10-21-2000

Game Day Kaimin, October 21, 2000

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Down but not out

Junior linebacker Jacob Yoro injured his knee in Montana's second game of the season. Since then, he has returned home to recuperate with an eye on the future.

By Chad Dundas  Page 2
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When Montana and Northern Arizona kick off in Missoula on Saturday it will be 9 a.m. Hawaii time. Junior linebacker Jacob Yoro will rise early for the game. Although this will be his first time watching the Griz on the Internet, from 3,000 miles away, he suspects it will be just as difficult as the real thing.

"I think the worst part is just sitting there before the game," says Yoro, who has already watched UM three times this season from the sidelines, while on crutches. "(I know) everybody's getting their pads on and coming out for warm-ups ... before the game it's really hard. Sometime I'm sitting there in the tunnel and some tears drop out of my eyes. It's so frustrating." Yoro is home now, in Miliani, Hawaii, and instead of suiting up to play the "WILL" outside backer position for the Griz, he'll wake up 'backer position for the Griz.'

Since he was seated in a Red Cross ambulance at the University of Washington, the nightmare of the football season began. He couldn't speak; he couldn't hear. There were no eyes. It's so frustrating.

Although this will be his second knee surgery, Yoro knows a thing or two about knees. "(I know) everybody's getting out for warm-ups ... just sitting there before the game," says Yoro, who has already watched UM three times this season from the sidelines, while on crutches.

He was impatient. He lacked perspective. He was forced to sit out all of his senior year, I was basically playing to be able to pick the college that I wanted to go to and I knew a lot of that went out the window as soon as I blew out my knee. "Surgery came later, of course, and he paid the price. Yoro missed most of the football season and then was forced to sit out all of the baseball season - a sport in which he was a four-year starter at third base. Without the critical senior-year experience, colleges didn't exactly come knocking down his door. He had spent his high school career working for a collegiate ticket out of Hawaii and after the injury most everything was uncertain.

"I always knew I wanted to go away to school," Yoro says. "I came here and just tried to make the best of it. Now I really love it here."

He speaks with authority.

Montana gave me that opportunity to come up here to play football on a scholarship and I took it. I came here and just tried to make the best of it. Now I think it was a really good decision. I really love it here.

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The Vikings are riding on the back of senior running back Charles Dunn, who is already collected 1,164 yards and 13 touchdowns for the losing streak is that Montana State can't beat Northridge, the Bobcats to score more points than their Montana State head coach Mike Kramer has said it is time for the Bobcats to end their 12-game losing streak. As Kramer said to the Grizzly fans, "We just aren't scoring enough points to win." Logan tells GameDay if the Cats don't score more points as Northridge, they'll lose. If Montana State is able to score more points than Northridge, will the Bobcats fans tear down the goal posts? After all, if Montana State can't beat Northridge, they can't defeat anyone. The loser of the Sacramento State, Eastern Washington game this weekend loses all hopes for a playoff berth.

The Griz defeated both teams earlier this season, a 24-20 victory over Sacramento State, and a 41-31 win at Eastern Washington. The battle will pit one of the Big Sky's best defenses against one of the top offenses. The Eagles, 3-1 in the conference, allow an average of 311 yards per game. They are led by linebacker Greg Belzer, who is leading the conference in tackles with 61.5, of 311 yards per game. They are led by linebacker Greg Belzer, who is leading the conference in tackles with 61.5, as Kramer said to the Grizzly fans, "We just aren't scoring enough points to win." Logan tells GameDay if the Cats don't score more points as Northridge, they'll lose. If Montana State is able to score more points than Northridge, will the Bobcats fans tear down the goal posts? After all, if Montana State can't beat Northridge, they can't defeat anyone. The loser of the Sacramento State, Eastern Washington game this weekend loses all hopes for a playoff berth.

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Griz hope injuries don’t hurt winning streak

Ryan Divish

GameDay Kaimin

It doesn’t take much for a team to get excited to play against the Montana Grizzlies in Washington-Grizzly Stadium.

Because no matter who you are in the Big Sky conference or where you’re at in the standings, it makes your season, especially when you beat the Griz – especially in Missoula.

So when the Griz host the Northern Arizona Lumberjacks on Saturday, the proverbial targets will be on the backs of the Grizzlies’ jerseys.

The Jacks also have some other incentives: six coaches on the NAU staff including head coach Jerome Souers have ties to the Griz, a UM loss could definitely be damaging in terms of playoff hopes and NAU had lost its last six games at Washington-Grizzly Stadium.

“I think everybody wants to beat us,” Glenn said. “We’ve got a high ranking and are picked to win the league. Everybody wants to kick your butt.

“There’s nothing we can do about it — we just show up and play the game.”

And the Jacks have to be a little concerned, too. Despite a 2-4 record and inconsistent play, the Jacks know they are facing a Griz team that has been decimated by injuries in past three weeks. UM hasn’t played at complete strength since its second game of the season against Idaho.

Eight Grizzly starters have been injured at different times this season along with a few key reserves, leaving the Griz sidelines looking like a scene from “ER.”

First it was Justin Klein, then Jacob Yoro and Brian Pele, a week later Yohance Humphery and Ben Drinkwater.

Throw in Tate Hancock, Leif Thorsen, Thatcher Szalay and most recently, Drew Miller.

Of those nine players, only Pele will play this weekend and even that remains questionable.

Humphery, who was expected to play this weekend, injured his hamstring in practice on Tuesday and will not play this weekend. Szalay, who Glenn calls one of their best players, is still trying to recover from an ankle sprain and according to Glenn, will not play on Saturday.

And of course there is Miller. The senior quarterback will be out at least four weeks in his second game in limited playing time. Despite his quarterback’s four-touchdown performance in place of Miller last week leading the Griz to a 34-30 victory over Cal State Northridge. As a freshman Edwards put up decent numbers in limited playing time and even had a 268-yard, four-touchdown performance against Idaho State.

But Saturday will be the first game that Edwards will start in his brief Grizzly career, and while the Jacks have struggled defensively at times, they are substantially better than the Griz’ defense of 1999 and more disciplined than the penalty-ridden defense of Northern Colorado.

“He has confidence,” Glenn said of Edwards. “He exudes confidence. Our kids and our coaches believe in him. He can do it.”

Despite his quarterback’s lack of game-time experience, Glenn said he has no intention of scaling back the complicated Grizzly offense to make things easier for Edwards.

“John can handle the whole offense. He knows exactly what we’re doing. He’s rock solid. It’s everyone else I don’t know can handle it.”

Glen had hoped that Humphery’s return would still take some pressure off Edwards and resurrect a UM ground game that has accumulated a meager nine yards in two games. But Humphery’s re-injury means that freshman Brandon Malcolm will start his second consecutive game for the Griz.

While Malcolm played well at times for UM last weekend, Glenn makes no secret of his team needs Humphery.

“We need Yo back. It’s that simple,” Glenn said.

On the other side of the ball, UM’s defense remains surprisingly healthy with the exception of Yoro (knee) and Klein (ankle) which is needed when the D faces a Lumberjack offense that is looking for a game to explode.

So far the Jacks can’t seem to get good performances out of their running and passing attacks in the same game. But inconsistencies aside, there is talent and there is potential which Glenn said could be dangerous if NAU is able to put together a little sweeter when you’re at in the stands, it makes your season.

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Quarterback Preston Parsons threw six touchdowns passes earlier in the season but has struggled by not throwing a touchdown pass in his last three games. Backup QB Carson Bradley came off the bench last week against Weber State and provided a spark. Either could play in the game and most likely both will see some time on the field.

Regardless of who’s throwing, the Griz have to be concerned with who’s catching the football. NAU has a top level receiver in Cincinnati transfer Sidney Smith. The junior wide receiver leads the team in catches with 33 catches. And NAU will also be welcoming back standout receiver Francis St. Paul who missed the first six games because of a suspension. St. Paul ranks among the top NAU receivers in career catches and yards and will be someone the Griz secondary will keep an eye on.

And while UM’s rushing attack hasn’t been stellar as of late, NAU’s has been solid behind junior Marcus King who enters Saturday’s contest on the heels of three consecutive 100 yard rushing performances. Glenn admitted he wouldn’t mind having King in his own backfield.

Game time on Saturday at Washington-Grizzly Stadium is 1:00 p.m.
Unfinished business

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

and All-American linebacker Jason Crebo before Yoro had ever had a chance to see the rest of Montana. He says the hype inspired mixed feelings. “I realized at first,” Yoro says. “I mean, I was a 17-year-old kid and you read all this stuff and you almost start to believe them. Then you get on the field and realize that it’s a whole different story to get it done. High school and college are two different ball games. It takes a lot more work and a lot more desire.”

The attention from the public brought stress and a sense of urgency. Even as a true freshman, it was clear that big things were expected of him. Yoro also explains that his personal unrest on the team, coupled with a probing media and his feeling that he wasn’t quite living up to the expectations of others made ’99 a particularly tough season. He says that for a time, he contemplated transferring back to his home state, to the University of Hawaii.

Eventually, though, after most of Dennehy’s staff followed him to Utah State and Joe Glenn and his new personnel took over, Yoro decided to remain at Montana.

“Jacob and I had quite a relationship with Dennehy’s coaches and Jacob realized some things that, even to this day, even to this day, even to this day, still got a long, monotonous season. It was hard to get along with. My girlfriend was even miserable, I was grouchy, I was not letting it bother me, I really let it bring me down. I had one of the worst semesters I’ve ever had last fall, both athletically and academically. It was miserable, I was grouchy, I was hard to get along with. My girlfriend was even miserable, I was grouchy, I was not letting it bother me, I really let things get to me.”

He says he’s appreciative of the fact that Glenn gave a fresh start and an opportunity to re-establish himself as a contributing member of the team. Yoro also says that he now realizes that he alone holds the power to make his own experience as a Grizzly an extraordinary one.

“Now that I got hurt I won’t have to miss a year. I’m really glad I can still redshirt. It just gives me another year to mature. Yoro has also seemed to have developed a more focused, yet more forgiving attitude about leaving his mark on the University of Montana. He says he feels like his best days are still ahead of him.

“I’m definitely going to have to step it up there on the field,” Yoro says. “I’ve got to find a way to get it done and make more plays. I think I’ve played solid and contributed well at times, but there’s also times when I sit back and watch the film and think, ‘What am I doing out there?’ I’ve got two more years and I’ve put a lot of pressure on myself to play well. I’m not a youngster anymore. It’s time to start picking it up.”

Monday morning, Yoro caught a 7 a.m. flight out of Missoula to Hawaii. He’s got a lot of hard work on his agenda, but he says he’s dead set on returning to Montana a better, stronger player than when he left. And even though he is half an ocean away, he says his thoughts are still with his teammates. As much as he wishes he could be there in person, he won’t let himself miss out on the fun.

“I’m going to be watching every game on the computer,” he says. “That’s for sure.”

Unfinished business

Little unfair since nobody
he says. “I thought it was a
what keeps me going.
increased last season when
The Grizzly kicking
Yoro concedes.
game looked shaky at times
For the first time the spot­
noticed of what it perceived
and, again, the press took
tell it like it is, whether it’s
mature enough to not let it
reasons) why I shouldn’t
redshirt. Those things didn’t
come out the way they’d
promised.”

Yoro himself also shoul­
ders much of the responsi­
ity for letting the inanpsi­
cious situation progress.
“I think a lot of it was my
bad reaction toward what
they had done,” he says. “Me
being really young and
immature still, I made some
and they told my ACL
was fine, still intact,” Yoro
says. “They said it was just
meniscus damage and I should
start getting ready for next season. I went in to get my knee
scoped, (they put me under)
and I woke up with a big old
brace — the one I used to
wear after my first surgery.
They told me when they
were in there, the ACL was
he never redshirted may
turn this latest injury into a
blesk in his career.
“Looking at it now, it kind
of worked out well for me,”
he says. “Now that I got
hurt I won’t have to miss a
year. I’m really glad I can
still redshirt. It just gives
me another year to mature.”

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**Grizzly Offense**

- **Denver Williams** WR/KOR: 6-1, 190, sophomore from Libby, Mont.
- **Brandon Malcolm** RB: 5-10, 175, freshman from Libby, Mont.
- **Chris Snyder** K/P: 6-0, 190, freshman from Libby, Mont.
- **Trey Young** FS: 5-11, 190, junior from Libby, Mont.

**Grizzly Defense**

- **Tanner Hancock** WR: 5-8, 175, senior from Libby, Montana.
- **John Edwards** WR: 6-1, 200, sophomore from Billings, Montana.
- **Mike Mahoney** CB: 5-10, 170, freshman from Libby, Montana.
- **Vince Huntsberger** CB: 5-10, 175, senior from Libby, Montana.
- **Jimmy Farris** WR/Rets: 6-0, 190, senior from Libby, Montana.
- **Jacob Yoro** LB: 6-0, 225, junior from Libby, Montana.
- **Mike Reidy** P: 6-0, 185, senior from Libby, Montana.

**Montana 2000 Record • 5-1 Overall, 3-0 Big Sky**

**1999 Record • 9-3 Overall, 7-1 Big Sky (1st)**

**O ffensive John Edwards**

Quarterback

6-1, 200, sophomore from Billings, Mont.

Saturday Edwards will step onto Grizzly soil as a starter for the first time in his collegiate career. Replacing Payton Award candidate Drew Miller won’t be easy, but the “Golden Boy” will be expected to be just that—glistening.

Junior quarterback John Edwards was named USA/Today’s Montana Player of the Year as a high school senior. What’s more, “Johnny Montana,” whom his high school coach Joe Glenn calls Edwards, simply carried the Grizzlies through a tight-to-the-play last Saturday that saw our win against Cal-State Fullerton.

**D efense Vince Huntsberger**

Safety

5-11, 190, junior from Libby, Mont.

Hey wasn’t Vince the GSH cover model two weeks ago? Last year’s Big Sky Defensive Player of the Week will continue to dazzle as he will have second year in California, leading the Grizzlies into action. Nebulous on campus turns into Mr. Intensity on the field. Call him an alter ego or a Jekyll-Hyde persona, “Vinnie on the Spot,” as Joe Glenn calls him, is a different person when game time rolls around. He isn’t like your typical defensive back—all flash and no cash. Because he isn’t flashy. There are so many receivers, windsocks, towers, gloves or even eye black—just a pair of socks that never seem to stay pulled up. Give him a uniform that eeked out a win against Cal-State Northridge.

Carried the Grizzlies through a down-to-the-wire play last Saturday that saw our win against Cal-State Fullerton. Replacing Payton Award candidate Drew Miller won’t be easy, but the “Golden Boy” will be expected to be just that—glistening.
The only chance Northern Arizona has of winning for the fifth time in Missoula is if Keith and the defense stop the highly potent Griz offense. Keith is from New York, so he is probably pretty excited about the game. Keith had two sacks against Idaho State, but then again, that was against Idaho State and the Lumberjacks still lost. Keith is the third leading tackler on the team, but then again, he plays for Northern Arizona. Something to ponder How bad would Northern Arizona be without King? Linebacker Keith O'Neil is a leader on the team, and all dressed up to be the light on. Regardless, the Griz game, Tom Bodett had a thesis on Motel 6? And after all the drama, all the fighting, here is a restaurant and hotel management major. What, are ya going to do? With 39 tackles, Ray here is a restaurant and hotel management major. What, are ya going to do? With 39 tackles, Ray here is a restaurant and hotel.
LaSportiva Boulder
Men's approach shoe
Reg. $84.95
Bob Ward's Price $69.99

Salomon Exentric
Men's & women's
Lo-cut approach shoe
Reg. $78.95
Bob Ward's Price $59.99

Merrell M2 Mandalay Ventilator
Men's Low-Cut Shoe
Reg. $109.95
Bob Ward's Price $49.99

Merrell M2 Ventilator II
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Scouting Report:

Courtney Lowery
GameDay Kaimin

Youngstown State may not have the big numbers or the big names but they've got the big game and sometimes that is all a team needs. The Penguins (6-0, 3-0) have been ranked in the top five of the I-AA all season; this week they recapture the No. 2 spot behind returning National Champion Georgia Southern, which beat YSU in last year's national title game. But if you look at the Gateway Conference or national statistics, with the exception of field goal percentage, you'll be hard pressed to find a YSU player within the top five rankings. So how does a team without a star rise to stardom?

A balanced attack — every player shares the stats and the responsibility. "We just have a really unselfish team this year," head coach Jim Tressell told the Kaimin Wednesday. The Penguins lost 25 leaders to graduation last year, leaving YSU with little depth and no real leaders for the 2000 season. But in some ways, it is that lack of stardom that has pushed the Penguins to their undefeated record. When it's do or die, it isn't experience or skill that wins games, Tressell said. "Sure, we don't really have any big leaders, but the quality of those kids out there is what is carrying us," Tressell said. "When the goin' gets tough, that really shines through."

This weekend may be the toughest goin' for the Penguins when they face the undefeated Western Illinois. Western Illinois is looming at No. 7 and creeping up on the Penguins. Tressell said, however, that national rankings and conference championships are not weighing heavily on his mind — he's just worried about the next practice. "Being undefeated has a lot of pressure, but with this young of a group, we are just taking it one day at a time," Tressell said. "When you are in our kind of conference, week in and week out, we are just trying to get through practices."

Despite his one-day-at-a-time strategy, Tressell does still think about the big picture once in awhile. "We sure enjoyed our trip to Montana last year," he said referring to the game that booted UM out of the playoffs. "But hopefully we won't be there this soon ... You guys are too good this year."

I-AA Poll

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<th>TEAM</th>
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<th>PVS</th>
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<td>1. Geo Southern (6-0)</td>
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<td>5. Montana (6-0)</td>
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<td>6. Furman (6-1)</td>
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<td>7. Western III (6-0)</td>
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<td>10. Western Ky (6-0)</td>
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<td>11. Hofstra (6-2)</td>
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<td>12. Troy St (4-2)</td>
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<td>13. No Carolina A&amp;T (5-1)</td>
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<td>14. Lehigh (6-4)</td>
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<td>24. Texas Southern (5-0)</td>
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<tr>
<td>25. Eastern Wash (4-3)</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>29</td>
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Dropped Out: No. 18 Northern Iowa, No. 23 Eastern Kentucky.
Volleyball faces tough second-round competition

**Ryan Divish**
GameDay Kaimin

It’s the half-way point of the conference season for the UM women’s volleyball team. The Griz have faced every team once and have come away with a 4-4 record. Respectable, yes. But not necessarily acceptable for head coach Nikki Best and her Grizzly squad.

Montana has played well at times and for a week they were atop the Big Sky conference. However, the Griz hit a stretch where they dropped three consecutive matches to Eastern Washington, Sacramento State and Montana State. Despite the losses, Best stayed positive with her team and it showed after UM lost a tight five-game match to MSU.

Things will only get tougher for the Griz. They now will have to play each team for a second time which is always more difficult. Best and her staff had planned to implement a new system for the second half but injuries to Natalie Jacksha (broken hand), Katy Kuhista (ankle) and Lizzie Wertz (back) forced UM to switch to the new system a couple weeks early.

It was the new system and new starting rotation that caused the Griz to struggle during the three-match losing streak. Best said. But Best added that her team is starting to get comfortable as evidenced by their performance at MSU.

“It does take time to build relationships on the court,” Best said.

The Griz have relied heavily on their senior trio of Erin Adams, Kodi Taylor and Tara Conner to help the Grizzlies overcome setbacks.

Adams ranks in the top 10 in career kills and digs at UM and has recorded double figures in kills and digs in 11 games this season. She also leads the conference in digs per game with 4.5. Taylor has been a consistent all-around threat for the Griz but Best hopes she will make the Grizzlies middle stronger down the stretch. Taylor has recorded six double-doubles this season and can be force at the net registering 86 blocks on the season. Conner has been very consistent for the Griz at the setter position. She ranks second in career assists at UM and is third in the Big Sky at 13.9 per game.

Besides the three seniors, sophomore Theresa Stringer, junior Joy Pierce and junior Lindsey Kaisler have also contributed.

Montana will now face Weber State and Idaho State on Thursday and Saturday before returning home on Oct. 26 to face Cal State Northridge.

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**CLUB NOTES**

**Nick Domitrovich**
For GameDay Kaimin

UM men's lacrosse club

The men’s lacrosse club will be taking momentum gained in the last two weeks with them into a game against Montana State at 11 a.m. Saturday at the Riverbowl field on campus.

Two weeks ago, the team won the Gem State tournament in Boise, losing initially to Boise State, but then came back to beat Utah, Weber State and Washington State for the trophy. Additionally, the team was recognized as a member of the Pacific Northwestern Collegiate Lacrosse League last week, which will guarantee them a 10 game regular season in the spring.

Team spokesman Eric Schafer said that the team was excited to be accepted into the league because of the status that a recognized league gives the team.

“We’d like to get the word out that we’re an official team now, with an official season playing other collegiate opponents,” said Schafer.

---

**UM women’s soccer club**

The soccer club ended its regular season on a disappointing note with two losses last weekend in Washington. In the first game, they fell to Walla Walla 2-1, and then lost to Washington State, 5-2.

Spokesman Javier Gonzales said that the team’s real problem this season was an inability to get enough people to come on the road trips.

“We had a lack of commitment this year. That, I think, really hurt us,” said Gonzales, pointing out that of the team’s seven losses this season, six of them were on the road.

“When we only have 11 people coming on our road trips, we have no substitutes to put into the game. That makes it really hard to win,” Gonzales said.

In the team’s only home loss this season, three players were injured in the first 15 minutes of the game, again forcing them to play without substitutes for the remaining 75 minutes of the game.

---

**Betterside women’s rugby**

The Betterside also had a rough weekend, losing to three men’s clubs from Billings, Missoula and Pocatello, before beating MSU’s club in the Octoberfest tournament hosted by the Bozeman Cutthroats. Team spokesman Eric Taber pointed out that the losses were to men’s club teams, which are traditionally much harder opponents than college teams.

“The men’s clubs are simply harder because they’ve played the game longer, played together longer and know the tactics better,” Taber said. “They’re definitely tougher competition.”

“We’d like to get the word out that we’re an official team now, with an official season playing other collegiate opponents,” said Schafer.

---

**UM women’s rugby**

For GameDay Kaimin

Michelle Macklen after receiving a gash in her forehead during a match. Power eventually got five stitches for her wound.

---

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Jesse Zentz
GameDay Kaimin

Weekend’s final two games at South Campus Stadium.

Friday’s game pits the Grizzlies against Cal State Northridge, and Sunday, Montana will face Northern Arizona. Both games are part of the Montana October Classic.

If the Grizzlies come away with two wins, they will host the four-team conference tournament in Missoula on Oct. 26-28. Currently, Montana is in first place, followed by Idaho State in second. Northern Arizona and Sac State are in third and fourth.

New to the conference this year, the winner of the Big Sky tournament will move on to face the Southland Conference champion. The winner of that game moves on to the NCAA Division I national tournament. Last year Montana advanced to the national simply by winning the conference title. But because the Big Sky conference teams as a whole failed to gain enough wins to be rated among the top 24 conferences, the Big Sky winner must win the “play-in” game to advance.

Southwest Texas and Northwestern State are currently tied for first in the Southland Conference. Northern Arizona is the only Big Sky team that has faced a team from the Southland Conference this year. The Lumberjacks defeated Southwest Texas 2-0 in that game.

UM received votes in Monday’s Soccer Buzz West Region poll as it has at several times during the season. It is the only Big Sky program to either be ranked or receive votes this season.

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Celebration time

UM Athletics Director Wayne Hogan and head coach Joe Glenn congratulate each other after a Griz victory.

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Big Sky Standings

Portland State 3-0, 6-0
Montana 3-0, 5-1
Eastern Wash. 3-1, 4-3
Idaho State 3-2, 4-2
Weber State 3-2, 4-3
Sac. State 2-3, 4-3
N. Arizona 1-3, 2-4
Northridge 0-4, 1-5
Montana State 0-3, 0-6

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— Chad Dundas

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