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### Grizzlies face Idaho in Big Sky postseason basketball tourney in Ogden, Utah February 29, 1980

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GRIZZLIES FACE IDAHO IN BIG SKY  
POSTSEASON BASKETBALL TOURNEY  
IN OGDEN, UTAH FEB. 29, 1980

It's Big Sky Basketball Tournament number three in a row for the University of Montana Grizzlies this weekend as they travel to Ogden, Utah for the Feb. 29- March 1 postseason affair.

Coach Mike Montgomery's team finished in third place in the Big Sky with a convincing 85-78 season-ending victory over Montana State in Bozeman last Saturday. Guards Blaine Taylor and Craig Zanon led the Grizzlies, scoring 22 and 18 points, respectively. Center John Stroeder and forward Marty Green grabbed 8 and 9 rebounds, respectively.

Montana, which is 16-10 overall, and finished 8-6 in the Big Sky, will play second-place University of Idaho (9-5) Friday, Feb. 29. The Vandals are 17-9 overall. Montana has won 7 of its last 9, including its last three straight games.

The Montana-Idaho game begins at 9 p.m. Friday. Radio station KYLT-AM of Missoula will begin broadcast of the game at 8:45 p.m. Bill Schwanke calls the play-by-play.

Idaho is only one of two teams in the conference which has defeated UM twice this season (Weber State is the other). The Vandals, coached by Don Monson (28-24 in two seasons) beat UM 63-62 in Moscow and 51-44 in Missoula.

Weber State (24-2), which is hosting the tournament, will play Montana State (14-11) in the first game Friday, starting at 7 p.m. The contest will be aired by Utah TV. The Wildcats finished 13-1 in the conference, and Idaho was the only team to defeat Weber in the Big Sky, winning 51-45 in Moscow.

"I think we are playing good basketball right now," said Grizzly coach Mike Montgomery, who has qualified for the postseason tournament in both of his seasons as head coach at Montana. "We are getting a balanced attack, and playing good team ball. I was very pleased with our defensive effort against Montana State. I thought we did a good job of getting them out of their game."

(over)



"As far as Idaho is concerned, we have got to be mentally and physically prepared," Montgomery said. "We weren't really prepared to play them in Missoula. I thought we played excellent ball against them in Moscow. We just weren't prepared. We have to be ready to go from the opening tipoff and control the tempo as much as we can. We have played very well in our last three games, and we must maintain that type of tempo against Idaho."

Vandal guard Don Newman is one of the top scorers in the conference, averaging 18.5 a game. The Vandals' other starting guard, Brian Kellerman, is the team's second-leading scorer, averaging 11.3.

Despite the team's size (6-11, 6-5, 6-5, 6-3, 6-3) UI out-rebounded Montana in its win over the Grizzlies in Missoula, 28-22. Newman was the game's leading scorer with 19. In UI's win in Moscow the Grizzlies shot 58 percent, out-rebounded the Vandals 35-20, but made 15 less free throws in the loss. Once again Newman led all scorers with 20.

"Newman is one of the best players in the league," Montgomery said. "Other players on the team score for them, but he determines the intensity and controls the team. He runs the show. I don't anticipate anything different as far as defending him. We'll need a good overall team effort to do the job."

The Grizzlies will depart from Missoula at 12:55 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 28, and are scheduled to arrive in Ogden at 2:46. They will be staying at the Ramada Inn.

Probable starters:

#### MONTANA

G--Blaine Taylor (11.5, 2.7)  
 G--Craig Zanon (15.2, 2.7)  
 C--John Stroeder (10.7, 7.0)  
 F--Marty Green (6.8, 4.8)  
 F--Rod Brandon (7.4, 5.4)  
 6--Tim Knight (5.6, 3.4)  
 COACH: Mike Montgomery (30-23, 2 yrs)

#### IDAHO

Don Newman (18.5, 2.9)  
 Brian Kellerman (11.3, 2.7)  
 Jeff Brudie (9.8, 3.9)  
 Gordon Herbert (9.0, 4.7)  
 Ron Maben (5.7, 5.7)  
 Phil Hopson (4.1, 4.2)  
 Don Monson (28-24, 2 yrs)

	<u>UM</u>	<u>OPP.</u>
FG%	45.9	44.7
FT%	70.0	68.6
Reb. Avg.	39.2	35.7
Pts. Avg.	69.5	63.3

	<u>UI</u>	<u>OPP.</u>
	51.4	46.4
	72.6	69.4
	31.8	33.9
	70.5	65.4

(more)



GRIZZLIES FACE IDAHO--add two

GRIZ-VANDAL NOTES: The Grizzlies have been shooting extremely well from the free-throw line, making 90 of 103 shots for 87 percent in their last four games. Montana was 35 of 40 from the line against Montana State. John Stroeder now has 917 career points, ranking him 10th on the UM all-time list, 10 points behind Ben DeMers (1973-77). Stroeder also has 612 rebounds, and ranks in the top 15.

Idaho guard Don Newman, one of the top scorers in the Big Sky, has 482 points this season, ranking him third on the single-season Vandal scoring list. He needs only three more assists (he has 143) to break that record.

Craig Zanon, who has scored 350 points thus far this season, needs only 21 more to become number 20 on the single-season scoring list at UM.

Idaho, which has won 9 of its last 11, had its best season since 1962-63 (20-6), and its first winning season since 1970-71 (14-12). Idaho was picked to finish last in the Big Sky by the conference media. UI leads the series, 65-43. This is the first time Idaho has qualified to play in the conference tourney.

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