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Game Day Kaimin, October 14, 2006

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Cold beer, fellow fans draw UM faithful to Riverbowl



Grizzly fans hang out at a tailgate section of the Riverbowl fields before the Sacramento State game three weeks ago.

SARAH SWAN
GAMEDAY KAIMIN

As the sun climbed higher in the sky on the morning of Sept. 23, a sea of maroon and silver flooded the grounds outside Washington-Grizzly Stadium.

Griz fans were on parade as dozens of RVs, trucks and tents lined Campus Drive, spilling into parking lots and grassy knolls around the stadium for a tailgating

extravaganza.

Dave Floyd and his wife Peggy are proud owners of a unique RV that takes Griz fan frenzy to a new level.

Parked in front of the Campus Recreation building, the maroon exterior of the RV is adorned with stickers and bumper stickers that pay homage to Montana and scorn the Bobcats. Near both the driver and passenger doors are stickers that keep record (give or take a few games, according to Floyd) of

the wins and losses of the Cat-Griz series.

Sneak a peek inside the Floyd's RV, and people can be transported onto a miniature football field that is actually the vehicle's carpet. More Montana memorabilia adorn the walls of the RV, and if you get the chance to sit in the front seat, the push of a button will play the Griz fight song out across the wandering crowds.

"It's a little cumbersome to drive," Floyd said with a laugh. "It's a box on wheels."

Situated comfortably at the rear of the vehicle is the Floyd's private tailgate party complete with "good beer and good brats," according to Floyd.

custom-made steel grill (complete with a decorative Griz paw on the top), along with the nine pounds of chicken and countless hot dogs and wings that he is cooking.

Sand and his friends have been tailgating since 1986, when they "started out with peanuts and beer in the back of our truck," said Sand.

"We still have peanuts and beer," added Wayne "Howdy" Lundberg.

Pricing for RVs tailgating spots like the Floyd's run at a price of \$280 for the whole season.

Sue DeMers, an events coordinator in internal operations for UM, said there are currently 80 RV permits for people to tailgate

"It's just good family fun and camaraderie," he said of tailgating. "It's kind of the cool thing to do. It keeps us out of trouble."

The Floyd's have been tailgating since moving to Missoula in 2000. They bought the RV from friends just a little more than two years ago.

A little ways down from the Floyd's RV and situated beneath the shade of the Grizzly Gateway, Deni Sand mans his six-foot-long

on Campus Drive, Fifth Street, Sixth Street and Van Buren Street.

Another place for Griz fans to celebrate before the game and during halftime is the Grizzly Scholarship Association's tailgate, located at the Riverbowl. With a variety of beer, food and live music, Griz fans can't resist the atmosphere and GSA says the funds raised go to a good cause.

"The funds that are raised here go directly to our student athlete scholarships," said Greg Sundberg, director of the GSA.

Sundberg said that on average the tailgate raises \$6,000 to \$7,000 per football game.

"I think (Griz fans have) a passion for Grizzly football," Sundberg said. "This tailgate encompasses people from everywhere and I think it's so successful because of the pride we have for our football."

Across the street from the GSA tailgate, fraternity members are throwing a party of their own. Music booms from inside a black truck, beer is the beverage of choice and for those who are weary; there is even a couch to sit on.

"(Tailgating) is a ritual of one of America's favorite pastimes, intertwined with debauchery, which is my favorite pastime," said Sigma Chi member, Tyler Henneman.

DeMers said that the football games usually have 38 to 44 grass tailgates like the GSA and fraternity gatherings.

"Some games we don't have as many requests as we do for homecoming or Griz-Cat," DeMers said.

When asked if she thought tailgating was successful for Montana, DeMers laughed and said, "They must because they come back year after year. In fact, we've been having to turn them away this year because there's no more space."

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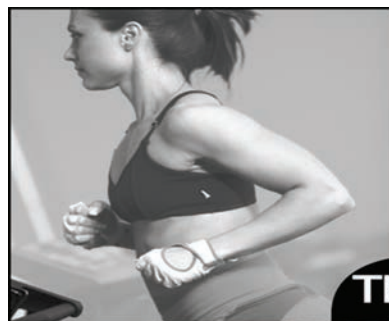
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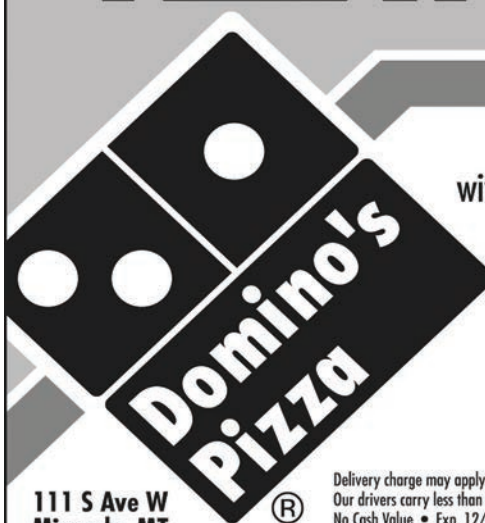


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**GRIZ CARDS
ACCEPTED**

University of Montana

2006 Record • 4-1, 3-0 Big Sky



Offense



#71 Cody Balogh

Offensive Tackle

6' 7", 324 lbs, junior, Health and Human Performance

Mr. Balogh is feared by opposing defensive linemen and all-you-can-eat buffet managers alike. At nearly 325 pounds, Mr. Balogh is the heaviest Griz, which isn't a problem when he is using that weight to open holes for the UM running game and protecting QB Josh Swogger.

Defense



#18 Jimmy Wilson

Cornerback

5'11", 183 lbs, junior, Business Administration

GDK featured Mr. Wilson in its last edition and he responded with a modest two tackles. Then last week he went all Deion Sanders against Eastern Washington and tallied three interceptions and six tackles. Let's hope Mr. Wilson has some left in the tank from last week and makes us look good this time.

NUMERICAL ROSTER

2	Craig Chambers	JR	WR	6-4	200 lbs	Mill Creek, WA
3	Ryan Bagley	JR	WR	6-4	210 lbs	Great Falls, MT
4	Muckie Foreman	JR	LB	6-1	200 lbs	Spanaway, WA
5	Eric Allen	JR	WR	6-3	202 lbs	Colorado Springs, CO
6	Tyler Joyce	JR	LB	6-5	231 lbs	Aurora, CO
7	Josh Swogger	SR	QB	6-5	235 lbs	Vienna, OH
8	Rob Schulte	SO	WR	5-8	183 lbs	Great Falls, MT
9	Tim Parks	SO	CB	5-10	187 lbs	Moreno Valley, CA
10	Quenton Freeman	JR	CB	6-0	190 lbs	Pasadena, CA
11	Matt Troxel	SO	WR	5-9	180 lbs	Coeur d' Alene, ID
12	Andrew Selle	FR	QB	6-2	205 lbs	Billings, MT
13	Tuff Harris	SR	CB	6-0	193 lbs	Colstrip, MT
14	Cole Bergquist	SO	QB	6-2	207 lbs	San Clemente, CA
16	Clint Stapp	FR	QB	6-3	217 lbs	Niwot, CO
17	Van Cooper Jr.	SR	S	6-2	201 lbs	Denver, CO
18	Jimmy Wilson	JR	CB	5-11	183 lbs	San Diego, CA
19	Colt Anderson	SO	DB	5-10	185 lbs	Butte, MT
20	Reggie Bradshaw	JR	RB	6-0	211 lbs	Coquitlam, BC
21	Dustin Dlouhy	SR	DE	6-2	220 lbs	Idaho Falls, ID
23	Chase Reynolds	FR	RB	5-10	190 lbs	Drummond, MT
24	Thomas Brooks-Fletcher	FR	RB	5-10	202 lbs	Bellevue, WA
25	Brandon Fisher	FR	S	5-10	183 lbs	Franklin, TN
26	Tyson Johnson	SR	P	6-2	189 lbs	Stevensville, MT
27	Matt Lebsock	SR	S	5-11	185 lbs	Billings, MT
28	Andrew Schmidt	SO	RB	6-1	205 lbs	Bozeman, MT
29	Dan Carpenter	JR	K	6-2	190 lbs	Helena, MT
30	Brandon Dwyer	SO	CB	5-10	193 lbs	Kalispell, MT
31	Tim Anderson	FR	S	6-0	206 lbs	Missoula, MT
32	Torrey Thomas	JR	S	6-0	188 lbs	Dillon, MT
33	Brandon Utterback	FR	RB	6-0	200 lbs	Fort Benton, MT
34	Quinton Jackson	JR	CB	5-11	176 lbs	Seattle, WA
35	Tom Martin	SO	LB	5-10	201 lbs	Columbus, MT
36	Houston Stockton	FR	DB	5-9	160 lbs	Spokane, WA
37	Loren Utterback	JR	LB	6-2	213 lbs	Fort Benton, MT
38	Lex Hilliard	SR	RB	6-0	235 lbs	Kalispell, MT
39	Shann Schillinger	FR	S	6-1	190 lbs	Baker, MT
40	Greg Coleman	JR	RB	6-0	238 lbs	Peoria, IL
41	Brady Green	SR	RB	5-9	191 lbs	Brighton, UT
42	Jace Palmer	FR	DB	6-3	214 lbs	Missoula, MT
43	Alex Hawthorne	JR	LB	6-2	233 lbs	Mesa, AZ
44	David Haile	SO	DE	6-5	235 lbs	San Jose, CA
46	Kyle Ryan	JR	LB	6-3	227 lbs	Billings, MT
47	Severin Campbell	FR	LB	6-4	210 lbs	Golden, CO
48	Chris Clark	JR	CB	5-11	175 lbs	Los Angeles, CA
49	Kevin Klaboe	FR	HB	6-2	216 lbs	Billings, MT
50	Craig Mettler	SO	DT	6-3	268 lbs	Walla Walla, WA
51	Tyler Pelleur	FR	LB	6-2	224 lbs	Sammamish, WA
52	Shawn Lebsock	SO	LB	6-0	220 lbs	Billings, MT
53	Kroy Biermann	JR	LB	6-3	232 lbs	Hardin, MT
54	Austin Mullins	FR	DT	6-2	248 lbs	Great Falls, MT
55	Dan Carter	FR	OT	6-5	303 lbs	Bellingham, WA
56	Tyler Corwin	SO	LB	6-3	230 lbs	Great Falls, MT
57	Karl Pitcher	SO	DE	6-2	218 lbs	Anaconda, MT
58	Paul LaMantia	SO	DT	6-2	260 lbs	Oakdale, CA
59	Kelly Kain	JR	DT	6-4	294 lbs	Great Falls, MT
60	Ryan Schmidt	FR	OG	6-2	283 lbs	Missoula, MT
61	Cy Murer	FR	OL	6-4	290 lbs	Big Fork, MT
62	Trapper Hight	FR	C	6-4	290 lbs	Miles City, MT
63	Ryan Wells	SR	OT	6-4	288 lbs	Hamilton, MT
64	Dan Girard	FR	OG	6-4	278 lbs	Yakima, WA
65	Nick Lebsock	FR	OL	6-1	220 lbs	Billings, MT
66	Brent Russum	SO	OG	6-3	281 lbs	Lewiston, ID
67	Kevin Bell	SO	OT	6-4	275 lbs	Santa Clarita, CA
71	Cody Balogh	JR	OT	6-7	324 lbs	Steilacoom, WA
72	Levi Horn	FR	OT	6-7	300 lbs	Spokane, WA
73	Jeff Marshall	SR	C	6-5	285 lbs	Newport Beach, CA
74	Ryan Gustafson	JR	OG	6-5	270 lbs	Billings, MT
75	Chris Dyk	FR	OT	6-8	282 lbs	Dillon, MT
76	Brad Sternberg	FR	OL	6-3	260 lbs	Helena, MT
77	Terran Hillesland	FR	OT	6-7	320 lbs	Sidney, MT
78	Eric Michel	JR	OG	6-6	285 lbs	Billings, MT
79	Colin Dow	FR	OG	6-5	320 lbs	Billings, MT
80	Marc Mariani	FR	WR	6-0	177 lbs	Havre, MT
81	Tyler Palmer	FR	WR	6-3	203 lbs	Missoula, MT
82	Mike Ferriter	SO	WR	6-1	203 lbs	Helena, MT
83	Mitch Rasmussen	FR	WR	6-0	170 lbs	Long Grove, IL
84	Tony Kazmierczak	FR	WR	6-2	200 lbs	Thompson Falls, MT
85	Bryan Riggs	FR	WR	6-1	200 lbs	Spokane, WA
86	Jeremy Pate	FR	DB	6-1	185 lbs	Las Vegas, NV
87	Daniel Beaudin	FR	TE	6-5	237 lbs	Trout Creek, MT
88	Steve Pfahler	FR	TE	6-5	233 lbs	Frenchtown, MT
89	Rob Overton	FR	TE	6-6	240 lbs	San Leandro, CA
90	Mike Murphy	SR	DE	6-3	238 lbs	Great Falls, MT
91	Michael Stadnyk	JR	DE	6-4	254 lbs	Regina, Saskatchewan
93	Brayton Schilling	FR	DL	6-2	226 lbs	Gillette, WY
94	Jackson Legerwood	FR	DE	6-2	230 lbs	Fort Benton, MT
95	Carson Bender	FR	DE	6-3	245 lbs	Deer Lodge, MT
96	Alex Verlanic	FR	DT	6-3	265 lbs	Drummond, MT
97	Jesse Carlson	SO	DT	6-3	263 lbs	Billings, MT
98	Kerry Mullan	SR	DT	6-3	288 lbs	Stevensville, MT
99	Tyler Hobbs	FR	DE	6-4	230 lbs	Spokane, WA
---	Jason Washington	SR	QB	6-2	200 lbs	Oakland, CA

GRIZ OFFENSE vs. LU



#82 Mike Ferriter

While not as glamorous as the I-A transfers, Mr. Ferriter has been just doing his thing in 2006. The Helena native's 14.8 yards per catch leads all UM receivers with at least five catches on the year.

Mike Ferriter 82

WR

Ryan Bagley 3

WR

Cody Balogh 71

T

Terran Hillesland 77

G

Reggie Bradshaw 20

RB

Josh Swogger 7

QB

Jeff Marshall 73

C

Colin Dow 79

G

Brent Russum 66

T

Dan Beaudin 87

TE

Eric Allen 5

WR

GRIZ DEFENSE vs. L

Jimmy Wilson 18

CB

Colt Anderson 19

SS

Loren Utterback 37

LB

Mike Murphy 90

DE

Craig Mettler 50

DT

Kyle Ryan 46

LB

Kerry Mullan 98

DT

Kroy Biermann 53

DE

Torrey Thomas 32

FS

Tyler Joyce 6

LB

Tuff Harris 13

CB



#90 Mike Murphy

After missing last year's contest with a thumb injury, Mr. Murphy must be glad to see a Lumberjack O-line that he recorded a sack and a forced fumble against in 2004 during a 34-22 UM win.

Lumberjack Defense

CB Ricky Wilson
4

S Adam Wright
43

DE DeAndre Johnson
51

LB Shawn Baker
24

DT Randy Kirschman
95

LB D.J. White
42

DE Drew Hoffman
90

LB Chris Hunsaker
45

CB Kurt Karstens
23



#5 Jeff Wheeler
The Griz should probably just avoid Mr. Wheeler in general as he leads the Lumberjacks in interceptions (3) and tackles (31). A month ago in a Lumberjack 66-14 win over Division II Dixie College, Mr. Wheeler returned two interceptions for touchdowns.



Northern Arizona Lumberjacks

2006 Record 2-3 • 1-1 Big Sky

Offense



#3 Alex Watson
Wide Receiver
5'10", 180 lbs, junior
After exploding for 206 receiving yards against Arizona State to open the season, Mr. Watson has cooled off a bit, gathering only 32 yards in a 39-32 NAU loss to Montana State last week. Still, Griz fans beware, Mr. Watson still has caught five touchdowns in 2006.

Defense



#37 Jesse Miller
Safety
6'1", 178 lbs, junior
Mr. Miller has yet to make a tackle on the 2006 season but his struggles are not the point here. The point is that Mr. Miller would rather sit on the NAU bench than play for his hometown Montana State Bobcats. Awww, poor Bobcats.

NUMERICAL ROSTER

3	Alex Watson	JR	WR	5-10	180 lbs	Long Beach, CA
4	Ricky Wilson	JR	DB	5-11	180 lbs	Port Arthur, TX
5	Jeff Wheeler	SR	DB	6-0	190 lbs	Eugene, OR
6	Kris Theus	SR	DB	5-10	170 lbs	Palmdale, CA
7	Aaron Jackson	FR	RB	6-0	215 lbs	Norwalk, CA
8	Kenny Mahone	JR	WR	6-2	210 lbs	Alabaster, AL
10	Brian Wriston	SO	QB	6-0	178 lbs	Phoenix, AZ
11	Shaun Fitzpatrick	SO	TE	6-2	237 lbs	Gilbert, AZ
12	Lance Kriesien	SO	QB	6-3	225 lbs	Houston, TX
13	Brandon Anthony	SR	RB	5-5	175 lbs	Oceanside, CA
13	Josh Luck	FR	DB	5-10	170 lbs	Chandler, AZ
14	Jason Murrietta	SR	QB	6-1	215 lbs	Glendale, AZ
15	Peter Hargis	FR	QB	6-2	200 lbs	Phoenix, AZ
15	Ryan Rauschert	FR	WR	6-3	208 lbs	Junction City, OR
16	Shane McBurney	FR	WR	6-2	201 lbs	Chandler, AZ
17	Kevin Gerard	JR	DB	6-1	170 lbs	Fountain Valley, CA
18	Jay Fano	SO	LB	6-0	225 lbs	Fountain Valley, CA
19	Ricky Odorfer	SO	QB	6-1	190 lbs	Prescott, AZ
20	Josh Sayles	JR	RB	5-8	189 lbs	Fontana, CA
21	Michole Cottrell	FR	DB	5-10	190 lbs	Flagstaff, AZ
21	Mekyel Harrell	FR	DB	5-10	168 lbs	Phoenix, AZ
22	Lionel Scott	SO	RB	6-1	210 lbs	Lodi, CA
23	Kurt Karstens	SO	DB	6-1	185 lbs	Palm Desert, CA
24	Shaun Baker	JR	LB	6-0	230 lbs	Huntington Beach, CA
25	Niegel Clements	SR	DB	5-10	170 lbs	Torrance, CA
27	Nate Dedic	JR	DB/S	6-4	220 lbs	Yorba Linda, CA
28	Austin Martin	SO	DB	6-1	195 lbs	Gelndale, AZ
29	Marcus McIlwain	SO	DB	5-10	170 lbs	Panama City, FL
30	Alex Henderson	FR	RB	5-10	195 lbs	Calabasas, CA
31	Gerald Commissiong	SR	RB	6-0	226 lbs	Montreal, Canada
32	Trason Bragg	FR	DB	5-11	205 lbs	Los Angeles, CA
33	Joe Mitchell	JR	LB	6-1	230 lbs	Orange, CA
34	Aaron Hicks	FR	DB	6-0	186 lbs	Mesa, AZ
35	Brian Shanahan	SR	DB	6-3	195 lbs	San Francisco, CA
36	Eric Brewster	SO	WR	6-1	175 lbs	San Diego, CA
36	Casey Schreiner	FR	DB	6-2	185 lbs	Tempe, AZ
37	Jesse Miller	JR	S	6-1	178 lbs	Bozeman, MT
38	Robbie Dehaze	SO	K/P	6-3	184 lbs	Sherwood, OR
39	Ryan Benson	FR	DB	6-3	180 lbs	Carlsbad, CA
40	Blair Boynton	JR	DE	6-3	255 lbs	Scottsdale, AZ
41	Rhian Madrid	SR	P	5-11	208 lbs	El Paso, TX
42	D.J. Wade	SR	LB	6-0	232 lbs	Ogden, UT
43	Adam Wright	JR	DB	6-0	190 lbs	Riverside, CA
44	Cody Dowd	FR	LB	6-4	247 lbs	Scottsdale, AZ
45	Chris Hunsaker	SR	LB	6-0	244 lbs	Middletown, CA
47	Derrick Jackson	FR	RB	5-9	175 lbs	West Point, UT
48	Ed Anderson	FR	DB	5-11	165 lbs	Phoenix, AZ
49	Anthony Llanos	FR	TE	6-2	244 lbs	Phoenix, AZ
50	Joe Lyman	FR	LB	5-10	210 lbs	Anchorage, AK
51	DeAndre Johnson	SR	DL	6-2	273 lbs	Phoenix, AZ
52	Sean Howard	FR	LB	6-1	210 lbs	Honolulu, HI
52	Nathaniel Murray	FR	K	6-1	169 lbs	Page, AZ
54	Mark Spradlin	JR	SN	6-2	222 lbs	Tolleson, AZ
55	Kevin Meagher	SO	OL	6-2	280 lbs	Fountain Valley, CA
58	Richard Middleton	SO	OL	6-3	300 lbs	The Colony, TX
59	Jordan Curtin	FR	DE	6-3	240 lbs	Manitree, MI
60	Darrel Arnold	SR	OL	6-4	285 lbs	Peoria, AZ
61	Hayden Kafele	SO	OG	6-0	240 lbs	Honolulu, HI
62	Ryne Holstrom	FR	OL	6-6	295 lbs	West Linn, OR
64	John Toailoa	JR	OL	6-0	295 lbs	Long Beach, CA
65	Andrew Chavez	FR	OL	6-0	260 lbs	Laveen, AZ
66	Shane Sandau	SR	OL	6-4	285 lbs	Peoria, AZ
67	Tim Reader	JR	OL	6-4	271 lbs	Prunedale, CA
68	Jeff Hines	FR	OL	6-0	285 lbs	Mesa, AZ
69	Trevor Heekin	SO	OL	6-3	291 lbs	Riverside, CA
73	Justin Tyler	JR	OL	6-7	320 lbs	Glendale, AZ
74	Nick Posey	JR	OL	6-7	280 lbs	Pacific Grove, CA
76	Quinton Larson	JR	OL	6-4	269 lbs	Phoenix, AZ
77	Joshua Williams	JR	DL	6-2	281 lbs	Elk Grove, CA
80	Curt Sweeney	FR	WR	5-10	175 lbs	Peoria, AZ
81	Jason Thomas	SR	TE	6-4	250 lbs	Bakersfield, CA
82	Skyler Moore	SO	WR	6-3	210 lbs	Montclair, CA
83	Bobby Walish	SO	TE	6-3	215 lbs	Miami, AZ
84	Chris Hammond	FR	WR	5-9	165 lbs	Camarillo, CA
85	Preston Saunders	JR	WR	5-11	175 lbs	Sierra Vista, AZ
87	Trevor Hankins	FR	TE	6-5	235 lbs	Paradise Valley, AZ
88	Matthew Truscott	SR	WR	6-4	200 lbs	Manteca, CA
89	Kyle Rath	FR	DL	6-4	245 lbs	Las Vegas, NV
90	Drew Hoffman	JR	DE	6-6	265 lbs	Los Gatos, CA
91	Stephen Nwogbe	SO	DL	6-2	285 lbs	Las Vegas, NV
92	Anthony Williams	FR	DL	6-5	271 lbs	Pinetop, AZ
93	Kainoa Pe'a	FR	DL	6-0	250 lbs	Hilo, HI
94	Ikaika Mahoe	FR	DL	5-11	240 lbs	Hilo, HI
95	Randy Kirschman	SR	DL	6-3	277 lbs	Sun City, CA
96	Micah Van Hilsen	SO	DE	6-4	245 lbs	Gilbert, AZ
97	Fotu Kofutua	JR	DE	6-2	264 lbs	Salt Lake City, UT
98	Sean Humphrey	FR	DE	6-4	250 lbs	Gilbert, AZ
99	Justin Huey	JR	WR	5-10	186 lbs	Tracy, CA
99	Ronnie Luko	FR	DE	6-5	212 lbs	Scottsdale, AZ

Lumberjack Offense

WR Skyler Moore
82

WR Kenny Mahone
8



#14 Jason Murrietta
There will be pressure on Mr. Murrietta this week to prove he belongs on the "Payton Watch" list, to which he was added this week. Don't expect a statement game against the UM however. Mr. Murrietta is 0-3 lifetime against Montana with six picks to only three TD passes. The UM defense has also sacked Mr. Murrietta nine times.

T Shane Sandau
66

G Jon Toailoa
64

C Kevin Meagher
55

QB Jason Murrietta
14

RB Alex Henderson
30

G Trevor Heekin
69

T Justin Tyler
73

TE Shaun Fitzpatrick
11

WR Alex Watson
3

With crown unlikely, UM foes playing to avoid shaming their families

DANNY DAVIS
GAMEDAY KAIMIN

Well, football fans, conference play in the Big Sky Conference is well under way and after a month or so of conference rivals battling it out, one thing is blatantly obvious: Montana is the favorite to win the conference crown. Montana is the lone Big Sky team to have an unblemished conference record and has won its three games with a combined score of 118-51.

The only question that is worth asking at the moment is whether the Griz are really that good or are the conference foes just that bad? Now before you get angry over the thought of Around The Big Sky questioning the supremacy of your mighty Grizzlies and rip up your GDK and throw it in a trash can full of half-eaten hot dogs and empty beer cans, think of this: Perennial conference doormat Sacramento State is currently in second place. Yip, those are the same Hornets that were whipped

59-14 by Montana three weeks ago.

E. Washington (1-5, 1-2 BSC) at N. Colorado (1-5, 0-3 BSC)

The last time these two teams squared off Dan Aykroyd and Bill Murray were ridding the streets of New York City from ghosts. The year was 1984 and Eastern Washington sent the Bears back to Colorado with a convincing 50-15 beat down.

Don't expect 50 combined points to be scored today in Greeley. As Griz fans probably noted last week, EWU's offense, under the tutelage of freshman Matt Nichols is at best, raw. Nichols has thrown 12 interceptions, but only three touchdowns. Nichols can take solace in the fact that he isn't EWU's biggest embarrassment as his running game has been just awful this year. The Eagles' rushing defense, ranked last in the conference with 84.2 yards per game, is complimented only by its rushing defense, which is also stuck in the

Big Sky basement.

However, as bad as Eastern Washington's offense is, it is still ranked better than the scoring machine that is Northern Colorado, which is averaging a hearty, or laughable, 14.3 points per game. UNC is third in the Big Sky in rushing, but near the bottom in passing offense. The Bears running game probably won't do them well in the second half, where they have trailed on the scoreboard by double digits in all but one of the six games this year.

Idaho State (2-3, 1-1 BSC) at Portland State (3-3, 2-2 BSC)

Of the five teams remaining, Idaho State probably has the best chance of derailing Montana's hopes for an undefeated conference record. Over-hyped Portland State had its chance, but after starting the season an impressive 3-1, has lost two straight games to Montana and Montana State.

This game will be a true strength vs. strength matchup as PSU's second-ranked rushing

defense will try to corral ISU junior Josh Barnett, who leads the Big Sky in rushing. Barnett, the reigning conference offensive player of the week, is coming off a 173-yard performance against Northern Colorado that included a 58-yard touchdown run.

Should the Vikings stop Barnett, they are still going to have a tough time stopping the Big Sky's top-rated offense. Idaho State quarterback Matt Gutierrez leads the league in passing and has two fine weapons with Eddie Thompson and Akilah Lacey, who caught four touchdowns in his last won games against PSU.

Portland State's only saving grace may be that it has gone 24-6 at home since the 2001 season.

Montana State (3-3, 2-1 BSC) at Sac State (2-3, 2-1 BSC)

The Bobcats are on the road for back-to-back conference matchups against Sac State and Idaho State. MSU's two-week road trip may not be a bad thing as the 'Cats are a perfect 2-0 on the road as

opposed to the 1-3 record they have posted at home in Bozeman.

The Hornets will say "aloha" to new MSU quarterback Jack Rolovich. Rolovich, a junior transfer from the University of Hawaii, will get the start today in place of the injured Cory Carpenter. Even with a new gun under center, don't expect the Bobcats to put a goose egg on the scoreboard; the Sac State defense is allowing an appalling 32.4 points a game this season and hasn't posted a shutout at home since September 1994.

Junior quarterback Marcel Marquez, who despite only having three starts under his belt is sixth in the conference in total offense, will lead a Sac State team that has won back-to-back conference games for the first time since 2000.

Bobcat fans shouldn't take Sac State lightly though as MSU has lost three of its last four games at Sacramento. Plus, this is still the same Bobcat team that lost by 11 to lowly Chadron State.

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Big Sky Conference Statistics	
Rushing (yards per game)	
1. Josh Barnett (ISU)	126.2
2. Trevyn Smith (WSU)	82.2
3. Andre Wilson (NCOL)	80.7
4. Aaron Mason (MSU)	76.0
5. Reggie Bradshaw (UM)	64.8
Passing (yards per game)	
1. Matt Gutierrez (ISU)	256.6
2. Jason Murrietta (NAU)	231.6
3. Josh Swogger (UM)	201.5
4. Cory Carpenter (MSU)	200.0
5. Matt Nichols (EWU)	185.2
Receiving (receptions per game)	
1. Alex Watson (NAU)	6.60
2. Patrick Ealy (NCOL)	6.17
3. M. Jefferson (MSU)	6.00
4. Donnell Wheaton (MSU)	5.50
5. Eric Allen (UM)	5.25
Scoring (points per game)	
1. Dan Carpenter (UM)	9.0
2. Akilah Lacey (ISU)	7.2
Reggie Bradshaw (UM)	7.2
4. Alex Watson (NAU)	6.0
Aaron Mason (MSU)	6.0
Josh Barnett (ISU)	6.0
Robbie Dehaze (NAU)	6.0
Defense (tackles per game)	
1. Pago Togafau (ISU)	12.8
2. Tyler DeBry (WSU)	11.0
3. Cyrus Mulitalo (SAC)	10.4
4. Adam Hayward (PSU)	9.8
5. Bobby Daly (MSU)	9.0
6. DJ Robinson (PSU)	8.2
7. Jordan Senn (PSU)	7.8
David Eneberg (EWU)	7.8
Brett Shelton (SAC)	7.8
10. Anthony Melvin (ISU)	7.6
Punting (yards per punt)	
1. Mitch Lively (SAC)	43.8
2. Ryan Donckers (EWU)	42.6
3. Dan Zeidman (ISU)	42.4
4. Rhian Madrid (NAU)	42.4
5. Dan Carpenter (UM)	41.9

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Stingy defense giving Griz soccer a shot at Big Sky Conference title



Shane McMillan/Gameday Kaimin
UM midfielder Sara Campbell (right) goes in for a defensive tackle against Northern Colorado's Ashley Brumback.

AMBER KUEHN
GAMEDAY KAIMIN

It has often been said that defense wins games. This year, the University of Montana soccer team is proving that to be true. UM head coach Neil Sedgwick said the Griz have been communicating better in the backfield this year, which has been a tremendous factor for the defense's success.

While Montana has a young goalie with freshman Grace Harris, Sedgwick said she's been a quick learner and has been solid all season. Harris said she couldn't do it without help from the back. "The starting four are all amazing," Harris said of Kelly Fullerton, Abby Graft, Sarah Stevens and Sara Aspinwall. "I honestly trust Sara and Kelly with my life. We're all one unit, and those two are at the center of it. I'm really fortunate to have

those guys in front of me because I don't get worried at all." Fullerton said it helps that the Griz have put on the pressure this season. "We're definitely a high-pressure team," she said. "As defenders, we like to play simple and safe, and not play around with the ball too much." This pressure has caused some problems for other teams and impressed opposing coaches. Following the North Dakota State game on Sept. 29, a frustrated Bison head coach Pete Cuadrado was quoted saying: "They pressured us enough to where we couldn't play soccer." Sedgwick said this was a very positive statement to hear from another coach, and said that the pressure Cuadrado is talking about starts up front with the strikers. "We need every player working hard," Sedgwick said. He added that when the forwards are defending as well as the defenders, Montana would have success. This tenacious defense shown in the North Dakota State game helped push the Griz to a 3-0 win, and the second of what would be four consecutive shutouts. The last time the Griz had this many shutouts in a row was in 2000, when they notched five. Earlier this season, Montana also had two shutouts on the road over Utah Valley State and Idaho, making six of its seven wins shutouts. Cuadrado wasn't the only coach aware of the strong Griz defense.

Dan Tobias, the head coach at the University of Arizona, said the Montana defense is what makes them such a tough team to play. "They are a very strong team physically, a tough team to break down," he said. "They are a very difficult team to score goals on." The Griz have done a good job limiting their opponents' opportunities to score. So far this season, Montana has outshot opponents 196-127 and Harris has made 44 saves. The Griz have done a particularly good job defending their domain, only allowing two goals, both to Northern Colorado last Sunday, at home. Altogether, the Griz have allowed 11 goals this season, exactly half of what they had allowed by this time last year. Montana has scored 20 goals this season, compared to just 10 goals all of last season. Defenders for the Griz also know what other roles they play, and have proven that they can score as well as defend. For example, although Fullerton is a defender, she is also capable of scoring goals at opportune times and she had a goal in each game last weekend off of free kicks. Junior forward Laura Nogueira said that it's good when defenders can come to the rescue in clutch situations. "Kelly has come through huge for us," she said. "Friday we were ahead so we didn't realize it as much, but her goal Sunday was really important." Just as it is important for the defenders to be able to score,

Nogueira said it's equally important that the forwards are able to defend. "One thing we pride ourselves in is our defensive pressure all over the field," Nogueira added. "We really hold each player accountable for individual defense before we can defend as a team." Nogueira said the strong Montana defense helps to instill confidence in the forwards. "I'm not particularly worried when it gets back to them," she said. "I know they'll get the job done." Considering how young the Griz are (19 of the 26 players are freshmen or sophomores), opposing coaches have been impressed with how organized they are as a team. Anne Moore, the head coach at the University of Wyoming, said an organized defense is necessary not only for protecting the goal but also for building the attack. She said the Griz played well against Wyoming, despite poor field conditions and a 1-0 loss. "I thought Montana had great size and were difficult to beat, especially in the air," Moore said. "They were organized and did a good job of keeping us in front." Brent Anderson, the coach of Utah Valley State, a team that lost 3-0 to Montana to open the season, echoed this. "They have good size and speed and seemed to be well organized when they played us," he said.

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Bobcat Round-up

All the news from the week that was from our I-90 neighbors

MSU travels to Sac Town in search of third straight win

Montana State and Sacramento State have two-game winning streaks going into this Saturday night's game in Sacramento, Calif. The Bobcats expect to have nearly all injured players back, but quarterback Cory Carpenter is expected to be out with an ankle sprain suffered in a 14-0 win over Portland State last Saturday.

Backup John Rolovich, a transfer from the University of Hawaii, is gearing up for his first collegiate start.

"I look at it as an opportunity to show my teammates, fans and coaches what I came here to do," Rolovich said.

He said the Bobcats have put their three-game home losing streak behind them, after winning the past two weekends.

"Our team has a whole different feel than it had when we were losing," Rolovich said. "There's a whole new aura in the stadium, whole new feel in the locker room. We're confident, but not cocky. It's not any one thing you can pinpoint, but we know the games that we've lost, whether anybody believes us or not, we know we are better than those teams."

Halfback Evin Groves, who has missed the past five games with a knee injury, is expected to return, but he'll be backing up freshman Aaron Mason, who has rushed for

320 yards in his past two starts. Michael Jefferson is averaging 75 yards receiving for the Bobcats and has four touchdown catches.

Sac State quarterback Marcel Marquez is averaging 118 yards passing and has thrown for three touchdowns. Jason Barnes averages 36 yards receiving and Billy White averages 29. Kris Daniels averages 40 yards rushing and Marcel Marquez 38.

The Hornets are coming off two close wins, a 21-20 victory over Eastern Washington and a 24-21 win over Weber State.

"They really seem to be playing well in the fourth quarter, in the clutch," said MSU coach Mike Kramer. "If they're within range, they believe they're going to find a way to get it done. When you've come from behind once you know you can do it, and part of you really likes to do it that way."

Heringer may miss season

BOZEMAN (AP) - Montana State sophomore guard Jenny Heringer could miss the 2006-07 basketball season after having surgery on both legs.

The surgery, to relieve "compartmental syndrome," will keep her out of the lineup for at least several months. Coach Tricia Binford said Heringer may apply for a medical redshirt.

Last season, the team's limited roster forced Heringer to play through a relapse of compartmental syndrome, in which the tissue that encompasses the leg muscles is unusually restrictive, causing muscle pain and the possible loss of blood flow. Heringer was also treated for the syndrome while in high school at Billings Central.

Binford says Heringer's loss is a "definite hit to our program."

"But it's going to be a lot easier

to cover when we have a 16-person roster," she said.

Heringer averaged 9.8 points per game as a backup to point guard Alyssa Nelson and shooting guard Scotta Morton.

Another Bobcat player, junior transfer Mara Hoefer of Bergisch Gladbach, Germany, may redshirt after having shoulder surgery. She averaged 6.4 points and 6.5 rebounds at Kansas city Junior College last season.

After injury, Groves may be stuck in back-up role

BOZEMAN (AP) - When Montana State football starters return after suffering an injury, they usually regain their starting

role.

But MSU tailback Aaron Mason "has been the exception to that rule," coach Mike Kramer said.

Kramer initially said Evin Groves, who has missed five games with a knee injury, was returning this week and would start at running back. But Mason has rushed for 320 yards in his past two starts.

"I just rethought the whole issue," Kramer said Tuesday. "Aaron deserves to be the starter the way he's played."

Groves, who returned to practice Tuesday, is listed second on the depth chart.



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