12-8-2001

Game Day Kaimin, December 8, 2001

Associated Students of the University of Montana
The Kaimin is the daily student newspaper at the University of Montana

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Saturday December 8, 2001

GameDay

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“THATCHER SZALAY IS A BATTLER, WARRIOR AND WORKS HARD BECAUSE OF HIS LOVE OF FOOTBALL. HE HAS THE HEART, DESIRE, DETERMINATION. HE IS ONE OF THE BEST I HAVE EVER COACHED.”

JOE GLENN, GRIZZLY HEAD COACH

BY IAN COSTELLO

I t is not every day that a four-year letter winner in high school tennis is referred to as Paul Bunyan by a pair of football players. It’s not every day that an 8-year-old is sent out in the woods with a chainsaw. It’s not every day that a 295-pound offensive lineman outruns all position players in the 40-yard dash.

Then again, it’s not every day that you run into someone like Thatcher Szalay.

Szalay has been a starting member of the Montana offense since his sophomore year and now the 6-foot-5, 295-pound offensive lineman from Whitefish is considered to be the most legitimate Natalie Portman prospect playing for the Grizzlies.

As the Grizzlies march toward another trip to the National Championship game, here and now is the only thing Szalay wants to talk about.

“The main priority is the Grizzlies and winning the national title,” he says. It’s tough to talk to him about anything else.

“Everything in his life seems to be focused on football right now,” Montana head coach Joe Glenn says.

Thatcher Szalay has been focused for a long time. His first sport was tennis, a game popular with his parents David and Diane, and Szalay earned four letters playing tennis in high school, compared to the two he earned on the football field.

Szalay admits his father taught him how to play, but Szalay maintains tennis will be the game he’ll be playing in 20 years.

“I had a good time playing tennis,” Szalay says. “I’m not one of those guys out in the tennis clothes though. I’m usually the guy wearing jeans shorts and no shirt. I don’t have a lot of tennis etiquette.”

Glenn laughs about Szalay’s tennis career but says, “people who tease Thatcher about playing tennis usually don’t tease him for very long.”

Long before playing high school tennis, Thatcher was pushed to excel in life by two parents with incredibly hard work ethics. The son of a logger, Szalay was working with a chainsaw as young as eight, after he had been working with a machete for years.

“My mom is a fireball and very inspirational to me,” Szalay says. “My dad established my work ethic. He taught me there were three ways to dominate: Mentally, physically and emotionally.”

Diane Szalay has made it to every game of Thatcher’s college career and David has made it to all of his home games and the closer road trips. Both were in Chattanooga for last year’s National Championship game.

After lettering in tennis as a freshman and sophomore at Whitefish High School, Szalay’s getting to the quarterback physical stature and size led him to the football field where he lettered twice before coming to Missoula to play for the Grizzlies.

Standing by the tradition of the program, Szalay chose to come to the University of Montana after a single recruiting trip.

“Being born and raised in Montana, there is no other university I would rather play for,” Szalay says. “I took one trip to UM and knew that’s where I wanted to go.”

After seeing spotty action in the Big Sky Conference game in his first season, Szalay was a 1999 recipient of the Golden Helmet Award, annually given to the Grizzlies’ hardest hitter.

Szalay shared the award that year with linebacker Adam Boomer.

Szalay starts his game day waking up, thinking about offensive plays, then some sit ups, then a trip to the calendar where he scribbles “kill” every Saturday.

Szalay has taken it upon himself every week to destroy the bulletin board hung in the Grizzly locker room that contains all the opponent profiles for that week, before the Grizzlies hit the huddle.

“I want to make sure they aren’t in our locker room,” he says. “Or the tunnel.”

Szalay may be quiet, but his actions speak for themselves come Saturday. Coach Glenn will say Thatcher has a chance to compete at the next level. But Szalay won’t talk about that. All he wants is a return trip to the National Championship game, this time coming home with a win.

Szalay could care less about what might happen next year, or what might happen next month, all he can think about is the Griz and how he can make them a better football team.

“He has the heart, desire, determination,” Glenn said. “He is one of the best I have ever coached.”

Not bad for a 6-foot-5 tennis player from Whitefish who runs the 40 in under five seconds.
ON DECEMBER 12
OPEN AT 8AM
Downtown 10-8, Fri.-Sat.
8-8, Sun.
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Monday-Friday @ 7, Saturday @ 6

GameDay Kaimi

Montana vs. Sam Houston State

It's back and run around the end on a quarterback keeper. If the end works upfield, he'll go ahead and give it to the running back."

On defense, the Bearkats rank 32nd in the nation against the run, 30th in total defense and 39th in scoring defense. Led by their 2000 Southland defensive player of the year, free safety Keith Davis, SHSU boasts five three-year lettermen and four two-year lettermen.

"The Southland Conference, from what we're seeing, is a pack of speed," UM offensive line coach Chad Garner told the Missourian. "These guys are no exception."

With UM's pair of quarterback changes and new starters in the secondary, the Bearkats will bring a lot of pressure.

"We're going to see a lot more defense than we saw last week," Glenn said of SHSU's defense versus Northwestern State. "We need some big plays. They're going to come after us with pressure, so we've got to come after them with pressure. We've got to burn them deep."

Transfer QB McCown leads feisty Bearkats into Missoula

Carl Hennell

Evanston, Illinois - The University of Maine won its first game of the season for the first time in school history.

Maine upended McNeese State right in the heart of the country, 14-10.

The Black Bears will have to make a few adjustments on the road this weekend, however, against Missouri State.

"You Asked for it, you got it!"

"We're going to see a lot more defense than we saw last week," Glenn said of SHSU's defense versus Northwestern State's. "We need some big plays. They're going to come after us with pressure, so we've got to come after them with pressure. We've got to burn them deep."

Montana vs. Sam Houston State

GameDay Kaimi

Scouting Report:

Bryan Haines

GameDay Kaimi

When the powers that be at the NCAA offices announced that the playoffs would be regionalized, the University of Maine probably figured that they would be playing in the East, at least for one game.

Think again.

The Black Bears were sent out on the road, but nowhere close to the East Coast.

Instead, they got sent to the friendly confines of McNeese State right in the heart of the country.

It didn't matter though, as Maine upended McNeese 14-10 to advance into the quarterfinals for the first time in school history.

Maine's big play was a 66-yard touchdown pass with 36 seconds left in the game. The Black Bears will have to be prepared for this kind of yardage Saturday, the Black Bears will be leaving Cedar Falls empty-handed.

If Maine is to score a road upset in the first round, knocking off Eastern Illinois in a shootout, 49-43. It was only the second time the Panthers have won on the road in the playoffs.

The junior lost his starting role to freshman Tom Petrie at the start of the season, but has hauled in 83 passes for 1,362 yards and set a Southland Conference record with 17 TDs. He was 4 catches for 80 yards and six touchdowns. The quicker back, sophomore Willie Thomas, averages 5.4 yards per carry and has four TDs.

"We've got to (Bauls), kind of ride him up. If the defensive end is coming in after the running back, he'll pull out and I wanted to win, so I had to make the move," McCown said. "I'm so excited just to be part of this, because we are actually talking about winning and it's not just blowing smoke."

McCown completed 229-of-379 passes for 3,137 yards, 30 touchdowns with just eight interceptions. He also scrambled for 341 yards, adding five touchdowns.

"He's the best receiver we'll see this year and we've seen some good ones," Glenn said of Gonzalez. "That's what we're up against. The pre-season strongest competitors.

"I just hope we can hold him down, knock him from getting vertical on us and have a career day."

McCown's second favorite target is a senior tight end Keith Davis, they were both part of their school's championship basketball and football team.

Senior Matt Buss is the receiver who caught last week's 56-yarder with around 30 seconds left. He finished that game as the Black Bears' leading receiver with 129 yards. Buss is also a threat as the holder for field goals.

"I love Matt," McCown said of the receiver who moved from quarterback last quarter in order to get more playing time. "Being a former quarterback he understands what's going on and talks to me and helps me."

The Bearkats are far from a one-dimensional team. Three different rushers, including McCown, have combined for 1,447 yards and 15 TDs.

Joe Rauls is the primary threat between a pair of talented running backs. As the power back, he has gobbled up 808 yards and six touchdowns. The quicker back, sophomore Willie Thomas, averages 5.4 yards per carry and has four TDs.

"To be very honest, when he came (to SHSU) I had no idea he was as athletic as he is," said Bearkat coach Ron Randleman. "He's a prototype NFL quarterback."

McCown transferred from division I-AA Southern Methodist University and engineered the nation's 10th-best passing attack after just one year in the system.

He transferred for one reason only: To win.

MT and I wanted to win, so I had to make the move," McCown said. "I'm so excited just to be part of this, because we are actually talking about winning and it's not just blowing smoke."

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"He's the best receiver we'll see this year and we've seen some good ones," Glenn said of Gonzalez — they were both part of their school's championship basketball and football team.

Jenkins has thrown for 679 yards, adding five touchdowns with just eight interceptions. He also scrambled for 177 yards and four scores.

Thankfully for the staff at SHSU, they didn't take rocket science to see this year and we've seen some good ones," Glenn said of Gonzalez — they were both part of their school's championship basketball and football team.

Jenkins has come off the bench to replace injured quarterback last year in order to give them the ball.

Jake Eaton, who struggled against McNeese,10 completed only 13 of 37 attempts for 175 yards and a touchdown. If Maine is able to establish the run however, that could cause some problems for the Panthers secondary, making it easier for Eaton to find his receivers.

Last weekend in its win over Eastern Illinois, Montana gave up 386 yards and 30 points.

GameDay prediction: Although GKD would love to call the upset this week, it won't happen this year. Northern Iowa 24-10.
**Defense**

Steve O'Neal FR

Ben Winn FR

Shane MacIntyre FR

Dan DeCoite SR

Jonny Varona FR

Chris Connors SO

Colt Palmer FR

Ada Hoge FR

Dan Orizotti SR

Vince Huntsberger 47

**Offense**

John Edwards or Brandon Neill

Quarterbacks

As SDSU went to press Wednesday the Montana quarterback situation was still uncertain. Starter John Edwards did not practice Monday or Tuesday after re-injuring his ribs in last week's game with Northern Colorado. Junior Brandon Neill took the snaps, but was nursing a knee injury suffered while completing a Griz touchdown in the same game. One thing is clear: Whoever starts Saturday, UM could use some leadership and good execution from his position.

**Numerical Roster**

1. Levander Sagers FR CB 5’9” 190
2. Jonathan Tealage FR WR 6’6” 190
3. Trey Young JR FS 5’11” 190
4. David DeCoste PS FS 6’1” 190
5. John Edwards CB 6’2” 210
6. Andy Thompson JR CB 6’2” 215
7. Besrenyif Erno FR CB 6’3” 195
8. Jefferson Heidelberg FR WR 5’11” 185
9. Kendaric Smith FR CB 6’1” 200
10. David Golik FR RB 5’9” 175
11. Simon Smith SO CB 6’1” 175
12. Merckins Williams JR WR 6’1” 180
13. Brent Meyers SR WR 6’2” 190
14. Germaine Holton JR WR 6’1” 190
15. Brandon Neill JR QB 6’3” 220
16. Eli Miller JR WR 6’2” 190

**Linebacker**

Matt Spencer JR

Lance Spencer JR

Rory Zikmund JR

Mark Spencer JR

Spencer Frederick SR

Jason Fendri JR

Allen Sauer JR

Defensive strength more often.

Utilize their size and look for the offense to back at full strength, In the lineup against injury, the tank from games with a knee injury, the UM secondary is top passer, GDK hopes past its playoff jitters and ready to get business done.

**GRIZ OFFENSE VS**

**GRIZ DEFENSE VS**

**GameDay Kaimin, Saturday, December 8, 2001**

**0000 Record • 13-2 Overall, 8-0 Big Sky**

Steinau also teamed up with Johnnie Peeples Jr. for a critical forced fumble that defensive-player-of-the-week performance against Idaho with nine stops.

**Montana**

2001 Record • 12-1 Overall, 7-0 Big Sky

2002 Record • 13-2 Overall, 8-0 Big Sky

Billings, Mont.

Walla Walla, Wash.

Missoula, Mont.

Sacramento, Calif.

Billings, Mont.

Aberdeen, Calif.

San Diego, Calif.

Nicoia, Fla.

Middletown, Md.

Great Falls, Mont.

Sudduth, Calif.

Helena, Mont.

Monterey, Calif.

Portland, Ore.

Engle River, Alaska

Hardfist, Mont.

Parker, Calif.

Los Angeles, Calif.

Fl. Pierce, Fla.

Helena, Mont.

Medeal, Wash.

Sarat, Kan.

Dillon, Mont.

Whitewater, Wis.

Molten, Mont.

Anaconda, Mont.

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Arden Ranch, Me.

Whitefish, Mont.

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Brentwood, Fl.

Helena, Mont.

Richardson, Mont.

Bozeman, Mont.

Post Falls, Idaho.

Deer Park, Wash.

Kalispell, Mont.

Birmingham, Mont.

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Cathay, China.

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Elmendorf, Ala.

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Butte, Mont.
Along with Keith Davis, Randall was one of only two defensive Bearkats to gain first-team all-conference honors. He finished the season with seven QB sacks, 50 tackles, two fumble recoveries and a blocked punt. Not too shabby.

Three Bearkats, along with Keith Davis, were named to the second team of The Associated Press' all-Southland Conference picks. They were Travis Tobaden, Ron Kirkland and Jonathon Cooper.

The AP first-team offense was dominated by the Bearkats, who had four of the top five selections. They were quarterback Josh McCown (6-4, 223 senior from Jacksonville, Texas), who finished the season with 2,884 yards passing and 29 TD passes. One of 16 finalists for the Walter Payton Award, McCown leads all Bearkats into first-team all-conference in SHS's passing attack his favorite targets are tight end Keith Heinrich and wide receiver Jonathon Cooper.

In SHS's passing attack his favorite targets are tight end Keith Heinrich and wide receiver Jonathon Cooper.

Keith Heinrich is a four-year starter at free safety and is fourth all-time in tackles at Sam Houston State. The native of Italy (Italy, Texas, that is) has six career interceptions and six career fumble recoveries. He tallied 93 stops this season and will have to be major factor if the Southland co-champs are to be successful in Missoula.

### Offense

**Josh McCown**
Quarterback
6-4, 223 senior from Jacksonville, Texas
McCown, a transfer senior from SMU, was named the Southland Conference's player of the year this season after leading the SFL with 2,884 yards passing and 29 TD passes. One of 16 finalists for the Walter Payton Award, McCown leads all Bearkats into first-team all-conference in SHS's passing attack his favorite targets are tight end Keith Heinrich and wide receiver Jonathon Cooper.

### Defense

**Keith Davis**
Free Safety
6-0, 197 senior from Italy, Texas
Keith, who plays alongside his brother and fellow starting safety Dejaun, was the Southland's defensive player of the year in 2000. He is also a two-time all-conference selection, and has six career interceptions and six career fumble recoveries. He tallied 93 stops this season and will have to be major factor if the Southland co-champs are to be successful in Missoula.

### NUMERICAL ROSTER

1. Robert Herman DB 6-1 175 Fr San Antonio, Tex.
2. Mark Hughes DB 5-9 184 Fr Arlington, Tex.
3. Mike Eads DB 6-1 191 Fr German, Colo.
4. Dejuan Davis DB 6-0 200 Sr Fr Italy, Tex.
5. Keith Heinrich DB 5-9 197 Sr Fr Italy, Tex.
6. Travis Tobaden DB 6-4 202 Fr Red Oak, Tex.
8. Jonathon Cooper WR 5-8 200 Sr Fr Lufkin, Tex.
9. Michael Peel CB 5-11 197 Fr Sr Tyler, Tex.
12. Josh McCown QB 6-4 232 Sr Fr College Station, Tex.
13. Daniel Mathis CB 5-8 175 Fr Sr Galveston, Tex.
15. Marcin Carter WR 6-0 202 Fr Jr Dallas, Tex.
16. Courtney Boston DB 5-10 175 Fr Jr Trinad, Tex.
17. Robert Blakely DB 5-10 187 Jr Fr Lufkin, Tex.
18. Eric Brown RB 5-9 221 Fr So Fort Worth, Tex.
19. Michael Williams WR 5-8 188 Jr Jr College Station, Tex.
20. Michael Hein DB 5-9 180 Fr Jr Houston, Tex.
21. Will Thomas RB 5-10 173 Sr Fr Houston, Tex.
22. Larry Johnson RB 6-2 190 Jr Fr College Station, Tex.
23. Matt Ellis WR 5-8 165 Jr Fr Houston, Tex.
25. Trent Taylor WR 6-2 206 Fr Jr Houston, Tex.
28. Carl Henderson RB 5-9 225 Sr Jr College Station, Tex.
29. Jermaine Gateaway RB 5-10 190 Sr Jr College Station, Tex.
30. Joe Price RB 6-0 210 Fr Jr College Station, Tex.
31. Kevin Muir DE 6-3 245 Jr Jr College Station, Tex.
32. Jackie Brown DE 6-1 180 Jr Jr College Station, Tex.
33. Rusty Clayton DE 5-9 230 Jr Jr College Station, Tex.
34. Cheemall McGough DB 5-11 210 Jr Jr College Station, Tex.
35. Tommy Tut DB 6-0 190 Jr Jr College Station, Tex.
36. David Dickerson DB 5-11 172 Jr Jr College Station, Tex.
37. Rahn Keiser DB 5-10 180 Jr Jr College Station, Tex.
38. Aaron Schomerus DB 5-11 225 Jr Jr College Station, Tex.
39. Andrew Hightower DB 5-10 180 Jr Jr College Station, Tex.
40. Michael Baston LB 5-11 230 Jr Jr College Station, Tex.
41. Troy Phillips LB 5-10 206 Jr Jr College Station, Tex.
42. Jack Low LB 5-11 210 Jr Sr College Station, Tex.
43. Marcus Momtzer LB 5-8 200 Jr Fr College Station, Tex.
44. John Guianston LB 5-7 255 Sr Fr College Station, Tex.
45. Billy Smith LB 5-10 253 Jr Jr College Station, Tex.
46. Steven Tovolo LB 6-2 315 Jr Jr College Station, Tex.
47. Brian Bago LB 5-11 228 Jr Jr College Station, Tex.
49. Jamison Monrow LB 5-7 245 Jr Jr College Station, Tex.
50. Lance Mutschler LB 5-11 225 Jr Jr College Station, Tex.
51. Abram Samson OL 6-3 308 Jr Jr College Station, Tex.
52. Chase Denton OL 6-6 308 Sr Jr College Station, Tex.
53. Steven Holman OL 6-6 308 Sr Jr College Station, Tex.
54. Broderick Richardson OL 6-6 308 Sr Jr College Station, Tex.
55. Josh McCown OL 6-3 255 Sr Jr College Station, Tex.
56. Joe Rauls OL 5-8 201 Jr Jr College Station, Tex.
57. Matt Ellis OL 5-8 165 Jr Jr College Station, Tex.
58. Creed Maynor OL 6-3 255 Sr Jr College Station, Tex.
59. Matt Powers OL 6-4 287 Jr Jr College Station, Tex.
60. Travis Mosey OL 6-3 295 Jr Jr College Station, Tex.
61. Josh Orthol OL 6-4 265 Sr Jr College Station, Tex.
62. Will Smith OL 6-5 330 Sr Jr College Station, Tex.
63. Billy Williams OL 6-3 329 Jr Jr College Station, Tex.
64. Milton Piffer OL 6-3 290 Jr Jr College Station, Tex.
65. Chris Louder OL 6-5 295 Sr Jr College Station, Tex.
66. Jonathan Green OL 6-6 315 Sr Sr College Station, Tex.
67. Cortney Boston TE 6-4 215 Jr Jr College Station, Tex.
68. Tashumbrae Brown TE 6-4 215 Jr Jr College Station, Tex.
69. Deon Coleman TE 6-3 250 Jr Jr College Station, Tex.
70. Joe Rauls TE 6-1 220 Jr Jr College Station, Tex.
71. Craig Wellsen TE 6-4 220 Jr Jr College Station, Tex.
73. Kyle Prem TE 6-3 240 Jr Jr College Station, Tex.
74. Josh Moody DT 6-4 240 Jr Jr College Station, Tex.
Eagles before losing in overtime on championship game rematch with the Appalachian Nostradamus to know what to expect when the Appalachian State Mountaineers and Georgia Southern Eagles kick it off in Statesboro, Ga., on Saturday: A no frills, Southern-fried bar fight. These two schools are gritty, down-home rivals from the Southern Conference with a tradition of recent tussles that would put the Hatfields and McCoys to shame. Whenever they get together, fans should expect a nail-biting brawl between two steady ground-oriented offenses.

In 1999, the Mountaineers toppled the seemingly unbeatable Eagles 17-16 in Boone, N.C., during conference play, prompting students to rush the field and tear down both their own goal posts. Meanwhile, the Eagles overcame some first-half troubles to come some first-half troubles to still win with a last-second field goal. In 2000, GSU squeaked past ASU 34-28 while on its way to the team’s second straight national title. The Mountaineers came within a play of a championship game rematch with the Eagles before losing in overtime in Missoula. In the teams’ regular-season meeting this season, Georgia Southern got the best of ASU, hammering out a 27-14 victory Oct. 13. It should come as no surprise to UM fans that the Mountaineers love a good fight, and that the team seemed confident and excited about the prospect of a postseason rematch with the Eagles.

“They say you don’t get too many second chances, but it looks like we get one and I can taste it,” said Mountaineer senior linebacker Justin Seavems. “Last year we came close to winning a national championship. But that doesn’t count. This year, I want to go all the way.”

If there are legitimate title hopes in Boone, ASU got off to a good start by drubbing Atlantic 10 co-champs William & Mary 40-27 in the first round of the I-AA tournament. Tailback Jimmy Watkins shedded the Tribe’s defense for 216 yards and four touchdowns. Meanwhile, the Eagles overcame some first-half troubles to crush Florida A&M 60-35. Adrian Peterson rushed for 153 yards and two touchdowns on 20 carries while quarterback J.R. Revere proved GSU can also get it done through the air with a season-high 161 passing yards.

“I think it shocks everybody whenever we throw the ball,” Revere said. “I guess that’s the beauty of our offense.”

The win moved the Eagles to a staggering 26-0 in postseason games at Paulson Stadium. They’ve also never lost in the first round of the playoffs (13-0) and currently have a 38-game home winning streak, which ties the record set by, who else, Georgia Southern from 1985 to 1996.

Since Paulson Stadium opened in 1984, the Eagles are 118-11 at home. However, if any team is going to make history against GSU, it’s App. State. GDK prediction: Board up the windows. Get the kids and the chickens down into the root cellar. After an overtime stumble, the App. State Mountaineers do all a favor and bueno the Eagles from the playoffs 20-17. No prediction yet on head coach Jerry Moore will stand at midfield and holler: “We shocked the world! We shocked the world!”

Leigh at Furman Dr. Warren I. Hammer of ChiroWeb.com writes that the medial collateral ligament — which extends from the upper-inside surface of the tibia to the bottom-inside surface of the femur and prevents the knee joint from medial instability — is the most frequently injured ligament of the knee.

We bet that right now, both the Lehigh Mountain Hawks and Furman Paladins wish Dr. Hammer would have told them that sooner.

Both Lehigh and Furman limp into the I-AA quarterfinal, each team without its best player due to, you guessed it, MCL injuries. Lehigh — Patriot league champ and perennial I-AA Cinderella — got by Hofstra in overtime in the first round, but

Hofstra By Crystal Clear Karaoke Party Poker Run” Bus 6 p.m. -10:30 p.m.

No prediction yet on if head coach Billy Napier is to blame for, you guessed it, MCL injuries. Lehigh’s starts for quarterback J.R. Revere, who missed 74 catches for 1,241 yards and 12 touchdowns in the regular season, tore his MCL in the first half against the Pride and will miss the rest of the postseason.

In Sydney’s absence, sophomore Mike Sutton will be asked to become the go-to guy for quarterbacks Luke Ciannello and Brant Hall. A senior from Owings Mills, Md., was the Mountain Hawks’ starter for much of the year but was benchmarked after being ineffective against Hofstra.

Ciannello was Mariano Rivera-esque in relief, completing 13 of 13 passes for 249 yards and two touchdowns. Still, it remains to be seen if Leigh can be as effective with its principle offensive weapon on the IR.

Good thing for Leigh that Furman will also be without its meal ticket. Uber-tailback Louis Ivory spinned his MCL on Furman’s game-winning touchdown drive in a 24-20 first-round victory over Western Kentucky.

Tight end Davin White can’t believe he lost leading wide receiver and Patriot League offensive player of the year Josh Synder in the process.

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Ivy, recipient of last season’s Payton Award, rushed for 170 yards in that big win before the injury.

Ivy, who at times has been Furman’s entire offensive attack, will sit out against Lehigh and it’s unknown how the Paladins will play without him.

Sophomore Lamar Rembert will likely replace Ivory. Fullback Al Means, who scored the game-winning touchdown in the fourth quarter against WKU, will also get more touches.

Furman has never displayed much of a passing game — QB Billy Napier struggled against WKU and has only thrown for more than 200 yards once in his career — and so the game-breaking question for the Paladins will be how Rembert and Means are able to shoulder the load with Ivory out.

GDK prediction: Leigh might keep ‘er close, but will crumble before the final whistle. 28-17, Furman. Does it really matter? Facing either Leigh or an Ivory-less Furman translates into a bowl bid and the finals for either George South or App. State. Sorry, but it’s true.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Montana* (1)</th>
<th>Sam Houston State</th>
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* — Denotes host institution

**National Champion**

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**Editor's Note:**

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— Chad Dundas

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