Game Day Kaimin, November 13, 1999

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Battle for the Stein

The Little Brown Stein has been the victor's prize in the Grizzly-Vandal rivalry for 61 years. It's been in Moscow since 1995. There's only one way to get it back ....

By Scot Heisel  Page 2

BEAT IDAHO
GRIZZLIES vs. Idaho
Texas Tech and a 23-0 drubbing of Gonzaga. The Montana defense recorded three shutouts in the six games and allowed none of its opponents to score more than seven points.

Rumors of a possible bowl bid — either to the Cotton Bowl or to the heralded Rose Bowl — permeated the Missoula air. Only a final regular season match up against the University of Idaho in Moscow stood in the way.

The Grizzlies went to Idaho early in November of that year brimming with talent and confidence. They had defeated the Vandals 16-0 the previous year and were looking for a repeat performance.

They returned to Missoula feeling the sting of a 6-0 defeat and owning a newfound respect for what Montana fans had referred to for years as the dreaded "Vandal jinx." A last-minute interception on a muddy field from Vandal great Steve Beiko had preserved the Idaho win.

An account of the game in the Kaimin included the decree: "A muddy field, a soggy ball and the spirit of revenge for last year's thumping gave

"A muddy field, a soggy ball and the spirit of revenge for last year's thumping gave Idaho what is playing with more pain than Montana's own Drew Miller."

It was though Welsh was lost for the season. But much to the chagrin of the rest of the doomed Big West Conference, he was not down for the count. Welsh unexpectedly returned, taking over the Vandals offense at the beginning of the fourth quarter in last week's game against the University of Nevada Wolfpack.

Welsh closed out Idaho's 42-33 win with a 43-yard run and a 4-1 in conference, securing their dominance in the Big West. Welsh and Idaho looked strong in Nevada, but head coach Chris Tormey contends that the Griz will be a more difficult test for his squad.

"I think Montana is a better team than Nevada," Tormey said. "They're pretty comparable defensively, but I think they're better offensively and on special teams."

"Idaho is definitely the most complete team we've had to play this year," head coach Mack Brown said. "Washington's Cookies received an invitation to the Rose Bowl this year. They lost 21-0 to the Panthers of Pittsburgh, who were eventually crowned national champions in 1937, including an impressive 13-6 victory at the Thanksgiving Day Kaimin, Saturday, November 13, 1999

The history of the Stein

It is a wooden stein with a lot of football behind it. The Little Brown Stein has been passed between Montana and Idaho for decades.

Montana gave it up when the Griz lost in 1995, tarnishing the national championship season as well.

By Scot Heisel

Within the world of football, a single remarkable season has the power to erase years of mediocrity. Years later, grandfathers will argue that they have seen more than their share of frustration. And there are still others who would say that the majority of that frustration has come at the hands of the Idaho Vandals.

A nation was feeling the devastation of the Great Depression and the political tensions that would evolve into WWII. Montana football turned the corner toward success in 1935 when Doug Fessenden took over as head coach. During the ten years prior to Fessenden's arrival, the Grizzlies had compiled a record of 29-48-5 and had managed just a single winning season, going 5-3 in 1930.

In two years Fessenden guided Montana to one of its greatest seasons ever. The Grizzlies won their first six games in 1937, including an impressive 13-6 victory at Idaho that impetus which brings victory."

The following night, a Sunday, people across the nation prepared for the end of the world as Orson Welles and the Mercury Theater actors performed an adaptation of H.G. Wells' War of the Worlds over the radio waves. After losing to the Vandals for the eighth time in nine years, Montana football fans may have been among the few listeners that evening who managed to brush aside the mass hysteria with flippant disregard.

From the day that John Campbell unveiled the Stein, its relevance began to diminish. What began as a rivalry turned into a chronicle of Vandals dominance. As the Stein reached its 30th year, it had spent only eight on Montana soil.

Hal Sherbeck, who played defensive back for the Grizzlies from 1950 to 1951 and helped coach the team in the late '50s, now lives in Boise. Sherbeck still makes weekly trips to Missoula for Grizzly games and practices. He said that he barely remembers the Stein.

"For some reason it just went away and nobody knew about it," Sherbeck said. "It just dropped by the wayside. No one said much about it."

Sherbeck's former teammate, Tom Kingsford, spends his summers at Big Fork and his winters in Phoenix. Bob Sherbeck and Kingsford played on the 1950 team that stunned the Vandals 28-27 in Moscow. Kingsford's 2,296 career passing yards remain in the top 10 in school history to this day.

But while he helped pull off one of the great Grizzly victories, Kingsford also said that the Stein itself was of little importance.

"It made for interesting discussion and competition," Kingsford said. "But I don't remember it being a big deal. I remember what it looked like. It is still around!"

All told, Idaho has compiled 54 wins over Montana, along with 23 losses and a pair of ties. Since the two teams last met in 1995, the Stein has rested on the desk of Idaho head coach Chris Tormey.

Tormey played for Idaho from 1974 to 1977, but said that he didn't see the Montana game as much of a rivalry.

They dubbed their new creation the 'Little Brown Stein,' thus creating a tangible symbol of the fierce competition between the two programs.

Continued on page 8

Chad Dundas

GameDay Kaimin

John Welsh might be the only quarterback the Grizzlies see all year who is playing with more pain than Montana's own Drew Miller.

If Welsh starts Saturday against UM, as the Idaho coaching staff claims he will, it will be only the third game of the '99 campaign and was replaced by upperclassmen Ed Dean and Greg Robertson.

It was thought Welsh was lost for the season. But much to the chagrin of the rest of the doomed Big West Conference, he was not down for the count. Welsh unexpectedly returned, taking over the Vandals offense at the beginning of the fourth quarter in last week's game against the University of Nevada Wolfpack.

Welsh closed out Idaho's 42-33 defeat of Nevada, completing five of seven passes for 81 yards. The victory lifted the Vandals to 6-1 overall and 4-1 in conference, securing their dominance in the Big West.

Welsh and Idaho looked strong in Nevada, but head coach Chris Tormey contends that the Griz will be a more difficult test for his squad.

"I think Montana is a better team than Nevada," Tormey said. "They're pretty comparable defensively, but I think they're better offensively and on special teams."

"The Grizzlies, though, aren't letting the praise go to their heads."

"Idaho is definitely the most complete team we've had to play this year," head coach Mack Brown said. "We're going to have to play hard and play well and tighten up some things that maybe we didn't do as well last week. If we don't, it's going to be a long afternoon."

Running back Yohance Humphery could have the most on the line this week for Montana. Last week against Cal Poly, Humphery tied Dave Dickenson's single-season touchdown record and became only the fourth back in Montana history to rush for more than 1,000 yards in a season. Humphrey needs only 202 yards to eclipse Steve Caputo's 29-year-old rushing record.
A look at the the game from a player living it

By Matt Thompson

Saying a Grizzly road trip is interesting is an understatement. I’d say it’s more of an adventure. I’ve seen and experienced a lot of road trips in the last three years, but last week’s trip to Cal Poly will be a memorable one.

I wish I could go into detail about everything, but it would take up too much ad space and your time. So when it comes down to it, there were three major events/people/effects that affected us. I kicked out of his grasp and continued to try my wrestling moves I had learned in seventh grade.

I had a good hold on him, but in the end Etu was too much for me. I joined him to the ground and the rest of the room hooded and holstered. Fight Club was now born. I fought the next battle, but this time I would come out on top. I attacked Tighran the same way I did Etu, but much more quickly. Inadvertently, I punched Tighran in the face, stunning him. I used this to my advantage and quickly pulled his legs out from under him and pinned him. With rug burns on my elbows and sweat on my brow, I raised my arms in triumph like I imagine O.J. did at his house arrest.

First, let me tell you about Fight Club. On Friday nights before the game we have a lot of time on our hands. Since we can’t go out, we are usually confined to our room watching TV. But sometimes we can get creative on how to use that time. This is how Fight Club began.

The first rule of Fight Club is you do not talk about Fight Club because if the hotel management knew what we were doing they would never let us stay there again. Actually, it wasn’t that wild. We have not heard from the conference yet on whether or not the conference needs at least six schools to be recognized by the NCAA, and Mike Daniels, Big West sports information director, said that the costs of playing Division I football are too great for most of the conference’s 12 member schools.

Even with the breakdown of the WAC over the past few years, the WAC is a better option football-wise for the Big West defectors, he said. "We have not heard from the conference yet on whether or not the conference needs at least six schools to be recognized by the NCAA, and Mike Daniels, Big West sports information director, said that the costs of playing Division I football are too great for most of the conference’s 12 member schools."

The conference needs at least six schools to be recognized by the NCAA, and Mike Daniels, Big West sports information director, said that the costs of playing Division I football are too great for most of the conference’s 12 member schools.

Continued on page 7

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Montana Grizzlies

Grizzly Offense

Yohance Humphrey

Running Back

No. 37

Tanner Hancock

RB

6-4

Jr.

Travis Walker

WR/Rets

6-2

Fr.

So.

Jr.

Brian Pelc

QB

Fr.

Jr.

5-10

Fr.

6-5

225

Fr.

6-1

DE

Rory Zikmund

195

6-0

180

Eric Kruger

Justin Brannon

6-2

Jeff Nikolaisen

Fr.

DE/LB

DT

Fr.

Sr.

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The image contains a list of players' names, positions, and heights along with some text about their performances. Below is the extracted text from the image:

### Idaho Defense

- **C** Cleavon Bradshaw
- **O** Matt Jasik
- **F** Brad Rice
- **B** Bryson Gardner
- **S** Anthony Tenner

**Gardner**

Gardner was a three-year starter at free safety last year. His five interceptions led the team, and he was named to the All-Western Conference team. He was voted Idaho's outstanding defensive player, and his leadership has helped secondary remain strong.

**Tenner**

Tenner has done the majority of the work for Idaho this year, splitting some time with Brett Morton. He's still managed to run for 634 yards, good enough for fifth in the Big West Conference. Tenner has three touchdowns (42) and yardage (668). Ryan also snagged a interception last year against Washington. He's also a good pass rusher and is expected to be a leader on the defense.

### Idaho Offense

- **E** Ethan Jones 60
- **W** Craig Lacy 3
- **T** Ben Davis 18
- **M** Chris Fueters 81
- **G** Brett Morton 66
- **C** Anthony Tenner 3
- **Q** John Welsh 13

**Ethan Jones**

Jones is a third-year starter at right tackle. He's been a key part of the offensive line, helping pave the way for the team's strong running game.

**Craig Lacy**

Lacy is a solid backup at center and has provided good depth on the offensive line.

**Ben Davis**

Davis is a versatile player who can play at multiple positions on the line.

**Chris Fueters**

Fueters is a senior tackle who has been a contributor on the offensive line for several years.

**Brett Morton**

Morton is a starting tackle for the offense.

**Anthony Tenner**

Tenner has been a key player on the offensive line, providing stability and protection for the quarterback.

**John Welsh**

Welsh is a senior guard who has been a consistent contributor on the offensive line.

**Montana vs. Idaho**

**Idaho Vandals**

- **LISTEN**
- **OFFENSE**
- **DEFENSE**

**Offense**

- **Ryan Prestimmonic**

### Numerical Roster

**Probable starters in BOLD**

1. Ed Dean WR CB 6-2 206 Jr.
2. Chris Lacy WR CB 6-0 183 Sr.
3. Craig Robertson CB CB 6-2 207 Sr.
4. Andrew Uto-Uto CB CB 6-0 178 Sr.
5. Yaki-Jamal Core DT DB 6-1 230 So.
6. Tim Fredburg WR WR 5-9 199 Jr.
7. Christopher Belser WR WR 5-11 175 Fr.
8. Bryan Brooks WR SS 6-0 202 Sr.
9. Michael Moody RB RB 5-10 204 Sr.
10. Traylor Bush LG LG 6-1 271 So.
11. John Weish SS SS 6-1 195 Fr.
12. Justin Spina RB FB 5-9 160 Fr.
14. Tony Magoffin RB FB 5-10 203 Jr.
15. Craig Robertson CB CB 6-0 178 Sr.
16. David Smith SS SS 5-10 183 Jr.
17. Doug Wlly FB FB 5-10 203 Sr.
18. Tyler Smith DB DB 5-8 165 Fr.
19. Will Anderson WR WR 6-0 189 Sr.
20. Ryan Prestimmonic WR WR 5-9 186 Sr.
21. Anthony Tenner WR WR 5-10 140 Jr.
22. Dennis Gibbs LB LB 6-0 239 Sr.
23. Lane Ah Hi LB LB 6-0 239 Sr.
27. Ryan Prestimmonic LB LB 6-1 200 Jr.
28. David Smith SS SS 5-10 183 Sr.
29. Doug Wlly FB FB 5-10 203 Jr.
30. Doug Wlly FB FB 5-10 203 Jr.
31. Seth Frain LB LB 5-9 160 Jr.
33. Seth Frain LB LB 5-11 187 Jr.
34. Christopher Belser WR WR 5-11 175 Fr.
35. John Welsh LB LB 6-0 239 Sr.
36. Craig Robertson CB CB 6-2 207 Sr.
37. Andrew Uto-Uto CB CB 6-0 178 Sr.
38. Yaki-Jamal Core DT DB 6-1 230 So.
39. Tim Fredburg WR WR 5-9 199 Jr.
40. Christopher Belser WR WR 5-11 175 Fr.
41. Bryan Brooks WR SS 6-0 202 Sr.
42. Michael Moody RB RB 5-10 204 Sr.
43. Traylor Bush LG LG 6-1 271 So.
44. Doug Wlly FB FB 5-10 203 Jr.
45. Tony Magoffin RB FB 5-10 203 Jr.
46. Will Anderson WR WR 6-0 189 Sr.
47. Ryan Prestimmonic WR WR 5-9 186 Sr.
48. Anthony Tenner WR WR 5-10 140 Jr.
49. Dennis Gibbs LB LB 6-0 239 Sr.
50. Ryan Prestimmonic LB LB 6-1 271 Jr.
51. Craig Robertson CB CB 6-0 178 Sr.
52. Andrew Uto-Uto CB CB 6-0 178 Sr.
53. Yaki-Jamal Core DT DB 6-1 230 So.
54. Tim Fredburg WR WR 5-9 199 Jr.
55. Christopher Belser WR WR 5-11 175 Fr.
56. Ryan Prestimmonic LB LB 6-1 200 Jr.
57. Anthony Tenner WR WR 5-10 140 Jr.
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joining. Earlier this year, the Big Sky met with officials from the University of North Dakota and North Dakota State University to talk about getting into the league.
Both schools would need to offer a minimum of 63 football scholarships to play I-AA football, up from the 38 they offer in D-II. They would likely have to offer more scholarships in women’s sports to maintain gender equity, said Eric Kapper, assistant commissioner in charge of media relations for the Big Sky.
“The biggest thing is money,” he said.
Kapper mentioned that the conference may even consider jumping all of the teams up to Division I play in order to lure Idaho and Utah State from near-defunct Big West conference football.
That, though, is a long shot, Hogan said.
"There’s a lot of water that has to cross under the bridge before we could do anything like that,” Hogan said.
Many of the schools would not be able to afford the 85 football scholarships that are required at the I-A level, he said. The possibility exists that the conference could go halfway between I-A and I-AA play and offer about 70 scholarships, set up a bowl game opportunity with a conference from the East and lure Idaho and Utah State into the fold, Hogan said.
But right now, all of the moving around among the conferences means it is probably best to stay put and see how the dust settles, Hogan said.
“If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it,” he said.
UM has reason to be concerned about staying put, however. “It is kind of scary for Division II football when you see some teams only drawing 1,500 fans,” Hogan said. "It makes you wonder about the division’s future. “In Missoula the market is great for it, but that is not the case elsewhere.”
That means that UM should keep their eyes open for just the right opportunity, Hogan said.
“I think we are positioning ourselves to make a move,” he said. “It might be one year or 10 years, but we have a very solid program and when the time is right, it will be right.”

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and see new places, but it’s so much more than that. Heck, you never know, maybe you’ll see Hugh Hefner.

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off, Coach Trehvanth pointed out places of interest and told us stories about seeing Ricky Schroeder get his ass kicked at some party.

We got to San Luis Obispo, beat Cal Poly and headed home the next day. As we flew into Kalispell (you have to fly to Kalispell first in order to get to Missoula) only the peaks of Glacier Park could be seen above a thick fog. I could hear the theme song to Highway to Heaven as we dove into the clouds.

We landed, refueled, got some new passengers and were ready to go. But then we sat. And sat. And sat. Finally a stewardess announced over the intercom that Missoula was fogged in and we would have to wait until it cleared a bit. Two hours later we were in the air again. This isn’t the first time fog has been our nemesis. Last year our pilot didn’t feel comfortable landing in the fog so we flew all the way to Spokane and drove home the rest of the way. Boy, that was real fun!

So that’s it. Road trips can be an interesting experience. Of course you get to play football and see new places, but it’s so much more than that. Heck, you never know, maybe you’ll see Hugh Hefner.
The history of the Stein

Continued from page 2

You have to remember that both of those teams were pretty bad back then," Tormey said. "Those games never seemed to mean a whole lot. For us, it was always Washington State that we looked forward to, and they usually beat us pretty bad."

Bob Curtis has been broadcasting Vandals games on radio and television for over 40 years. Curtis said that the disfavor is probably a bit one-sided.

"I don't think it's as important over here," Curtis said. "Boise State and Washington State have always been bigger for us because Pullman's so close and there's that cross-state aspect with Boise."

That's so great about the Stein? Very little, actually.

It stands approximately 25 inches tall. It is comprised primarily of wood and two large screws fight to keep its handle from falling off.

It is hardly capable of containing any liquid substance, though it has been home to certain derivative notes passed over the years from one losing coach to his victorious counterpart.

But for Dennehy and the six other members of his staff who once suited up for UM against the Vandals, the feeble Stein could be the ultimate measure of respect.

After suffering years of abuse from Vandals football teams, the Grizzlies finally started to turn the tide during the '90s before Idaho jumped from the Big Sky into the Division I-A arena.

"I don't think they were ever content with being in the Big Sky Conference," Dennehy said. "They were always trying to position themselves, trying to upgrade their schedule, trying to become a I-A school. It's taken them a lot of years to do it, but they're finally there."

Unlike Dennehy, who witnessed just one win as a player against Idaho, receivers coach Bill Cockrell was among the few players who took part in the prosperity of the '90s. For Cockrell, winning was always about pride as much as it was about football.

"We always felt like they kind of looked down at our school and we kind of took offense at that," Cockrell said. "But on the other hand, Idaho was always a big-time football team. They had reason to feel confident in what they were doing because they were always winning games and conference titles."

Many of the old feelings have faded. Only a handful of current Grizzlies were on the field in Moscow in 1966, the last time the two schools met. Only a handful remember the elation of being the best team in the country coupled with the frustration of having sent the Stein back to Idaho.

But as the teams take the field on Saturday for their 90th meeting, another new era will be dawning. Contractual agreements have been made to keep the rivalry alive for at least another five years. Don't expect Dennehy to be giving any history lessons, however.

"I don't think the kids are going to get all fired up over the 1924 team getting their asses kicked," Dennehy said. "I think it's more meaningful that they understand that the rivalry was there and that we're beginning it again."

But for the record, the 1924 team did get pummeled 41-13. And 53 other Grizzly teams have tasted defeat at the hands of the Vandals as well. And even though Idaho has moved on to bigger pastures and the memories of the Stein have all but evaporated, the chant continues, slow and quiet. From the ghost of Grizzly legend Harry Adams and from the forgotten gleed clubs of old, it endures. It travels calmly across abandoned Domblasser Field and slowly winds its way to rest upon the foundations of Washington-Grizzly Stadium. It does not forget.