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Griz made football fans proud in '08

There's no denying it: The 2008 Grizzly football season was something special.

As fall and football season came to Western Montana, many fans whispered "rebuilding year." Twenty-four seniors had graduated from the 2007 squad.

But those who remained were ready to shine.

Cole Bergquist, from San Clemente, Calif., was outstanding at quarterback, throwing for 3,156 yards. Junior wide receiver Marc Mariani, from Havre, had 1,308 receiving yards — the second-most ever for a Grizzly. Senior safety Colt Anderson of Butte finished his career with 313 tackles — the fifth-best in UM history. And Chase Reynolds, the sophomore running back from Drummond, set single season records for touchdowns (23) and points (138).

The Griz silenced any doubters as the regular season came to a close and the team roared into the playoffs with a No. 5 seed. Texas State went down, and then UM avenged its only loss of the regular season with a mauling of Utah's Weber State.

But the fun wasn't over yet.

The Griz earned a 35-27 victory over No. 1-ranked James Madison University in Harrison, Va., on Dec. 12. It was the first semifinal road victory in UM history.

Griz Nation turned out in force for the Football Championship Subdivision title game in Chattanooga, Tenn. Thousands of fans traveled more than 2,000 miles to see the Griz make a run at the championship for the first time since 2004.

The Grizzlies lost to the Richmond Spiders 7-24 on Dec. 19. Despite some outstanding performances — Mariani snagged seven passes for 172 yards and junior linebacker Shawn Lebsack tallied 13 tackles — the Griz were defeated, finishing the season 14-2.

Despite their No. 2 finish, coach Bobby Hauck spoke highly of his 2008 Grizzlies.

"They're a great group of young men," he said after the game. "They came a million miles from August. I'm privileged to be their coach." 🐻



Grizzly football players emerge from the smoke before the start of the Football Championship Subdivision title game in Chattanooga, Tenn., on Dec. 19.



Above: Senior Colin Dow reacts after Montana lost to Richmond 7-24.

Middle left: Thousands of Griz fans made the 2,000-mile trek to Chattanooga, Tenn., to cheer on their team.



Bottom: Senior quarterback Cole Bergquist is pulled down by a Richmond defender during the Football Championship Subdivision title game.

Student-Athletes Shine In Classroom — UM Athletic Director Jim O'Day recently announced that UM's 289 student-athletes earned a 3.0 grade point average for the 2008 fall semester. Women's tennis (3.34), women's track and field (3.27) and volleyball (3.20) highlighted the department's fall academic success. Grizzly student-athletes posted an average cumulative GPA of 3.05. Montana's undergraduate student body of 10,538 had an average term GPA of 2.83 and a cumulative GPA of 2.89. Half of the department teams had a fall GPA of at least 3.0, and nine of the 12 teams maintained a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0. UM's volleyball team has a department-best cumulative GPA of 3.36. Women's tennis cumulative GPA was 3.33 and women's track and field was 3.32. The men's basketball team's 2.99 grade point average is expected to be among the better averages among Division I schools in the country. The 102 student-athletes on the Montana football team, which had a 16-week game schedule, posted an impressive 2.9 fall semester GPA and a 2.91 cumulative GPA.



Griz Football Players Named To 'Fabulous Fifty' — Two UM football players were selected for the 2008 College Sporting News Fabulous Fifty Division I FCS All-American team. Colin Dow, a senior offensive guard from Billings, and Colt Anderson, a senior safety from Butte, received the honors. Junior Marc Mariani, from Havre, was an honorable mention. Anderson, who was selected for the team last year as well, also was considered for Defensive Player of the Year honors. In all, 36 teams and 13 conferences are represented on the team. Richmond landed four players on the squad, James Madison had three, while nine other teams, including Montana, had multiple selections.

Students Earn Geomatrix Scholarships — Two UM graduate students in the Department of Geosciences recently received the AMEC Geomatrix Student Award in Applied Water Science. James Johnsen and Tabetha Lynch each received \$5,000 from AMEC Geomatrix, a technical consulting and engineering firm with offices in Missoula and worldwide. Johnsen's thesis work will be in the field of fluvial geomorphology, specifically working with sediment transport during the Milltown Dam removal and restoration of the Clark Fork and Blackfoot rivers. Lynch's thesis work will focus on the occurrence, transport and fate of selected pharmaceuticals in groundwater, focusing on the Missoula aquifer. Geomatrix, which employs five graduates of the UM geosciences master's program in its Missoula office, donated the scholarship funding to help UM recruit and retain top graduate students.

Bird Researcher Lands Grant For Study In Borneo — UM researcher Tom Martin has been awarded a \$600,000 grant to study the differences between populations of tropical birds in Asia and those in Africa and South America. Martin, assistant unit leader of UM's Montana Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, earned the three-year grant from the National Science Foundation. He has been continuously funded by NSF since 1986. Martin will study 25 to 30 Asian bird species in the mountainous jungles of Kinabalu Park, located in the Malaysian portion of the island of Borneo. A key part of his research will be studying how development speed and clutch sizes affect birds' abilities to fight off diseases and parasites. Martin intends to work five weeks in Borneo for the next three years, while his assistants will stay in the field for four and a half months each year. 🐼

"To Kill a Mockingbird" — Jan. 27-31; Feb. 7. 7:30 p.m. Mantinee at 2 p.m. Jan. 31. Montana Theatre, PAR/TV Center. Montana Repertory Theatre national tour. Cost: \$18 general public, \$14 seniors and students; \$8 children 12 and under. Tickets and information: Drama/Dance Box Office, 406-243-4581, umtheatredance@umontana.edu, <http://www.umtheatredance.org>, <http://www.montanarep.org>.

"King, Kennedy, Nixon and the Election of 1960" — Jan. 29. 7:30 p.m. Gallagher Business Building Room 123. UM's Martin Luther King Jr. Day Lecture. Presenter: Irwin Gellman. Free and open to the public. Information: UM history Professor Michael Mayer, 406-243-2088, michael.mayer@umontana.edu.

"Mental Health Matters for the Nation and Montana" — Feb. 2. 3:10 p.m. Gallagher Business Building Room 123. Presenter: Annelle Primm, director of minority and national affairs, American Psychiatric Association. An event of the 2008-09 President's Lecture Series. Free and open to the public. Information: <http://www.umt.edu/president/pls>; UM history Professor Richard Drake, 406-243-2981, richard.drake@umontana.edu.

"Red, White, Black and Blue: Race, Culture and Mental Health in America" — Feb. 2. 8 p.m. University Theatre.

UM Events

Presenter: Annelle Primm, director of minority and national affairs, American Psychiatric Association. An event of the 2008-09 President's Lecture Series. Free and open to the public. Information: <http://www.umt.edu/president/pls>; UM history Professor Richard Drake, 406-243-2981, richard.drake@umontana.edu.

Green Building Seminar Series: "Passive Solar Construction" — Feb. 4. 6:30 p.m. COT East Campus, Health and Business Building Room HB01, 909 South Ave. W., Missoula. Free and open to the public. Information: 406-243-7812.

Montana Tales: "First People and How the Landscape Shaped the Human Experience" — Feb. 4. 7:30 p.m. University Theatre. A fundraiser for A Carousel for Missoula hosted by UM President George Dennison. Legendary Montanans gather to share stories about the state's fascinating history. Information: <http://www.montanatales.com>. Tickets: <http://www.griztix.com>, 406-243-4051, 888-MONTANA.

The New Shanghai Circus — Feb. 7. 7:30 p.m., University Theatre. Information: <http://www.gmartists.com/shows.htm#shanghai>. Cost: \$29 general public adults; \$13 UM students and children under 18. Tickets: All GrizTix outlets, 406-243-4051, 888-MONTANA, <http://www.griztix.com>. 🐼



The University of
Montana

Main Hall to Main Street is published by University Relations at The University of Montana. Send questions or suggestions to Jennifer Sauer, editor, 323 Brantly Hall, Missoula, MT 59812, or call 406-243-4878. Jacob Baynham, Brianne Burrows, Brenda Day, Rita Munzenrider and Cary Shimek are contributing editors and writers. Todd Goodrich is the primary photographer. The newsletter is online at <http://www.umt.edu/urelations/mainhall>.