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### Grizzlies host Idaho State, Weber State in Big Sky Conference basketball

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Dave Guffey  
Sports Information Director  
406/243-2522

Information Services, University of Montana, Missoula, MT 59812

guffey/stc  
1-7-80  
state, b.s., bb

GRIZZLIES HOST IDAHO ST., WEBER ST.  
IN BIG SKY CONFERENCE BASKETBALL

MISSOULA--

Hoping to rebound off a pair of tough Big Sky Conference road losses, the University of Montana will host Idaho State and Weber State Thursday and Saturday, Jan. 10 and 12, in two conference games. Tipoff is 8 p.m.

The junior varsity team will host Whitworth's JV team Jan. 10, and the Helena Americans Jan. 12 in the preliminary games. Game time is 5:45 p.m.

Montana, fighting illness and traveling conditions, dropped a 65-53 contest to host Northern Arizona in its conference opener last Thursday, and also lost a road game to the University of Nevada-Reno (59-53).

Leading Grizzly scorer Craig Zanon came down with the flu prior to the contest with NAU, and did not play. Two-time all-Big Sky center John Stroeder was also not at 100 percent. It took UM 46 hours to get to Flagstaff for that game.

Coach Mike Montgomery's team won't have an easy time of it this week. ISU is 2-0 in the conference (6-8 overall), with wins over Idaho (65-57) and Boise State (65-53). Both victories were at home, however, where the Bengals have won more than 85 percent of their games.

Saturday's foe, Weber State, (2-0) is ranked 18th nationally (they could move up in the rankings this week), and has won 13 straight games. The Wildcats' sole loss was a 91-84 overtime setback to host Utah State in their opener. They had to go into overtime to beat Boise State (66-62) and Idaho (42-41) in their conference games.

ISU has two returning starters off last year's 14-13 (8-6 in the conference) squad. However, two newcomers, guard Scott Gould (6-6) and forward Dale Wilkinson (6-10) have had a lot to do with the Bengal's success in the conference. Wilkinson,

(over)

who started his first two games as a collegian over the weekend, scored 29 points and grabbed 14 rebounds in ISU's victories. For his efforts he was named the co-Big Sky Conference Player of the Week. Goold dished out 21 assists in two games, including a Minidome record 12 against Boise State.

The Wildcats have four returning starters off a 25-9 (10-4 in conference) team, all four of which are seniors, and have played together a long time. Not only is WSC's record impressive, but some of its wins have been over Michigan State (63-61), at Nevada-Las Vegas (79-78) and Utah (91-79).

This week's games are important for the Grizzlies if they hope to make the post-season conference playoffs for the third consecutive season. UM was 7-7 in the Big Sky last year, all seven wins coming at home.

The games also have meaning in another way. Montana has won 17 straight Big Sky games at home. The record is 20, by Weber State.

Missoula radio station KYLT-AM will broadcast both games, beginning at 7:45 p.m. with the Grizzly scouting report. "Grizzly" Bill Schwanke calls the play-by-play.

PROBABLE STARTERS/SCORING, REBOUNDING AVERAGES

<u>IDAHO STATE</u>	<u>MONTANA</u>	<u>WEBER STATE</u>
G-Scott Goold (7.4, 3.9)	(stats on next page) Blaine Taylor	Mark Mattos (7.8, 3.2, 7.4 assist)
G-Joe Stewart (7.1, 2.0)	Craig Zanon	Bruce Collins (17.5, 5.5)
C-Joe Fazekas (14.1, 8.7)	John Stroeder	Richard Smith (13.7, 7.5)
F-Paul Wilson (11.5, 6.1)	Marty Green	David Johnson (15.5, 5.9)
F-Dale Wilkinson (4.3, 4.6)	Rod Brandon	Gerald Mattison (9.6, 6.9)
G-Bryan Banks (10.0, 5.7)	Tim Knight	Todd Harper (6.9, 2.5)
COACH: Lynn Archibald (36-31, 2½ yrs)		Neil McCarthy (98-39 in 4½ yrs)
SERIES: UM 40, ISU 27		UM 15, WSC 23
Last Year: UM 70, ISU 55 (at UM) ISU 78, UM 77 (40T, at ISU)		WSC 46, UM 60 (at WSC) UM 78, WSC 73 (at UM)