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Game Day Kaimin, November 15, 2003

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GAME DAY KAIMIN

The original guide to Grizzly athletics

OH, BROTHER

TATE HANCOCK IS
FOLLOWING THE FOOTSTEPS
OF HIS BROTHER, AND
SUCCEEDING AT EVERY TURN

BY JEFF WINDMUELLER

Eastern Washington vs. UM

Sean Sperry/GDK





UM Senior Tate Hancock struggles against Matt McFadden of the Weber State Wildcats during an October game.

Mike Cohea/GDK

A brotherly love for the game

BY JEFF WINDMUELLER

He used to sneak into the room with all his older brother’s buddies. Hugging the wall to remain unseen, and at the same time trying to hang out with the people he idolized — the tough crowd, as he saw it.

Ten or 12 of the adolescent boys always packed into a room in the Kansas home. Eventually, they would spot little Tate Hancock and let him know he wasn’t welcome.

“They were always picking me up by my underwear and hitting my head on the ceiling,” Hancock said with a bit of laughter.

Even still, Tate was always following in his brother’s footsteps, even teasing his youngest brother, Heath.

Tate played the same position, running back, in high school football as his brother Tanner. Both won championships at Salina Central High School, and after seeing how happy his older brother was while playing for the Griz, Tate decided to stake his own claim among the team’s top players.

On one Saturday in the fall of 2000, screaming fans filled Washington-Grizzly stadium, and the Hancock brothers stepped onto the playing field at the same time.

Their father and uncle were in the stands, and in their old Kansas home their mother, Andra listened on a telephone set up to run the game’s local broadcast. For the Hancocks, football, like every other event, was a family affair.

Rod Hancock coached all of his sons as they passed middle school, and when Tate’s older brother practiced, he often went

along to watch.

But that game meant something different for the two brothers, because it was the first and only time Tate and Tanner Hancock played in a sports game together.

“He was always four years older,” Tate said. The age gap meant that when Tanner graduated high school, Tate was just beginning.

After star running backs Yohance Humphery and Ben Drinkwalter were sidelined by injuries, Tate, at the time a true freshman pushing just 170 pounds, was called in to play.

Falling behind Sacramento State 20-0 early in the game, Tate helped to even the score with two touchdowns before a late drive propelled the team to a win.

“It was sweet,” Tate said. “I think it was better for me, because I scored two touchdowns more than Tanner.”

An unknown fan photographed the brothers on the field and sent a copy to the sports department so the family would have a memento. For their mother, it meant she had a picture to go along with the game she heard over the phone.

“I was excited for them,” she said. “But also disappointed that I was not able to see them play.”

The sight of the brothers together on the field eclipsed something that would later play an important role in Tate’s college career.

Tate played three quarters of the game before injuring his shoulder. Pounding defensive linemen and linebackers weigh-

ing 300 pounds paid a toll on the promising freshman.

Humphery and Drinkwalter were ready to return to action, and Tate sat out the rest of the year with a medical red-shirt, allowing him to play four more years.

Even more was in store for him. Former UM coach Joe Glenn wanted to utilize Tate’s speed on the passing game and asked him to switch from running back to wide receiver, the same transition Tanner had made at the University of Kansas before transferring to UM.

Initially, Tate refused. He swore he would put on weight, that his shoulder would heal and he would be back to replace the graduating running backs. Glenn persistently called Tate, asking him to make the switch. He even called Tate’s father. In the end, the younger brother decided to give it a try, and Tanner, who graduated that year, was there to help out.

“When the coaches want you to play something ... I encourage that,” Tanner said.

The two brothers worked on the receiving game, but changing to a different offense, a different way of playing, was at first hard for Tate.

He said his first two weeks of practice were the most difficult, but after that, things started to click.

“He picked it up,” roommate and linebacker Brent Meyers said. “He’s a good ball handler ... a dangerous guy to have the ball in his hands.”

This year, the 22-year-old junior has

proven to be a key receiver in a Grizzly offense that many consider focused mainly on running the ball. So far, he trails Jefferson Heidelberger by just one catch at 26 and has 308 yards, averaging 11.8 yards per catch.

Although successful on the field, Hancock isn’t considered one to brag, or say much at all.

“Right from the get-go, I couldn’t stand him,” Meyers said. “He was a real quiet kid.”

Meyers said that unlike the older brother, Tate took some time to warm up to. After joking around a bit, Meyers finally started to realize that although a little more serious about school, Tate shared much the same sense of humor as Tanner.

Tate and Meyers especially like to play jokes on each other. Meyers once transported a 6-foot-tall snowman into Tate’s apartment shower. In return, every chance he gets, Tate parks three inches from his roommate’s driver’s side door, just so he has to climb over the passenger seat to get in. And Tate is especially not quiet when the two are in a crowd. He loves to scream “Hey look, it’s No. 12,” when driving by or visiting Dairy Queen.

While Tate and Tanner might have a few things in common, their mother recognizes the differences.

“Tate is very organized. He is always efficiently on time ... never late, and never procrastinates,” she said. “Tanner just kind of went with the flow.”

Tanner has heard the comparison before

“They were always picking me up by my underwear and hitting my head on the ceiling,” Hancock said with a bit of laughter.

and it often makes him laugh a little.

“I kind of laughed my way and jerked my way through college,” he said. But now the older brother is busy working his way through chiropractic school in Dallas. He doesn’t get up to Missoula to watch his brother play as often as he would like, but says he hasn’t missed a game yet.

Since college, Tate said he has become closer with Tanner, and their youngest brother, Heath, than

he ever has before. In fact, Tanner is his biggest fan.

If he can’t find the game on at the nearest sports bar, Tanner is listening to it over the Internet. Before games even, Tanner often calls his little brother up to encourage him.

“Anything my brother does makes me prouder than anything else,” Tanner said. “His playing has meant more to me than anything I’ve ever done.”

Game Day KAIMIN

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EDITOR

Christopher Rodkey

COPY EDITORS

Jessica Wambach
Cory Walsh
Adam Weinacker

REPORTERS

Jeff Windmueller
Natalie Storey
Kristen Cates

DESIGNERS

Scott Bennett
Will Cleveland
Katie Aschim

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Sean Sperry
Matt Hayes
Mike Cohea

Game Day Kaimin has finished publishing for the semester. We would like to thank all those who dedicated countless hours to its completion. Look for us again, next year.



High fives are all around for Levander Segars and Tate Hancock of the Grizzlies after a touchdown.

Matt Hayes/GDK

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Manuscript Editing

By Former U.M. Professor
Larry Godwin, Ph.D.
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By the Numbers

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Tim Bush has who like watching
Monte on T.V. better than "Uncle
Tim."

3

The number of times the equipment
crew had to wash the football play-
ers' pants after last weekend's muddy
win over Sacramento State.

60

The estimated number of pairs of
shoes tight end Willie Walden has,
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State scored in Saturday's loss
against the Griz.

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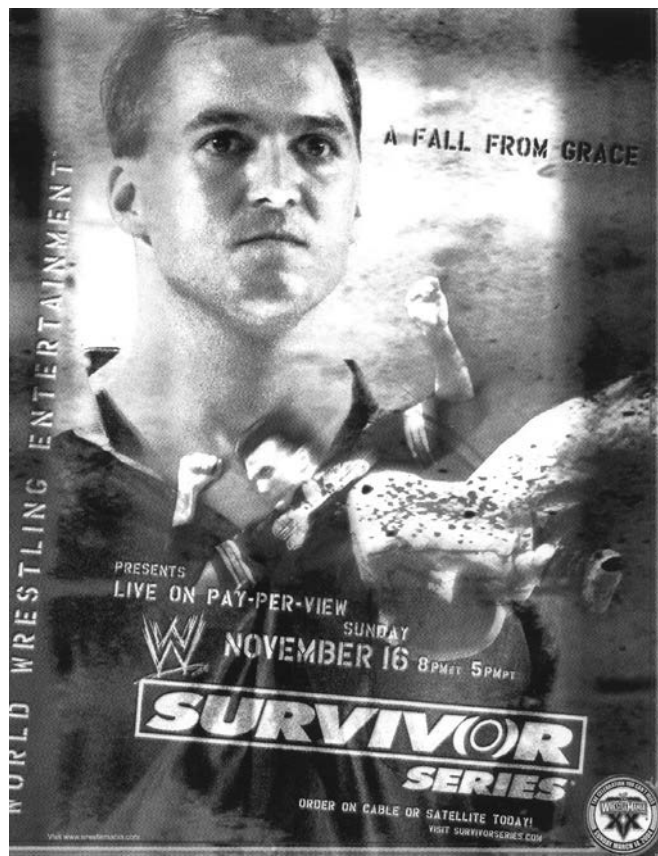
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A LOOK AT THE MATCH THROUGH THE LENS
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Above — Jamie Heildelberger celebrates a run against Portland State University in October.

Right — Safety Dave DeCoite pumps his fists after completing a sack.



Above — Freshman Lex Hilliard finds a break, out-running PSU for a third quarter touchdown.

Below — Senior Dane Oliver rushes through PSU defense in the first half.



PHOTOS BY SEAN SPERRY

Football a family affair for Griz brothers

Kristin Cates
Game Day Kaimin

Conor and Seamus Molloy, brothers on the Grizzly football team, said they didn't compete with each other all that much as kids. But their dad, Jim Molloy, disagrees.

"They weren't (competitive) because Conor always picked on Seamus, especially in one-on-one basketball. Conor was just the mean big brother and Seamus would get frustrated and that was just the end of it," said Jim, who played as a guard on the Griz basketball team from 1976-78, alongside former NBA great Michael Ray Richardson. "But I could beat the both of them anyway."

But Conor said after his freshman year of high school, his dad wasn't a threat and Seamus said he's never been an issue.

"I could take him any day," Seamus said.

Conor plays tight end for the Griz and is a senior in philosophy, and Seamus plays on special teams and is a freshman in history.

Conor has been plagued with injuries since coming to the University. He tore his rotator cup and broke the ball in his right shoulder during fall camp this year but was finally able to play against Idaho, but then dislocated his left shoulder in the game against Cal-Poly.

But he remains optimistic. "It's just frustrating when things are kind of out of control," he said. "The injuries might have motivated me a little bit more."

The brothers grew up in an athletic family and they played a variety of sports. Conor admits that basketball was his first love.

They both played varsity basketball at Helena High School and Conor was offered a scholarship to Montana State University to play either basketball or football, along with scholarship offers to Colorado State and Dartmouth, among other notable schools.

It was their high school football coach, Tony Arntson, who encouraged both Conor and Seamus to pursue football in college.

Seamus played quarterback during his junior and senior years at Helena and started playing varsity basketball his junior year, where he led the Bengals to state championship games.

They also played baseball and Seamus played soccer until he could go out for small-fry football when he was in fourth grade.

As kids they often played football, but Seamus was a stickler for the rules.

"If we were playing out on the playground, everything had to be by the NFL rules," said Conor.

But, "people tried to cheat," Seamus said, attempting to blame Conor.

"I never tried to cheat," Conor said. "I was playing on the playground."

Casey, their mother, said she also had the brothers involved in after-school activities such as Odyssey of the Mind and chess club.

But Jim said there is one thing they never mastered: "We failed at music." However, they did take piano lessons and Conor said he wishes he would have stuck with it.

Senior offensive tackle Dylan McFarland said he and his younger brother Jesse also took piano lessons when they were kids.

"I was just horrible at it," Dylan said. "He can play songs by ear.

He'd just mess around and an hour later he'd have a song down."

Jesse, who redshirted as a freshman to play offensive guard this year, injured his shoulder this past spring and is filming games this fall. He said his favorite tunes to play on the piano are classical and ragtime.

The McFarland brothers grew up in Kalispell and both said competition was a big part of their relationship as kids. They both played baseball and soccer and took swimming lessons. In high school, Jesse played baseball for the Kalispell Lakers American Legion team.

Dylan said they always competed when playing video games with each other and in one-on-one basketball they always had to let each other know who'd won. His nickname for Jesse was "Messy Jesse."

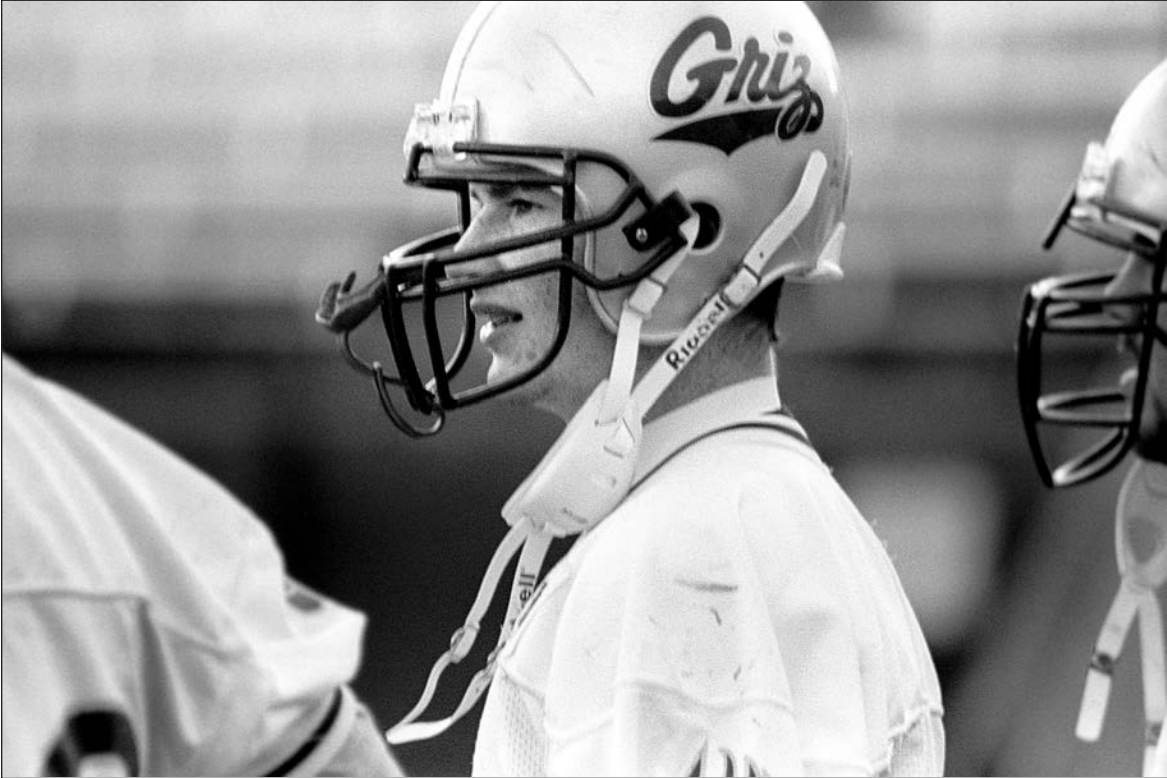
"I knew how to push all of his buttons," Dylan said, but added that his brother learned to fight back. "I have a pretty nice scar on my leg from him chasing me with a baseball bat when I was eight and he was five."

Jesse said he had nicknames for Dylan, too, but said they were too inappropriate to print in a newspaper.

The first time Jesse beat Dylan at their Fraggie Rock board game when Dylan was 6 years old, Dylan drew Jesse a picture of tongues hanging out of mouths to show his resentment.

"I thought it was a nice gesture," said Jesse. "Then he told me it was a bunch of tongues hanging out and I cried."

Since then, they both said



Adam Bystrom/GDK

After growing up playing sports with his older brother Conor in Helena, special teams player Seamus Molloy once again enjoys playing on the same team.

they've matured to the point where they get along and consider themselves best friends — off the field.

"It's just business on the field," said Jesse.

John and Paul Cahill have also played sports since an early age, focusing on soccer and football.

The brothers also took piano lessons as kids, but Paul said he's not very good.

"John's actually pretty good. He knows a lot of really good songs," Paul said. "I know maybe one."

Paul said the one song he knows

is Bryan Adams' "Everything I Do" and John said he knows "Canon in D."

"That's kind of my staple song," John said, "along with 'Moonlight Sonata.'"

Paul is a kicker for the Griz, behind Chris Snyder, and John is a defensive tackle.

"He was always much bigger than me," said Paul of his older brother. "We'd fight and it was more just him pinning me down."

The Cahills played football at Billings West, where John was a

part of the teams that won the state championship in 1997 and 1998, although he was out both years due to knee injuries.

But John said it was a stroke of luck that landed him a full-ride scholarship to play for the Griz.

Then Paul soon followed, walking on to the team last year.

Both brothers said they've always been really close, enough so that they decided to live together this year. But John said he does a majority of the cooking. "Costco lasagna is our specialty," he said.

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