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Game Day Kaimin, September 29, 2001

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Ciche Pitcher’s
Got your number
MONTANA

By Chad Dundas

MONTANA vs. East. Washington
Olive Pitcher heard whispers. There were rumors. People were saying that Pitcher was the next No. 37.

By the end of the season, when it was time for departing senior Andy Petek to hand down the No. 37 jersey, Pitcher already knew he'd been chosen.

"Last year, people kept saying 'you're going to get it, you're going to get it,'" Pitcher says. "So when the time came I already pretty much knew it was going to be me, just by hearing it through the grapevine without actually being told." The No.37-jersey has quickly become one of Montana football's grandest traditions. Rules for ownership are stringent and steadfast: It must be worn by a talented defensive player, always a Montana native, who is the walking embodiment of Grizzly football. Upon graduation, the jersey's owner chooses a successor.

The list of No. 37 alumni is a who's who of UM defenders over the last decade. Defensive back Tim Hauck inaugurated the tradition in 1989 by giving the jersey to Todd Erickson, who awarded it to Linebacker Jason Crebo in 1993. In 1997, Crebo passed the jersey to Petek, who carried it until he graduated after last season.

Since '89 everyone who has worn No. 37 for the Griz has become an All-American. Hauck — whose rib-rattling hits are legendary at Montana — still plays in the NFL, for the Philadelphia Eagles. Erickson signed with the Indianapolis Colts after leaving Montana. Crebo, arguably the most athletic linebacker in Grizzly history, went on to camp with the Buffalo Bills. His senior year, Petek was runner-up for the Buck Buchanan Awards, given annually to the best I-AA defender in the nation.

Now Pitcher will wear the number. Growing up in Anaconda, Pitcher says he was not only aware of the No.37 tradition but was an avid fan of all those who wore it.

"Watching those guys play was pretty amazing," he says. "I'm a really big Crebo fan. He was really sweet to watch. The same with Petek ... It got me really excited to come here, watching him play."

Pitcher says carrying the torch of No. 37 is exciting but also a little frightening. He can feel the eyes of the notoriously fickle Montana fans on him. As only a sophomore, Pitcher is already assured a spot in Grizzly history, and whether it's as the next All-American or the first 37er who didn't live up to the hype depends entirely on his own abilities.

"We know that there are a lot of people that are watching you all the time," Pitcher says. "They're going to be judging — Did he deserve the number? Is he playing up to it? That's all stuff that I try not to worry about. People are going to say whatever they're going to say." There is pressure inherent in wearing the number. Whether he likes it or not, Pitcher will be compared to those Grizzly greats who created the legend. He'll be measured alongside some of the best who ever wore the uniform — All-Americans, Big Sky Conference MVPs, NFL veterans. It might seem unfair, given that Pitcher was not only aware of the No.37 tradition but was an underachiever.

"He was labeled by some as an underachiever. At 6-foot-4-inch, 232-pound Pitcher certainly has the physical attributes to become a dominant Big Sky Conference defensive end, but so far isn't terribly comfortable with the idea of being the team's emotional leader.

"I try to lead by example," he says. "I've never been really good vocally getting attention from people. If anything I try to calm the guys down when they get a little too fired up. I'm not a real rah-rah guy. Our defensive line plays real well when we're relaxed. We're a bunch of young guys and when we loosen up and just play relaxed we seem to play our best."

Indeed, Pitcher is quick to steer any conversation away from his personal accomplishments, preferring to focus on the entire defensive unit. Ask him about his performance last week against Western Washington, when four tackles, two sacks and a fumble recovery earned him a nod as 'player of the game' and he just laughs.

"I like the fact that I can be player of the game because it shows that our whole defense is kind of opening things up and making plays. Something most visible players on the field. Hardened Montana football fans will naturally look to him to become a leader on a defense populated by young players who haven't yet had a chance to make a name for themselves. At 6-foot-4-inch, 232-pound Pitcher certainly has the physical attributes to become a dominant Big Sky Conference defensive end, but so far isn't terribly comfortable with the idea of being the team's emotional leader.

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Continued on page 6
Griz, Eagles renew rivalry rife with early playoff implications

Carl Hennell
GameDay Kaimin

Fittingly, the Grizzlies' defense of their Big Sky Conference crown begins with offense.
Consider last Saturday's shootout of Western Washington, 30-0—a primer for this Saturday's conference battle against No. 16 Eastern Washington (2-3, 1-0). The Eagles are potent on offense, scoring on all but one of their possessions last week against Weber State.

"Our defense is our bell cow," said Griz coach Joe Glenn.
The Griz defense, ranked 24th in the nation, is averaging 15.7 points allowed per game. The Eagles offense is ranked second nationally, averaging 547.5 yards per game.
EWU senior running back Jesse Chatman rushed for 206 yards last Saturday against WSU, placing him sixth in the nation in rushing yards. Chatman's performance last week broke EWU's career touchdown record, with 28. He rushed for 283 yards in 12 games and has piled up 2,372 career rushing yards.

"Chatman will be one of the best backs we see all year," said Glenn. "He just absolutely jumps out at you and jumps out of arm tackles. We've got to bring our shoulder pads, got to gang tackle, and got to bring our feet." Chatman's performance last week broke EWU's career touchdown record, with 28. He has rushed for 3,809 career rushing yards, 14 100-yard games and tied UM's 75-year old record of 31 career touchdowns last week.

If the Griz defense succeeds at containing Chatman, which they have done the past two years, EWU will fall back on a quarterback ranked eighth in the nation.
Senior Fred Salanoa has completed 50 of 74 passes for 690 yards and seven touchdowns, and only one interception.
The Eagles boast the best kick-return specialist in the history of I-AA. Lamont Brightful has averaged 33.3 yards in 44 career attempts and single-handedly kept the Eagles in the game last year against the Griz by returning two kickoffs for touchdowns. So is coach Glenn going to kick the ball to Brightful? "Maybe," he said, chuckling and grinning from ear to ear.

Glenn has turned to a true freshman to tune up the Griz special teams.
"We think we have found an explosive returner in Levander (Segars)," Glenn said. Segars returned nine punts for 122 yards last week.
In three of the past five meetings between UM and EWU, the game has been decided by less than a touchdown. In 1998, EWU lost 30-27 after a missed field goal with 57 seconds left. In 1997, the Eagles scored 20 fourth-quarter points for a 40-35 win. And in 1996, the Griz scored with 30 seconds left to win 34-30.
For the past six years, the winner of this match-up has gone on to win the conference title. The Griz won five of those titles and seven of the past eight meetings.
"I think the winner of this game will definitely be in the driver's seat to win the conference," Glenn said.

If you would like more information about this study please call the research coordinator at: (406) 721-5024
T. Shull Lemire, M.D. Pulmonologist
CardioPulmonary Associates of Missoula, PLLC
2825 Pt. Missoula Road, Suite 317, Missoula, MT 59804

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If you are 13 years old or older and have been diagnosed with asthma you may qualify to participate in a clinical research study of an investigational inhaled medication and receive at no cost to you:
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- Blood tests
- Electrocardiogram
- Spirometry (lung function tests)
- Physician assessments
- Stipend for time and travel up to $675.00
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Safe Kids Safe Communities

Montana vs. Eastern Washington

3
Offense

**John Edwards**
Quarterback
6-1, 200 junior from Billings, Mont.

Johnny know he's to be back in his spot this week. He had another solid week against Western Washington, passing for a career-high 277 yards. And folks, don't think GOQ didn't see a few long passes called back by penalties and a couple of drops by Montana's normally sure-handed receivers. Let's face it, if the Griz are going to make it to Champaign this December, the former Bear from Billings looks to be coming through in a big, big way. Eastern Washington might be Edwards' first big test this season against a top-notch FBS squad.

**Stefan Holder**
Linebacker
6-3, 215 soph, from Walla Walla, Wash.

Linebacker Andy Thompson is to be 3-1.

**Jay Montanez**
Defensive Tackle
6-4, 300 junior from Missoula, Mont.

Montana's resident head hunter, it seems that Trey isn't always looking to put a hat on someone. Last week he had an assisted tackle for 83 yards and a fumble recovery. Keep it up, TJ.

**Curt Colter**
Defensive Tackle
6-3, 225 junior from Hysham, Mont.

Last week Tyler John Oelkers had a couple of big plays we've seen this season. He finished with 83 yards and a TO. His intangible: Making the defense look silly.

**Tim Humphrey**
Safety
6-1, 200 junior from San Diego, Calif.

His intangibles: Making the defense look silly.

**Chris Saenz**
Linebacker
6-2, 250 junior from Newport Beach, Calif.

Young
3

Young's head hunt for fumbles is a serious one. He seems that Trey is being challenged to just be a good on someone. Last week he had a fumble, including giving up a TD and a 1st down. This week he will use the Griz D to do its job on the biggest stage of the season thus far.

**Defensive Roster**

1. **Leavender Segers**
Colorado Springs, Co. CB 5-9 165 FR
2. **Jonathan Talmage**
Anaheim, Calif. WR 6-4 190 JR
3. **Trey Young**
San Diego, Calif. WR 6-4 190 JR
4. **Dave DeCoute**
Truckee, Calif. FS 6-2 190 JR
5. **John Edwards**
Billings, Mont. CB 6-1 200 JR
6. **Andy Thompson**
Walla Walla, Wash. LB 6-3 190 JR
7. **Brett Staninger**
Missoula, Mont. QB 5-10 180 JR
8. **Jeffrey Heidelberger**
Bellingham, Wash. RB 5-9 220 JR
9. **Kendric Selz**
Billings, Mont. RB 5-3 190 FR
10. **Vernon Smith**
San Diego, Calif. CB 6-1 175 SO
11. **Chad Stovall**
Missoula, Mont. WR 6-2 190 FR
12. **Calvin Coleman**
Nicolaus, Fla. CB/KOR 5-10 189 SR
13. **Rory Zikmund**
Casper, Calif. CB 5-11 190 FR
14. **Brandon Hall**
Great Falls, Mont. WR 6-2 215 JR
15. **T.J. Delfors**
Sacramento, Calif. WR 6-2 185 JR
16. **Joel Rosenberg**
Whitefish, Mont CB 5-10 190 SR
17. **Tyler Thomas**
Spokane, Wash. S 5-10 175 FR
18. **Smith**
San Diego, Calif. CB 6-1 175 SO
19. **Andy Thompson**
Spokane, Wash. S 6-2 185 FR
20. **Kyle Schultz**
Parker, Co. S 6-0 85 SO
21. **Brandan Grant**
Los Angeles, Calif. CB 6-0 180 FR
22. **Tanner Pettinger**
Helena, Mont. WR 5-10 175 FR
23. **Chris Snyder**
Spokane, Wash. WR 5-9 190 SO
24. **Tate Hancock**
Salina, Kan. WR 5-10 175 FR
25. **Johnnie Peeples**
Anaheim, Calif. CB 5-9 180 JR
26. **Brandon Grant**
Los Angeles, Calif. CB 6-0 180 FR
27. **Trey Young**
Spokane, Wash. WR 5-9 190 SR
28. **Tyler Thompson**
Billings, Mont. WR 5-10 175 SO
29. **Brandan Macdonald**
Montana State, Bozeman, Mont. RB 5-10 175 SO
30. **Trey Young**
Spokane, Wash. WR 5-9 190 FR
31. **Brad Weston**
Helena, Mont. WR 5-10 175 SO
32. **Trey Young**
Spokane, Wash. WR 5-9 190 FR
33. **Tyler Thompson**
Billings, Mont. WR 5-10 175 SO
34. **Max Krimmel**
Helena, Mont. WR 5-10 175 FR
35. **Johnnie Peeples**
Anaheim, Calif. CB 5-9 180 JR
36. **Trey Young**
Spokane, Wash. WR 5-9 190 SR
37. **Ciche Pitcher**
Spokane, Wash. WR 6-2 260 FR
38. **Pete Hamill**
Coeur D'Alene, Idaho RB 5-11 175 FR
39. **Mike Mahoney**
Deer Lodge, Mont. CB 5-10 175 FR
40. **Rory Zikmund**
Casper, Calif. CB 5-11 190 FR
41. **Matt Steinau**
Coeur D'Alene, Idaho LB 5-9 190 FR
42. **Blake Horgan**
Spokane, Wash. QB 6-2 190 JR
43. **Spencer Frederick**
Polson, Mont. RB 5-9 175 FR
44. **John Fitzgerald**
Columbus, Mont. TE 6-2 220 JR
45. **Vince Humble**
Libby, Mont. CB 5-11 190 FR
46. **Dan Ozantzi**
Butte, Mont. LB 5-11 220 SR
47. **Rory Zikmund**
Casper, Calif. WR 6-2 175 FR
48. **Adam Hoge**
Bozeman, Mont. LB 5-11 215 FR
49. **Kyle Noe**
Helena, Mont. LB 5-10 200 FR
50. **Trey Young**
Spokane, Wash. TE 6-2 215 FR
51. **Johnnie Peeples**
Anaheim, Calif. CB 5-9 180 JR
52. **Kyle Noe**
Helena, Mont. LB 5-10 200 FR
53. **Trey Young**
Spokane, Wash. WR 5-9 190 SR
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Spokane, Wash. WR 5-9 190 SR
55. **Johnnie Peeples**
Anaheim, Calif. CB 5-9 180 JR
56. **Trey Young**
Spokane, Wash. WR 5-9 190 SR
57. **Trey Young**
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58. **Trey Young**
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74. **Trey Young**
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75. **Trey Young**
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76. **Trey Young**
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77. **Trey Young**
Spokane, Wash. WR 5-9 190 SR
78. **Trey Young**
Spokane, Wash. WR 5-9 190 SR
79. **Trey Young**
Spokane, Wash. WR 5-9 190 SR
80. **Trey Young**
Spokane, Wash. WR 5-9 190 SR
81. **Trey Young**
Spokane, Wash. WR 5-9 190 SR
As only a junior, Adam has emerged as the Eagles' leading returner. He's got a total of 17 Td's on 37 kickoff returns, 21 punt returns, and 11 for 11 kicks. We don't know if Eagle's keen a back like Yo Humphrey this season, so this might be his first chance to see what he's really made of.

Asim Poston Tukwila, Wash. OL 6-3 300 Sr.

Randy Meade Vancouver, Wash. DL 6-1 250 Fr.

Roy McCarver Renton, Wash. LB 6-0 205 Fr.

John Sehmel Port Orchard, Wash. LB 6-1 215 Fr.

Brandon Moore Medical Lake, Wash. DL 6-1 250 Jr.

Keith Gamer Chewelah, Wash. LB 6-1 225 So.

Brandon Myers Tacoma, Wash. DL 6-1 260 So.

Arnie Otterbeck Port Orchard, Wash. RB 5-9 240 So.

Doug Vincent Pasco, Wash. LB 6-1 210 Fr.

Muhammad Deen Spanaway, Wash. DB 5-11 185 Fr.

Darius Washington Mukilteo, Wash. DB 6-1 195 So.

Jessy Hanson Renton, Wash. LB 5-10 210 So.

Luke Vincent Colville, Wash. LB 6-1 205 Fr.

Scott Snyder Redmond, Wash. LB 5-11 200 Sr.

Jesse Chairman Sumner, Wash. DB 5-10 205 Sr.

Jovan Griffith. But this season I looks as if head coach Paul Wulff has decided that downtown is the winning route. Montana has 17 times in two games, while

Chatman has carried 43 times for 295 yards. Yeah, we feel bad for Jovan (sorta) and we'd like to see him break out, but the end result is a victory for the Beavers.

Jesse is all the monster he needs. Jovan only has 10 carries in two games, while Chatman has carried 43 times for 295 yards. Yeah, we feel bad for Jovan (sorta) and we'd like to see him break out, but the end result is a victory for the Beavers.

Jesse Chairman Sumner, Wash. DB 5-10 205 Sr.

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Griz/Eagles game, the action in
But despite the competition from the
No. 3 vs. No. 15 match-up in Missoula. The action in Portland's recently remodeled PGE
Park deserves some attention. The action in Portland's recently remodeled PGE
Park deserves some attention. Portland State is 1-1 in the year and skeptics say the Vikings are still riding the ghost of last year's team in the national Top 25. Northern Arizona comes into the game with a 3-0 record. Portland State is looking to recover from its 30-29 loss to Grambling State last week while NAU is on a three-game winning streak.

Northern Arizona had been picked to finish fifth by the coaches in the pre-season poll but Portland State head coach Tim Walsh knows his team is in for a struggle this weekend. "They are a team I know would be good this year," Walsh said. "They have too many good athletes and play extremely hard defensively." If Portland State is going to get past the Lumberjacks and open the conference season with a win the Vikes must figure out a way to stop an NAU offense that is averaging 27 points per game while its defense only allows ten. The ten points per game allowed by the Jacks is good enough for top in the Big Sky. The Vikings come into the game giving up 21.5 points per game while scoring 22.5. The Lumberjacks also come into the game with revenge on their minds after last season's 42-10 embarrassment at the hands of PSU."That's something coach is trying to get us to focus on," NAU quarterback Preston Parsons said. "I think we are a totally different team than last year, so I think it's about this year and forgetting about last year." GDK PREDICTION: We've always loved former Griz assistant and current NAU head coach Jerome Suvers. Even though he's fighting for the blue and gold now we can't bet against him. NAU 35, PSU 28.

Sacramento State/Weber State There may not be a worse team in the Big Sky Conference than Weber State. After losing to Division II Southern Utah in the season opener, the Wildcats became the first team in almost two years to lose to Montana State. Combine that with a 50-26 drubbing at the hands of Eastern Washington last week and you're starting to get the picture.

Will the task get any easier for the Wildcats this weekend? On paper all signs point to no. Sacramento State comes into Ogden this weekend as one of the two co-leaders (with Eastern Washington) in the conference with a 2-1 record and wins over St. Mary's and Idaho State. The game will not be easy but we can't help but love them in an adorable, yet-idioic purebred puppy kind of way. MSU 21, PSU 14.

Montana State/CSN MSU's defense is second in the conference in opponent passing efficiency and leads the Big Sky in sacks. Wait, there's more good news. The Bobcats are 0-2 and may finally break through at home this week when they host 0-2 Cal State Northridge. The bad news: MSU had hoped to win a game at home for the first time since the fall of 1999 when they hosted Cal Poly last week, only to be shamed in a 34-6 defeat.

The 'Cats will get another chance this weekend to snap their nine-game losing streak, but we have to take straight out their passing game, which currently sits at the bottom of the Big Sky. GDK PREDICTION: We tease the 'Cats, because they're the 'Cats. But really, we can't help but love them in an adorable, yet-idioic purebred puppy kind of way. MSU 21, CSN 14.

Idaho State/MSU-Northern The Bengals continue the TOUGH part of their schedule as they take on Montana State-Northern this week-end. ISU has already won a game against a Frontier Conference opponent this season, having beaten Montana Tech 40-7 in their season opener. Saturday marks the first time the schools have ever faced off on the gridiron. ISU Quarterback Doug Baughman is second in the nation in pass efficiency with a remarkable 191.3 rating. GDK PREDICTION: How 'bout them Bengals? What's next, a high school team? Puh-lease. Look ISU, we know you're going to win this week but GDK will pick against you just because we think you're soft. MSU-Northern 70, ISU 7.
Montana fans may remember the Mountaineers from a season ago. Fighting wind and cold, ASU took the Grizzlies to the breaking point before finally falling 19-16 in overtime in the national semi-finals. In fact, had it not been for the heroics of quarterback Drew Miller found Farris in the back of the end zone, giving Montana the dramatic win.

This year, the Mountaineers don’t plan on falling short.

Leading the way on offense is junior quarterback Joe Burchette. After starting last year number three on the depth chart, Burchette finished the year as the starting signal caller, finishing with 2,364 yards passing and 16 touchdowns.

Burchette has been throwing to quite a few new faces this year. Gone are the top three receivers from last year, including Troy Albae, who had 11 catches for 177 yards and one touchdown against the Griz. Troy Albae, who had 11 catches for 177 yards and one touchdown against the Griz.

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Nothing but a number

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Continued from page 2

like player of the game is not much of an individual effort. A lot of the plays I was able to make were because the rest of the D-line opened something up for me or the linebackers getting good coverage and giving me time to get a sack."

Pitcher admits that he would like to improve on some aspects of his game. He wants to get bigger, stronger and improve his overall defense against the run.

"I still don't think I've played as well I can," he says. "I'm still waiting for one of those games where everything's clicking and I'm getting off blocks really well. So far the reason I've been playing pretty well in all the games is because our whole defense has been playing well. I've been getting some plays but I don't feel like I've, personally, been playing as well as I can. Not yet at least."

While he knows that it's way too early in his career to start thinking about his legacy, Pitcher says he's looking forward to the opportunity he's been given. He's got a long road ahead of him, but he seems mindful that he has the chance to amend the list of Grizzly stars who've worn No. 37. If he has his way that list of Montana native All-Americans will read Hauck, Erickson, Crebo, Petek and Pitcher.

"In the back of your head when you come here it's something that you want to accomplish," he says. "So that's something that I'm excited about."