulder he’s injured for Sac State.

Grizzly Defense

Yohance Humphrey 21

Montana Grizzlies

Chase Raynock

Offense

Chase Raynock
OFFENSIVE TACKER
6-0, 220, SR, COLUMBUS, MONT.
Who’d a thunk it three years ago? There was a time in his career when Chase was more known for running than for blocking. But now he’s growing into his role.

Vince Huntsberger

Defense

Vince Huntsberger
DEFENSIVE ENDEAVOR
6-1, 265, JR, RIVERVIEW, MONT.
Vince is already following up on his impressive freshman season, leading the team in tackles and earning Big Sky Player of the Week honors for his play against the Hornets last week. Montana may need his help stopping the run against Weber this week. Huntsberger was part of a defense that shut out Weber last week that Morgan Welch racked up 214 yards against.
Montana vs. Weber State

**Weber State Defense**

G. 2005: SENIOR FROM EDMONTON, ALBERTA.

Morgan, Morgan, Morgan... how quickly we grew to hate ye last year — and now because y'all's Catamount, Welch can for 214 yards against UM last season, including a 54-yard scamper that made Pelch run for his life. Welch can be one of the Big Sky's most imposing backs.

**Offense**

Morgan Welch

**Weber State Offense**

**Numerical Roster**

**Weber State**

**Defense**

Davis started all eleven games last season, nothing 40 tack-

les. However, he was unable to grab much of the limelight,

during fall practice. Welch ran for a school record 1,629 yards in 1999 and had 13 touchdowns. Along with Oregon State transfer Derek Poole, they make up one of

the Wildcat defense's clock tower.

**Morgan Welch**

RUNNING BACK

**Off the Bench at Running Back**

Poole, who was origi-
nally listed No. 1 on the depth chart for the 1999 season, was

forced to redshirt last year after breaking his foot during fall camp. In 1997 he led

the Wildcats in rushing with 341 yards on 123 carries.

**Wade Davis**

15

**Wade Davis**

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**Wade Davis**

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**Wade Davis**

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**Wade Davis**

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**Wade Davis**

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**Wade Davis**

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**Wade Davis**

15
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," Deneshy 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-1962.

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 State.

But then, Montana's rushing defense is best in the Big Sky, allowing just 108 yards per game. Something has to give. For his part, head WSU coach Jerry Graybeal doesn't appear to be shying away from the task of playing in Missoula.

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GSU REMAINS TOPS IN I-AA

Matt Gouras
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 ranked 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 moutain?

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 USA Today, it doesn't matter — they get 'em both.

GUS 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, two years after an agricultural college.

Last week the Fighting Eagles of Georgia Southern lost to Oregon State, a team that the Grizzlies see as 1-1 against this decade. The Eagles, though, were vying 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 they lost 48-41 to Dennis Erickson's revamped Grizzlies — a team that now is 3-0.

After the heartbreaker, they were vying for a win over Weber State. The Eagles pandit really thought they might be dethroned as number one.

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 early to make a case for the Grizzlies as number one, even though GUS 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 knocked off 42-14 in the second round.

If that means anything. That's why in I-AA we have playoffs... or coaches and sports editors can vote on teams they have never seen play, but fortunately we have that in December that tells all.

Last year the record-setting Charles Roberts of Cal State-Sacramento dropped a near 400 rush yard. This year, a Roberts fumble helped the Grizzlies amass a lead that eventually became very necessary. Another, Sac State dropped a ball. This year, a Roberts fumble helped the Grizzlies amass a lead that eventually became very necessary. Another, Sac State dropped a ball. This year, a Roberts fumble helped the Grizzlies amass a lead that eventually became very necessary. Another, Sac State dropped a ball. This year, a Roberts fumble helped the Grizzlies amass a lead that eventually became very necessary. Another, Sac State dropped a ball. This year, a Roberts fumble helped the Grizzlies amass a lead that eventually became very necessary. Another, Sac State dropped a ball. This year, a Roberts fumble helped the Grizzlies amass a lead that eventually became very necessary. Another, Sac State dropped a ball. This year, a Roberts fumble helped the Grizzlies amass a lead that eventually became very necessary. Another, Sac State dropped a ball. This year, a Roberts fumble helped the Grizzlies amass a lead that eventually became very necessary. Another, Sac State dropped a ball. This year, a Roberts fumble helped the Grizzlies amass a lead that eventually became very necessary. Another, Sac State dropped a ball. This year, a Roberts fumble helped the Grizzlies amass a lead that eventually became very necessary. Another, Sac State dropped a ball.
Compromising positions

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Wearing this number doesn’t make you a great player, you’ve got to do that 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 I 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, despite leading Montana in big plays last season with seven tackles for loss. It would be unfair to hold him to the standard of those who have come before him. They never had to take one for the team like him. They never had to learn a new position in college. They never had to fill big shoes to fill.

Petek did slate 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 hard work and a lot more was nearly taken away from him.

“It was 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 out 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,” Orizotti says, but adds that it has little to do with the big plays Petek makes.

“I love that guy,” Orizotti 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 with a ‘Yo, how’s it goin?”

And to Dan Orizotti, 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.