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Montana faces last road contests

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sports

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While Montana's 5-13 record is nothing to shout about, three Big Sky wins

in a row is.

The University of Montana out-hustled Gonzaga last Saturday to the tune of 82-71 and roared past Idaho Monday evening, 99-66. The previous win was a 74-69 conquest of Montana State in Bozeman.

The Grizzlies have six game remaining and four are in Missoula. However, that is not of immediate concern. Montana faces its last road trip this weekend as the Grizzlies travel to Boise for a Saturday clash with Boise State and on to Pocatello for a Monday tilt with Idaho State.

The Grizzlies have never played the Broncs in Boise and in the only meeting between the two schools, Boise State took a 89-77 victory from Montana last year in Missoula

Boise State has a 4-4 conference record and a 9-11 overall mark going into Saturday's game. Prior to last weekend, the Broncs were in third in the Big Sky standings.

BSC had more than its share of troubles last weekend dropping a 91-57 decision to Weber in Ogden last Saturday and a 75-65 loss to Northern Arizona in Flagstaff last Monday.

The Bronc's big gun is 6-2 senior forward Ron Austin of Patterson, N.J. Austin is averaging 23 points per game on the season and 21.9 in Big Sky play. Austin not only is a scoring threat but a strong rebounder at 200 lbs.

Forward Steve Wallace, a 6-6 junior from Salt Lake City, has replaced Austin as Boise's leading rebounder this season and is averaging 12.8 rebounds per game. Last week he led the Big Sky in rebounding with 81 in six contests for a 13.5 average.

The Broncs also have two others averaging more than ten. Greg Bunn, a 6-7 center from Burley, Ida., is a sophomore starter averaging 11.9 in conference and 6-1 sophomore guard Ron Maxwell, Filer, Ida., is hitting 11.5 points each game.

The Broncos are hitting 44 per cent from the field and 70 per cent from the free throw line for the season. In Big Sky action Boise State is completing 41.3 per cent from the field and 68.2 per cent from the charity stripe.

Coach Lou Rocheleau **said** is an up and down ball club. The Broncos put together **big wins** over Idaho State and Portland State in Boise, but have dropped games they should have won big. "We know they are hungry after those two losses, but so are we," he said.

Monday night Montana faces Idaho State and Willie Humes. Humes is the Big Sky's scoring leader with 35 point per game average following 42 and 32 point performances last weekend against Northern Arizona and Weber.

Despite **the** Humes scoring show, Idaho State lost both games. Northern Arizona put the hex on the Bengals in Flagstaff Saturday night, 96-91 and Weber left no doubts in Big Sky opponent's minds who's number one with an 81-74 win over ISU. The Bengals are 5-3 in conference **and** 9-9 on the season. Weber leads the pack with a 7-1 record.

Idaho State is a pressing basketball team. The Bengals press the entire 40 minutes and seldom run a set discipline attack.

While Humes is the key to the ISU press and attack, fellow guard Trent Magner is also a threat. Magner is averaging 12 points per game.

ISU's big man on the boards is 6-9 Abe Gibbons from Atlanta, Ga. Last week Gibbons was **third** in Big Sky rebounding with Montana's Ray Howard with a 10.5 average.

Rccheleau said if Montana could come home with at least one win, the Grizzlies would still be in good shape for the remaining Big Sky tilts. "Of course two win would be more than welcome," he said.

Rocheleau said the Grizzlies are finally jelling and starting to work as a team. "With the big and physical front line we have, we must work the ball to them for the shots."

That is precisely what Montana did against Idaho. Ray Howard and Lonzo Lewis, both 6-8 got 25 and 22 points on the short percentage shots. "We have to hit these two to win," the Montana coach said.

Rocheleau said Montana has the momentum now it needed all season. "You have to have that confidence to win," he concluded.

1970-71 UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA BASKETBALL STATISTICS sixteen (5-16)

G	PLAYER	FG-FGA	PCT	FT-FTA	PCT	SH.M	REB	AVG	PF	A	PTS	AVG
18	Wetzel	98-238	.412	36-55	.655	159	51	2.3	55	15	232	12.9
18	Lewis	77-186	.414	70-110	.636	149	115	6.4	71	12	224	12.4
18	Howard	81-178	.455	56-84	.667	125	185	10.3	67	17	220	12.2
17	Vernon	87-226	.385	27-47	.574	159	67	3.9	23	24	205	12.1
18	Tye	48-102	.471	22-37	.595	70	76	4.2	31	13	118	6.6
16	Clark	28-71	.394	32-49	.653	60	97	6.1	46	11	90	5.6
12	Bascus	39-105	.371	18-38	.474	86	70	5.8	36	11	90	7.5
13	Nord	13-47	.277	8-21	.381	47	12	.9	10	8	34	2.6
11	Johnson	9-16	.563	14-21	.666	14	10	.9	8	4	32	2.9
11	Heroux	10-30	.333	8-13	.615	25	6	.6	10	6	27	2.5
7	Chapman	3-7	.429	6-7	.857	5	10	1.3	5	1	12	1.6
3	Judd	1-8	.200	0-0	.000	7	0	0.0	0	7	2	1.6
2	Walker	1-2	.500	0-0	.000	1	4	2.0	0	0	2	1.0
UM TOTAL		498-1222	.408	294-479	.615	909	862	47.9	364	136	1292	71.8
OPP. TOTALS		569-1249	.431	328-474	.690	836	813	46.9	360	179	1482	82.6

Conference (3-5)

8	Lewis	42-89	.472	31-49	.633	65	52	6.5	28	7	115	14.4
8	Vernon	48-114	.421	16-25	.640	75	37	4.6	11	11	112	14.0
8	Howard	37-70	.529	27-36	.750	42	82	10.2	30	8	101	12.6
8	Wetzel	33-94	.351	21-26	.808	66	26	3.2	22	7	87	10.9
8	Bascus	23-60	.383	11-22	.500	48	40	4.0	25	7	48	6.0
8	Tye	20-41	.488	6-13	.462	28	38	4.8	7	8	46	5.8
6	Clark	13-28	.464	14-26	.538	27	40	6.7	17	7	40	6.7
5	Johnson	5-6	.833	8-12	.666	5	4	.8	5	3	20	4.0
6	Nord	5-16	.313	6-12	.500	17	5	.8	2	3	16	2.7
4	Chapman	2-5	.400	6-7	.857	4	7	1.7	5	1	10	2.5
4	Heroux	2-6	.333	0-0	.000	4	1	.25	2	2	4	1.0
UM TOTALS		230-540	.426	145-227	.638	392	387	48.4	161	67	605	75.6
OPP. TOTALS		246-533	.461	133-207	.642	361	337	40.2	188	91	621	77.6

SCORES:

UM	PTS	OPPONENTS	OPP	WHERE	TOP SCORER	TOP REBOUNDER
L	68	Augustana	82	Sioux Falls	Wetzel 16	Howard 16
W	69	South Dakota	65	Vermillion	Wetzel/Vernon 14	Clark 12
L	63	Washington State	80	Pullman	Wetzel 13	Tye 11
L	67	Washington	86	Seattle	Wetzel 17	Howard 12
L	69	Washington State	81	Missoula	Wetzel 15	Howard 10
W	72	Northern Colorado	63	Missoula	Wetzel 18	Howard 13
L	64	Weber	85	Ogden	Lewis 19	Lewis 9
L	72	Northern Arizona	82	Flagstaff	Lewis 16	Howard 20
L	82	Montana State	85	Missoula	Wetzel 21	Howard 19
L	71	Puget Sound	96	Missoula	Wetzel 21	Howard 17
L	73	Gonzaga	81	Spokane	Vernon 22	Lewis 12
L	60	Idaho	82	Moscow	Lewis 13	Bascus 9
L	78	Athletes in Action	85	Missoula	Wetzel 25	Howard 10 (exhibition)
W	74	Montana State	69	Bozeman	Vernon 26	Tye 11
L	79	Oral Roberts	111	Missoula	Lewis 20	Bascus 11
L	50	Puget Sound	89	Tacoma	Vernon 14	Tye 8
W	79	Portland State	93	Portland	Wetzel 19	Howard 12
W	82	Gonzaga	71	Missoula	Tye 15	Lewis 11
W	98	Idaho	66	Missoula	Howard 25	Howard 10
					Lewis 22	

NEXT GAME Boise State in Boise. Feb. 13
Idaho State in Pocatello Feb. 15