9-7-2002

Game Day Kaimin, September 7, 2002

Associated Students of the University of Montana
One word: The magic word: Repeat?

One season: Can the Griz feel like this again?

Montana vs. Albany

Kickoff: 1:05 PM

Saturday, September 7, 2002
Repeat.

It is a harmless word, buried deep in the realms of Webster's Dictionary between repeal and reprimand. Loosely translated, it means to do again what has already been done. And yet when that word is uttered in Missoula bars, at family cookouts or around the University of Montana campus, that little word suddenly becomes the subject of near life and death circumstance.

That is because for the thousands of Griz faithful, repeat carries just one significant meaning — to be the last times standing when the final seconds have ticked off the clock in Chattanooga, Tenn., in late December. Almost as soon as the final gun had sounded on UM's 13-6 win over Furman last winter, giving the Grizzlies their second National I-AA title, UM fans have been debating like politicians about the chances for a repeat.

"The fans expect nothing less then a repeat, and you have to expect that," starting quarterback John Edwards said. "But the only thing I and the team can do is go out every week and give it our best and see what happens."

Grizzly fans have been guilty of repeat talk in the past. Namely at the start of the 1996 season. It was during that season, after a diminutive quarterback by the name of Dave Dickenson led UM to the school's first national championship with a 22-20 win over Marshall in 1995, when Grizzly fans first started using the phrase "back-to-back" and Montana in the same utterance.

Those talks came crashing to the ground in flames as Randy Moss, who at the time was still playing every down, caught four touchdown passes in a 49-20 Marshall thumping of the Griz.

Taking that game into consideration, it is understandable why Grizzly fans may want to be a little cautious with the word repeat this season.

Granted, there are no guarantees that the Griz will defend their title. Guarantees are left for Joe Namath, using the phrase "back-to-back" and Montana in the same utterance.

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But if Montana does repeat, and folks here at GDK think they should, there will be three reasons why they will.

THE QUARTERBACK

So many times during his career at Montana, Edwards has had to listen to what he isn't. He isn't Dave Dickenson. He doesn't have the arm that Drew Mehringer or Brian Allen Yavasessi. Edwards' stats usually aren't pretty and are not filled with balls down the sidelines to streaking receivers.

But despite all that he isn't, there is one thing that opposing coaches know he is.

"The guy's a winner; all he does is win," Portland State head coach Tim Welsh said. In his 18 career starts with Montana, Edwards has lost just one game, and that was on the road against Division I-A Hawaii. No Montana quarterback has a higher winning percentage than Edwards.

"There has been a storied line of quarterbacks and I am not as pretty as some of those guys," Edwards said. "But the bottom line is that I go out there with the team and we win, no matter how it looks." Despite the way Edwards rings victory after victory, there have been times when Grizzly fans haven't fully appreciated all that Edwards does for UM football, most notably last season in the first round of the playoffs.

Edwards was pulled after a rough playoff start against Northeastern in the first round with the Griz down 13-0, causing the sell-out Washington-Grizzly crowd to fill the air with boos.

Instead of self destructing, Edwards reeled off two of the best games in his Grizzly career to propel Montana into the national championship game. He then made enough plays to help UM to a 13-6 win over Furman.

"If you let the fans talk consume you, then it will kill you," Edwards said. "I do believe in myself. Maybe I am not the best there has been here, but I believe we can win every time out."

Edwards does have the ability to beat people with his arm when needed. PSU and other teams in the Big Sky Conference have tried keeping him in the pocket and making Edwards beat them by throwing the ball, but to no avail.

"We wanted him to throw the ball against us last year, and in a blink of an eye we were down fourteen to nothing," Welsh said about the Grizzlies' 13-13 home win against the Vikings last season. A game in which Edwards had 270 yards passing and two touchdowns.

"With John, you pick your poison every time you play against him," Welsh said. Whether it is with his arm or with his feet, more often than not Edwards will find a way to get the job done. It may not be a beautiful journey getting there, but the results nearly always seem to be.

Knowing that Edwards has the ability to sit back in the pocket and throw or improvise if he is flushed has also created a special level of trust between him and the five men up front who are blocking for him.

"If we miss a block or if something happens back there, we knew John is going to make something out of nothing," offensive lineman Jon Skinner said. "He makes our job a lot easier."

THE HOGS IN THE TRENCHES

As is the case between Edwards and his lineman, there is also a level of understanding and trust between the five Grizzly offensive lineman that allows them to be one unit instead of five individuals coming game time.

The entire offensive line stayed in Missoula this summer, working out together, spending countless hours in the weight room and working on technique.

They also spent down time together away from football, floating down the Bitterroot, having cookouts and tearing up the University Golf Course.

For the first time this summer, the offensive line, full backs and tight ends, along with the coaches, had a golf tournament as a mid-summer relaxing.

Three-hundred pound linemen swinging golf clubs wildly was quite a sight on the golf course, probably enough to scare off any groups playing behind them.

"It definitely wasn't pretty, we hacked up the course pretty good," offensive lineman Dylan McFarland said. "But it was a good time."

And for a group that has been playing together since they were freshman, good times, mostly in the form of wins, have been plenty recently.

The same can be said for the men on the other side of the ball trying to claw their way to opposing quarterbacks.

Much of Montana's success during the past two seasons has been due to the strength of the defensive line, which virtually stops most opponents' offensive attacks. That dominance on defense has put Montana in a position to win several ugly football games, where in years past that may not have been the case.

When Don Read was spreading defenses out and putting 40 points a game on the board, it was partly done because those Grizzly teams had weapon after weapon at their disposal. It was also done because UM's defense was regularly giving up just as many points.

This season, if the offense can score 14 points, chances are, it will
Mismatch? The Great Danes hope otherwise

Courtney Lowery
GameDay Kalmin

There’s nothing like kicking off the season with a good, hearty challenge. That’s what Albany head coach Bob Ford thinks, anyway.

“What are we going to focus on? Getting out of there alive,” he says with a laugh.

Saturday’s home opener for the Grizzlies pits the I-AA champs against the Great Danes of the State University of New York at Albany, who fared well last year, finishing the season at 7-3. The Danes are solid in the Northeast Conference, picked in preseason polls to take the conference and are ranked fifth in Football Gazette’s preseason mid-major poll. Regardless, even Ford is the first one to point out that the Danes are unlikely to upset the Griz.

“We’re a step down, I’m not crying or anything, but we’re a non-scholarship program. It’s going to be a challenge,” Ford said.

All the same, Joe Glenn isn’t about to let himself, or more importantly, his team look past the likes of the Great Danes. He tells the story of a Grizzly squad of old, one with a quarterback named Dave Dickenson, that came out in a home opener against the “lowly South Dakota State.” By the end of the third quarter, the Griz were losing 37 to 7. Of course, the Griz turned it around in the fourth quarter, and took the win, but nonetheless, it was a scary moment.

“That just goes to show that anybody can walk up and clean your clock,” Glenn says. And the Great Dane football program is noth­ing to balk at. The squad is well-coached, and although it’s a non-scholarship program, they still have some stars to reckon with on the field, including Josh Bazan, a Football Gazette All-America linebacker and two-time Mid-Major Linebacker of the Year. Last year, he led the team with 103 tackles, 17 hits for loss and 4 forced fumbles. Overall, the Danes are strong on defense. This season, they return eight starters back from a defense that was ranked 22nd in scoring and 17th in rushing among the division’s national leaders last season.

The trick against the Dane defense, Glenn hopes, is to work on the Griz perimeter passing to keep Albany on its toes. By matching that perimeter passing with quarterback John Edward’s already early established solid rushing game, Glenn hopes to keep the Griz offense flexible and aggressive.

Defensively, the Griz hope to counter the Dane defense, Glenn hopes, is to work on the Griz perimeter passing to keep Albany on its toes. By matching that perimeter passing with quarterback John Edward’s already early established solid rushing game, Glenn hopes to keep the Griz offense flexible and aggressive.

Photo courtesy of SUNY-Albany sports information

Senior Great Dane linebacker Josh Bazan will be a force against the Griz Saturday. Bazan led the team last season with 103 tackles.

Montana vs. Albany
## Montana 2002 Record • 7-0, 0-0 Big Sky
2002 Record • 15-1 Overall, 17-0 Big Sky

### Offense

#### John Edwards

**Quarterback**

6-1, 200 senior from Billings, Mont. Most likely, the Danes are going to try the passing game on Montana. If the Griz are concerned with keeping the Great Danes on offense, they’d better have a good defense for the game.

#### Dave DeCoite

**Strong Safety**

6-1, 190 junior from Truckee, Calif. Dave DeCoite and the boys are going to have a hard time finding a hole to even crawl in. The Danes are going to have a hard time making tackles.

### Defense

#### Tim Bush

**DB**

91

 estilo, but he’s solid. Make no mistake—this kid isn’t just playing for fun. John threw 14 touchdowns for 2728 last season and this season, with only one game under his belt, he’s already on his way to what looks like a stellar season. Against Hofstra, he threw for one touchdown, but also rushed for two. Presto, chango. Watch out Danes, because it looks like Johnny might be a bigger dog than all of you put together.

### NUMERICAL ROSTER

**Probable starters in BOLD**

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### GRIZ OFFENSE vs.

#### Johnnie Peeples

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### GameDay Kaimin, Saturday, September 7, 2002

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**Alan Saenz**

FR NT

6'1 285 lbs

**Nathan Adkins**

FR WR

5'8 170 lbs

**Mark Spencer**

SR P

6'5 200 lbs

**Dane Oliver**

83 WR

6'2 210 lbs

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**GameDay Kaimin, Saturday, September 7, 2002**

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**Dave DeCoite**

SO DL

6'3 275 lbs

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**Zirkmund 81**

Nothing like a small town hero who's been getting his arm on the field. Between Brandy's and net shot bottom line hefman fighting ball. Dave Zirkmund, the Game are doing some serious mov-
The junior fullback is the team's top leading rusher for 201 yards and four touchdowns last season. The kid is quick and big enough to stop even the quickest and strongest of Grizzlies. He'll be one Great Dane to reckon with— for shiggity. The kid is quick and big enough to stop even the quickest and strongest of Grizzlies. He'll be one Great Dane to reckon with— for shiggity.

Albany Defense

Albany Offense

Montana vs. Albany

Albany 2002 Record • 0-0 Overall, 0-0 Northeast
2001 Record • 7-3 Overall, 5-2 Northeast

Ryan Roeder
Quartback
6-1, 195 senior from Bethel, Penn. Roeder will finally get the spotlight all to himself this year, after doing the whole dual quarterback thing for two years. As a junior, Ryan passed for 1,019 yards and seven touchdowns. He ranks fifth in passing yards on the school's all-time list with 2,198.

Josh Bazan
Linebacker
6-0, 210 senior from Bronx, N.Y.

According to Joe Glenn, Josh is just a "heck of a good player"— pleasantly simple. He may be small as linebackers go, but don't let that fool you for even a second. Josh is a two-time Football Gazette 1-A Mid-Major Linebacker of the year, and for good reason. He ranks fifth in passing yards on the school's all-time list with 2,198.
**GameDay Kaimin, Saturday, September 7, 2002**

**Around the Sky:**

**Grizzlies still on top of the Big Sky, but can anyone really believe the 'Cats are running a close second?**

**Bryan Haines**

**GameDay Kaimin**

Big Sky Conference Football previews are getting easier to write as the year goes on. Each fall, first place in the Montana State University on top, then write about how they are dom­i­nant at nearly every position on the field. Navy, simply arranged the league by drawing them out of a hat, because everyone seems to fall behind UNM anyway.

**Piece of cake.**

**Johnson’s season is no different. The defending I-AA champion Grizzlies are again the creme de la creme of the league standing down at everyone else.**

The Bobcats, though, is right behind them. What comes next is not a mitrigan. It is as un­believable as it might seem.

**The Montana State Bobcats will challenge Montana for the Big Sky Conference title, and will end up with a spot in this year’s I-AA playoffs.**

That is right, the Bobcats are the second best team in the Big Sky, not just in Montana. Laugh it up, call us crazy if you want. But when the Bobcats come to Missoula on Nov. 21, chances are the Big Sky crown will be on the line.

And to think, just two years ago MSU was the laughing stock of the Big Sky, finishing 2-9 and 1-11.

What a difference two years make.

Will the kittens from across the mountain really take away Montana’s Big Sky crown this season, and in the process, end a 16-game losing streak to the Grizzlies? No, they probably won’t.

They will, however, be the best of the rest in the Big Sky.

Here is how GDK stacks up the conference below mighty Montana.

**MONTANA STATE**

This will be a true test for year Bobcat head coach Mike Kramer, who has completely rebuilt MSU after taking over the team two years ago. Kramer started from the ground up in 2000, and his team a beating, losing all 11 games that year.

But after a surprising year last season, the Bobcats fin­ished 5-6 in Big Sky. Their season ended with a statement that they will be the deciding factor in the Lumbeijacks’ season.

The reformation on defense will start with preseason All-American Matt McFaden at linebacker. Despite his injury in the opener, McFaden returns. McFaden has been a starting All-American since Charles Roberts graduated two seasons ago.

Defensively, NAU boasts one of the strongest sets of underclassmen in the Big Sky, led by the duo of Keith O’Neill and Kaaina Keawe. O’Neill is a preseason All-American and Keawe registered 78 tackles last season.

**Prediction: 7-4, fifth in the Big Sky.**

**NORTHERN ARIZONA**

A year removed from the I-AA playoffs, Jerome Souer’s club will be rebuilding this season. Two college transfers, Clint Womack from Groveport JC and Richard Lacorno from USMDS will battle for the starting quarter­back position. How fast one of these two learns the offense will be the deciding factor in the Lumberjacks’ season.

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**Prediction: 5-6, fifth in the Big Sky.**

**EASTERN WASHINGTON**

If head coach Paul Wulff is able to get through this season without losing his hair, or his mind for that matter, then he should be in line for coach of the year honors. That is because EWU has 10 new starters on offense this sea­son, leaving many holes for Wulff and his staff to fill. The only returning starter is right tackle Justin Nipp.

One gap that may not be that difficult to fill will be at quarterback, where three-year Tusla starter Josh Blakeman is stepping up for the graduating Fred Salasana.

Finding a replacement for de­everything back Jesse Charnan will be a much more difficult task for Wulff to do through, Jovan Griffith, who has a 1,000-yard season, along with a season missed due to a knee injury, will get the first shot at it.

The Eagles won’t be replacing as many starters on defense as they have on offense, as ends Brandon Moore and Justin Brestor return along with Dante Harrell to form a strong defensive line.

**Prediction: 5-6, sixth in the Big Sky.**

**WEBER STATE**

There are 123 I-AA football programs in the country, and last season, Weber State’s defense was 122. It doesn’t take a rocket scientist to figure out that if the Wildcats want to win any games, they have to stop somebody.

The reformation on defense will start with preseason All-American Matt McFaden at linebacker. Despite his injury in the opener, McFaden returns. McFaden has been a starting All-American since Charles Roberts graduated two seasons ago.

**Prediction: 3-8, not quite the worst in the Big Sky.**

**SACRAMENTO STATE**

The Hornets were flat out horrible last season, winning just two games and outscored 424-289. And the start of this season doesn’t look all that promising either, with Sac State playing five of its first six games on the road.

If the Hornets are to surprise opponents, quarterback Ryan Leadinhgam will have to continue on his strong freshman season. Pressed into action, Leadinhgam threw for 1,452 yards and 17 touchdowns, but was picked-off 10 times.

At running back, former QB Garrett White will try to breathe new life into a探h in the Big Sky.

**Prediction: 3-10, the bottom of the Big Sky barrel.**

**IDAHO STATE**

Idaho State had its moments last season, namely up-set­ting Portland State 23-17. But the Vandals also couldn’t figure out a way to claw out close contests, losing three games by a combined eight points at 4-7.

But Idaho State did show improvements over the course of last season, and will return nearly everyone of their skilled position players on offense.

Doug Haughman threw for 2,638 yards and 20 touch­downs in his first season as the starter, and he will once again be throwing the ball to wide outs Giron Gilray, Brett Fowler and Sale Key. All three had over 30 receptions last season.

The Vandals averaged close to 30 points per game last season, but gave up just as many on defense. Idaho State will need to figure out how to slow down opponents run­ning game after allowing nearly 200 yards a game it wants to continue to improve.

**Prediction: 6-5, fourth in Big Sky.**

**PORTLAND STATE**

After getting an-at-large bid to the I-AA playoffs, the Vikings struggled with consistency last year in falling to 7-4. Portland State won its last four games after a rocky 1-4 start, and the Vikings hope to carry the momentum they had at the end of the season to the start of this one.

The return of quarterback Justin Wood and running back Ryan Fugua give PSU one of the most talented back­fields in the Big Sky. Wood threw for 3,200 yards and 23 touchdowns and was intercepted just five times. Fugua, who ran for 1,358 yards and 15 touchdowns in his freshman season, should be even better this season.

As for the defense, Terry Charles will hurt, but Jesse Levin and Antonio Jackson will help fill the void.

Defensively, the Vikings need to be able toab down on the labels. They allowed 400 yards a game they allowed opponents last season if they want to make some noise in the Big Sky.

**Prediction: 7-4, third in the Big Sky.**

**SACRAMENTO STATE**

The Hornet's were flat out horrible last season, winning just two games and outscored 424-289. And the start of this season doesn’t look all that promising either, with Sac State playing five of its first six games on the road.

If the Hornets are to surprise opponents, quarterback Ryan Leadinhgam will have to continue on his strong freshman season. Pressed into action, Leadinhgam threw for 1,452 yards and 17 touchdowns, but was picked-off 10 times.

At running back, former QB Garrett White will try to breathe new life into a探h in the Big Sky.

**Prediction: 3-10, the bottom of the Big Sky barrel.**

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Scouting Report: No. 12 Georgia Southern

Chelsi Moy
GameDay Kainim

Every good football program needs a year to rebuild, and Georgia Southern is long overdue.

GSU has been a leading contender and a major threat in the NCAA Conference for more than two decades. They didn't lose a home game between 1985 and 1990. Georgia Southern won the last five Southern Conference titles, broke more NCAA rushing records in 1999 than you could count on one hand, and was a national semifinalist in 2001. The Eagles have had six NCAA Championships in the last seventeen years, the last was in and 2000, the same year they beat the Grizzlies in the semifinals—a game the Grizzlies won't be quick to forget when the regular season comes to a close. It's no secret that GSU has always been a foe to reckon with. When it comes to championships, it seems the Eagles were always the first on Montana's list for possible runs on the road to victory.

But all good things must come to an end. With new blood pumping through their ball program, coaches and officials had high hopes for GSU, ranking them fifth in the preseason poll. Since then, some of that hope has diminished after the Eagles lost their season opener 22-19 to No.22 Tennessee State, Pennsylvania, Southwest Missouri State, Rhode Island, North Carolina A&T, Tennessee Tech, Nicholls State, Brown, Florida International, East Tennessee State, Wofford, Elon, The Citadel, St. Mary's (CA), Gardner-Webb.

Fielding the Grizzlies in the semifinals—game three of saving your windshield.

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AIAA Collegiate National Poll

Teamm (First-place votes) 2002 Record Points Previous Rank

2. Northern Iowa Panthers 1-0 1,932 3
3. Lehigh Mountain Hawks (2) 1-0 1,834 6
5. Appalachian State Mountaineers 0-1 1,667 2
6. McNeese State Cowboys 1-0 1,651 11
7. Eastern Illinois Panthers 0-1 1,511 4
8. Youngstown State Penguins 1-0 1,502 8
9. Delaware Blue Hens 0-1 1,369 22
10. William & Mary Tribe 0-1 1,353 9
11. Maine Black Bears 1-0 1,271 13
12. Georgia Southern Eagles 0-1 1,148 18
13. Portland State Vikings 1-0 1,109 17
14. Sam Houston State Bearkats 0-1 821 12
15. Villanova Wildcats 1-0 816 15
16. Northwestern State Demons 1-0 710 19
17. Eastern Kentucky Colonels 0-1 658 14
18. Grambling State Tigers 0-1 593 16
19. Montana State Bobcats 1-0 585 20
20. Hofstra Pride 1-0 542 15
21. Florida A&M Rattlers 0-1 529 16
22. Western Kentucky Hilltoppers 0-1 411 13
23. Hampton Pirates 1-0 400 25
24. Delaware State Gamecocks 0-1 363 24
25. Harvard Crimson 0-0 221 23

Dropped Out: No. 21 Northern Arizona.
The magic word

"If you let the fans' talk consume you, then it will kill you. I do believe in myself. Maybe I am not the best there has been here, but I believe we can win every time out." — John Edwards

However, had UM fans had their wishes granted, Glenn and his entire staff would have been gone after his first game.

To say that Glenn's debut two years ago left questions about his coaching abilities is an understatement. After the Grizzlies' rain-soaked, 16-9 loss to Hofstra, nearly everyone in Missoula wanted Glenn tied to the next train leaving town.

"That was a tough loss, without question," Glenn said. "To be honest, we went out and laid an egg. But I knew the type of team and coaching staff I had, and we fought back."

After winning the national championship last season and advancing to the title game the year before, no one dares to question Glenn. If he named offensive lineman Dylan McFarland next week's starting quarterback, fans would simply say, "Oh! Joe must know something about the kid's arm we don't."

But it is more than Glenn's coaching record that has created the love affair Missoula has with him.

What separates Glenn from nearly every other coach in UM history is Glenn's unique ability to make everyone around him feel important. Meet him once, and he'll likely remember your name 15 years from now as he's walking down the bread aisle of a grocery store.

"It could be Sunday morning after a game and he'll see both my grandmas and he'll remember their names, where they live and start talking to them," Edwards said. "But it is not a show, he truly remembers and cares for everyone he meets. It is amazing."

Play calling is left mainly to offensive coordinator Billy Cockhill and defensive coordinator Mike Brekke. Glenn certainly does have a say in what goes on with the offense and defense, but that is not his greatest ability as a head coach. Rather, it is how he fires up his players and makes them believe in what he says every day, whether it is practice or a game. That is what makes Glenn one of a kind.

"When a team has a coach like Joe, players simply want to play their hardest for him, every day," Skinner said. "He is something special."

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"When a team has a coach like Joe, players simply want to play their hardest for him, every day," Skinner said. "He is something special."

With those three main ingredients, plus the maturity of the rest of the team throughout the season, this season's Grizzlies have all the makings of something special themselves.

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Gameday Kaimin. Saturday, September 7, 2002

Editor's Note:

Gameday Kaimin is a free football program entirely put together by the staff of the Montana Kaimin. The student newspaper of the University of Montana. The Kaimin is in its 128th year of printing. GKD is a supplement of the newspaper to services the Kaimin provides. GKD has launched four years ago as the first independent football guide of its kind. You'll find us just about anywhere you are on game day handing out what is still the original game day publication. So find one.

—Courtney Loversi