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Game Day Kaimin, February 21, 2003

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Game Day **KAIMIN**

The original, complete guide to Grizzly athletics

Made in Montana

Katie Edwards is a small-town girl in the midst of becoming a big-time superstar.

Story by Bryan Haines

Lisa Hornstein/GDK

MONTANA VS. Montana State

Made in Montana

"Every night before a game she would lay everything out. It would floor her if she had to play in something different. I don't think she could do it." — Lorinda Edwards, Katie's mom

Bryan Haines
GameDay Kaimin

Everything with Katie Edwards is planned out. It has to be. If not, she gets flustered. She's meticulous, almost to a fault. Every detail of her day is planned out.

This interview starts at 1:15 p.m. It ends at 2. Then there is an hour before basketball practice starts.

Once she gets into a routine, nothing can break it. Nothing.

Not recruiting wars. Not switching high schools. Not even if it means wearing a pair of underwear big enough to double as a parachute for an entire basketball season.

So when Katie takes the floor Friday night for the 69th Lady Griz-Lady Cat basketball game, naturally it will be exactly as the 5-foot-7 shooting guard pictured it in her head nearly 10 years ago while shooting free throws as a third grader, growing up in the tiny Montana town of Denton.

Well, almost. The blue and gold that colored her college dreams has been repainted maroon and white. Bozeman, which was the city of choice back then, has been replaced by Missoula.

Then the dream team was the Bobcats. Now her uniform says Lady Griz on it.

Which, if your dad played football for the Bobcats, as Katie's dad Wayne did from 1972 to 1974, can be a little strange.

"It took a little time getting used to it at first (seeing Katie in a UM uniform)," said Lorinda, Katie's mother, who also graduated from Montana State. "But it is something that we are totally comfortable with now."

Katie herself also seems to be right at home in the maroon and white.

"It felt good to put it on," Katie said. "From that point on I was anti-Cats."

The high school scoring phenom has thrived on coming off the UM's bench to provide a spark to the Lady Griz offense.

Katie is the team's second leading scorer, contributing 9.5 points per game. Her 43 three-pointers lead the team, and the shooting guard has wiggled her way into the key to grab more than four rebounds a game, which is fifth on the team.

Katie's success this season hasn't surprised Lady Griz head coach Robin Selvig.

"We counted on her to come in right away and contribute," Selvig said. "She's a very hard worker."

During her four years of high school basketball, the



Fake a pass, make a pass. Katie Edwards zings one by Portland State's Nikki Petticrew. A true freshman from Livingston, Edwards is averaging 10.4 points per game.

LLisa Hornstein/GDK

numbers Katie put up were mind-numbing. She ranks as the state's second all-time scorer in women's high school history, three times averaging more than 28 points a game in four years. She was a Street and Smith All-American her senior year of high school and she has a career win-loss record of 87-12.

Those numbers came from taking thousands and thousands of the same shot, 15-feet away from the hoop.

Katie's first taste of basketball success came in the third grade during the Elks Free throw competition. Countless hours were spent rhythmically honing her shot until it became routine.

Some nights after she got off work, Lorinda rebounded for Katie. But sometimes Lorinda couldn't keep up

with her daughter.

"She would get upset at times because I couldn't get the ball back to her fast enough after she missed," Lorinda said. "So she would just go out on her own and practice. That was the beginning of her love for the game."

For four straight years Katie was Montana's state champion in her age group. In fifth grade Katie made it to nationals, placing fourth out of 12 girls. The national competition was at Market Square Arena in Indianapolis, then the home of the Indiana Pacers. The sheer size of the arena blew Katie away.

"It was an amazing experience," Katie said. "I was a small Montana girl from Denton and there I was."

Once she started playing

organized basketball in middle school, the ritual days she had spent shooting free throws immediately paid off.

It also helped to have two older sisters who eagerly taught her how to play the game.

Katie is the youngest of three daughters in the Edwards family. Her oldest sister, Sarah, 22, attends Montana State. Kelley, the middle sister, is a 20-year-old junior guard playing at Rocky Mountain College in Billings.

The three were always playing against each other in their driveway at home, helping each other get better.

Even if it meant using unorthodox training methods.

One evening when Katie was in fifth grade, Sarah,

who was a freshman at the time, wanted to make sure Katie learned to dribble and play with her left hand as well as her right.

The solution: Sarah tied Katie's right hand to her back.

"When I got home I looked over at Katie and I thought something was wrong with her," Lorinda said. "Then I saw her hand was tied. It didn't bother her a bit."

During her first two years at Denton High School, Katie was dominant. She lead the Trojans to two district titles and a trip to the state tournament. Katie was an all-state selection twice, and during her sophomore year she averaged 28 points per game.

It was also at this time that her laid-in-cement routine was about to be broken up into bits.

Which, first of all, is where the underwear comes in.

Ever since she first played five-on-five basketball in fifth grade, the superstitious Katie has been held captive by the need to wear the same pair of socks, sports bra and underwear for each game in a season. Once she has played her first game, what is underneath her uniform will be there the rest of the season.

"Every night before a game she would lay everything out," Lorinda said. "It would floor her if she had to play in something different. I don't think she could do it."

It is a habit that Katie took to extremes her sophomore year of high school.

Before that basketball season, Katie went school clothes shopping with her sisters, something she really didn't want to do. Knowing she needed a pair of underwear for her first game of the season, Katie grabbed a pack without looking at the size, just to get home as soon as she could.

When she opened the pack at home to get ready for the game, she realized in horror the mistake she had made. Katie had grabbed size 16 underwear.

Before the game, she rolled them up and put 10 safety pins in them to make sure they stayed up.

And that is what she played in. The entire season. Until divisionals.

After the district tournament championship game, she forgot her uniform and everything else in the locker room. When she came back to get it Monday evening, the janitor had her uniform, but nothing else.

Her socks were gone. Her lucky yellow sports bra,

Continued on Page 3

Small-Town Girl, Big-Time Game

"We counted on her to come in right away and contribute. She's a very hard worker." — Head coach Robin Selvig



Lisa Hornstein/GDK
As a youngster, Edwards tied her right arm behind her back to strengthen her off-hand while dribbling. The practice pays off for Edwards as she drives on Portland State's Nikki Petticrew.



Lisa Hornstein/GDK
Edwards, who is the team's second-leading scorer averaging 9.5 points per game, looks for an open teammate through the hands of Portland's Nikki Petticrew.

Continued from Page 2

gone. And the underwear, gone.

The janitor had thrown them away.

"It was a drama for me," Katie said. "I wore the ones that I wore with my (road) uniform the rest of the season."

Although Katie admits the habit is a little embarrassing, it is something she still continues to do, even as a Lady Griz.

Her underwear drama was just the beginning of bumps in the road for Katie.

Before that district tournament, Katie went out to shoot with her sister Kelley. There was a dull ache in Katie's left shoulder. She hadn't fallen on it or been hit by anything, so trainers dismissed the pain as tendonitis.

The pain gradually got worse and by the time Denton arrived in Missoula for the Class C state tournament, Katie couldn't raise her arm above her head.

Jennifer Mason, a trainer at UM, looked at the shoulder and suggested the Edwards family have it looked at it by a specialist.

X-rays found a cyst growing on the back of her shoulder. It was blocking a nerve, which was causing the deltoid muscle to slowly deteriorate.

Surgery was required to remove the cyst, which was the size of a golfball. By that

time close to 80 percent of her deltoid muscle was gone.

"There was really nothing there after the surgery," Katie said. "The deltoid muscle is a hard muscle to build, and even now, it still isn't as strong as my right arm."

Even after the surgery, Katie's life still wasn't the on the stable foundation she prefers it to be on.

That summer she made the decision to transfer from Denton to Lewistown, a Class A school 40 miles down the road.

Basketball and academics were the main reasons for Katie's transfer. While at Denton, she had gone through a revolving door of coaches. Lewistown's head coach, Ray Miller, was entrenched in the position and the two knew each other through summer basketball camps.

Miller offered stability and stiffer competition. Lewistown's high school also offered a wider variety of classes and academic options, something Denton, with its small size, couldn't.

In the end, those two things won out.

"I have nothing against Class C basketball, some of the best players in the state come from that class," Katie said. "But there isn't always the competition there, and at Lewistown there was that."

"It was a pretty gutsy move, but I loved it and I

never regretted transferring."

Two more years of success on the court followed.

Katie averaged more than 29 points per game those two years, becoming Lewistown's all-time leading scorer and rebounder in the process. She garnered two more all-state selections and capped her prep career by leading Lewistown to the Class A state championship last year.

Two years of stability, comfort and happiness.

What came next could have been the most difficult and nerve-racking decision in Katie's young life.

By the time she was a high school junior, Katie started receiving letters and offers to play basketball from colleges and universities across the country. As her high school career was coming to a close, two schools remained: Montana and Montana State.

From the very beginning, Wayne told Katie that where he played college football

nearly 30 years ago shouldn't have any bearing on where she played college basketball. Lorinda said that she and Wayne simply wanted what was best for Katie.

Katie also says that Selvig clearly won the recruiting war. He would drive upward of five hours to watch Katie play, while MSU head coach Robin Potera-Haskins didn't drive six miles to Belgrade to watch Katie.

"It was going to be Katie's decision," Selvig said. "I am just glad she decided to come here."

In the end, Montana and its stability swayed Edwards.

"It was tough because I was a Bobcat fan," Katie said. "But MSU at the time was so unstable. Montana State didn't have an athletic director and they were hiring a new coach and at Montana Robin has been here forever and you know he was not going anywhere."

"I didn't want to have five different coaches in five years."

Now, stability has finally returned to Katie's life.

She is enjoying her first season of college basketball, although she admits she didn't expect to play this much.

"I was hoping to get one minute in one game," she said. And she was completely nervous for her first game, "I was crapping my pants."

Life as a college freshman suits her. She has her class schedule down, although road trips throw a ratchet into her system, sometimes bogging her down. Even the fact that a lot of people don't call her Katie Edwards, but simply "the cousin of John Edwards," the Grizzlies quarterback, doesn't bother her.

Katie's life is at ease right now, which is what she prefers.

Everything fits — from dorm life, seeing her dad wearing a Lady Griz sweatshirt and to the maroon and white jersey and shorts Katie is wearing.

And of course, what is underneath that uniform.

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EDITOR'S NOTE:

Welcome to GameDay Kaimin, your source of gameday information. It's really the only thing you need. It has stories, pictures and other vital information, including the all-important roster. AND IT'S FREE! All this wonderful goodness just for you, our fans — because we care *just that much*.

So before you drop this, trample on it or use it to mop up beer, puke or other nastiness, take a second to embrace the goodness of GameDay Kaimin. Learn about Kevin Criswell, his hopes, dreams and accomplishments. We offer you the opportunity to live vicariously through GameDay — BE Kevin Criswell.

And don't forget Katie Edwards, a small-town girl ready for the big time. Find out her interests, goals and phone number. (Note: Not all information included in GDK.)

When finished with GDK, please place it in a recycling bin, do not burn it in effigy or the journalism gods will frown on thee. Thank you.

GDK gives a Grizzly-sized shout out to:

Brit "The Shiznet" Hageman
Lisa "Photo God" Hornstein
Tiffany "Tuff Tiff" Aldinger

I've got it!



Lisa Hornstein/GDK
During a game against Portland State, senior LeAnn Montes extends to steal a ball from Portland State's Jenna Washington. Montes rounded up 22 points for the Lady Griz to help them in their win against the Vikings.

THE PRESIDENT'S LECTURE SERIES
2002-2003



This year's lecture series will consist of ten talks on vital topics by distinguished guest speakers. The University community and general public are cordially invited to attend all of the lectures. Admission is free.

Melvin A. Goodman

Professor of International Security, National War College and Senior Fellow at the Center for International Policy Study

"Pearl Harbor II: The Intelligence Failure of September 11th and What Needs to Be Done"

(in conjunction with the College of Arts and Sciences)

Dr. Goodman, the author of *The Phantom Defense: America's Pursuit of the Star Wars Illusion* (2001) and a CIA analyst of the Soviet Union from 1966 to 1990, will examine the agency's breakdown and the reasons for the 9/11 intelligence failure.



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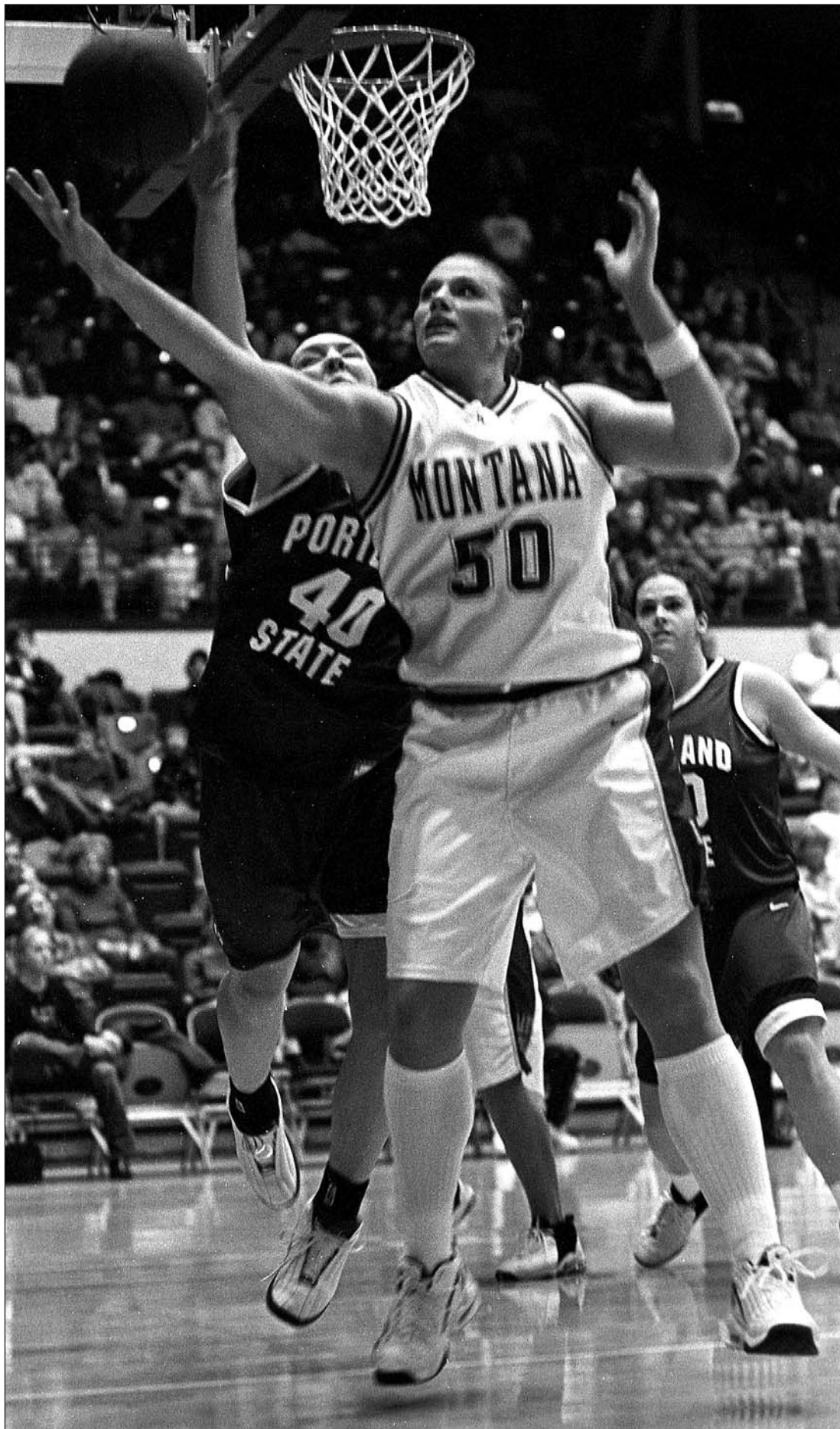
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Lisa Hornstein/GDK

Sophomore Hollie Tyler reaches out for a ball in front of Portland State's Carrie Spencer during a February game in the Dahlberg Arena. The Griz defeated the Vikings 63-44.

Scouting Report:

Griz to claw their way past Bobcats

Marina Mackrow
GameDay Kaimin

The Montana State University Bobcats are sitting in a tight spot this weekend. Right now, they share the No. 1 spot in the Big Sky Conference with Weber State University; both have a Big Sky record of 8-1.

MSU's one loss came from Weber State in Ogden, Utah, on Feb. 15., ruining MSU's eight-game winning streak. Now, the Cats sit with a 4-0 record at home and a 4-1 record on the road.

The Cats will enter Grizzly territory coming off their first conference and road loss.

Bobcat head coach Robin Potera-Haskins said this game against the Grizzlies is no different than any other game, even though MSU is in a tie with Weber State. Instead, Potera-Haskins said, every game is important because they are all conference games.

The Cats set a new school record for most points scored in a road game with 95 points against Idaho State University on Feb. 13. During that game Brandi Lewis drained seven three-pointers to tie the MSU school record for most threes in one game.

The Bobcats use their 30 seconds on offense productively. This offense leads the Big Sky in scoring, with an average of 72.5 points per game. Leading this dominant offense and also leading the league is 6-2 senior forward Isabel Stubbs.

Stubbs, one of three returning starters in the

Bobcat line-up, leads the league in scoring with an average of 16.6 points per game.

Adding to her scoring threat is her rebounding numbers. This forward pulls down an average 8.2 rebounds per game. So far this season, she has grabbed 181 rebounds. Stubbs sits in the top five in the Big Sky in double-doubles with eight so far this season.

Adding to the Cats dominating offense is sophomore forward Katie Burrows, who averages 13 points per game and 4.6 rebounds.

Potera-Haskins said Montana and Weber are two of the best teams in the Big Sky the Cats have faced this season, but she also said there are a lot of good teams in the conference.

She said the Cats' strengths include playing as a team and taking care of the fundamentals.

That strategy has apparently paid off, since the Cats lead the league in field goal percentage with .447.

The last time these two teams met in Bozeman on Jan. 24, the Cats beat the Griz 66-61. Griz post Hollie Tyler led the Griz in scoring with 18 points. Despite grabbing 10 rebounds, she only managed one blocked shot.

Stubbs had a similar game to Tyler's with a team high of 20 points, 10 rebounds, and one blocked shot.

Last week, against Weber State, Stubbs and Candis Wilcox had 12 points a piece while junior Sheila Hutchison grabbed a team-high of six rebounds.

GRIZ-CAT BACK TO BACK

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We here at GameDay Kaimin would like to thank all our loyal supporters, readers and of, course, the fans. We couldn't do it without you, and really, would we want to?

30 Jill Henkel
Guard

After being hurt for much of the past four seasons, Miss Henkel has stepped up her play big time, contributing scrappy defense and quality baskets. Too bad this is her last year of eligibility for the Lady Griz.

23 Brooklyn Lorenzen
Guard

This Oregon native is the backbone of the Lady Griz, the catalyst of their offense as she ranks in the top three in the conference in assists.

50 Hollie Tyler
Center

Miss Tyler is the offensive leader for the Lady Griz and her stifling defense helps to create opportunities along the offensive end. Against the Cats, we at GDK expect Tyler to block MSU center Isabel Stubbs at least four times.

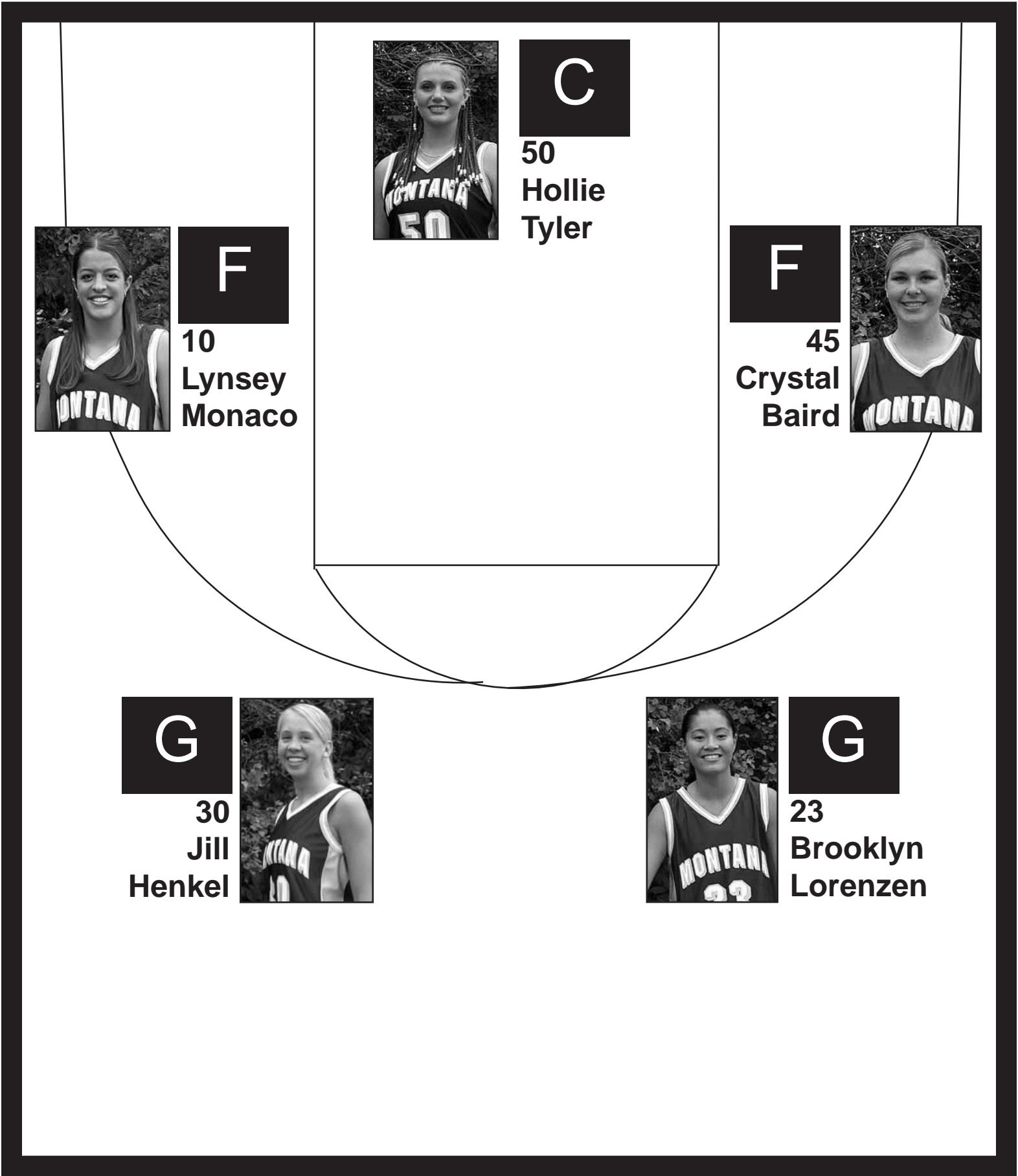
45 Crystal Baird
Forward

Miss Baird might be the key for the Lady Griz. If she has a big game like she did against Eastern Washington, then look for UM to roll.

10 Lynsey Monaco
Forward

Miss Monaco hails from Dillon, Montana's Beaverland, and during her stint there, she learned how to play some serious defense. In conference play this year, she ranks among the top five in total steals. The Cats are sure to get their pockets picked.

Lady Griz
vs.
MSU Bobcats



Montana Lady Griz

45	Crystal Baird	SO	C	6'4"
55	Julie Deming	RS	F/G	5'10"
12	Katie Edwards	FR	G/F	5'9"
32	Sara Gale	FR	F	6'2"
30	Jill Henkel	SR	G	5'10"
43	DeLayne Johnston	RS	F	5'11"
22	Juliann Keller	SO	G	5'10"
23	Brooklyn Lorenzen	JR	G	5'5"
33	Jody McLeod	SO	F	6'0"
10	Lynsey Monaco	SO	G	5'10"
24	Leann Montes	SR	G	5'8"
3	Darci Sandoval	FR	G/F	6'0"
50	Hollie Tyler	SO	C	6'3"
25	Michelle VanDyke	RS	F	5'10"
15	Corrie Villegas	FR	F	6'2"



Head Coach Robin Selvig

Coach Selvig enters his 25th season with the Lady Griz as one of the most successful coaches in Div. I history. We here at GDK know that he will have the troops ready for battle Friday against MSU.

Montana State Bobcats

2	Jana Smith	SO	G	5'7"
14	Vanessa Rogers	FR	G	5'6"
22	Jinnifer Jeresek	SR	F	5'10"
23	Candis Wilcox	SR	F	5'8"
24	Brandi Lewis	FR	G	5'6"
25	Isabel Stubbs	SR	F	6'2"
30	Cassie Johnson	SR	F	6'3"
32	Kati Burrows	SO	F	5'10"
33	Sheila Hutchison	JR	G	5'9"
34	Whitney Connolly	FR	C	6'3"
54	Belinda Stubbs	JR	C	6'2"
55	Megan Foy	FR	F	6'1"