LAW & ORDER

Spend a weekend with the men you love to hate

Page 2

MONTANA VS. Portland State
All right, judge Tony Stoddard loves to hear the boos.

A little more than 11 minutes remain in the fourth quarter and after keeping the ball on the ground to run out the clock, Montana is forced to punt the ball back to St. Mary’s. At this point, Montana is up 49-12 and the game is all but in the books.

As Gael’s punt returner Weston Borba settles under the ball near his own end zone, he looks up and sees Levander Segers charging down on him. Borba lifts his hand, haphazardly signaling a fair catch, but Segers doesn’t bother slowing down. As soon as Borba catches the ball, Segers unleads on him, drawing cheers from the masses at Washington-Grizzly Stadium.

Segers’ hit also draws a yellow flag from Stoddard. Borba handles the yellow flag from Stoddard. Borba lifts his hand, haphazardly signaling a fair catch, but Segers doesn’t bother slowing down. As soon as Borba catches the ball, Segers unleads on him, drawing cheers from the masses at Washington-Grizzly Stadium.

Stoddard adjusts the clip-on-microphone he’ll use to communicate with the guys,” Stoddard said. “I wouldn’t be doing this if I didn’t enjoy it. It’s fun.”

Kay Willette says. “We are constantly watching film, going to clinics, working in the off-season and trying to become members, refs quickly find that they have been hired into one of the most scrutinized professions in the United States. Being an official or referee is a thankless job. It is one of the only careers in America where, instead of hearing complaints from one or two customers at a time, 20,000 or so bombard you at once.

“Definitely the comradery that only the coach has solid control of playing time, the job of the coach is going to spend the next day reviewing the film highlighting the plays and discussing the actions by the officials.

“The crowd is a non-play­" ever,” Willette said. “There could be a guy who will sit at the top spot of the bleachers and say you missed a spot by six inches and then go out in the parking lot and not be able to find his car.”

Big Sky Conference referees watch tape on Friday and study up on Saturday mornings, then strive for perfection on the field. A little more than 11 minutes remain in the fourth quarter and after keeping the ball on the ground to run out the clock, Montana is forced to punt the ball back to St. Mary’s. At this point, Montana is up 49-12 and the game is all but in the books.

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Of course, the officials can’t change the outcome of the game after the fact. The only thing they can do is admit their mistake and try to learn from it.

Each week, the games provided by Toole, there is a collective effort to minimize the number of mis­takes.

“There are not a lot of jobs out there where after you get done working your boss is going to spend the next three days looking at film of you,” Willette says.

Leg work

It’s now a.m., three hours before kick-off, on a bright and sunny Saturday morning, and Washington-Grizzly Stadium is bare. Underneath the stadium, far down the tunnels that zig­zag underground, officials are already prepping for kick­off.

Field judge Kevin Kiser, in his first year as a Big Sky official, sits on a stool read­ing his rule book while Willette adjourns to a co-microphone he’ll use to broadcast penalties to the crowd.

Along with the tape is a play-by­play record of certain plays marked by Doug Toole, head of Big Sky football offi­cials, that were either missed, questionable or good calls.

Besides the weekend game, Toole also conducts a monthly training film highlighting critical situations from the past month’s games. Among the calls on this week’s tape is a certain missed fumble call made during overtime of the Eastern Washington-Montana game.

Upon further review, the conference has ruled Yohance Humphrey did fumble the ball, and the Eagles should have left Missoula with a win, not a loss. Replays clearly showed the ball came out of Humphrey’s hands before he hit the ground, but at full speed, it was almost impos­sible to tell. Because of an error in human judgement, Eastern lost something it should have won.

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Vikings hope passing attack can pillage Montana

Eli Hornell
GameDay Kaarin

First, it was the nation's No. 2-ranked offense of Eastern Washington that took the Grizzlies to double overtime. Now, it's Portland State's fourth-ranked passing attack's turn to try its luck.

Led by junior quarterback Juston Wood, who ranks fourth in the nation in individual offensive yards per game, the Vikings (3-3, 2-1) are looking to end a Big Sky Conference record the same way it began. Seventeen conference games ago, in 1999, PSU beat the Grizzlies. It was the last time a conference foe caged the Griz.

Although the Vikings boast a powerful offense, their three losses — by a combined total of 10 points — have been attributed to a trend of starting games slowly.

"It usually takes a team with a bunch of transfers half of a season to gel," said Griz coach Joe Glenn, who is 19-3 in two years as the Griz skipper. "I don't know how good they are yet. I'm faked out on them. I'm real concerned."

Glenn's concern is well-founded. The Vikings are running on all cylinders with an assortment of injuries. "The guy is playing great," said Glenn of the back who is averaging 7.9 yards per carry. "The thing that impresses me is how fast he bursts to the corner and then he's gone."

On the other side of the running game is Yahance Humphrey, running back for the conference's second-to-last rush defense. He rushed for 194 yards against them last year. This year, Humphrey ranks 13th in the nation with more than 130 yards rushing per game. With 114 yards this season, he needs 363 yards in five games to oust last year's performance from first place for the Griz single-season rushing record.

"There is no doubt that Yo Humphrey is the key to the game," said PSU coach Tim Walsh. "If he can run and keep it out of our offense's hands we are in trouble. Unfortunately, Humphrey is running behind an offensive line with an assortment of injuries. "I guess every team is a little banged up at this point in the season," said Glenn.

"But the one place we couldn't afford to get dinged up was the offensive line. We are beat up and paper thin," Walsh said of plush on the outside. "We're improving in the defensive trenches. Six of our seven sacks against the 'best offensive line in the conference' came from our front four. Hopefully, defensive end Herb (Fernandez) can get his stance elongated as a pass rush specialist. It's going to take a lot of fresh guys in there because I have a feeling we are going to see about 50 balls going up in the air."

Although PSU's strength is its passing game, it has found a new weapon on the ground in a 5-foot-11, 196-pound freshman. Running back Ryan Fuqua saw his first action three weeks ago and ran for 112 yards in the second half. In his first career start last week, he rushed 28 times for 298 yards and three touchdowns.

"He's got good speed," said Glenn of the back who is averaging 9.6 yards per carry. "This is going to be a real litmus test for us," said Glenn. "Everybody's banged up a little. I'm just glad we are on the field."

Reserve running back Pete Hamill breaks the tackle of St. Mary's linebacker Wendell Young. Hamill rushed for 17 yards in relief of starter Yo Humphrey.

"(UM's) tradition wins them games, and their field may be the only Big Sky venue that wins games for the home team," said Walsh, of the 56,838 fans that have crowded Washington-Grizzly Stadium this year in three games. "The Griz have won five of the last six meetings with the Vikings and lead the series 18-10. "This is going to be a real litmus test for us," said Glenn. "Everybody's banged up a little. I'm just glad we are on the field."

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Thatcher Szalay
Offensive guard
6-5, 295 senior from Whitefish, Mont.

Big Thatch got pretty hot under the collar when the tough talking Lombardos started running their mouths about being the "best D-Line in the conference."

Rightly so, we think. There's no question that the technique for the Griz to do the best job in the Big Sky clearing the way for the rush. This week should be no different. If the line can get out and hit somebody in the mouth, look for big yards from Yo Humphrey. And we don't care what the other paper has to say about "bullet board material." We're with Thatcher on this one.
The Griz need to keep overtime. Of course we Charles in check. defense back in '99 on pole that lit up our ineffective all game. year and then being him by Trey Young last that NAU game, tied for the team lead one of PSU's pick neutralized. But with the Griz line ups from John Muir High School. Weird, eh? Muir, of course, was America's most famous and influential naturalist and conservationist. GOK is sure he'd be proud to know his high school has a hell of a team.

As the leading tackler on PSU's somewhat off-brand defense, Marcus Green has got to carry a lot of weight for the Vikings. Green is currently sixth in conference in tackles with 59, averaging just under 10 tackles per game. Oddly, he's also one of four players of PSU's two-deep depth chart from Pasadena, Calif. Not only that, but all of these players also graduated from John Muir High School. Weird, eh? Most of course, was America's most famous and influential naturalist and conservationist. GOK is sure he'd be proud to know his high school has a hell of a team.

RB 2
Terry Charles
Juston Wood
QB 61
Riley Hayes
QB 15
Micheal Jackson-Sattler

WR 7
Terry Charles

TE 87
Tim Hester

LB 59
Devan Kelley

LB 2
Marcus Green

DT 75
Brad Ransom

DT 58
Adie Davtyan

CB 51
Kevin Hastin

CB 52
Benjamin Tucker

SS 26
Benjamin Tucker

FS 14
Tanner Cole

DE 95
Stefon Kleinert

DE 75
Ron Granderson

DE 74
Meaali Gutu

DL 61
Rondey Hayes

DL 59
Micah Jackson-Sattler

80
Antonion Jackson

Jr 92
Matt Jenkins

Jr 58
Jesse Ortmeier

Jr 52
Marcus Green

74
G

60

12

10

15

14

13

12

11

10

9

8

7

6

5

4

3

2

1

2001 Record 3-3, 2-1 Big Sky
2000 Record 6-4, 5-3 Big Sky

Portland State
Time running out, Idaho State boasts the best total defense in the league, allowing only 334.2 yards per game. That should keep the Weber State offense, ranked third in the league, in check.

Weber State tends to let opposing offense blow them out of the water, allowing a league-worst 522.1 yards per game, but Idaho State's offense has been sluggish all season, and is currently ranked fifth in the league.

So the kicker just might be the kickers. Garcia is leading the league in field goal percentage and WHU's Jason Zur has already scored 33 points this season.

Not to be outdone are the teams' punters. ISU punter Eddie Johnson leads the nation in punting yardage, averaging 46.9 yards per kick. Weber's Wyatt Kennah is averaging a solid 37.8.

In a battle that may feature a Big Sky record for punts in a game by one team (coincidentally the old record is held by Idaho State who punted 14 times in a game against Idaho in 1973) Idaho State and Garcia exact revenge for last season's late game heroics by the Weber State kicker.

GDK Prediction: 9-6

Montana State vs. Northern Arizona

It's put up or shut up time for the two teams meeting in Bozeman this weekend.

Montana State still seems to be looking for someone to believe in, even though they are 3-0 in the conference and tied for first place with Montana. Northern Arizona, after talking so much trash before getting beat by the Grizzlies last week, are still trying to figure out how, according to what they thought, the better team lost last week.

Northern Arizona, at 2-2 in the Big Sky, is in desperate need of a conference win to stay in shouting distance of the leaders. Montana State could go a long way to shutting-up doubters with a win over the 'Jacks on Saturday.

GDK Prediction: Northern Arizona talks too much about the Big Sky, is in desperate need of a conference win to stay in shouting distance of the leaders. Montana State proves again they are legitimate contenders. NAU keeps wondering how the better team got beat... again. 22-19, Montana State.

Cal State Northridge vs. Eastern Washington

Okay, so it's not a Big Sky Conference game. But Northridge was a conference member just a short time ago and they appear that they won't be playing football much longer. so GDK figures a little press was appropriate, for old times' sake at least.

Too bad for the Matadors that the only thing that can attract press to their 1-5 sea­son is the fact that they are going to visit Jesse Chatman. Chatman is again coming off going to visit Jesse Chatman.

GDK Prediction: 23-20, UC Davis Saturday afternoon looking to end their four-game losing streak. Sac. State can't seem to get a break, losing to Eastern Washington last week in overtime, and won't get one this week.

It's gonna be five in a row for the Hornets who lose another heartbreaker.

GDK Prediction: 29-20, UC Davis in overtime.

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Bud and Buiq Light 20pk $12.99
Red bull 3 for $5
180 Energy Drink 2 for $3

**WEEKEND SPECIALS**

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- Mike's Hard Lemonade 6pk $5.99
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The Division I-AA Top 25 poll can be a curious, cantankerous beast. At times it is as stodgy and literal as a seventh-grade science teacher. Other times, it seems as prone to ridiculous flights of fancy as a JV cheerleader.

Example: At this point in the season, it would take a near act of God to extricate Georgia Southern from the No. 1 spot, and deservedly so. Sorry, Montana fans, but right now the Eagles are unquestionably the best team in the One-Dub. The fact that they have a stranglehold on the top spot clearly comes from the right side of the Top 25's brain.

But look a little further down the list and you'll find some unexplainable inconsistencies. Take the case of No. 8 Lehigh Engineers and No. 12 Appalachian State.

Year after year the Engineers get to run up undefeated records in the powderpuff Patriot Conference against "teams" like Bucknell, Colgate and Holy Cross. They get respect and a decent seed in the playoffs. Then they get knocked off in the first couple of rounds.

Meanwhile, the ASU Mountaineers pay their dues by playing conference foes No. 3 Furman and the No. 1 Eagles. They get an undesirably high seed, go on the road and play conference foes (like last year) damn near unbeaten but should be able to get into the I-AA playoffs, where the ground-controlled running game will fit right in.

If they can continue to inch their way up the charts, perhaps the Rams will get the first round bye in the playoffs, aka, a game against the Lehigh Engineers.

Youngstown State Penguins 6-1 5
3. Furman Paladins (6) 6-1 3
4. Rhode Island Rams 7-0 4
5. Youngstown State Penguins 6-1 5
6. Grambling State Tigers 5-0 6
7. Hofstra Pride 6-1 8
8. Lehigh Engineers 5-0 7
9. Eastern Illinois Panthers 5-1 9
10. Western Kentucky Hilltoppers 5-2 10
11. Northern Iowa Panthers 6-1 14
12. Appalachian St. Mountaineers 4-3 13
13. Tennessee State Tigers 8-0 15

For coach-of-the-year honors, the "most impressive" team in the division is clearly the Rams.

Stowers installed a GSU-style, ground-and-pound spread offense at Rhode Island and senior backs David Jamison, Vince Nedimyer and Moses Tajong have capitalized. The Rams have rolled up 1,968 yards rushing, averaging just over 281 yards per game.

Jamison leads the rushers, collecting 213 carries, 1,065 yards and 12 touchdowns. Nedimyer and Tajong combined for 800 yards and 10 touchdowns.

From a 5-foot-10, 215-pound New Jersey native, last year became just the fifth back in URI history to rush for more than 1,000 yards.

To open the season, URI downed I-AA powers Georgia Southern and Hofstra and have since been on a roll of sorts. They have a knack for close games; six of their wins came by an average margin of 4.5 points.

The Rams have capitalized. The Rams have had some nailbiters. Rhody needed a come-from-behind effort to best William and Mary 34-31 on Oct. 9.

This week the Rams go to Virginia, to take on the Richmond Spiders and then for real or are they just darlings of the poll? Who knows.

Second-year head coach Tim Stowers, who came over from Georgia Southern by way of an assistant job at Temple, is an early favorite for coach-of-the-year honors. The SportsNetwork calls his turn around of the Rams the "most impressive in the division" and GDR is inclined to believe it.

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Order from Chaos

"WE ARE OUR OWN WORST CRITICS. WHEN WE WALK OFF THE FIELD, WE KNOW WE MISSED SOMETHING OR THAT WE WERE LUCKY TO BE IN THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME TO MAKE A CALL."

**Continued from page 2**

Meet with the head coaches before the game, St. Mary's coach Tim Landis talks about how the Gaels' option offense utilizes legal cut-blocking to open holes for his runners. Minutes earlier when Willette and Weight were talking to Glenn, like a typical head coach, Glenn stressed that the officials should watch closely for illegal cut-blocks.

"While they are looking at it from a biased standpoint, most of the time they have a valid point," Willette says.

Saturday's game goes relatively smoothly as Montana blows out to an early 35-0 lead midway through the second quarter.

In the locker room at halftime, with the Griz up 49-6, Willette is going over game management to make sure things do not get out of hand on the field.

"In a game like this, it is important to be on top of your game and make sure nothing happens in the first two series after halftime," Willette says. "Emotions will be running high on the field, and we don't want something to happen, say, a fight."

In the second half, Montana keeps the ball on the ground, happy to drain the clock and play reserves. The officials begin to blend into the field, and for a while go basically unnoticed. Heading into the fourth quarter, it looks like the crew will make it out of Missoula without being chewed out or ripped on too badly by the crowd.

But at the 11:02 of the fourth quarter, reality set back in. Following the boos from Stoddard's penalty, Willette marches off the 15 yards, sets the ball down and starts the 25-second play clock. The UM student section starts in on the obligatory "bull-shit" chant.

The outcome of the game isn't in question, and most in the crowd are deciding what post-game party to attend, but the seven men glad in black and white toil on. There are 11 minutes left, and they still have work to do.

Editor's Note:

Game Day Kaimin is a free football program put together by the staff of the Montana Kaimin, the student newspaper of the University of Montana. It's students writing about students. Don't be fooled by imposters. If you have a suggestion or would just like to drop us a line, we'd appreciate it. Call 243-4310. We're listening.

—Chad Dundas