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The University of  
**Montana**

UNIVERSITY RELATIONS • MISSOULA, MT 59812 • 406-243-2522 • FAX: 406-243-4520

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**NEWS RELEASE**

Aug. 13, 2003

**Contact:** Greg Sundberg, Grizzly marketing director, (406) 243-4336.

**GREAT GRIZ ENCOUNTER FEATURES MONTE, COACHES, PLAYERS**

**MISSOULA –**

It's not safe to rub elbows with the mighty grizzly bears, unless they are of the gridiron variety.

That's what fans of all ages are invited to do at the eighth annual Great Griz Encounter at The University of Montana Saturday, Aug. 23. This family event runs from 3-5 p.m. at UM's River Bowl (north end of Washington-Grizzly Stadium).

During the event, kids will be invited to cross the street to the stadium and play catch on the big field with members of one of the nation's top-ranked football teams. Griz players also will autograph free 2003 football posters for fans, and great Griz logo prizes will be given away.

This year's Great Griz Encounter gives the public the opportunity to meet the new coaching staff, led by head coach Bobby Hauck. Monte, the reigning Capital One National Mascot of the Year, also will be on hand to help kick off the 2003 Montana Grizzlies football season.

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RM  
GrizEnc03