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Former Grizzlies now playing professional basketball

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FORMER GRIZZLIES
NOW PLAYING
PROFESSIONAL BASKETBALL

The success of the University of Montana basketball program the past few seasons can be seen by following the careers of guard Michael (Sugar) Ray Richardson and John Stroeder.

Richardson, a 6-5 guard, currently plays for the New York Knicks in the National Basketball Association. He received the NBA's top honors last season when he was selected to play in the league's annual all-star game. He was in the top 10 in assists and steal leaders in the NBA last season.

Stroeder, a 6-10 center, is playing for Club Fiat, a professional team in Birmingham, England. He was an eighth-round draft pick of the Portland Trailblazers. He plans to return to UM in the spring of 1981 to pursue his education.

Both players have made their marks in the Grizzly record books. Both also played in an era of Montana basketball that has been very successful, dating back to the Jud Heathcote-coached team of 1974-75.

Richardson, the most prolific scorer in Grizzly history, was a starter on the 1974-75 team which lost only one conference game, and finally left the NCAA regional tournament when the eventual champ--UCLA--beat the Grizzlies by only three points.

Richardson scored 1,827 points during his four-year career at UM. He holds the single season (117) and career (372) records for assists. In 1976 he tied with former Grizzly great Bob Cope by scoring 40 points in a single game (against Montana State).

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FORMER GRIZZLIES--add one

The No. 2 single season scoring leader with 653 points in 1977-78, Richardson has been the only Grizzly player ever to receive the C.R. Dragstedt (MVP) award three times.

Stroeder, a three-time All-Big Sky selection, is the No. 7 scorer in Grizzly history with 947 points, and also ranks among the top 10 in career rebounds with 581.

He almost single-handedly beat nationally-ranked Weber State last season when he scored the first 19 points for the Grizzlies.

As a junior Stroeder received the Naseby Rhinehart Award, which goes to the most inspirational player. The past season he was named the team's MVP. He led UM in rebounding in 11 of 24 games last year, including a season's high of 16 against one opponent.

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