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## Game Day Kaimin, October 13, 2001

Associated Students of the University of Montana

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Game



The original, complete guide to Grizzly athletics

BitSky

THE LOSS OF A LOVED ONE MADE HIM QUESTION HIS FUTURE. NOW THE MEMORY PUSHES HIM TO SUCCEED.

T.J. Oelkers

101

# **MONTANA VS. St. Mary's**

Car

# - First love

THE PAIN OF LOSING HIS HIGH SCHOOL SWEETHEART NEARLY KEPT T.J. OELKERS FROM ENROLLING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

### BY CHAD DUNDAS

u just finished interviewing T.J. Oelkers and it didn't go as well as you'd hoped. Everything went OK; T.J. was gracious and witty. He answered all your lame questions with a smile on his face, explained things to you when you didn't understand. Just that, something was wrong.

He'd trail off and his answers sounded clipped, abbreviated. You were doing all the talking. His eyes kept searching for something on the floor. When you switch off the tape recorder, say a few cursory goodbyes, he seems surprised the interview is over. Like the whole time he hasn't been sitting here.

You're about to stand up and leave when he says he wants to talk about something else. You tell you don't know what he means.

"The summer before I came to school here my girlfriend passed away," he says. "Her name was Darcee Zeiler, we dated for four years."

The interview begins again, but this time you hardly say a word.

T.J. starts by saying he got up early one day to mow the lawn. It was July and it was hot and he had just graduated from high school in Helena, Mont. He had a little less than a month before he would move to Missoula to walk on as a wide receiver with the Montana Grizzlies. That day he had a date with Darcee to go shopping for new glasses.

T.J. admits the glasses he had were impossibly nerdy. He and Darcee were going to find new ones so he wouldn't have to go off to college with stupid glasses. When he finished with the mowing he went inside to call the Zeiler house

"I called and her dad answered and he was just like, "T.J., we lost her. She passed away in her sleep.' I said what?' I just, I can't even tell you what I did after that. It was just, lose it."

Darcee was home for the summer after a year at MSU-Billings. She had been battling with an eating disorder and had twice sought treatment T.J. says that summer he felt things were finally starting to look up for her.

"She was doing as good as she had in the five years she had the disease and she was really starting to get better and really think she was starting to get out of it," he says. "One night, her body just couldn't take it anymore.

He was eighteen, Darcee a year older. When he thinks about her now, T.J. says he always thought she was the one person he'd be with forev-er. He remembers having the distinct feeling that he was never going to feel good about anything again. But there wasn't much time to grieve. T.J. had already passed up on scholarship offers from Eastern Washington and

Montana State for the much riskier plan of walking on at Montana.

Now, he wasn't sure if he wanted to even leave home, much less keep playing football.

"Everybody handles somebody that they love dying dif-ferently," T.J. says. "And for me, I probably took it worse

than some people do." He eventually decided to fulfill his personal commitment to come to UM. Exactly one month after Darcee died, he moved to Missoula and started two-a-days with the Griz.

"It all happened so quickly," he says. "She passed away July 8 and football started



T.J. Oelkers takes a break from practice with receiver Jeff Renevier. August 8. Things were just

going crazy in my mind." He tried to think football, physically following along with the rest of the team through days of seemingly endless drills. It didn't help.

"I still put in the time and everything with football, but mentally, it just wasn't there," he says.

T.J. stuck at it, expecting he would feel better. It was a constant struggle to not pack his bags and head back to Helena that freshman year. He says he couldn't shake the feeling that he needed time away, time alone, to get his head together.

couldn't bring himself to get dressed and go to practice. He called Bill Cockhill, then the wide receivers coach, to tell him he would be absent. "I said 'I don't think I can

when he

come to practice today.' He asked me why. I said 'I don't think I can stop crying. I'm not leaving my room." T.J. says. "Five minutes later he was in my dorm room."

T.J. says Cockhill was will-ing to stay as long as it took to get him feeling good enough to at least leave his dorm room and come to practice. Their conversation didn't have any-

"I think my first semester here I must have called (my parents) about every other day, telling them to come pick me up. That it just

thing to do with football. T.J. credits the Grizzly coaching staff, under former head coach Mick Dennehy, for their understanding and says he wouldn't have been able to stay in Missoula without their guidance.

A strong support group of friends, many of them Helena natives who also made the trek to UM, were also instrumental in the recovery process. Whether it was friends sacrificing Saturday nights to hang out and talk to him, or pushing him to stop moping around the house, there's an impressive list of people who he'll never be able to repay for their under-standing and generosity.

"My friends have been awesome," he says. "My friends have been so great with me ... They can kind of tell when I've got it on my mind or if I'm not being normal."

Even with the help of friends and coaches, T.J. went back to Helena after his freshman year not really expecting to be back in Missoula in the fall. Things were still not right inside him. He thought he needed to take some time off from school, maybe give up football to get things in order.

In the wake of their loss, he says the Oelkers family and Zeiler family had become one. Both families spent time at the Zeiler's lake house waterskiing or just being together.

"It's been great to have them," he says. "I think I've helped them get through it too.

At the beginning of the summer, T.J. says he started dropping hints that he was conflicted about his future. Thinly veiled references to quitting the football team caught the attention of Darcee's father, Ron, who almost immediately sat T.J down for a discussion.

"I talked to her dad, and he said (Darcee) would feel bad if I gave up something I'd worked my whole life for just because of her," T.J. says "That was like the first day of summer that we had that talk. I think at that point I just got it in my mind that there just wasn't anything that was going to stop me from then on."

That summer, T.J. says, he worked harder than he ever had before. He ran the stairs at the high school stadium every day. He recruited Darcee's brother Darin to play catch with him for hours.

"I had Darin out there throwing me balls and he can't even throw a football," he says. In the fall, he came back to

Grizzly two-a-days buried on the depth chart. But his sharpness of mind, improved work ethic and superb conditioning impressed coaches. He moved up quickly.

Oelkers reaches for a deep ball in practice.

Mike Cohea/GDK

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# Around the Sky:

### Ian Costello GameDay Kaimin

For the first time in recent memory, the Montana State Bobcats are on top of the Big Sky Conference. With wins over Weber State and Eastern Washington, the 'Cats have already doubled their conference win total from the last few years.

But, really, this is classic Bobcat behavior. Outside of last year when the 'cats put forth a winless campaign, Montana State has a history of ruining conference championship hopes for opponents when they have none of their own. Ask Cal. State Northridge from two years ago, ask the University of Idaho twice in the early 1990s. Ask Portland State, who almost fell to the Montana State jinx last season. And if you need any more proof, ask Eastern Washington now

But could the Bobcats have legitimate conference championship hopes?

Well, the Bobcats are 2-0 in the Big Sky and, according to the pre-season polls, have already gotten past the No. 1 contender. The schedule leans in their favor. Outside of a Nov. 17 meeting with the Grizzlies, they play only one more Big Sky team with a winning conference record.

The stats may be in their favor as well. Led by return specialist Junior Adams, the 'cats are first in the nation in punt return yardage, first in the conference in pass defense efficiency, kick off coverage, and sacks and second in the conference in total defense.

And don't forget the players. Adams was selected as special teamer of the week in the Big Sky last week for his 84-yard punt return for a touchdown and totaled 116 yards returning which helped Montana State to the upset. Adams has returned three punts for scores this season. On the other side of the ball sits Ryan Johnson, who has averaged just a shade over 126 yards rushing per game, good enough for fifth in the conference.

If the 'Cats are to put together a decent season, they has to start this weekend against Sacramento State. The Hornets head to Bozeman Saturday looking to right the ship after a 42-7 loss to Montana last weekend. A good conference win streak by the kitties would at least put a little bit of excitement in their game with the Griz later this season.

GDK Prediction: 27-24 Sac State.

## Portland State at Idaho

State Every time GDK sits down to research the Portland State Vikings, all we seem to find is Jimmy Blanchard this and Jimmy Blanchard that. Unfortunately for the Vikings, Jimmy Blanchard be gone as in graduated, vamosse, outta here. The only thing this year's Portland State team can attribute to Jimmy Blanchard is their hanging around in the national top 25. And that will be gone soon too.

Blanchard was a great quarterback, but even his memory won't save the Vikings from the downward spiral they have been in since they played Montana last season.

Trying to rebound from their 23-20 loss to Southwest Texas State last weekend, the Vikings head to hapless Idaho State Saturday night.

The Idaho State Bengals have alternated wins and losses this year, beating Montana Tech, losing to Sacramento State, beating MSU-Northern and losing to Northern Arizona. GDK Prediction: 35-6, Portland State in a breeze.

WHAT'S THIS? THE 'CATS AT THE TOP OF THE CONFERENCE? BELIEVE IT, JACK.

### Northern Arizona vs. Weber State

Sad to say, it is tough to find a reason for GDK to care about this game. At 4-1 Northern Arizona could be one of the sleeper teams in the conference but, frankly, a game with the 1-4 Wildcats isn't much of a match up.

Northern Arizona signal caller Preston Parsons was named the conference offensive player of the week last week for 25 of 33 for 299 yards passing and three touchdown performance against Idaho State. At one point in the game, Parsons completed 11 straight passes.

One more interesting note: With Shegun Cummings-John, Brian Lonestar-Bingham and Robert Anderson-Drake, Northern Arizona leads the Big Sky Conference in players with hyphenated last names. Eastern Washington and Portland State tie for second in that category with one each. Weber State has none.

GDK Prediction: 26-7 NAU.

### Eastern Washington vs. Simon Fraser

Outside of the UM Grizzlies, the Eagles are the only Big Sky team to not play a conference opponent this week. Eastern hosts 2-2 Simon Fraser at Woodward Field on Saturday night.

After two straight losses in the conference, Eastern Washington could use a break from Big Sky opponents.

Sadly, even a win against a Canadian team can't remove the bad taste still lingering from the Eagles loss to Montana State last week.

GDK Prediction: 24-20, Simon Fraser.













## **Etu Molden** Wide receiver

6-2, 190 senior from Sacramento, Calif.

Two weeks ago: Etu saves the game for Montana in overtime vs. Eastern Washington. Last week: In his hometown, he went off, grabbing seven catches for 149 yards and two touchdowns against Sac State. This week: For home-coming GDK expects similar fireworks. The St. Mary's defense will likely toss everything in the play book at Etu but it won't matter. Molden is shaping-up nicely as the Griz's new go-to reciever. It's not a question of whether the heroic will hapoen, but when. will happen, but when

## Defense



## **Matt Steinau** Linebacker

6-1, 220 senior from El Torro, Calif.

More of a "stay at home" linebacker, Steinau will be a big brick wall for the St. Mary's offense. Against Eastern Washington a few weeks ago, Steinau tallied 12 tackles, leading the team with fellow defensive affciando, Vinnie Huntsberger. Impenetrable really. Impossible to scare, you might say. Anyway you want to put it, this kid is gonna frighten the tar out of those Gaels. Watch one of them fools make a feeble attempt to break through the lines, 2nd in the nation for rushing or not. You try to break through the line, he break your head

## NUMERICAL DOOTER

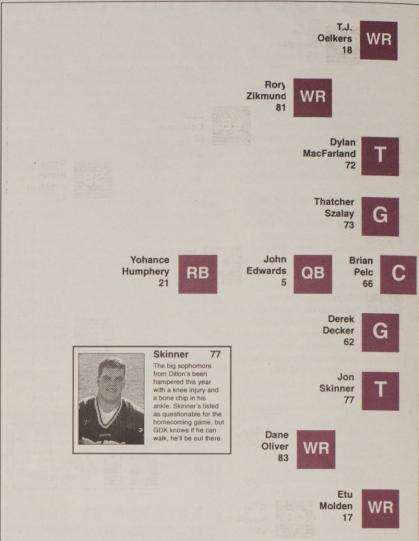
1	Levander Segars	Colorado Springs, Co.	СВ	5-9
1	Jonathon Talmage	Anaheim, Calif.		5-9
3	Trey Young	San Diego, Calif.		6-0
4	Dave DeCoite	Truckee, Calif.		6-1
5	John Edwards	Billings, Mont.		6-1
6	Andy Thompson	Walla Walla, Wash.		6-3
7	Brett Staninger	Missoula, Mont.	QB (	6-3
8	Jefferson Heidelberger	Sacramento, Calif.	WR :	5-9
9	Kendall Selle	Billings, Mont.	QB	6-3
10	David Gober	Anaheim, Calif.	RB !	5-9
11	Vernon Smith	San Diego, Calif.		6-1
12	Brent Meyers	Missoula, Mont.		6-0
13	Calvin Coleman	Niceville, Fla.		5-10
14	Demetrious Williams	Carson, Calif.		5-11
16	Brandon Neill	Great Falls, Mont.		6-3
17 18	Etu Molden	Sacramento, Calif.		6-2
21	T.J. Oelkers Yohance Humphery	Helena, Mont. Eagle River, Alaska		5-8 5-10
23	Kevin Edwards	Spokane, Wash.		6-2
25	Kyle Scholle	Parker, Co.		6-0
26	Brandon Grant	Los Angeles, Calif.		6-0
27	Johnnie Peeples	Anaheim, Calif.		5-9
28	Tyler Peterson	Helena, Mont.		5-10
29	Chris Snyder	Spokane, Wash.		6-0
30	Tate Hancock	Salina, Kan.		5-10
31	Tyler Thomas	Dillon, Mont.		6-0
32	Branden Malcom	Santa Ana, Calif.		5-10
33	Joel Rosenberg	Whitefish, Mont.	CB s	5-10
34	Brad Weston	Hamilton, Mont.	TE (	6-1
35	Tim Crabtree	Denton, Mont.		5-10
36	Ryan Keltz	Missoula, Mont.		5-10
37	Ciche Pitcher	Anaconda, Mont.		6-4
38	Pete Hamill	Couer D'Alene, Idaho		5-11
39	Mike Mahoney	Deer Lodge, Mont.		5-10
40 41	Ike Mincy Matt Steineu	Wewahitchka, Fla.		6-2
41	Matt Steinau Blake Horgan	El Torro, Calif.		6-1
42	Spencer Frederick	Spokane, Wash. Scobey, Mont.		6-3
43	John Fitzgerald	Columbus, Mont.		6-3 6-2
47	Vince Huntsberger	Libby, Mont.		5-11
48	Dan Orizotti	Butte, Mont.		5-11
49	Ross Richardson	Butte, Mont.		5-11
50	Adam Hoge	Bozeman, Mont.		5-11
51	Kyler Noel	Helena, Mont.		6-1
52	Colt Palmer	Omaha, Neb.		6-1
53	Joel Robinson	Kalispell, Mont.		5-11
54	Chris Connors	Butte, Mont.		6-2
55	Jonny Varona	Medical Lake, Wash.		6-3
56	Dan DeCoite	Truckee, Calif.		6-1
57	Shane MacIntyre	Helena, Mont.		6-3
59	James White	Juneau, Alaska		6-1
<b>62</b> 63	Derek Decker	Ballantine, Mont.		6-5
64	Jory Barefield Dylan Brown	Missoula, Mont.		6-2
65	Garth Enger	Miles City, Mont. Bothell, Wash.		6-4
66	Brian Pelc	Helena, Mont.		6-4 6-4
67	Jake Pipinich	Bozeman, Mont.		6-5
68	Jason Frink	Post Falls, Idaho		6-4
70	Kevin Reese	Hayden Lake, Idaho		6-4
72	Dylan McFarland	Kalispell, Mont.		5-6
73	Thatcher Szalay	Whitefish, Mont.		6-5
74	Beau Hart	Lake Oswego, Ore.		6-6
77	Jon Skinner	Dillon, Mont.	07	6-7
78	Drew MacQueen	Pottersville, NJ	OT 6	6-4
80	Brock Sunderland	Great Falls, Mont.		5-8
81	Rory Zikmund	Harlowton, Mont.		5-10
82	Mark Spencer	Fallbrook, Calif.		6-5
83	Dane Oliver	Monmouth, Ore.		5-9
84	Connor Molloy	Helena, Mont.		6-5
85	Randyn Akiona	Waipahu, Hawaii		6-0
86	LaShawn George Kevin McCutcheon	Anaheim Hills, Calif.		6-2
87		Helena, Mont.		5-11
88	Jeff Renevier Ja'Ton Simpson	Orange, Calif. Bellflower, Calif		5-10
89 90	Curt Colter	Bellflower, Calif.		6-5
90 91	Tim Bush	Hysham, Mont.		6-2
93	Chris Orwig	Kellogg, Idaho Prairie Village, Kan.		6-3 6-4
93	John Cahill	Billings, Mont.		6-2
95	Herbert Fernandez	San Diego, Calif.		6-4
98	Jason Francis	Spokane, Wash.		6-2
99	Alan Saenz	Newport Beach, Calif.		6-2

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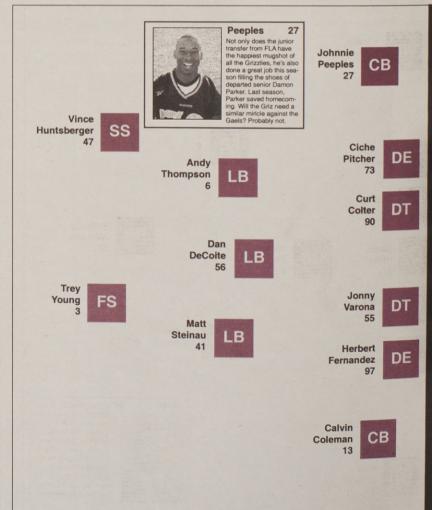
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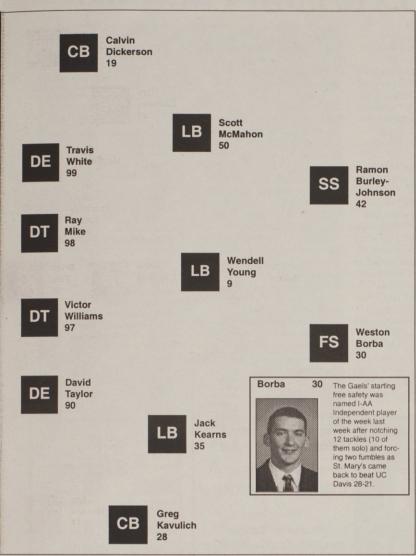
# **GRIZ OFFENSE VS.**



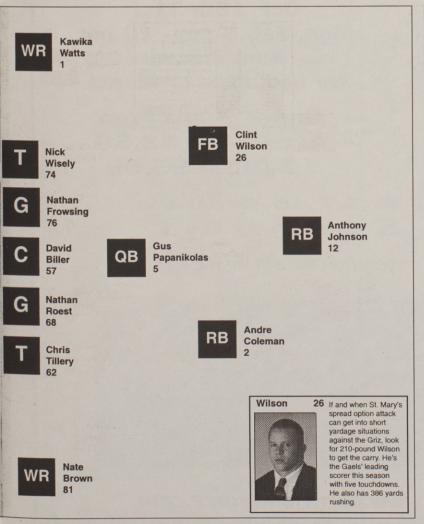
# FENSE VS. Z DE



# St. Mary's Defense



# St. Mary's Offense



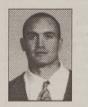
5 Montana vs. St. Marv's

St. Mary's 2001 Record 3-2 2000 Record 6-5



SAINT MARY'S CIRLEGE

## Offense



Defense



4 5 6

27 28

42

43 44

Kawika Watts Andre Coleman Lorenzo King Chris Klingerman Gus Papanikolas Brad Scheppler Devin Lorier Chris Tucker Wendell Young Chris Kobe Anthony Johnson Ryan Sauter Garret Vanneman Ben Antongiovanni Steve Wackowski Chris Harrel Terrance Hudson Calvin Dickerson Jarritt Jones Calvin Dickerson Jarritt Jones Ian Douglas Leonard Harmon Reed Mokler Tony Mendoza Steve Petruzzi Clint Wilson Da'Sean Spencer Greg Kavulich Raul Vasquez Greg Kavulich Raul Vasquez Weston Borba Dax Harris Joe Gonzales Myron Chivis Jack Kearns Grant Newman Scott Smiley Ezequiel Arevalo Hyan Guidi Heath Villarreal Hunter Sill Ramon Burley Hunter Sill Ramon Burley-John Brian Ferraiuolo Eric Billeci Sean Sheridan Tyson McGuire Bryan Vargas Jesse Charles Demitri Taylor Scott McMahon Kris Szalonek Scott McMahon Kris Szalonek Jaime Villanueva Chris Hamlin Michael Jennaro Matt Gelderman David Biller Travis Burkett James Fabian Chris Tillery Scott Kearsley Harrison Phillips Bocky Lucero Harrison Phillips Rocky Lucero Nathan Roest Chris Jacobs Mike Sotelo Alex Bribeaux Nick Wisely Nathan Frowsing Andrew Espino Torin Simpson David Chidester Nate Brown David Chideste Nate Brown Patrick Ryan Paul Reynaud James Blades Michael Forry Larry Irving Cliff LaBoyJr. David Tavlor David Taylor Robert Gamble Jean-Pierre Jodoin Victor Williams Ray Mike Travis White

Long Beach, Calif. Compton, Calif. Oakland, Calif. Redmond, Wash. Salt Lake City, Utah Redwood City, Calif. Westlake Village, Calif. Westlake Village, C El Sobrante, Calif. Inglewood, Calif. Valencia, Calif. Valencia, Calif. Claremont, Calif. Bakersfield, Calif. Bakersfield, Calif. Hilmar, Calif. Sacramento, Calif. Vista, Calif. Crescenta, Calif. Madera, Calif. San Jose, Calif. Lompoc, Calif. Covina, Calif. Pullman, Wash. San Francisco, Calif. Concord, Calif. Santa Rosa, Calif. Reedley, Calif. Satianas, Calif. Larkspur, Calif. Salinas, Calif. Larkspur, Calif. **Monrovia, Calif.** Atwater, Calif. Fairfield, Calif. **Bakersfield, Calif.** Pomona, Calif. San Pedro, Calif.

**Gus Papanikolas** 

### Quarterback 6-1, 195, senior from Salt Lake City, UT

Papanikolas has been instrumental to the Gaels as they have eased into coach Tim Lands' spread option attack over these past two seasons. The speedy quarterback has amassed 4,045 all-purpose yards during his career, good enough for thrid all-time in St. Mary's record book. Papnikolas and back Andre Coleman and Clint Wilson split the carries nearly exactly in thirds, so the Griz defense will have to key on all three to ensure Montana's fifth victory of the season.

## **Travis White**

Defensive End 5-6 250 senior from San Pedro Calif

We admit, the GDK scout team ain't what it once was and we haven't seen the kid in person, so we'll have to take www.SMCgaels.com at its word when it says White is only 5-6. He's also Lindy's Magazine's I-AA Independent pre-seaon player of the year and so far is living up to the hype,leading the Gaels in sacks with 6-5. He also has 9 tackles for loss, which could make things scary if the Griz can't keep him out of the back-field. Let's make no mistake, it would be a disaster for Montana to over-look White. Get it? Overlook? Because he's short? Oh, nevermind.

WR

RB

RB

WR QB

K/P DB DB LB QB RB QB K LB

## NUMERICAL ROSTER

Bakersfield, Calif. Anchorage, AK Los Angeles, Calif. Oakland, Calif. Inglewood Calif. San Francisco, Calif. San Francisco, Calif. Fresno, Calif. Huntington Beach, Calif. Burlingame, Calif. Palm Springs, Calif. Thousand Oaks, Calif. Concord, Calif. Thousand Oaks, Calif. Concord, Calif. West Hills, Calif. Earlimart, Calif. Chowchilla, Calif. Dixon, Calif. Highlands, Calif. Novato, Calif. Ventura, Calif. La Mesa, Calif. Compton, Calif. La Jolla, Calif. Bakersfield, Calif. Bakersfield, Calif. Sant Arosa, Calif. Compton, Calif. Lors Angeles, Calif. Dixthore, Calif. El Dorado Hills, Calif. Hayward, Calif. Concord, Calif. San Luis Obispo, Calif. San Luis Obispo, Calif. Concord, Calif. San Luis Obispo, Calif. Concord, Calif. San Luis Obispo, Calif. Concord, Calif. Downey, Calif. Burbanck, Calif. Downey, Calif.

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## No. 3 Furman Paladins Scouting Report:

### **Bryan Haines** GameDay Kaimin

Glancing at the Top 25 this eek, GameDay Kaimin noticed that the Grizzlies had a team hot on their heels. The Furman Paladins currently sit at number three, only 20 points behind Montana.

This brought up the question: What in the hell is a Paladin?

Well a Paladin, after looking in the dictionary, is not a pen-guin like one GDK member guessed, but a knight crested on top of a horse, a defender of good. A heroic mascot indeed, and definitely more frightening then a penguin.

Everything you need to know about Furman football begins and ends with All-America run-ning back Louis Ivory.

The reigning Walter Payton award winner, the "Ivory Tower" as he has become known to fans in Greenville, S.C., is a yardage machine.

Last season, while on his way to winning Division I-AA's player of the year award, Ivory averaged an unbelievable 7.1 yards per carry while rumbling for 2,079 yards and 18 touchdowns on 319 carries. Five times Ivory rushed for more than two hundred yards, including 301 yards and three touchdowns in a 42-10 dismantling of Georgia Southern. With stats like those, it is easy to see why we here at GDK think Ivory is the best running back in the nation not named Yohance

Humphery. This season, teams have done all they can to hold the running back in check, and to date, Ivory has not had a breakout game. Ivory still has amassed 583 yards and seven touchdowns in five games, but he has yet to display the gamebreaking abilities that make defenders lose sleep and coaches lose jobs

When the Paladins go to the air, and with a back like Ivory

that isn't often, junior Billy Napier has held his own. Napier has completed more than 61 percent of his passes, throwing for 704 yards and four touchdowns. During Furman's win over No. 6 Appalachian State last weekend, it was Napier who lead the Paladins to the win, not Ivory. With Appalachian State's

performance proving that Ivory really is human by holding him to only 40 yards on 18 carries, Napier threw two second-half touchdowns of 39 and 30 yards, lifting Furman to a 28-20 win.

Little-used receiver Isaac Hayes had been invisible before last week's game as well, catch-ing six passes for 68 yards. Hayes woke up after half-time though, catching both touch-down passes and finishing with six grabs for 120 yards.

The Paladins corps of receivers, like Hayes, has not seen a lot of action, making 50 catches for 767 yards and five touchdowns. Montana's pass

catching crew, meanwhile, has almost doubled that with 95 receptions for 1,203 yards and six touchdowns

Defensively, the Paladins have been stingy, giving up only 13.8 points a game. After giving up 20 points in a season-opening loss to Division-I Wyoming, the Paladins kept opponents below 14 points in their next three outings before allowing the Mountaineers to score 22 last week.

Heading the group is All-America Will Bouton, last year's Southern Conference Defensive player of the year. Bouton leads the Paladins with 41 tackles, including five for losses. The Paladins don't put much pres sure on the quarterback though, getting only 12 sacks.

Furman has made 10 consecutive appearances in the I-AA playoffs, and barring a complete collapse, the streak will not stop this season.

## DIVISION I-AA POLL

HUNTINGDON VALLEY, Pa. — The top 25 teams in the Sports Network Division I-AA football poll, with first-place votes in paren-theses, records through Oct. 7, and last week's replice.

week's ranking:		
	Rec	Last
1. Georgia Southern	5-0	1
2. Montana	4-1	2
3. Furman	4-1	3
4. Rhode Island	5-0	7
5. Youngstown State	4-1	9
6. Lehigh	4-0	8
7. Grambling State	4-0	10
8. Appalachian State	3-2	5
9. Hofstra	4-1	12
10. Eastern Illinois	3-1	6
11. Western Kentucky	3-2	11
12. Villanova	4-0	13
13. McNeese State	3-2	-4
14. Western Illinois	3-1	14
15. Northern Iowa	4-1	18
16. Florida A&M	4-1	17
17. S.W. Texas State	4-1	19
18. Tennessee State	4-0	22
19. Sam Houston State	4-1	25
20. Northwestern State	3-2	15
21. Jacksonville State	4-0	NR
22. Northern Arizona	4-1	NR
23. Stephen F. Austin	3-2	NR
24. Pennsylvania	3-0	NR
25 William & Mary	3-2	NR



## \$1 OFF W/ GRIZ CARD

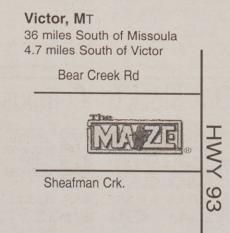
**Oct 18th-31st** Mon.-Sat. 6 pm - 10 pm Sun. Closed No Costumes or Masks

**Under 3 are Free** Ages 3-11 \$3.50 12-Older \$5.50

**Closed Oct** 15,16, & **17** to prepare Field of Screams

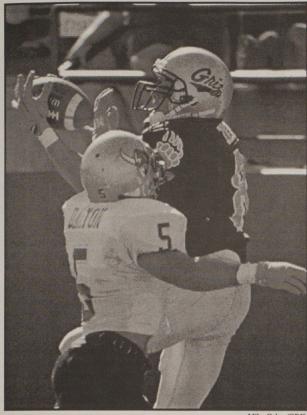
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Dutch Hill Rd

# Gaels gust into UM with robust running game



### **Carl Hennell** GameDay Kaimin

Consider Saturday's game against Saint Mary's College a precursor to the matchup the sec ond-ranked Grizzlies could face in the post season if they meet the top-ranked Georgia Southern Bulldog

The Gaels (3-2) are sailing into Missoula with the nation's second-ranked rushing attack, behind only GSU's Adrian Peterson and the Eagles with more than 323 yards rushing per game using the same spread option offense as GSU.

Led by sophomore running back Andre Coleman, who ranks No. 21 in the nation with 549 yards in five games and averages almost seven yards per carry, the depth of the Gaels rushing attack is staggering.

'It's going to be a different style of play than we're used to in the Big Sky Conference," said Griz coach Joe Glenn.

Behind the 5-foot-7-inch, 175pound Coleman, freshman full-back Clint Wilson (6-0, 215), senior quarterback Gus

Papanikolas (6-1, 190) and back up quarterback Chris Kobe have totaled more than 900 yards rushing. The Gaels have scored 17 rushing touchdowns and SMC coach Tim Landis mixes it up so much that even defensive end Travis White has scored.

Of the top nine SMC rushers, only Papanikolas has an average of less than five yards per carry and two players average more than seven yards a pop.

"We're going to have our hands full trying to contain these guys,' Glenn said. "Coleman has explosive speed with agility and has the ability to break tackles and Papanikolas knows how to handle the ball and poses just as big of a threat.

In the trenches, the Griz' defensive front matches up well against the Gaels' offensive line. But the Gaels incorporate blocking schemes that will challenge Griz defensive coordinator Mike Breske

"They're going to come at us low chop blocking," said Glenn. "We're not used to seeing that. We're going to have to keep our feet and stay with each man.

Defensively, SMC has been consistently inconsistent regard-ing the schemes it runs.

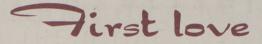
"Tim Landis is a crafty guy," Glenn said. "They've matched up against a pro-set offense similar to our style 12 times and have run 11 different schemes. It's tough to plan against something when you don't know what's com ing.

Led by free safety Weston Borba (6-3, 195), the Gaels are flying high after a come-from-behind victory last week against University of California-Davis

Trailing 21-0 at halftime to the Division II powerhouse, the Gaels roared back scoring 28 unanswered points. The defense forced three fumbles and blocked a punt, all in the fourth quarter, to whisk the victory away. Borba had 12 tackles, forced two fumbles and recovered another to earn the I-AA Independent Defensive Player of the Week.

"Anytime you're down by that much and come back, your team shows a lot of character," Glenn said





"EVERYBODY HANDLES SOMEBODY THAT THEY LOVE DYING DIFFERENTLY. PROBABLY TOOK IT WORSE THAN SOME PEOPLE DO."

#### CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

He won a job as holder on field goals and extra points. Later he started returning punts and eventually got a chance to play wide receiver. Where once he thought of quitting, he accepted the opportunity to play with a zeal that awed even veteran coaches.

T.J. stayed on where some players who got scholarships from UM walked away. By his third year, he'd won his own scholarship.

Now a starter on a team that boasts the best I-AA receiving corps in the nation, T.J. says he's regained his faith in life. He still carries Darcee with him and he says her memory now comforts him.

"It's hard, even to this day," he says. "I mean I still have days when I wake up and want to stay in bed all day and feel sorry for myself. But time heals wounds too.

At some point — perhaps a half hour after he started talking about Darcee - you realize that this is the T.J. Oelkers you

We're listening.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Montana Kaimin, the student newspaper of the University of Montana. It's stu-

dents writing about students. Don't be fooled by imposters. If you have a sug-

gestion or would just like to drop us a line, we'd appreciate it. Call 243-4310.

Game Day Kaimin is a free football program put together by the staff of the

tracked on amusing anecdotes. His attention never ebbs. Your tape runs out, you flip it. He keeps going. You just try to keep up. When he's finished, the con-versation ends naturally. You

expected all along. He is laugh-

ing, talking fast, getting side-

know the flatness of the original interview was your fault, not T.J.'s. The small talk you tried to make about Big Sky Conference football seems just that, small.

As an afterthought you ask him why he wanted to tell you these personal details about his life

"I love to talk about her," he says. "It just makes me smile, even now. I don't know, maybe I thought it would be therapeutic.

You shake hands with T.J. Oelkers. You thank him and mean it. You go back to the office, rip the prepared ques tions out of your notebook and throw them away.

-Chad Dundas

Oelkers makes a grab

CATAL Mike Cohea/GDK



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