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Game Day Kaimin, September 21, 2002

Associated Students of the University of Montana

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For senior safety Dave DeCoite, maturity on the field has been easy — it's off the field that has been tough. by Bryan Haines
A 10-year-old boy stands in his back yard, peering over a set of shoulder pads that are five sizes too big, almost ready to slip off the boy's narrow shoulders and onto the ground. The pads are from his father's playing days in college, battered from years of abuse.

On top of the little boy's head rests a helmet that looks like someone carved out a pumpkin and placed it on top of the shoulder pads.

The boy appears ready to go trick-or-treating instead of playing football, but as he stands across the yard at his older brother, he can't wait to start running through the grass after him.

The boy is Dave DeCoite.

"The helmets were old school, with no pads in them basically," Dave said. "We would just go off on each other, it was pretty cool."

The kid from Truckee, Calif., has come a long way from those one-on-one, tackle football games with his brother.

Dave has filled out those shoulder pads and now starts at strong safety for the Griz, trying to make fans forget about do-everything superstar Vince Huntsberger.

While it didn't take long for Dave to physically mature into a set of shoulder pads, the same cannot be said about his maturity off the field.

A poaching violation last September and a lack of effort in the classroom nearly pushed Dave off the team. But after nearly flunking out last fall and then having surgery this spring for a ruptured spleen, the hard-hitting safety known as "the Missile" has started coming of age, both on and off the field this season.

"He's going to school and there are no off-the-field problems," Defensive coordinator Mike Breske said. "He really has made a transition from his freshman and sophomore year to now."

It was early September, and Dave and his roommate were caught poaching deer, and named Grizzly freshman of the year. Dave appeared ready for another strong sophomore season, but before he could lift off, he made a mistake that still haunts him.

It was early September, and Dave and his roommate had too many beers one night. The two climbed into Dave's pickup and went out looking for deer.

"I was drunk," Dave said. "I wouldn't go do it sober. I wouldn't go do it sober."

The kid from Truckee, Calif., has come a long way from those one-on-one, tackle football games with his brother. Dave has filled out those shoulder pads and now starts at strong safety for the Griz, trying to make fans forget about do-everything superstar Vince Huntsberger.

During spring drills, Dave got to practice late because he was in class, and he threw on his pads, did some quick stretches and jumped into drills. During spring drills, Dave got to practice late because he was in class, and he threw on his pads, did some quick stretches and jumped into drills.

"I felt really small and stupid," Dave said. "Coach Glenn is a father figure to me and it was like I was letting down my father."

The boy is Dave DeCoite.

"I am not pissed about getting caught, I know I was wrong. But what makes me mad is how many people come up to me after games and say 'we did it and didn't get caught.'"

While Dave wasn't having many problems on the field last season (he made 63 tackles and had an interception in the national championship game against Furman) he was having other problems off the field.

In fact, as he admits now, Dave really wasn't going to class much. He simply didn't want to go. He struggled with being on his own, making his own decisions and going down my father.

He was also showing more leadership on the field during spring drills, which was important because replacing Vince Huntsberger took more than just making tackles.

"I felt really small and stupid," Dave said. "Coach Glenn is a father figure to me and it was like I was letting down my father."

"I am not pissed about getting caught, I know I was wrong. But what makes me mad is how many people come up to me after games and say 'we did it and didn't get caught.'"

While Dave wasn't having many problems on the field last season (he made 63 tackles and had an interception in the national championship game against Furman) he was having other problems off the field.

In fact, as he admits now, Dave really wasn't going to class much. He simply didn't want to go. He struggled with being on his own, making his own decisions and doing what was right.

When he was having other problems off the field, the worst thing I had ever felt; it felt like I had broken my ribs and punctured a lung." — Dave DeCoite

To be eligible to play in sports in the Big Sky Conference, an athlete who has completed three semesters of school must maintain a grade point average of 1.5. Dave passed, but by just .1 of a grade point average, making him eligible for spring football.

They were doing one-on-one drills, and he was up in the air to pick a pass intended for Tate Hancock. The two collided and Dave landed awkwardly, driving his elbow into his stomach.

"I felt really small and stupid." Dave said. "Coach Glenn is a father figure to me and it was like I was letting down my father."
It’s Homecoming and the Griz are set to take on Idaho State for their first conference game of the year. Idaho State may prove to be the first real test for the Griz’ stingy defense. “Idaho State has a great offense,” Griz defensive coordinator Mike Breske said. “It will be a challenge for our defense to slow them down.”

Breske’s defense, which has only allowed seven points per game, should be up to the challenge, according to head coach Joe Glenn. Glenn feels confident that the Griz can tame the potent ISU offense.

“I don’t see the game being a shootout,” Glenn said. “Our defense is playing well and we’re ready once the first whistle is blown on Saturday.”

Glenn added that the Homecoming events have definitely helped his team, and have not been disrupted at all. Many people have been talking about the weather as a possible game-changing variable. However, the spontaneous weather of the past week does not worry Glenn. Whether its rain, snow, or shine, the Griz are just going to play their game.

“I always like to say that both teams play on the same field, so weather shouldn’t be a factor,” Glenn said. “And also, with our miracle field, the surface never gets slippery or muddy.”

Idaho State is hoping to stay above .500 after a heartbreaking loss to Utah State last week. Staying above .500, though, is not an easy task when the opponent is Montana. Montana has won the last seven meetings between the two teams, and the last 10 in Missoula.

Quarterback John Edwards looks to continue his solid play and lead the Griz on offense. Edwards is currently third in passing yards in the Big Sky, averaging 223.3 yards per game. His 62.9 completion percentage is a close second to Eastern Washington’s Josh Blankenship. There is no better setting for the first Big Sky conference game of the year than Homecoming in the house of the defending national champions.

Glenn summed up what people can expect this weekend, “It’s going to be a dogfight.”

ISU to give Griz a hearty Homecoming

**Game Notes**

Sophomore Tyler Peterson dives after a fumble that lead to the first touchdown of the game scored by senior Joel Rosenberg. The Griz went on to defeat the Rams 33-14 Saturday at the Washington-Grizzly Stadium.
Offense

Brian Pelc
Center
6-4, 285 senior from Helena, Mont.

This behemoth senior center from Montana's capital has been anchoring the line for your Griz for the past three seasons. He's all recovering from a hamstring injury, but official (including GDK) say that Pelc's tough enough to start regardless of his "questionable" status this week against the Bengals.

Defense

Andy Thompson
Outside Linebacker
6-3, 215 junior from Walla Walla, Wash.

"A" had a solid year as a sophomore, his first as a starting member of the Griz defense. During the 2001 campaign, he tallied 28 tackles, including four for losses, and had three sacks. Look for this train to continue rolling in the 2002 season.

NUMERICAL ROSTER
PROBABLE STARTERS IN BOLD

1. Levander Segars  SO  CB  5’9”  170 lbs
2. Jon Talmage  FR  WR  6’6”  195 lbs
3. Trey Young  SR  FS  6’0”  200 lbs
4. Dave DuCette  SS  LB  6’1”  205 lbs
5. John Edwards  SR  QB  6’0”  200 lbs
6. Andy Thompson  OL  6’6”  215 lbs
7. Bret Stanger  QB  6’4”  205 lbs
8. Jeffrey Hedgepeth  WR  6’2”  175 lbs
9. Kendall Seat  FR  CB  6’2”  205 lbs
10. Dave DeCoite  JR  SS  6’1”  190 lbs
11. Veronica Smith  JR  CB  6’1”  175 lbs
12. Brent Meyers  JR  FS  6’0”  190 lbs
13. Kevin Edwards  FR  SS  6’2”  185 lbs
14. Dustin Dlouhy  FR  LB  6’2”  217 lbs
15. Jelani Gamba  FR  FS/WR  6’3”  180 lbs
16. Mike Gober  FR  RB  5’9”  190 lbs
17. Mark Thompson  FR  S  6’0”  190 lbs
18. Levander Segars  SO  CB  5’9”  170 lbs
19. Joshua Johnson  FR  CB  6’2”  170 lbs
20. Turin Engelman  FR  RB  5’10”  190 lbs
21. Johnnie Peeples  SR  CB  5’10”  180 lbs
22. Tyler Peterson  SO  WR  5’10”  170 lbs
23. Kevin Edwards  SS  6’2”  185 lbs
24. Andy Thompson  SO  CB  6’0”  190 lbs
25. Jay Schilling  SO  FS  5’10”  170 lbs
26. Randolf Alonzo  SR  CB  6’0”  180 lbs
27. Johnnie Peoples  JR  CB  5’10”  160 lbs
28. Tyler Peterson  SO  WR  5’10”  170 lbs
29. Chris Snyder  JR  PK  5’10”  170 lbs
30. Taleen Rack  SO  WR  5’10”  170 lbs
31. Tyler Patterson  FR  S  5’10”  180 lbs
32. Michael Butler  FR  RB  5’10”  170 lbs
33. Johnnie Peeples  JR  WR  5’10”  160 lbs
34. Joel Robinson  JR  LB  6’2”  210 lbs
35. Pete Hamill  SO  RB  5’10”  190 lbs
36. Mike Mahoney  JR  SS  5’10”  170 lbs
37. Irwin McRae  SR  DE  6’0”  220 lbs
38. Shane Harris  JR  S  6’0”  180 lbs
39. Blake Horgan  SO  DL  6’3”  275 lbs
40. John Calhoun  SO  OL  6’3”  255 lbs
41. Collin Palmer  SO  TE  6’3”  220 lbs
42. Shane MacPhail  SO  LB  6’3”  220 lbs
43. Ben Vois  FR  TE  6’3”  220 lbs
44. Andrew Adams  JR  LB  5’11”  180 lbs
45. Tyler Freund  FR  LB  6’1”  190 lbs
46. Nick West  JR  LB  6’1”  190 lbs
47. Joel Robinson  JR  LB  5’11”  180 lbs
48. Chris Conions  JR  LB  6’1”  190 lbs
49. Chris Tarkowski  JR  LB  6’1”  190 lbs
50. Brian Ward  FR  CB  5’10”  170 lbs
51. Derek Decker  FR  OG  6’5”  280 lbs
52. Ryan Wells  FR  OG  6’5”  280 lbs
53. Dylin Brown  FR  OG  6’5”  280 lbs
54. Marcus Dreyer  FR  OG  6’5”  280 lbs
55. Brian Peeples  SR  OC  6’6”  300 lbs
56. Jake Pinchuck  FR  OC  6’6”  300 lbs
57. Jason Funk  FR  OG  6’6”  300 lbs
58. Locas Langlee  FR  K  6’6”  220 lbs
59. Dylan McFarland  JR  OT  6’3”  300 lbs
60. Jeff Marchant  FR  OL  6’3”  280 lbs
61. Beau Hart  SO  OL  6’6”  300 lbs
62. Cory Proctor  FR  DT  6’3”  280 lbs
63. Brad Rhodes  FR  DT  6’3”  280 lbs
64. John Skinner  JR  G  6’4”  280 lbs
65. Ryan Zikmund  SR  WR  6’2”  280 lbs
66. Mark Spencer  FR  P  6’0”  195 lbs
67. Dave Oliver  JR  WR  5’8”  175 lbs
68. Colton Molloy  SO  TE  6’3”  215 lbs
69. LaShawn George  FR  WR  6’3”  210 lbs
70. Nathan Adams  FR  WR  6’0”  195 lbs
71. Quinn Faino  FR  WR  6’3”  200 lbs
72. John Robinson  JR  WR  6’3”  200 lbs
73. Justin Decker  FR  TE  6’3”  200 lbs
74. Curt Coder  SR  DT  6’0”  200 lbs
75. Tim Bush  FR  DT  6’3”  220 lbs
76. Joel Roberts  SO  DT  6’3”  220 lbs
77. John Zikmund  SR  WR  6’2”  220 lbs
78. Artesia Robins  JR  RB  6’0”  220 lbs
79. Herberd Hernandez  JR  RB  6’0”  220 lbs
80. Tony Bohen  JR  RB  6’0”  220 lbs
81. Alan Saenz  FR  NT  6’1”  285 lbs
82. Andy Thompson  FR  CB  6’0”  190 lbs
83. Devon Crichton  JR  RB  6’0”  220 lbs
84. Rich Johnson  JR  RB  6’0”  220 lbs
85. David Decker  JR  RB  6’0”  220 lbs
86. Mike Gober  FR  RB  5’9”  190 lbs
87. Nathan Adkins  FR  WR  5’10”  170 lbs
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89. Michael Potts  FR  DE  6’4”  215 lbs
90. Curt Coder  SR  DT  6’0”  200 lbs
91. Jon Talmage  FR  DT  6’3”  215 lbs
92. Michael Potts  FR  DE  6’4”  215 lbs
93. Chris Orwig  FR  DT  6’5”  250 lbs
94. Steve O'Neal  FR  DT  6’4”  240 lbs
95. Jon Skinner  FR  DT  6’4”  240 lbs
96. Dan Oliver  JR  WR  6’3”  220 lbs
97. John Thompson  JR  OLB  6’2”  215 lbs
98. Tim Bush  FR  DT  6’3”  220 lbs
99. Jefferson Heidelberger  SO  WR  5’10”  170 lbs
100. Michael Potts  FR  DE  6’4”  215 lbs
101. Chris Orwig  FR  DT  6’5”  250 lbs
102. Tim Bush  FR  DT  6’3”  220 lbs
103. Vernon Smith  JR  CB  6’1”  175 lbs
104. David DeCoite  JR  SS  6’1”  190 lbs
105. Dave DuCette  SS  LB  6’1”  205 lbs
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117. Dave DuCette  SS  LB  6’1”  205 lbs
118. John Edwards  SR  QB  6’0”  200 lbs
119. Andy Thompson  OL  6’6”  215 lbs
This senior from Morgan, Utah, had 14 tackles in each of the last two games, leading his team to two wins. At 205 lbs, Mr. Brooks is going to have a hard time getting past the Skinner. This senior from Morgan, Utah, has had 14 tackles in each of the last two games, leading his team to two wins. At 205 lbs, Mr. Brooks is going to have a hard time getting past the Skinner.
**Alumni spotlight:**

**Kristen Ishbody**  
*GameDay Kaimin*

**Known as the Jelly Bean Guy, Phillip Doty is a UM alumnus known for his belly flops.**

No, he’s not a bad swimmer. Every Homecoming, Doty brings crates of Jelly Belly rejects, known as belly flops, to his alma mater. This year, he brought from his home in Fairfield, Calif., about 90,000 jelly beans in 10 crates. Every member of the soccer team and all 26 members of the soccer team, plus trainers and coaches get a bag. So does the staff of the UM Alumni Association, Public Relations and the Missoula Downtown Association.

The music department gets a case, and so does the Montana Kaimin.

The football team does not. “There’s just too many of them,” Doty said.

Doty is a new fan of the UM soccer program. A few years ago, he heard UM head soccer coach Betsy Duerksen speak at a Missoula Kiwanis meeting.

“She’s just a sweet man.”

Doty gave the soccer team a motivational speech and a motivational speech at practice Tuesday, Duerksen said.

“She cares about the group as people.”

Doty, whose favorite bean flavor is chocolate, is saving his bag of jelly beans for a special occasion, “like when I’m really hungry.”

“Jelly beans are a nice gesture,” Doty told the team he would be at the Missoula Kiwanis meeting.

“Something said, ‘I’d like to see what they do!'” Doty said. “So, I went to a practice.”

From that point on, he was hooked on Montana soccer.

Soccer player Courtney Blakely said, “He’s pretty much our No. 1 fan ... He always tells us no matter how our season’s going, he thinks we’re great.”

“He’s just a really great guy,” Duerksen said. “He gets us through Homecoming week,” she said. “The alumni department apparently rations theirs, but we’ve been eating them by the handful.”

Though her favorite flavor is coconut, Munzenrider homes in on the siamese twin belly flops — clumps of jelly beans bonded together.

Doty said passing out the beans is a fun way to get to know people and to maintain connections.

Why jelly beans? “Jelly beans travel well,” he said. “Hershey kisses melt.”

Chocolate is his favorite flavor (anything chocolate except chocolate-covered ants) but Doty said he doesn’t eat many jelly beans.

Doty, 65, graduated UM with the class of 1964 as a history major and English minor. In 1974, he received his master’s in education administration.

He spent 20 years at the Suisun School District in Fairfield, Calif., and in 1986 went to work at the U.S. Mint, where he still works.

Though his love of soccer comes lately, Doty has always loved music. His father, Gerald Doty, 92, was on the music school faculty from 1958 to 1974. Though his love of soccer comes lately, Doty has always loved music. His father, Gerald Doty, 92, was on the music school faculty from 1958 to 1974. In college, Doty played in the marching band and pep bands for football and basketball, and also in concert bands.

Doty, who plays the bass drum, was one of the first members of the 14-year-old alumni band, he said. “I can still carry it,” Doty said. “It amazes me every time.”

UM alumnus Phillip Doty has been coming to Missoula for Homecoming for years and each year, he brings jelly beans to happy recipients at the University.

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**Special Homecoming Feature:**

‘Jelly Bean Guy’ doles out beans for Homecoming

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**Lisa Heimann-GDK**
Homecoming update: Fall sports shine on

After finishing near the bottom of the barrel last season, the team has already redeemed itself. The Griz have already won more games in three weeks than they did last season.

Their 6-4 record doesn’t reveal that the team has gone knockem-to-knockem with nationally ranked teams like North Carolina and Northwestern.

With a roster supported by Grizzly veterans and splashed with some newcomers, Best said her team couldn’t be off to a better start.

“The girls have so much more confidence in their faces this year,” Best said. “They’ve just got it together, and our opponents know now that we come to win.”

After coming off a three-way tie for first place in the tournament last weekend, the Griz have the next two weeks off to prepare for their first conference match.

Check out the Griz at home on the weekend of Sept. 27 when they take on Eastern Washington and Portland State at 7:30 p.m.

Soccer

Coming off a disappointing 8-6-0 record last year, things continue to look somewhat bleak for the Grizzly soccer squad.

The volleyball team must have passed on the injury bug, as the sideline has been silent this season. “They’d come to the huddle with their hands on their hips and their heads down, but so far this year, it’s been different.”

Head coach Nikki Best said of the beginning of last year’s season. “They’d come to the huddle with their hands on their hips and their heads down, but so far this year, it’s been different.”

But it hasn’t always been like that.

Last year, the team hardly had enough players to fill out a roster after a third of them were sidelined with injuries.

“They were frustrated; I was frustrated last season,” head coach Nikki Best said of the beginning of last year’s season. “They’d come to the huddle with their hands on their hips and their heads down, but so far this year, it’s been different.”

Volleyball

There’s nothing to be said about a woman who can drill a volleyball six inches into the ground.

If you had a chance to watch the Grizzly netters at home two weeks ago at the Ruby’s Montana Invitational, you know what we mean.

With only two players on the team less than 6 feet tall, the Griz volleyball team grinds under intimidation on the court.

But it hasn’t always been like that.

There are many talented athletes on campus who don’t suit up for the Griz, but it’s easier to get some competition under its belt after three weeks of grueling, hard practices.

“Were a little late getting started this year and we’ve got a talented group of athletes, especially freshmen,” Raunig said.

The UM men have two-time, all-American selection Scott McGowan returning to the lineup, McGowan will be supported by Big Sky champion Antony Ford and senior, Dickie Bishop.

The UM women, who were ranked third in the Big Sky preseason poll, are paced by Big Sky 10k champ Julie Frey.

You can catch these barriers at the University Golf Course on Oct. 5.

Tennis

The women on the UM tennis team have yet to compete this season, and the men only have one game on the books.

Head tennis coach Keri Nord said he is still a little in the dark about what to expect from his team this weekend.

“With the new recruits and the men travel to Idaho and the woman to Pullman, Wash.,” Nord said. “I do know one thing — we’ve got competitors that work hard in practices that make them a pleasure to coach.”

Nord said the team’s strength is in depth.

This year’s veteran squad has blended well with the newcomers. Nord said, and he encourages spectators to come cheer on the teams on Oct. 10-13 when the Griz play at home.

Golf

After signing prep recruits Javi Acharya, Mary Hasselberg and Jull Walker, UM golf team has the fresh blood they need to make a statement at the team’s opener, Sept. 22 at the Montana State Invitational.

And the new recruits will have the template role model in Katie Jacobson, last year’s Big Sky golf champion.

Unfortunately for all you golf fans, the Griz do not have any home tournaments scheduled for the fall season, but you can follow the team online at www.montana-grizzlies.com.
"It was the worst pain I had ever felt; it felt like I got shot," Dave said. "I thought I had broken my ribs and punctured a lung."

Trainers also thought that he had broken his ribs, and they sent Dave home with some painkillers and told him to rest. But he couldn't rest, and after the pain killers wore off, he went to the Curry Health Center to get some more. Once again, the painkillers only briefly stopped the pain, and doctors conducted an MRI two days after the initial injury.

Dave had internal bleeding, and doctors decided that they had to remove Dave's spleen.

Spring football was over for Dave, but the road to recovery was just beginning for him. He lost close to 20 pounds, and for the first few weeks afterward, he could hardly stand straight or walk.

While Dave couldn't compete on the field during the spring, he was making sure that he was taking care of business in the classroom. Dave had close to a 2.6 GPA last semester, moving his cumulative GPA above the 2.0 requirement he needed to be eligible to play. It also helped that every day when Dave looked in the mirror, he was looking at a deep red, four-inch scar that goes straight up above his belly button.

"When my spleen was removed, doctors told me that I would have to start taking it a little easier and being smarter," Dave said. "It made me realize that I had to be smarter in everything, including going to class."

When Dave reported for fall drills this August, it took him a few days to get back to feeling comfortable on the football field.

"For the first couple of practices I wasn't hitting as hard as I normally do because I didn't know how my body would react," Dave said. "I had to get comfortable out there again."

It didn't take long for Dave to start laying his trademark hits on people and the junior has made an impact on field. His toughness at safety has helped carry the Griz to a perfect 3-0 record to start the season.

But what Dave is most proud of isn't what he has done on the field this season, rather it is what he has done off of it.

"I haven't missed one class so far this semester," Dave said. "It may have taken a little while, but I feel I have started to mature."

That little boy who started playing football in his back yard has finally grown up.

"It was the worst pain I had ever felt; it felt like I got shot," Dave said. "I thought I had broken my ribs and punctured a lung."