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Game Day Kaimin, September 22, 2007

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Montana Kaimin, 1898-present. 5034.

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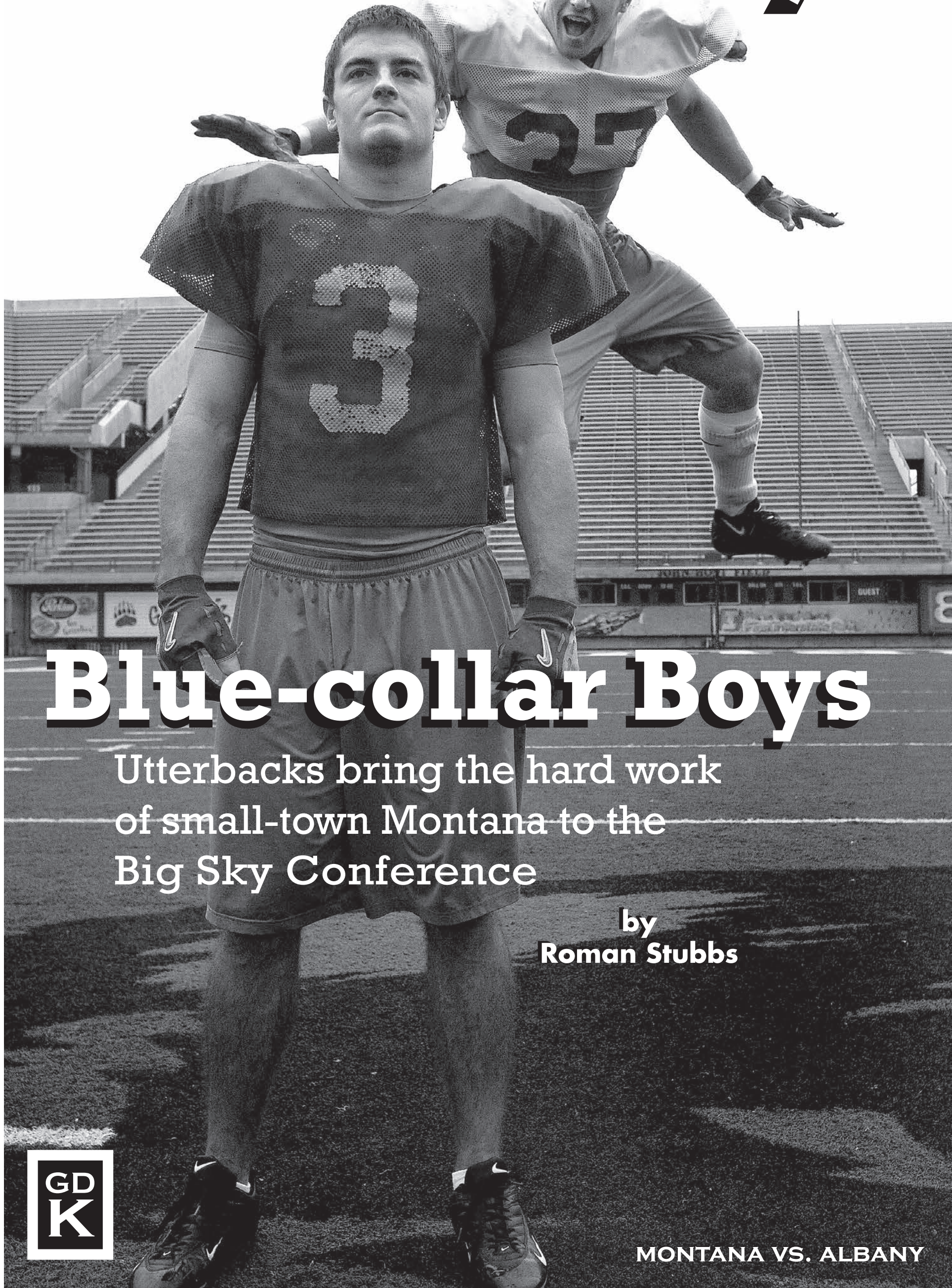
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The original, complete guide to Grizzly athletics

GameDay

Kaimin

FREE



Blue-collar Boys

Utterbacks bring the hard work
of small-town Montana to the
Big Sky Conference

by
Roman Stubbs



MONTANA VS. ALBANY

Utterbacks: From backyard to Washington-Grizzly



Tim Kupsick/GameDay Kaimin

Sophomore Brandon Utterback makes his debut back against Fort Lewis College Saturday at Washington-Grizzly stadium. Utterback has 35 yards of rushing for this year.

Roman Stubbs
GAMEDAY KAIMIN

Their story has gone down many roads: Through the record books, through Baker and through one January phone call. It could start anywhere. But fittingly, Loren and Brandon Utterback's story starts in a small town on the Missouri River, past the wheat fields of Central Montana, in a backyard.

"We used to run out into our backyard with our Joe Montana jerseys on, playing all day and all night," recalls Loren, who is in his final season as a Griz linebacker.

His brother remembers the beginning of something special.

"Our backyard had some great games," said Brandon, a talented special teams player and back-up running back for the Griz. "Me being the youngest, I would always take a lot of hits, sometimes that would knock me out for the day. That's where it all started. We knew that we always wanted to play college football. That was our goal."

To the Utterback brothers, it was a backyard of dreams. A dream that all roads would lead to Missoula.

"My parents instilled in me and my brothers hard work," said Brandon. "It didn't matter if it was football or school, we grew up in a family and a town that was all about hard work."

With guidance from their father, Brad, the brother's work ethic and passion for football went hand-in-hand. Their older brother Ryan, who played at MSU-Northern, introduced them to the weight room. Loren filmed Fort Benton High games as a young boy. Brandon

grew up in Fort Benton coach Kevin Smith's strength and conditioning program. With football and hard work in their blood, the brothers would soon become Fort Benton's finest.

"They come from a very good family, a very hard working family," Smith said. "The thing about the Utterback boys is that they are incredible football players, but they are also incredible human beings."

Loren's road to being a three-year starting linebacker began from the sandlots of Fort Benton, where he learned early on the Utterback way. The hard work, the roll-up-your-sleeves and grab-your-lunch-pail type of hard work.

Entering his senior year of high school, Loren became the face of one of Montana's best high school programs. A two-time All-State pick, recruiters were buzzing about his strength and athleticism.

Then came the roadblock.

In the third game of his senior year, Loren tore his ACL. "A lot of tears were shed that night we found out," Smith said. "You watch a kid grow up in your program and work his ass off to get to this point, then see that. It's devastating. I'll tell you one thing: we we're all sad, but Loren never cried."

He couldn't cry. It

could've been the end for him, had he decided to forgo his senior year and have reconstructive surgery. Instead he did what he'd always known. Grabbed his lunch pail and went to work.

"I had worked too hard to lose everything," Loren said. "I mean, my teammates, the state title, and my dream of playing college football – all of it was on the line. I felt like I had no other option but to strap a brace on and play on it."

Loren did physical therapy on weeknights, and then carried his

torn ACL into a nine-game stretch in which he rushed for more than 1,000 yards and 22 touchdowns en route to the 2002 Class B state title.

"What he did that year I'll never forget," Smith said. "But that's Loren. He has so much pride, so much will, and he cares about his teammates. That's what a leader is all about."

While many recruiters shied away because of his knee, Loren still had an offer from Bobby Hauck, and after making a visit to Washington-Grizzly Stadium decided on Montana. While his dream of playing college football had been fulfilled, Loren wasn't satisfied.

"I wanted to show all the schools who quit on me that they made a mistake," Loren said. "I had a chip on my shoulder."

Loren would have to carry that chip on his shoulder plenty his freshman year. He had heard the doubts about his knee, about his abilities coming out of the Class B, about whether he was going to make it off the practice squad as a running back. After watching Lex Hilliard have an outstanding freshman year, Utterback approached Hauck and offered to help the team win from another position. Then, shortly after his move to linebacker, he got a phone call in mid-January of his freshman

year. It was former All-American defensive end Ciche Pitcher, who had designated his number 37, the prestigious defensive hallmark given to a native Montanan, to Utterback.

"I was so surprised. It was great to know that I had gotten to that point, but also with the tradition of the jersey it pushed me that much harder to represent it well," Loren said in a down-to-earth manner.

It's his opponents whom he has put down to earth, however, earning him not only a 2006 All-Big Sky selection, but also respect from his coaching staff.

"Everything Loren has gotten he has earned. He earned his scholarship. He's earned respect for small schools. He's earned the 37 jersey and he's earned his way as a starter and leader of this team," said linebackers coach Ty Gregorak, who paused, then added, "And Brandon is on his way. He's younger, and plays a lot like his brother – with a lot of intensity and a lot of heart."

There have never been any shortcuts for Brandon. There was never a detour he could take to escape the hits in the backyard as the baby brother, or escape any legacy shadow his older brother might have cast over him in high school.

No shortcuts, no problem. Brandon ran right through it. The guy became a man-child at Fort Benton, rushing for 1,915 yards as a senior, becoming the state's then all-time leading rusher. After 7,000 career all-purpose yards, little brother wasn't so little anymore.

"Loren has always pushed me, ever since we were little," Brandon said. "I have fed off the example he has set, it always reminds me to

See UTTERBACK, page 6



Tim Kupsick/GameDay Kaimin

Grizzly linebacker Loren Utterback tackles Fort Lewis College wide receiver Vic Amick at Washington-Grizzly stadium.

Bill Oram


Bill Oram

voted best

breakfast

hours
 7am - 3pm everyday
 5pm - 9:30 pm weds-sun
 7am - 9:30 pm sat & sun

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 year after year after
 year after year after year
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 year after year
 after year
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 year



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University of Montana

2007 Record • 2-0, 0-0 Big Sky



Offense



#14 Cole Bergquist

Quarterback

6'2" 206 lbs, junior, business administration

In the Sept. 8 game against Fort Lewis, Bergquist played a perfect game. The starting quarterback completed all 13 of his passes for 163 yards, including a 15-yard touchdown pass to Ryan Bagley. Bergquist only played in half of the 49-0 rout, but his accomplishments earned him Big Sky Conference Offensive Player of the Week honors.

Special Teams



#29 Dan Carpenter

Kicker

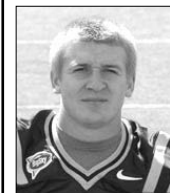
6'2" 207 lbs, senior, chemistry

He began the 2007 season ranked second in school history with 312 career points, trailing former kicker Chris Snyder by 82 points. Now, after just two games, Carpenter

NUMERICAL ROSTER

2	Craig Chambers	SR	WR	6-4	196 lbs	Mill Creek, WA
3	Ryan Bagley	SR	WR	6-4	219 lbs	Great Falls, MT
4	Muckie Foreman	SR	LB	6-1	215 lbs	Spanaway, WA
5	Eric Allen	SR	WR	6-3	205 lbs	Colorado Springs, CO
6	Tyler Joyce	SR	LB	6-5	224 lbs	Aurora, CO
7	Jeff Larson	FR	QB	6-4	212 lbs	Cutbank, MT
8	Rob Schulte	JR	WR	5-8	179 lbs	Great Falls, MT
9	Tim Parks	SR	CB	5-10	186 lbs	Moreno Valley, CA
10	Jamaine Olson	JR	CB	5-11	168 lbs	Beaverton, OR
11	Matt Troxel	JR	WR	5-9	177 lbs	Coeur d' Alene, ID
12	Andrew Selle	FR	QB	6-2	215 lbs	Billings, MT
13	Mike Vandenberg	SO	CB	5-10	177 lbs	Moraga, CA
14	Cole Bergquist	JR	QB	6-2	206 lbs	San Clemente, CA
16	Clint Stapp	SO	QB	6-3	224 lbs	Niwot, CO
17	Van Cooper Jr.	SR	S	6-2	205 lbs	Denver, CO
18	Ciarre Campbell	JR	CB	6-2	168 lbs	Golden, CO
19	Colt Anderson	JR	S	5-10	185 lbs	Butte, MT
20	Reggie Bradshaw	SR	RB	6-0	216 lbs	Coquitlam, BC
21	Chris Clark	SR	CB	5-11	156 lbs	Los Angeles, CA
23	Chase Reynolds	FR	WR	5-10	181 lbs	Drummond, MT
24	Thomas Brooks-Fletcher	SO	RB	5-10	208 lbs	Bellevue, WA
25	Brandon Fisher	SO	S	5-10	195 lbs	Franklin, TN
26	Tyson Johnson	SR	P	6-2	189 lbs	Stevensville, MT
27	Jeremy Pate	FR	CB	6-1	185 lbs	Las Vegas, NV
28	Andrew Schmidt	JR	RB	6-1	209 lbs	Bozeman, MT
29	Dan Carpenter	SR	K/P	6-2	207 lbs	Helena, MT
30	Brandon Dwyer	JR	CB	5-10	206 lbs	Kalispell, MT
31	Tim Anderson	SO	S	6-0	204 lbs	Missoula, MT
32	Torrey Thomas	SR	S	6-0	194 lbs	Dillon, MT
33	Brandon Utterback	SO	RB	6-0	197 lbs	Fort Benton, MT
34	Quinton Jackson	SR	CB	5-11	178 lbs	Seattle, WA
35	Tom Martin	JR	LB	5-10	204 lbs	Columbus, MT
36	Houston Stockton	FR	DB	5-9	161 lbs	Spokane, WA
37	Loren Utterback	SR	LB	6-2	215 lbs	Fort Benton, MT
38	Lex Hilliard	SR	RB	6-0	240 lbs	Kalispell, MT
39	Shann Schillinger	SO	S	6-1	197 lbs	Baker, MT
40	Greg Coleman	JR	RB	6-0	239 lbs	Peoria, IL
41	Erik Stoll	SO	S	6-2	200 lbs	Sandpoint, ID
42	Jace Palmer	SO	DE	6-3	223 lbs	Missoula, MT
43	Alex Hawthorne	SR	LB	6-2	249 lbs	Mesa, AZ
44	Jesse Brown	SR	S	5-11	193 lbs	Bozeman, MT
45	Andy Gonzales	SO	LB	6-0	218 lbs	Portland, OR
46	Kyle Ryan	SR	LB	6-3	228 lbs	Billings, MT
47	Severin Campbell	FR	LB	6-4	203 lbs	Golden, CO
48	Joseph Smith	SO	CB	5-10	184 lbs	Rowland Heights, CA
49	Kevin Klaboe	SO	HB	6-2	216 lbs	Billings, MT
50	Craig Mettler	JR	DT	6-3	272 lbs	Walla Walla, WA
51	Tyler Pelleur	SO	LB	6-2	220 lbs	Sammamish, WA
52	Shawn Lebsock	JR	LB	6-0	215 lbs	Billings, MT
53	Kroy Biermann	SR	DE	6-3	241 lbs	Hardin, MT
54	Austin Mullins	SO	DE	6-2	248 lbs	Great Falls, MT
55	Dan Carter	JR	OG	6-5	312 lbs	Bellingham, WA
56	Tyler Corwin	JR	LB	6-3	231 lbs	Great Falls, MT
57	Karl Pitcher	JR	DE	6-2	227 lbs	Anaconda, MT
58	Paul LaMantia	JR	DT	6-2	276 lbs	Oakdale, CA
59	Kelly Kain	SR	DT	6-4	281 lbs	Great Falls, MT
60	Ryan Schmidt	SO	OG	6-2	291 lbs	Missoula, MT
61	Cy Murer	SO	OG	6-4	279 lbs	Big Fork, MT
63	Brad Waldhauser	FR	DE	6-3	215 lbs	Worden, MT
64	Dan Girard	SO	C	6-4	281 lbs	Yakima, WA
65	Nick Lebsock	FR	C	6-1	239 lbs	Billings, MT
66	Brent Russum	JR	OT	6-4	289 lbs	Lewiston, ID
67	Justin Townsend	FR	DT	6-0	271 lbs	Dublin, CA
69	J.D. Quinn	JR	OG	6-4	301 lbs	Garland, TX
70	David Arndt	FR	OL	6-5	259 lbs	Highlands Ranch, CO
71	Cody Balogh	SR	OT	6-7	328 lbs	Steilacoom, WA
72	Levi Horn	SO	OT	6-7	305 lbs	Spokane, WA
73	John Dapper	FR	OG	6-6	262 lbs	Kenmore, WA
74	Ryan Gustafson	SR	OL	6-5	277 lbs	Billings, MT
75	Chris Dyk	SO	OT	6-8	290 lbs	Dillon, MT
76	Erik Rasmussen	FR	OL	6-5	283 lbs	Homer, AK
77	Terran Hillesland	SO	OG	6-6	325 lbs	Sidney, MT
78	Eric Michel	SR	OG	6-6	285 lbs	Billings, MT
79	Colin Dow	JR	C	6-5	299 lbs	Billings, MT
80	Marc Mariani	SO	WR	6-0	174 lbs	Havre, MT
81	Tyler Palmer	SO	WR	6-3	213 lbs	Missoula, MT
82	Mike Ferriter	JR	WR	6-1	210 lbs	Helena, MT
83	Lyle Brown	FR	WR	5-9	164 lbs	Castle Rock, CO
84	Tony Kazmierczak	FR	WR	6-2	191 lbs	Thompson Falls, MT
85	Bryan Riggs	SO	WR	6-1	196 lbs	Spokane, WA
86	Nick Haynes	FR	DB	5-10	170 lbs	Butte, MT
87	Dan Beaudin	SO	TE	6-5	239 lbs	Trout Creek, MT
88	Steve Pfahler	SO	TE	6-5	248 lbs	Frenchtown, MT
89	Rob Overton	FR	TE	6-6	230 lbs	San Leandro, CA
90	Ryan Fetherston	FR	DE	6-4	204 lbs	East Helena, MT
91	Mike Stadnyk	JR	DE	6-4	247 lbs	Regina, Saskatchewan
92	George Mercer	SO	DE	6-3	217 lbs	Libby, MT
93	Braydon Schilling	FR	DT	6-2	241 lbs	Gillette, WY
94	Jackson Legerwood	SO	DT	6-2	237 lbs	Fort Benton, MT
95	Carson Bender	FR	DE	6-4	272 lbs	Deer Lodge, MT
96	Alex Verlanic	FR	DT	6-3	267 lbs	Drummond, MT
97	Jesse Carlson	JR	DT	6-3	272 lbs	Billings, MT
98	Kerry Mullan	SR	DT	6-3	288 lbs	Stevensville, MT
99	Tyler Hobbs	SO	DE	6-4	255 lbs	Spokane, WA

GRIZ OFFENSE vs. G



#82 Mike Ferriter

This junior wide receiver from Helena caught three passes for 43 yards in the win over Fort Lewis, even with the divided time among every UM receiver. Last year, Ferriter was the fourth-leading receiver with 28 catches for 354 yards.

Ryan Bagley 3

WR

Mike Ferriter 82

WR

Cody Balogh 71

T

Terran Hillesland 77

G

Lex Hilliard 38

RB

Cole Bergquist 14

QB

Colin Dow 79

C

Eric Michel 78

G

Brent Russum 66

T

Dan Beaudin 87

TE

Eric Allen 5

WR

GRIZ DEFENSE vs. G

Quinton Jackson 34

CB

Colt Anderson 19

SS

Loren Utterback 37

LB

Mike Stadnyk 91

DE

Craig Mettler 50

DT

Kyle Ryan 46

LB

Torrey Thomas 32

FS

Tyler Joyce 6

LB

Kelly Kain 59

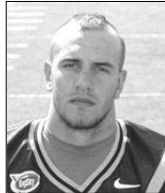
DT

Kroy Biermann 53

DE

Chris Clark 21

CB



#6 Tyler Joyce

Joyce was nominated for Big Sky Conference Defensive Player of the Week after his stunning performance against the Skyhawks. Joyce had five tackles and a near-interception in that game.

reat Danes Defense

CB

Emerson Kinsey
28

LB

Brady Haynes
33

SS

Dave West
22

DE

Mark Sheehan
96

LB

Colin Disch
52

DT

Michael Dungey
95

DE

Jon Volpe
98

LB

Justin Brancaccio
54

FS

Dave Casale
31


LB

Trevor DuPont
10

CB

Jean Juste
25

#5 L.B. McCloskey



Junior cornerback McCloskey had eight total hits against Hofstra, in addition to recovering a fumble. In 2006, McCloskey played in eight games and had 10 tackles and two pass breakups.



Albany Great Danes

2007 Record 1-2 • 0-0 AEC

Offense



#7 Vinny Esposito

Quarterback

6'1" 210 lbs, sophomore
Esposito completed 15 of 29 passes for 131 yards in last Saturday's 28-13 loss to Hofstra. Esposito also converted three third-down plays during that game. The Griz defense will have to be on its toes.

Defense



#52 Colin Disch

Linebacker

6'1" 225 lbs, senior
Disch led the defense last weekend with nine tackles. Disch was selected to the 2007 College Sporting News Preseason All-America team after having a stellar 2006 season.

NUMERICAL ROSTER

1	Mike Wall	SR	WR	5-8	180 lbs	Syracuse, N.Y.
2	Dieuseul Joseph	SR	CB	5-8	180 lbs	Brooklyn, N.Y.
3	David McCarty	SO	TB	6-0	190 lbs	Gansevoort, N.Y.
4	Chris Lynch	JR	P	6-3	215 lbs	Lindenhurst, N.Y.
5	L.B. McCloskey	JR	CB	6-2	210 lbs	Gloversville, N.Y.
6	Chris Van Zelfden	FR	LB	6-0	200 lbs	Marietta, GA
7	Vinny Esposito	SO	QB	6-1	210 lbs	Demarest, N.J.
8	Devin Wooten	SO	FL	6-1	176 lbs	Saddle Brook, N.J.
9	Frank Blasinsky	SO	QB	6-0	190 lbs	North Royalton, OH
10	Trevor DuPont	SR	LB	6-1	220 lbs	Victor, N.Y.
11	Daniel Bocanegra	JR	SE	6-1	195 lbs	Daly City, CA
12	Denny Wilhelm	FR	QB	6-4	205 lbs	Glens Falls, N.Y.
13	Jason Fralicker	SR	PK	5-10	182 lbs	North Tonawanda, N.Y.
15	Dan Di Lella	FR	QB	6-5	215 lbs	Neshanic Sation, N.J.
16	Mike Tracy	FR	QB	6-2	190 lbs	East Meadow, N.Y.
17	Jason Smith	SO	WR	6-2	184 lbs	Bronx, N.Y.
18	Irani DeAraujo	SR	WR	6-2	195 lbs	Queens, N.Y.
20	Colin Simmons	SO	TB	5-8	188 lbs	Manlius, N.Y.
21	Dave Nicomini	JR	S	6-3	230 lbs	Newton, N.J.
22	Dave West	JR	S	5-10	185 lbs	Toms River, N.J.
23	Aaron Scott	JR	LB	6-1	210 lbs	Tampa, FL
24	Mark Peretore	JR	LB	6-1	230 lbs	Apalachin, N.Y.
25	Jean Juste	SO	CB	5-10	187 lbs	Hempstead, N.Y.
26	Justin Gannon	SO	TB	5-6	171 lbs	Sussex, N.J.
27	Jeff Benway	FR	FS	5-11	175 lbs	Queensbury, N.Y.
28	Emerson Kinsey	SO	LB	6-1	215 lbs	Syracuse, N.Y.
29	Erasto Nova	SO	CB	5-10	165 lbs	Albany, N.Y.
30	Chris Blais	SO	FS	6-0	202 lbs	Troy, N.Y.
31	Dave Casale	SO	FS	6-2	210 lbs	Troy, N.Y.
32	George Williams	FR	LB	5-10	190 lbs	Piscataway, N.J.
33	Ross Bertrand	FR	CB	5-11	180 lbs	Stratford, CT
34	Omar Johnson	SR	TB	6-1	215 lbs	Edgewater Park, N.J.
35	Lenny Bing	FR	FB	6-1	220 lbs	Metuchen, N.J.
36	Dan Morris	FR	FL	6-1	195 lbs	Randolph, N.J.
37	Chris Kenneally	SO	FB	6-0	235 lbs	Harrington Park, N.J.
38	Garrett Askew	FR	S	6-2	210 lbs	Newark, N.J.
39	Chris Bright	FR	FB	5-10	205 lbs	East Meadow, N.Y.
40	Kareem Cooper	FR	CB	5-9	175 lbs	Staten Island, N.Y.
41	Griff Courtney	FR	FB	6-2	217 lbs	Gaithersburg, MD
42	Raymond Dorcely	FR	LB	5-10	185 lbs	Spring Valley, N.Y.
43	Tommy Genovesi	SR	LB	6-2	225 lbs	East Greenbush, N.Y.
44	Terrell Dobbins	FR	TB	5-10	205 lbs	Bethlehem, PA
45	Ben Baver	SR	LB	6-2	225 lbs	Clarence, N.Y.
46	Mohamed Yansane	FR	CB	5-10	170 lbs	Potomac, MD
47	Dan Beigel	SR	FB	6-2	230 lbs	Clinton, N.Y.
48	Mike Perillo	FR	S	5-11	175 lbs	Elma, N.Y.
49	Everett Tune	FR	FB	5-10	210 lbs	Albany, N.Y.
50	Rich Duff	SO	LB	6-1	208 lbs	Saratoga Springs, N.Y.
51	Chris Simpson	SO	LB	6-0	230 lbs	Victor, N.Y.
52	Colin Disch	SR	LB	6-1	225 lbs	North Plainfield, N.J.
53	Nick Kraiacic	SO	LB	6-0	230 lbs	Farmington, N.Y.
54	Justin Brancaccio	SO	LB	6-0	220 lbs	Rockaway, N.J.
55	Tyshawn McMillan	FR	LB	5-11	215 lbs	Staten Island, N.Y.
56	Marc Wargo	FR	LB	6-2	210 lbs	Hightstown, N.J.
57	Joe Grassia	FR	LB	6-0	215 lbs	Schenectady, N.Y.
58	Kyle O'Keefe	FR	OG	6-3	280 lbs	Wappingers Falls, N.Y.
61	Chaz Mitchell	FR	OT	6-4	235 lbs	Rochester, N.Y.
62	Andy Sparano	FR	C	6-0	240 lbs	Colleyville, TX
64	Vince Gonzales	FR	C	6-4	275 lbs	Ballston Spa, N.Y.
65	Sam Pagano	SR	OG	6-3	290 lbs	Schenectady, N.Y.
68	Jeff Wentzell	SR	OG	6-4	295 lbs	Pine Bush, N.Y.
69	Eddie Delaney	FR	DE	6-5	210 lbs	Holtsville, N.Y.
70	Mike Falatyn	FR	OG	6-2	265 lbs	Kingston, N.Y.
71	Keith Peifer	FR	OT	6-6	265 lbs	Lewisberry, PA
72	Nik Schultz	JR	OG	6-2	285 lbs	Ballston Spa, N.Y.
73	Tyler Vernieu	FR	DT	5-10	250 lbs	Latham, N.Y.
74	Raphael Nguti	JR	OT	6-6	330 lbs	Rochester, N.Y.
75	Kevin Richards	SO	C	6-2	280 lbs	Clifton Park, N.Y.
76	Jon Leible	JR	OG	6-5	305 lbs	Commack, N.Y.
77	Zack Gallo	FR	DT	6-0	245 lbs	Sayville, N.Y.
78	Andrew Stevens	FR	OT	6-4	285 lbs	Sarasota, FL
79	Justin Tougas	JR	OT	6-6	308 lbs	Glens Falls, N.Y.
80	Luke Weaver	FR	FL	6-4	185 lbs	Loudonville, N.Y.
81	Tom Duclos	FR	SE	6-4	205 lbs	Latham, N.Y.
82	Marcus Miles	SO	TE	6-3	240 lbs	Watertown, N.Y.
83	Tim Bush	JR	FL	5-9	180 lbs	Saratoga Springs, N.Y.
85	Jason Poore	FR	SE	6-6	205 lbs	North Hoosick, N.Y.
86	Makki Goodbee	FR	TE	6-6	246 lbs	Loudonville, N.Y.
87	John Lullen	FR	SE	6-2	185 lbs	Wesley Chapel, FL
88	Adam St. Nicholas	SO	SE	6-1	185 lbs	Bohemia, N.Y.
89	Dan Archer	JR	TE	6-3	230 lbs	Yonkers, N.Y.
90	Mike Kelly	FR	DE	6-2	245 lbs	West Long Branch, N.J.
91	Trevor Anderson	FR	DT	6-2	265 lbs	Warnersville, N.Y.
93	Kyle Hussey	FR	DE	6-3	275 lbs	Albany, N.Y.
94	Tom Pandolf	JR	DT	6-0	260 lbs	Holbrook, N.Y.
95	Michael Dungey	SR	DT	6-2	275 lbs	Rochester, N.Y.
96	Mark Sheehan	SR	DE	6-2	255 lbs	Waterford, N.Y.
97	Tony Sparano	SO	DE	5-11	243 lbs	Colleyville, TX
98	Jon Volpe	SR	DE	6-1	260 lbs	Reston, VA
99	Wil Moushey	FR	DE	6-4	250 lbs	Glenshaw, PA

reat Danes Offense

WR

Mike Wall
1

T

Rapael Nguti
74

G

Nik Schultz
72

C

Kevin Richards
75

QB

Vinny Esposito
7

FB

Dan Beigel
47

TB

David McCarty
3

G

Sam Pagano
65

T

Justin Tougas
79


TE

Dan Archer
89

WR

Irani DeAraujo
18

#3 David McCarty



McCarty, a sophomore tailback, was Albany's leading ball carrier last weekend with 47 yards on 16 attempts. He recently switched from flanker to running back after spring ball. McCarty caught four passes for 74 yards and one touchdown as a redshirt freshman last season.

Big Sky teams face off after breaking records last weekend

Amber Kuehn
MONTANA KAIMIN

Three Big Sky Conference teams take on non-conference opponents. The other six play each other. Here is a look at all you need to know about the league's match-ups taking place today outside of Griz Nation, and who I predict will come away with a win.



No. 25 Eastern Washington at Idaho State (3:05 p.m.)

The Eagles kick off their 2007 conference campaign undefeated as they head to Holt Arena in Pocatello, Idaho, to take on a familiar foe.

A win over ISU would already give Eastern Washington the same number of victories as they had in all of 2006 (three).

"We're an improved football team from a year ago," said EWU head coach Paul Wulff. "We've done a nice job, I can sleep a little better. But we've got a lot more to prove and we've got a whole season in front of us."

EWU broke into the Sports Network FCS poll this week at No. 25 after a 41-31 victory over UC Davis last Saturday.

If it's true what they say about history repeating itself, the past doesn't bode well for the Eagles. Eastern has lost its league opener three times in the past five years, and two of those defeats came to Idaho State.

"We've always struggled in Pocatello," Wulff said. "Most teams do."

The Bengals are also trying to match their win total from a year ago. In 2006, ISU went 2-9 overall, and a dismal 1-7 in conference play.

Idaho State is 1-1 this season, coming off a 61-10 loss to Oregon State.

The last time these two teams took the field against each other, EWU defeated ISU 40-6.

The Eagles' high-powered offense should continue. They had 567 yards of total offense against Montana-Western and followed up with a 478-yard performance last weekend. EWU ranks third nationally in yards of total offense.

As for their opponents' offensive force, ISU receiver Eddie Thompson had 12 catches for 174 yards in the game against Oregon State. Quarterback Russel Hill also had a stellar performance with 23-of-38 passing for 295 yards.

Wulff said ISU has a veteran team on offense as well as on defense, where seven starters are seniors.

"Defensively, they've got some

weapons to score points on you," Wulff said. "They have some very explosive weapons offensively also, and Eddie Thompson is one of the best receivers in the league right now."

I'm highlighting this as the game to watch, as I think it will be a close one. It could go either way, but I'll call Eastern Washington with the win.

You can catch these two teams in action on www.bigskytv.org after the Griz game.



Montana State at Weber State (1:35 p.m.)

The Bobcats' record of 1-1 is what most people expected at this point in the season after games against Texas A&M and Dixie State. But the Weber State record of 0-2 can be somewhat deceiving. The Wildcats' losses have come from Boise State and perennial powerhouse Cal Poly.

Although they haven't won a game yet in 2007, the Wildcats have a strong quarterback in Jimmy Barnes and a solid offensive line anchored by All-America candidate David Hale.

MSU cornerback Kory Austin was Big Sky Player of the Week for his touchdown-scoring punt return against Dixie State, the sixth-longest in school history. He also had the longest blocked field goal return ever at MSU.

Weber State should look out for running back Demetrius Crawford, who played a stellar game his first time wearing the blue and gold. He rushed for 128 yards against Dixie State.

The Bobcats have won six straight games against the Wildcats. I expect MSU to finish on top again. You can catch it on TV on Altitude.

Northern Colorado at Northern Arizona (3:05 p.m.)

The Bears head to Flagstaff hoping to snap their current 11 game losing streak. They have yet to win a conference match since joining the Big Sky in 2006. Northern Colorado is 2-5 all-time against NAU.

The Lumberjacks have dropped their last two against Arizona and Appalachian State.

The Bears have yet to prove they can contend in the Big Sky. For that reason, I'm taking the Lumberjacks, whose only losses have come at the hands of extremely tough opponents.

This game is also being televised on www.bigskytv.org.



Portland State at San Diego State (3:35 p.m.)

This is the first-ever meeting for these two teams on the football field.

San Diego State has yet to win a game this season.

Vikings quarterback Brian White and linebacker Jordan Senn both received Big Sky Player of the Week honors for last Saturday's performances. White completed 26 of 37 passes for 363 yards and two touchdowns, including his own 2-yard rushing score.

The Aztecs were 3-9 in 2006, and despite their winless record are averaging 361 yards per game on offense. They have allowed 566.5 yards on defense. The shaky defensive core allowed Washington State quarterbacks to pass for 469 yards and five touchdowns in the opening game.

I'm tempted to go with Jerry Glanville and the Vikings for the upset. After all, PSU pulled off a

17-6 upset over a Mountain West opponent (New Mexico) last season.



Sacramento State at New Mexico (6:05 p.m.)

The Lobos are 2-1, and Sac State is still searching for a win. This is the second FBS team the Hornets will play, the first season they've ever played more than one.

Sac State leads the FCS in sacks, averaging six per game.

Those same sack leaders will have to find an answer for Lobos QB Donovan Porterie. He threw for 327 yards and three touchdowns against Arizona as New Mexico beat a Pac-10 team for the second time in school history. Running back Rodney Ferguson may also give the Hornets some trouble, as he is averaging 114.7 rushing yards per game.

New Mexico is too good of a team to ignore. Sorry, Sac State, I don't see your first victory of the season coming this weekend.

UTTERBACK

Continued from page 2

"work harder."

When it came down to signing day, a fork was pitched in the road. The suitors came calling, but in the end he was a Griz, right alongside his brother.

"I really wanted to make my college decision *my* decision," Brandon said. "I looked into what I wanted academically and athletically, and UM was a good fit. Loren has had a huge impact on me, and he was a big part in why I chose to play at UM."

Coming out of high school as one of the best prep players in state history has no guarantees, though. And to Brandon, that's exactly what he wants.

"I have to pay my dues," he said. "That's the one reason why this program is so great: guys have to come in here and earn their spot, and I'm ready to do that. I just want to help our team win and get to our ultimate goal, which is a national championship."

After completing his redshirt season, Brandon has become a fixture on special teams, all the while staying true to playing running back, fighting his way up the depth chart in the coming years. That lets him bang heads in practice with a familiar face.

"They really look after each other as brothers, but they're also both extremely competitive against each other," Gregorak said. "Brandon brings it against Loren. We were in spring drills, and there were one-on-one battles going on. They wanted to go at each other. Their intensity shows how much they want to win."

On game day, Loren Utterback doesn't get superstitious. He's too old-school for that. He'll tighten his socks, put on his prestigious jersey and head down the tunnel, running out with his brother behind, just like they did with the childhood Joe Montana jerseys on. They'll shoot a look up to their blue-collar roots in the north end zone stands, never forgetting where they came from. Then it's time for work. As Fort Benton's finest, this is the brothers' new backyard of hope.

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Where are they now: Adam Boomer



Photo courtesy of Sports Information

Bill Oram
GAMEDAY KAIMIN

The only time a “boom” is heard in Washington-Grizzly Stadium these days is when the cannon is fired in celebration of a Montana score. But it wasn’t that far back when a “boom” meant much more to Grizzly football fans.

From 1997 to 2000, a high energy linebacker consistently brought the cacophonous crowd to its feet with every tackle, each one prompting from 19,000 pairs of Griz-loving lungs a low, appreciative chant of his oh-so-appropriate surname: Boomer.

“It was more like a ‘boo,’ then with a (soft) ‘er’, Adam Boomer

playing to the crowd or anything, but they really got into him.”

A four-year starter, Boomer racked up 268 tackles – including 32 for loss – in his career at Montana. He was named first team All-Big Sky Conference his final two seasons.

“He was one of those guys, played with a high motor, he practiced with a high motor,” said Grizzly defensive coordinator Kraig Paulson, one of the few current Griz coaches who was around during Boomer’s playing days. “He’d give you everything he could.”

After leaving the University of Montana, Boomer did a two-year spell in the Canadian Football League with the Winnipeg Blue Bombers, but in 2002, a torn ACL in his left knee – the same injury from his right leg that sidelined Boomer his freshman year – abruptly halted that pursuit.

“I sat down (on the field) and told the trainer I had a torn ACL and they helped me off,” he said.

That’s how his football career ended.

In the ensuing handful of years he moved back to Missoula, spent some time visiting churches across the country as a motivational speaker and then happened into a sales career.

Boomer isn’t particularly inclined to gush about what he does these days. True to the humble reputation he owned as a Grizzly star, he brushes off an inquiry of what he’s up to.

“Well I’m watching a little Yankees baseball right now,” he said.

And why not? Boomer and his wife – they’ve been married four years – are now proud residents of Manhattan, N.Y. He sells screws and rods used in spinal surgeries. He works with nurses and neurologists and trains residents to properly use the equipment. His wife is in her third year of medical school at New York Medical College.

Last month, Boomer started pursuing his MBA at Pace University in New York.

It’s a long way from Boomer’s hometown of American Falls, Idaho, population 4,000. The East Coast was not a place he ever saw himself, especially after he first visited shortly after his CFL career was cut short.

“When I first came out here and visited, the smell of urine and garbage wasn’t very enticing for Manhattan,” Boomer said, “but you get used to it and you pay extra for it now.”

While the big city certainly has its detractors, according to Boomer, he’s grown to appreciate some of the most essential amenities.

“The food’s just the most amazing food you’ve ever had in your life and it’s right around the corner. And it’s all open until midnight. There’s a place down the street that doesn’t even open until 5 o’clock,” he marvels.

But don’t think for a second that Boomer has stopped caring about Montana, the Grizzlies, or football.

“I still read the Missoulian to see what the weather’s like,” he said. He said a week doesn’t go by in which he doesn’t talk to a for-

mer coach or teammate.

Paulson said he expects Boomer to be successful in business; it was his way as a Grizzly, too. He went all out.

“The beauty of it is when you got to know him off the field he was very likeable,” Paulson said.

Boomer hasn’t attended a Griz game in years, but hopes that changes this season.

“Hopefully we can get out to Tennessee this fall,” he said.

The Football Championship Subdivision national championship game is held annually in Chattanooga, Tenn. Boomer was there twice as a player: as a red-shirt freshman in 1996 and as a senior in 2000. The Griz lost both title games.

Boomer’s father-in-law recently asked him what he missed most about playing football.

“I was like, the violence,” Boomer said.

That shouldn’t suggest he yearned for bloodlust, Paulson said, rather that he desired to be in on every play, that he loved the action.

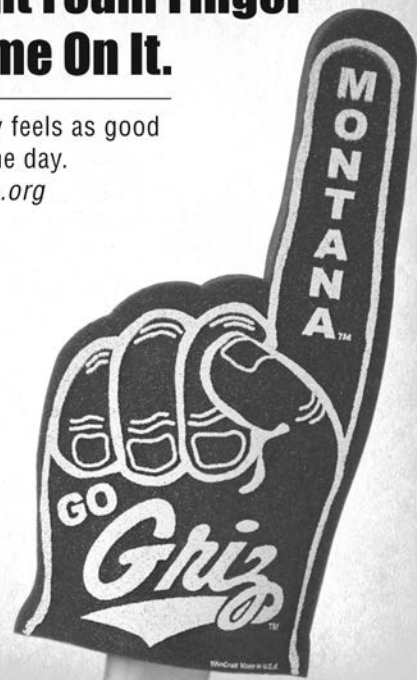
He took a great deal of pride in every hit, every opportunity to make a sound that was, for a while, a Griz Nation favorite.

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