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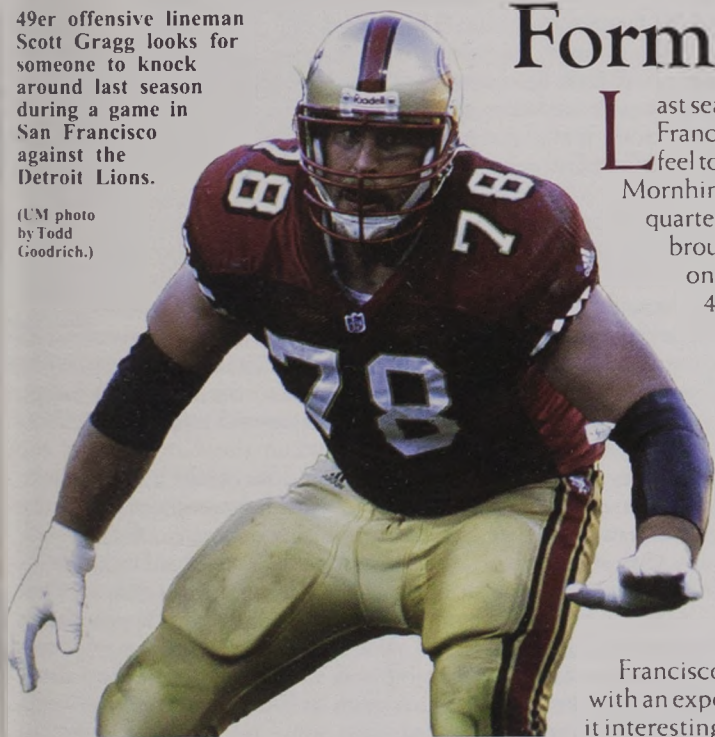
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Connecting Campus and Community

March 2002

49er offensive lineman Scott Gragg looks for someone to knock around last season during a game in San Francisco against the Detroit Lions.

(UM photo by Todd Goodrich.)



Former Griz tackle the NFL

Last season's Nov. 4 NFL game in San Francisco definitely had a Montana feel to it. First-year head coach Marty Mornhinweg, a University of Montana quarterback from 1980 to 1984, had brought his struggling Detroit Lions to town. Facing him on the 49er sideline were two other former UM standouts: Scott Gragg, a dominating Griz lineman during 1991-94, and Jimmy Farris, a wide receiver who wowed fans in Washington-Grizzly Stadium during 1997-2000.

Mornhinweg's squad played tough against the playoff-bound 49ers — leading at halftime — but the end result was a 21-13 San Francisco win. It was an average game with an expected outcome, but what made it interesting — at least to Montana minds

— was the unusual conjunction of former Griz talent. It provided a unique opportunity to catch several of the players who have vaulted from the I-AA ranks to football's ultimate stage.

Another unusual conjunction took place March 1 when Dave Dickenson, the beloved 1992-95 Griz quarterback who's now a San Diego Chargers backup, returned to Missoula to be inducted into the Grizzly Sports Hall of Fame. The ceremony was attended by Tim "The Hitter" Hauck, a Griz defensive player during 1987-89 who has ripped up the NFL for the past 12 years.

All these players cherish their Montana playing days, crediting UM's strong gridiron tradition with providing a pathway to careers among football's elite. Following is a cross-section of UM players who have made the big time.

(Continued on page 2)

A new morning in Detroit

Montana QB now an NFL head coach

In the early '80s chances were pretty good a person could go to The Oxford bar in downtown Missoula and spot this tough kid with a chew in his lip playing cards. He looked more like a farm kid from eastern Montana than the quarterback of the Montana Grizzlies. And he probably didn't look like a future NFL head coach whose hand is now heavy with a Super Bowl ring.

But, as Marty Mornhinweg would agree, looks can be deceiving.

Mornhinweg was a four-year starter for UM from 1980 to 1984. He set 15 passing records during his tenure as the Griz signal caller, guiding Montana to a Big Sky championship in 1982. At 5 feet 9 inches tall and 185 pounds he didn't have the prototype quarterback body, but what he lacked in height he made up for with an athletic, scrambling style of play that befuddled opponents.

That was then, this is now. Mornhinweg, 40, now owns a bad knee and the head coaching job for the Detroit Lions. His first season was challenging — the Lions were 2-14 in 2001 — but he has four years left on his contract and plenty of experience turning teams around.

Mornhinweg has led a life steeped in football. An Oklahoma native, he moved with his family a lot when he was growing up before settling in San Jose, Calif. One of his high school coaches was Mike Holmgren, who later coached the Green Bay Packers to a Super Bowl win. As a prep standout at Oak Grove High School, Mornhinweg guided his team to a championship and was named Northern California Player of the Year his senior year.

A lot of I-A college recruiters took a look at Mornhinweg, but interest waned when they saw his size.

(Continued on page 4)



Detroit Lions head coach Marty Mornhinweg

The Discovery Continues at The University of Montana

Jimmy Farris

It can be argued that Farris, 23, leads a charmed life. During UM's magical 2000 season, the charismatic redheaded receiver from Lewiston, Idaho, amassed 1,003 receiving yards and caught an overtime touchdown pass that propelled the Griz into the national championship game. After graduation he signed as a free agent with the 49ers and made the San Francisco practice squad.

"For the most part I've really enjoyed the NFL," Farris said. "I've met some cool people and got to experience some different parts of the country."

As a practice-squad member, Farris worked out every day with the team. He said he didn't earn the league minimum, "but it's a very comfortable salary." He also didn't suit up for games, but he sometimes traveled with the 49ers.

Before the Lions-49ers game kicked off, Farris was down on the field playing catch with Terrell Owens, one of the NFL's premier receivers. Farris said he and Owens have become great friends, hanging out together on and off the field.

After helping the NFL star warm up, Farris sauntered to the lower stands where a girl sat wearing a homemade 49ers jersey with "Farris" written on it. "I wear this to support Jimmy," Shelby Dobbel gushed. "He's such a nice guy. I met him during training camp, after they did a story on him because (49ers quarterback) Jeff Garcia gave him a pair of shoes."

Always the media darling, Farris ate up the adoration of his "biggest fan." He also was a hit during the 49er preseason, when injuries to starters earned him more playing time. He developed dead-on imitations of 49ers head coach Steve Mariucci and other San Francisco notables, which made all the Bay-area networks. One day the coach walked by to see Farris surrounded by a swarm of reporters. According to Farris: "He said, 'How does it work out that a rookie free agent is getting more air time than I am?' He kind of laughed about it."

Farris misses the Rocky Mountain region and the football atmosphere in Missoula, and he kept in touch with his former Griz teammates during their 2001 national-title run. But for him a bigger adventure was on the horizon.

Farris never got any regular-season playing time with the Niners, but then the New England Patriots called him in to add depth to the team's receiving corps for the playoffs. The Patriots went on to win it all, making Farris the only former Griz besides coach Mornhinweg

to own a Super Bowl ring. He didn't actually play in the big game, but during Super Bowl week Farris e-mailed regular reports about his experience in New Orleans to the Missoulian.

Charmed life?

"You have to set your goals high," Farris said. "I just want to stay around the league and continue doing what I love as long as I can. I've really got the fire burning to go out every day and work hard and do whatever it takes."

Scott Gragg

Gragg, 29, is arguably UM's most successful contribution to the NFL. A monstrously huge human being — 6 feet 8 inches tall, 325 pounds — he was selected in the second round of the NFL draft, making him the highest selection ever for a Griz football player.

An offensive tackle, he blocked for the likes of Dave Dickenson at UM before playing five years for the New York Giants and two years for the 49ers. Now he gets dressed in a locker room where the jerseys of guys named "Joe Montana," "Steve Young" and "Ronnie Lott" are enshrined behind glass.

Though he looks like a Viking killing machine on the field, the Silverton, Ore.-native's fearsome exterior hides a gentle heart — someone who majored in math at UM. It seems ironic that a guy with such a nice, gentle personality makes his living at such a violent sport.

"When I get introduced as Scott Gragg, University of Montana, it makes me proud to be from Montana and know I'm representing them," he said. "It's a special thing. I think I was able to succeed because we run a pro offensive at Montana, and I was

blocking against great defensive ends in the Big Sky, and that led me to success everywhere else."

After the Nov. 4 game, Gragg lumbered into the locker room with a basketball-sized ice pack strapped to his knee. When asked about the injury, he dismissed it saying, "Oh, I just banged it up a little bit. Just a typical NFL thing. It happened in the first quarter."

Gragg said he has no regrets about playing in Missoula, and he uses the Internet to keep track of his former college team.

"I loved everything there," he said. "We had such great fan support, and we had a blast playing. There were a lot of positive coaches and a lot of influences that make me look back and feel glad I didn't go to a Division I-A school. It was a great experience for me. I'm an outdoor guy, so the mountain biking, community and everything was great."

Gragg said his favorite experiences as a Griz include his 1994 senior year, when Montana made it to the semifinals before losing to Youngstown State, and the 1993 Idaho game, when the Griz handed the Vandals a 54-34 loss on their home turf.

As to why he has been so successful in the NFL, starting for two teams, Gragg said, "It's just hard work. You've got to know it's an eat or get eaten type of job — that someone's always chomping at your heels to get your job. I think some people have been blessed with more talent and don't have to work as hard, and I feel I've been blessed with some talent, but I've got to work hard every day to keep it."

Tim Hauck

Hauck, 35, is living proof that dynamite comes in small packages. At 5 feet 11 inches tall and 185 pounds he isn't the biggest guy in the NFL, but he's now a 12-year veteran who has played for six teams: New England, Green Bay, Denver, Seattle, Indianapolis and Philadelphia. The Philadelphia Eagles advanced to the NFC Championship game this season, and if they had defeated St. Louis, Hauck would have faced a New England team with Farris, putting two former Griz in the Super Bowl.

A Big Timber native, Hauck played defensive corner back, strong safety and free safety during his three years at UM. As a Griz he earned his nickname, "The Hitter," for his ability to flatten opposing players. He even talks like a defensive headhunter:

"I'm not the biggest guy on the field, and I've got to find a way to make an impact. I throw my body around and have the knack of being able to hit people and knock them around a little bit. I've always found a way to impress people."

Hauck said he idolized the Grizzlies growing up and always wanted to play for UM. "When I came in, it was when Don Reed



Former Griz wide receiver Jimmy Farris meets a fan at a San Francisco 49er game last fall.

UM photo by Todd Goodrich

(Continued on next page)



Photos courtesy of the Philadelphia Eagles.



Photo courtesy of the San Diego Chargers.

Sporting the same number he wore as a Griz, Dave Dickenson was a backup for the San Diego Chargers this season.

Dave Dickenson

Though he's only 29, Dickenson returned to UM in March to be inducted into the Grizzly Hall of Fame. The quarterback said it felt a little odd getting inducted at his age while still in the middle of his professional playing career.

Although he's boy-next-door friendly and kind of resembles Richie Cunningham — a buff Opie — Dickenson's indomitable playing style has become Montana legend. After winning two high school state championships in Great Falls, he came to Missoula and captained the crew that brought home UM's first I-AA football championship in 1995. He shattered most UM passing records while throwing for 11,080 yards. Then he soared north to the Canadian Football League, where he played three seasons for the Calgary Stampeders. In an injury-plagued 1999 season, he still threw for more than 3,000 yards and led his team to the Grey Cup championship game. Then his 2000 season was unreal: He threw for 4,636 yards with 36 touchdowns and only six interceptions.

Playing at the peak of his game, Dickenson decided to try the NFL. He wound up as a backup quarterback in San Diego behind veteran Doug Flutie and rookie Drew Brees. Dickenson saw some playing time in the 2001 preseason — leading the Chargers to a come-from-behind win over the 49ers on Aug. 12 — but he never played during the Charger's 5-11 regular season. Now his role with the team is in flux with new head coach Marty Shottenheimer coming in with a new coaching staff.

When asked about Dickenson's NFL

situation, his former UM coach Don Reed said, "He hasn't received a chance; he needs a chance. I know he's capable. I just hope things hit right for him. He's got everything you need to win."

The former Chargers coaching staff had a real Montana connection, with Dickenson's brother, Craig, and Reed's son, Bruce, in the group. But Dickenson said, "I have a good chance still. Life moves on, and I should have a pretty good opportunity this year."

Dickenson amassed so many good memories at Montana that it's hard for him to pick favorites. What he misses most about playing in Missoula is "the people" and "that special University feel." He said the 1995 championship game is special — though he doesn't think he played that well — but his favorite game was the 1993 road win over the Idaho Vandals. He also fondly remembers the 1993 35-30 road loss to Oregon, when he nearly led the Griz to an upset over the I-A power.

Dickenson said his NFL experience has lived up to his expectations "even though I didn't really get to play last year. I enjoyed meeting the people and seeing the country, and I also enjoyed the atmosphere. And I knew it was going to be tough. I've never just walked into being the starter anywhere I've been. I always just kind of learn and get comfortable and go from there. I think I'm pretty much on schedule, but I'd like to accelerate things a little."

At his induction ceremony, Dickenson had his picture taken with John Edwards, UM's other national champion QB. Dickenson said he didn't get to watch the 2001 championship because he had to catch a flight to Kansas City with the Chargers, but an interested fan kept him informed about what was happening with the game.

During his induction ceremony, Dickenson thanked Montana fans for the honor of being chosen for the hall of fame. He told Reed, "You taught me how to be a winner, and that's important stuff." He also

had to hammer on the rival MSU Bobcats a bit because "once a Griz, always a Griz."

Editor's Note: Another former Griz, Dallas Neil, is on the practice squad for the Atlanta Falcons. 🐻



UM's two championship quarterbacks, John Edwards and Dave Dickenson, posed for this picture at Dickenson's Grizzly Hall of Fame induction ceremony. (UM photo by T. Goodrich)

"The Hitter" Hauck narrowly missed the Super Bowl Philadelphia Eagles this season.

started, and I think we helped get something going here that's continued ever since. I think a great tradition started."

He said his best UM memories come from beating the Montana State University Bobcats. Hauck even blocked a punt his junior year during a close game in Bozeman, allowing UM to put the game out of reach. "That was kind of the start of the run," he said.

After college Hauck went to New England as a free agent and made an impression — literally — that allowed him to make the team. "The way a free agent makes the team is by showing they are going to do something over and beyond to help that football team," he said. "It's kind of carried over my years in the league. Nothing's been easy, and I think the uphill battle has kind of made me a better player because I've had to work for it."

Hauck plays strong or free safety in the NFL, and he's started on defenses in Indianapolis and Philadelphia. He also plays a lot of special teams, which was his primary role this year.

Hauck admits his fondest NFL memories are the massive hits he's delivered over the years.

"The biggest one that comes to mind right now was my play this year against the Chicago Bears," he said. "I forced a fumble on a kickoff, and it fortunately put us up by 9 points and put the game out of reach at that point in the second round of the playoffs. It's probably the biggest play I've made in years."

Despite his success, 12 years in the NFL leave their mark. Hauck now has a small patch of white hair behind his right ear. Did that come from The Hitter taking a hit?

"I assume so," he said with a smile.

NFL Coach — continued

Pretty soon he realized he was fifth or sixth on a lot of I-A lists, and interest was dropping off. But quite a few I-AA schools were calling.

"Then Mike Holmgren called me while I was working at a gas station," Mornhinweg said. "He said, 'I think Montana wants to offer you a full scholarship.' I said, 'You know what, I'm sick of all of it. I don't even know where that school is.' But then the head coach (Larry Donovan) called and said I should go where I'm wanted rather than where I want to go. I said, 'You know, that sounds pretty good. I'm coming.'"

Mornhinweg said his first impression of Missoula wasn't so good: He expected green mountains and everything was brown when he arrived. But he soon fell in love with the community and found he fit right in, especially when it came time to unwind downtown.

"I have some special feelings for coach Donovan, because he was one of the few who would take a chance on a 5 foot 9 guy," he said. "And I found Missoula to be one of the best places to go to college."

When he played, the Griz faced several Big Sky teams that have since moved up to I-A, like Reno and Idaho, and he struggled through some losing seasons. He also split his four games against Montana State. "Heck, they won the national championship in 1984," he said, "but I hear (UM) has a pretty good win streak going now."

He won the Grizzlies' Carlson Most-Valuable Player Award in 1982 and 1984. He said his best memory as a Griz was winning the 1982 Big Sky championship.

Mornhinweg graduated from UM in December 1985, earning a degree in health and physical education with a coaching emphasis. By that time he knew he wanted to make football his life's work. His first coaching job was as an assistant at his former high school, helping Oak Grove win a conference title. Then in 1985 he was a wide receivers assistant coach at UM.

"When I was coaching in Montana, that really wasn't a coaching job," he said. "I got a check for like \$22 every two weeks. I was just trying to get in at that point, and it's experience that counts. Every day I'd cross that little bridge by campus and get two hotdogs and a soda for 99 cents. That's about all I could afford for lunch."

Mornhinweg also hadn't given up the idea of playing in the pros, and in 1986 he landed the quarterback job for the Denver Dynamite Arena Football League. He'd always been fairly healthy at UM, but a few plays into his first game he suffered a career-ending injury.

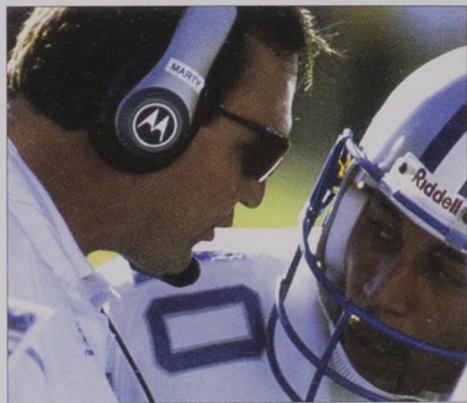
"I thought I'd found a league built perfectly for my skills," he said. "Then I blew out my knee, my ACL. It was a bad one."

Mornhinweg tried to come back from the injury, but his knee started locking up when he worked it hard. Since that time he's had

another five surgeries on the knee, and it isn't anywhere near normal to this day. The coach delights in horrifying people with the weird crackling noises made by the joint.

With his playing days ended, Mornhinweg concentrated on his coaching career. During 1986-94 he worked various college assistant coaching jobs at Texas El-Paso (UTEP), Northern Arizona University, Southeast Missouri State and Northern Arizona University. In 1994, when he was offensive coordinator for Northern Arizona, his Lumberjacks played in Washington-Grizzly Stadium. (They lost 24-34.) He earned a master's degree in physical education with a sports administration emphasis from UTEP.

Then he got a big break. Holmgren, his



Mornhinweg huddles with Detroit quarterback Charlie Batch during a timeout.

former high school coach, hired him as offensive assistant/quality control coach for the Green Bay Packers in 1995. After one season he was promoted to quarterbacks coach, tutoring Brett Favre as the team went on to win Super Bowl XXXI. With Mornhinweg and Favre working together, the star quarterback won his second MVP award. Both earned shiny new Super Bowl rings in 1997, and the former Griz had earned a reputation as an NFL quarterback guru.

Mornhinweg then served as offensive coordinator for the San Francisco 49ers from 1997-00, working with weapons such as quarterback Steve Young and the NFL's all-time-leading receiver, Jerry Rice. Then late in his 49er tenure, Mornhinweg helped groom Jeff Garcia, an import from the Canadian Football League, into one of the NFL's top passing threats.

With his NFL résumé well established, Mornhinweg got a shot at coaching his own team on Jan. 25, 2001, when he was named head coach in Detroit. Terms of his five-year deal were not disclosed, but it can be assumed that he doesn't have to worry about buying 99-cent lunches anymore. He's the first UM graduate to become an NFL head coach. When he was hired, he was the second youngest coach in the league, behind Oakland's John Gruden.

His Lions went 2-14 during his grueling first year. The team was in danger of going winless until a Dec. 16 victory over the Minnesota Vikings, 27-24. The Lions then

beat the Dallas Cowboys 15-10 during the final game of the season.

"In the long run, what happened to this point might be the very best thing," he said. "Because it makes you stronger and it makes you tougher in the end for the long run. I've always known this: With good teams, when you are playing well, all the balls bounce with you. And when you are not playing quite at the level you have to play at, it's all going against you. That's part of the game. So we don't complain, we don't take condolences, we don't say 'Why us?' or 'Why me?' We just keep going to clear that hurdle."

As an NFL head coach Mornhinweg lives and breathes football. Twenty-hour workdays during the season are filled with endless game films, team meetings and practice, practice, practice.

"As a football coach in the NFL, there are no holidays," he said. "And my wife understands that. If you are able to be home for Christmas, that's a bonus. All of us love to win and hate to lose, and sometimes I take it overboard a little bit. For instance, my in-laws won't play Monopoly with me anymore."

Mornhinweg tried to lure current Montana head coach Joe Glenn to the Lions as an assistant coach before the 2001 NFL season. Glenn had been a UM assistant when Mornhinweg played, and the two coached together under Larry Donovan in 1985.

"I called Joe because I have the utmost respect for Joe," Mornhinweg said. "I would love my son to play for the guy, and I think that's one of the highest compliments you can give somebody. We discussed him joining us a little bit. And right at first I got the feeling that it was going to be hard for him to leave because he'd only been at Montana that one year and had already had great, great success. I got the inclination that it wasn't the right time, and we left it at maybe next time."

As for Mornhinweg, he's already been extremely busy in Detroit trying to put together a contender through the NFL draft, trades and free-agent acquisitions. The team recently signed receiver Az-Zahir Hakim, formerly one of the St. Louis Rams' many offensive weapons, to a five-year, \$16 million deal.

Mornhinweg said he still follows the Griz as much as he can. Sometimes he catches a game via satellite television. "I remember when I was in Green Bay and Montana was in the playoffs," he said. "We were in pre-game, and we had all these guys that had played in Montana, so there were like 15 people glued to the TV right before we went out. We were all rooting for them. The whole Packer team was."

He said football is football, no matter what level you are playing at.

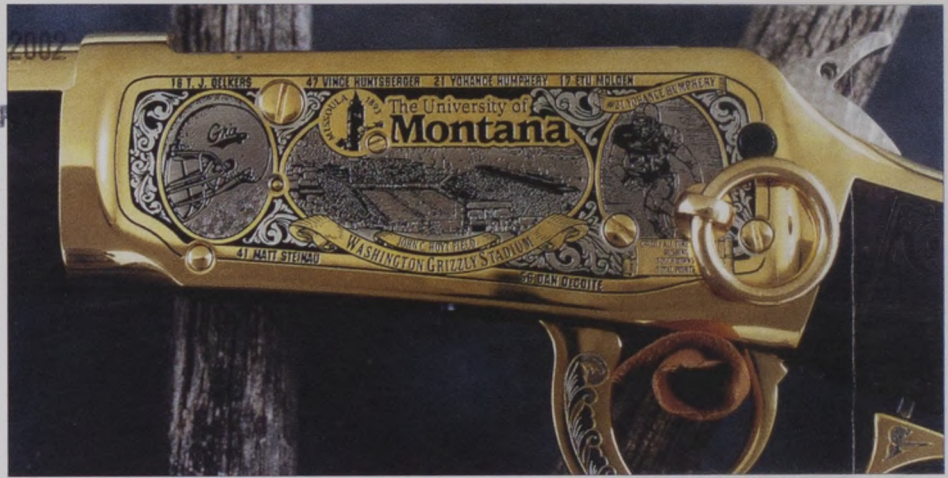
"I have some special memories about Montana — the state, the school, the team I played on," he said. "You feel the same things that you did in high school and college when playing a championship game in the NFL. It's on a little bigger scale, of course, but it's all a very special feeling." 🍌



Bear Briefs

APR 03 2002

LIBRARY



The Grizzly Athletic Association has commissioned a 2001 national football championship commemorative Winchester rifle. The rifle features metal engravings of coach Joe Glenn, players' names, the UM logo and more. The rifles cost \$2,695 and can be reserved by calling (800) 840-4867.

Record Enrollment—UM has reached its highest spring-semester enrollment ever, according to new figures from the Registrar's Office. UM's spring 2002 head count is 12,414, up 470 students from last spring when 11,944 students attended the University. Full-time equivalents (FTEs) jumped from 10,565.23 in spring 2001 to 10,772.68 this spring. "This enrollment report indicates that we have kept our focus on serving student needs," UM President George Dennison said. "Because of the good and hard work of a large number of people, the University continues to do well."

Helena Hire—The vice president of a Nebraska college with a wide range of educational, administrative and private-sector experience has been selected to lead the Helena College of Technology of UM. Steven Hoyle, vice president of Mid-Plains Community College in North Platte, Neb., began his new duties as campus executive officer and dean of HCOT March 15. Hoyle was one of four finalists who interviewed for the position from among 85 total applicants.

Hall of Famers—Two outstanding former student athletes were inducted into the Grizzly Sports Hall of Fame March 1. Shelley Smathers, a Morton, Wash., native, ran track and cross country for UM during 1991-94, becoming a four-time NCAA All-American, a seven-time Big Sky Conference champion and an 11-time Big Sky Conference Athlete of the Week. Also inducted was Great Falls native and quarterback Dave Dickenson, who played for the Grizzlies during 1991-95, leading Montana to its first I-AA national championship in 1995. (See related story, page 3.)

Student Orator—A third-year UM law student brought home the Best Oralist Award and joined her teammates in capturing a second-place award for best legal briefs at a regional meet of the Phillip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition. Julie Johnson of Helena won the UM School of Law's first oralist prize in its five years at the prestigious Jessup Competition, earning the highest oral argument scores among more than 50 participating law students. Twelve teams represented law schools from the Pacific Northwest and upper Midwest at the regional competition, held in early February at Hamline University School of Law in St. Paul, Minn. Competitors argued a timely and complex law problem about computer hacking, cyberterrorism and the difficulty of regulating the Internet across international borders.

New Catalog—UM libraries in Missoula, Butte, Helena and Dillon recently launched a new Web-based catalog system that allows users to check the availability of UM's more than 1.5 million books, journals and media materials with the click of a mouse. The new system, the Montana Public Access Catalog (MPAC) of the Affiliated Libraries of The University of Montana, cost about \$620,000 and was installed by Endeavor Information Systems of Des Plaines, Ill. The catalog may be accessed by any computer at <http://libcat.lib.umt.edu>. MPAC replaces the dated Telnet system, called "Griznet" in Missoula, which was a first-generation electronic catalog system. "If you know how to use the Internet, you'll have no problem with the new system," said Frank D'Andrea, UM dean of library services. "This is a quantum leap over Telnet—like night and day."

Regional News—Headwaters News, a free online news service that provides a daily snapshot of news in the Rocky Mountain region, now offers a weekly feature called "Perspective," which combines editorials by prominent Western writers with in-depth analysis and a moderated forum. Each "Perspective," posted every Wednesday, includes a column by a noted Western writer or public figure. The opinion pieces address issues such as public lands management, regional economics, changing demographics and the need for improved dialogue on tough issues facing Westerners. Headwaters is online at www.headwatersnews.org. It is a project of the UM's O'Connor Center for the Rocky Mountain West.

ROTC Option—Paying for college doesn't have to be traumatic. Students may be eligible for up to \$30,400 for in-state tuition and up to \$54,400 in scholarships for out-of-state tuition through UM Army ROTC. Contact Lt. Col. Eric Kettinger, UM enrollment officer, at (406) 243-2627 to learn more about ROTC options.

Native Journalism—The UM School of Journalism will receive a \$250,000 grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation to fund a new Native American journalism project. The project, known as "Reznet," is a Web-based publication produced by UM American Indian journalism students. Although the project is still in its infancy, plans are under way to use the grant to expand it and recruit 20 reporters drawn from American Indian colleges across the nation. In a letter to School of Journalism Dean Jerry Brown, the Foundation expressed support for the Reznet project, terming it "sound" and "innovative" and noting that it would help "place more Native American journalists in newsrooms. The success of this online project will underscore (UM's) reputation as a national leader in training Native American journalists."

Timely Forums—The UM political science department will host a national issues forum from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, March 30, in the Davidson Honors College. Topics will include "Dealing With Terrorism: What Do We Do Next?" and "When Small Towns Get Larger: Dealing With Growth and Urban Sprawl." Funding for the event is provided by the Kettering Foundation of Dayton, Ohio. For more information, go online to <http://www.umt.edu/polsci/polsci15.htm>.

Land Governance—Nationally recognized experts with a variety of viewpoints will gather to discuss public-land issues at the 25th annual Public Land Law Conference at UM April 11-13. The conference, titled "Public Land Governance: The Legal and Political Role of National and Local Perspectives," is sponsored by UM's Public Land and Resources Law Review and the O'Connor Center for the Rocky Mountain West. Admission is \$20 and advance registration is requested; call (406) 243-6568 for a registration form. Students are admitted free. Additional details about the Public Land Law Conference are online at www.umt.edu/publicland/25thConf.htm.

UM Calendar

Mortar Board's Last Lecture Series—April 1, "Don't Worry, Be Happy!" Ralph Judd, professor, biological sciences; "Societal Responsibilities of an Educated Person" and "How Accounting Affects Your Life Whether You Know it or Not," Teresa Beed, professor, accounting and finance, 6-8 p.m., Gallagher Building 123. Call 829-1209 for information.

Dance production—April 2-6, Spring Dance Showcase, 7:30 p.m. nightly through April 6, Open Space, Performing Arts and Radio/Television Center. Tickets \$5. Call 243-4581.

Lecture/demonstration—April 3, "Fly-tying, an Introduction and Refresher," Missoulian Angler staff, 7 p.m., North Underground Lecture Hall. Free and open to the public.

Big Sky Sports and Outdoor Show—4-9 p.m., April 5; 10 a.m.-7 p.m., April 6; and 10 a.m.-5 p.m., April 7, UM's Adams Center. Call 523-5219 for more information.

"Odyssey of the Stars"—April 6, A Celebration of Artistic Journeys. UM alumni J.K. Simmons and John Shaffner headline this musical theatre extravaganza, 7:30 p.m., University Theatre. Proceeds benefit fine arts scholarships. Call 243-4970.

International Culture and Food Festival—April 7, international foods bazaar, ethnic displays and demonstrations, noon-5 p.m., University Center. Call (406) 243-6059.

Concert—April 8-9, Composers' Showcase with original works by UM music students; performances 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., Music Recital Hall. Free.

Drama production—April 9-13, 16-20, "The Importance of Being Earnest," comedy, 7:30 p.m., Montana Theatre. Tickets \$15/general, \$12/students and senior citizens. Call 243-4581.

Concert—April 10, Missoula Symphony Orchestra, featuring "Unforgettable" the Nat King Cole Story, 7:30 p.m., University Theatre. Call 721-3194 for ticket information.

Foresters' Ball—April 26-27, "Timber We Fall, United We Stand," Ribbon cutting, noon; Ball, 8 p.m., Schreiber Gym. Call 243-5521.

Kyi-Yo Powwow—April 26-28, Adams Center. Evening grand entry, 7 p.m. \$3/Friday and Sunday, \$4/Saturday. Call 243-5302.

University author hits the big time

After winning two prestigious awards for works in progress, Judy Blunt's new memoir, "Breaking Clean," has arrived in bookstores amid a flurry of favorable reviews and news of a fourth printing.

The book, published by Knopf, was called "powerful" by The New York Times Book Review and "profound, and profoundly moving," by Kirkus Reviews. It has been featured on NBC's "Today" show and National Public Radio. The memoir earned a 1997 PEN/Jerard Fund Award of \$4,000 and a 2001 Whiting Writers' Award of \$35,000.

With vivid detail and unflinching language, "Breaking Clean" chronicles the first 30 years of Blunt's life on isolated ranches near Malta, and her subsequent move across the Continental Divide to Missoula. A single mother of three small children when she arrived at UM in 1986, Blunt found the two communities a world apart. But it wasn't until a classroom assignment that she realized she had a story to tell.

English Professor Emeritus Bill Bevis had asked the students to "write your Montana experience" in four pages or less. A few weeks after turning her paper in, the professor singled it out and, with Blunt's reluctant permission, read it to the class.

"What happened next changed my life," Blunt said in a recent interview. "He read 'Breaking Clean' to an auditorium full of students who didn't know who I was, and for 15 minutes I watched their faces as they absorbed my story, my words. My life."

"I listened as his voice paused, then broke, at the ending line, and he turned his back on his class to compose himself. For the first time, I felt the power of the written word from the other side, from the writer's side. I spent the night awake, rethinking the epiphany and the uncertainty of that moment in Professor Bevis' class. The next day I added an English/creative writing major to my journalism major."

That first essay, which Blunt initially titled "Clean Break" but changed after realizing that transition is an ongoing process, became the germ of her new book. Written in

10 years of stolen moments between mothering, studying and working, "Breaking Clean" is a series of 13 linked essays that explore the rewards and challenges of her former life.

Born into a third generation of Montana homesteaders, Blunt grew up on a ranch some 50 miles south of Malta in the rural

community of Regina, Montana. She married at age 18 to a man 12 years her senior and, as she matured, struggled to define herself as a woman in a man's world.

Author and UM Professor Emeritus William Kittredge described "Breaking Clean" as "a classical American memoir."

"Judy Blunt lived in a beloved country among beloved people," Kittredge said. "She grew up knowing blizzards

and good horses, working cattle all day and then getting dinner on the table, impassable roads to town and babies with raging fevers—a resolute country girl who became a ranch wife on the shortgrass plains of Montana. And she tells of leaving, the price of insisting on her right to fashion her own life."

Blunt, now an adjunct assistant professor in UM's English department, says her parents, Clarence and Shirley Blunt, are solidly behind her.

"In spite of the difficulty of having a writer in the family, they've been very generous in their support of me as a writer," she said. She points out that her mother, too, is an author having recently published an essay in "Leaning Into the Wind," a collection by Linda Hasselstrom. "The book hit print before mine did, which I thought was marvelous. The apple doesn't fall far from the tree."

As for others who might bridle at her candid writing, Blunt acknowledges that perspective is everything in nonfiction.

"My experience is a singular one. I am always careful to stress that my story does not generalize to other farming and ranching communities, or even to other women within my community.... All I can say is how it feels to me." 🐾



Judy Blunt



The University of
Montana

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