One word
One season
One question:
Can the Griz feel like this again?

MONTANA vs. Albany
Repeat. It is a harmless word, buried deep in the realms of Webster's Dictionary between repeat and repel. Loosely translated, it means to do again what has already been done.

Loosely translated, it means to do again what has already been done. 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 touchdowns passes in a 49-20 Marshall thumping of the Griz.

Taking that game into consideration, it is understandable why Griz 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, Randy Moss and Montana into the national championship game. He then put Montana into the national championship game. He then

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 been a special level of trust between him and the five men up front who are blocking for him.

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 TRENCHESS

As is the case between Edwards and his linemen, there is a level of understanding and trust between the five Grizzly offensive linemen that allows them to be one unit instead of five individuals come 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 relaxer.

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 been a special level of trust between him and the five men up front who are blocking for him.

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. Guarantees are left for Joe Namath, Randy Moss and Montana into the national championship game. He then 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 wadeur 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 noth-...
Montana

2002 Record • 10-0-0 Big Sky
2002 Record • 1-5-1 Overall, 17-0 Big Sky

Offense

John Edwards
Quarterback
6-1, 200 senior from Billings, Mont.

Most likely, the Danes are going to try passing the game on Montana. If the Griz are concerned with keeping the Great Danes on a leash, Dave DeCoite and the boys are going to have to step up and make some plays. But no worries, DeCoite can do it, recent spleen surgery or not. He led against Hofstra with a game-high 11 tackles.

Dave DeCoite
Strong Safety
6-1, 190 junior from Truckee, Calif.

Montana's stepped it up. A senior, he's got the edge that only a veteran who has led his team to a National Championship can have. He's not flashy, 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 170 yards, 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.

Defense

Numerical Roster

![Zikmund 81]

Nothing like a small town hero. Nothing like the hero shot on the field. Between draped red and white satin heisman trophy lightning ball. Dave Gober, the Griz are doing some serious mov­ing on the ball. Whether it's tackling or catching, we're ready for the show stops.

Jon Talmage 2
Dylan MacFarland 72
Cory Proctor 75
Jon Skinner 77
Conor Molloy 84

GRIZ DEFENSE

J.R. Waller 20
Jefferson Heidelberger 87
Ike Mincy 40
Mike Mahoney 39
Pete Hamill 38
Trey Young 36
Vernon Smith 11

GRIZ OFFENSE

Tad Hancock 30
Colt Palmer 45
Mike Peeples 27
Trem Young 3

Zikmund 81

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![Busch 91]

Bush 91

Last season, Tim Bush came on strong to lead the Griz to an epic win against the University of Montana. His name is on the quarterback's back and Ciche Pitcher, the Danes are going to have a hard time keeping the Great Danes on a leash.

Dave DeCoite 4
Ciche Pitcher 37
John Cahlil 95

Derek Decker 62
Blake Horgan 42
Vernon Smith 11

Young 3

Johnnie Peeples 27
CB

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### Albany Defense

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Height</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Hometown</th>
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<tr>
<td>CB</td>
<td>Kurt Campbell</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>6-0</td>
<td>265lbs</td>
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<tr>
<td>LB</td>
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<tr>
<td>LB</td>
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<td>55</td>
<td>6-1</td>
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</table>

Brown 22
Big bad Samson Brown, a senior free safety will be one to watch Saturday. Watch his hands, and hope they don't grab onto one of Edwards passes, which he has had last season with his interception, and 10 passes broken up.

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### Albany Offense

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Height</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Hometown</th>
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<td>83</td>
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<td>195lbs</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Matt Crudo</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6-0</td>
<td>195lbs</td>
<td>Scotia, NY</td>
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### Ryan Roeder

Offensive
Quarterback
6-1, 195 senior from Bethlehem, 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" plain and 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-AA Mid-Major Linebacker of the year, and for good reason. The kid is quick and big enough to stop even the quickest and strongest of Grizzlies. He'll be one Great Dane to reck on with—shusage.

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### Numerical Roster

**Probable Starters in Bold**

1. Ryan Roeder
2. Mike Larche
3. Josh Bazan
4. Ryan Roeder
5. Brandon Shaw
6. Matt Crudo
7. Jon George
8. Matt Crudo

---

### George

At 5-11, George DPS is not an easy thing to halt. The junior Albany RB is the team's top leading returner, carrying the ball 31 times for 201 yards and four touchdowns last season. He could definitely contend for the lead of the Gridiron however.
Bryan Haines

GameDay Kaimin

Big Sky Conference Football previews are getting easi­er to write now that a few things have settled. First, place the University of Montana on top, then write about how they are domi­nant at nearly every position on the field. Next, simply arrange the rest of the league by drawing them out of a hat, because everyone seems to fall behind UM anyway.

Piece of cake.

The Bobcats' season is no different. The defending I-AA champion Grizzlies are again the creme de la creme of the league standing above everyone else. The only thing, though, is that they're right behind them.

What comes next is not a misprint. It is fact, 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. 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 I-AA football after going 0-11.

What a difference two years make.

Will the kitcins 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 is a key year for Bobcat head coach Mike Kramer, who has completely rebuilt MSU after taking over in 2000, and his team a beating, losing all 11 games that year.

But after a surprising year last season, the Bobcats fin­ished sixth in the Big Sky conference title hunt until the final three weeks of the season, this appears to be the year where the Bobcats move from the conference cellar to the top floor.

All those expectations will rest heavily on the fragile health and whether his back will be able to handle an entire season will be one of the most monitored sub plots of the 2002 season.

The Bobcat offense won't rely solely on Johnson's legs and passing game, as they did for much of last season.

Starting quarterback Tyler Thomas (2,330 yards, 19TD) and Adam Corderio will constantly be chasing down outside feet.

Johnson's legs and throwing arm will be the keys to the offense, as the Bobcats are a team with just two returning starters. On defense, the trio of I-AA football after going 0-11.

Starting linebacker Jon Montoya and Justin Brester return along with Dante Harrell to form a strong defensive line.

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 starter Josh Blakeman sat out the entire season.

Replacing a team with offense will likely be a much more difficult task for Wulff to do though. Jovan Griffith, who has a 1,000-yard season, along with anyone.

The Eagles won't be replacing as many starters on defense as they have on offense, as ends Brandon Moore and Justin Brester return along with Dane 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 hope to win some games, they are going to stop somebody.

The reformation on defense will start with preseason All-American Matt McFaden at linebacker. Despite his first season as the starter, and he will once again be throwing the ball to wide outs Daron Gilmour, Brett Fowler and Sale Key.

The Bobcats 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 if it wants to continue to improve.

Prediction: 6-5, fourth in Big Sky.

NORTHERN ARIZONA

A year removed from the I-AA playoffs, Jerome Sours' club will be rebuilding this season. Two college transfers, Clint Wornack from Grovetown JC and Richard Luccon from UNM, will battle for the starting quarter­back position.

What first one of these two learns the offense will be the deciding factor in the Lumberjacks' season.

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

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

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 close out close contests, losing three games by a combined eight points to finish 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 Jason Gilrey, 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 if it wants to continue to improve.

Prediction: 6-5, fourth in Big Sky.

SACRAMENTO STATE

The Hornets were flat out horrible last season, winning just two games after a rocky 3-4 start. For Sac State to win just two games and outscore 424-249. 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 Leadington will have to continue on his strong freshman season. Pressed into action, Leadington threw for 1,725 yards and 17 touchdowns, but was picked-off 10 times.

At running back, former QB Garrett White will try to break the proven running back chain that had n't had since Charles Roberts graduated two seasons ago.

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

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REALLY BELIEVE THE 'CATS ARE RUNNING A CLOSE SECOND?

No other discounts apply.

Canoes, Kayaks, Accessories

New vs. Used Sales

Canoes, Kayaks, Accessories

No other discounts apply.
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, 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 championshipships, it seems the Eagles were always the first on Montana's list for possible runs on the road to victory.

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 Delaware. 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 Delaware. GSU not only has young players in their starting lineup, but a new head football coach to their program to boot. Let's talk about young blood.

After former head coach Paul Johnson moved on to Navy, GSU looked to assist coach Mike Sewak. He was the Eagle's offensive coordinator and offensive line coach for the last five years. He is the eighth head football coach in GSU's history.

Last season, the Eagles crushed Delaware 38-7. It was obvious the Delaware Blue Hens had left that game in the past, the same way they left GSU in the dust after rushing for two touchdowns within the first five minutes of the game. The Eagles were forced to kick two field goals to remain in the game.

GSU looked to be rallying back in the third quarter when freshman running back Jermaine Austin scored their first touchdown from 11 yards out, but the Eagles two-point conversion failed.

At one other point in the third quarter, the Eagles had the opportunity to take control of the scoreboard when kicker Scott Shelton attempted a 35-yard field goal but missed.

Both teams scored one last touchdown in the fourth quarter. Despite repeated attempts by the Kalmir to contact Sewak about last week's game, he never returned any phone calls. Georgia Southern hosts the Gardner-Webb Bulldogs this weekend. The Bulldogs won their season opener, but the Eagles have a 29-game winning streak to defend.

Although GSU is off to a rough start, it is important not to underestimate this young team. It is possible the Eagles are just going through a little longer than expected, but all good things must come to an end. It's time for the Eagles to get back to work, to help their new head coach and work into their rhythm. Whatever the case may be, history is bound to repeat itself, but for the GSU Eagles, probably not this season.

Fielding

Montana vs. Albany

**Scouting Report:** No. 12 Georgia Southern

Chelsi Moy
GameDay Kalmir

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

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

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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 Delaware. 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 Delaware. GSU not only has young players in their starting lineup, but a new head football coach to their program to boot. Let's talk about young blood.

After former head coach Paul Johnson moved on to Navy, GSU looked to assist coach Mike Sewak. He was the Eagle's offensive coordinator and offensive line coach for the last five years. He is the eighth head football coach in GSU's history.

Last season, the Eagles crushed Delaware 38-7. It was obvious the Delaware Blue Hens had left that game in the past, the same way they left GSU in the dust after rushing for two touchdowns within the first five minutes of the game. The Eagles were forced to kick two field goals to remain in the game.

GSU looked to be rallying back in the third quarter when freshman running back Jermaine Austin scored their first touchdown from 11 yards out, but the Eagles two-point conversion failed.

At one other point in the third quarter, the Eagles had the opportunity to take control of the scoreboard when kicker Scott Shelton attempted a 35-yard field goal but missed.

Both teams scored one last touchdown in the fourth quarter. Despite repeated attempts by the Kalmir to contact Sewak about last week's game, he never returned any phone calls. Georgia Southern hosts the Gardner-Webb Bulldogs this weekend. The Bulldogs won their season opener, but the Eagles have a 29-game winning streak to defend.

Although GSU is off to a rough start, it is important not to underestimate this young team. It is possible the Eagles are just going through a little longer than expected, but all good things must come to an end. It's time for the Eagles to get back to work, to help their new head coach and work into their rhythm. Whatever the case may be, history is bound to repeat itself, but for the GSU Eagles, probably not this season.
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 grant-ed, 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, 10-9 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's likely to 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."

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.

Editor's Note:

With the magic word, "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, our football season is about to start, and what better thing to discuss than a Grizzlies season's worth of potential game days? So, despite this not being a true football season, it's time to talk Grizzlies.

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Offensive tackle Jon Skinner, 77, practices blocking drills with teammate Tate Hancock, 30, during Tuesday's practice.

Nick Wolsolt/GDK

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The magic word

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