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Game Day Kaimin, October 20, 2007

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Saturday, October 20, 2007

The Kaimin is the daily student newspaper at the University of Montana

Kickoff 1:05 PM

The original, complete guide to Grizzly athletics

GameDay

Kaimin

From walk-on to STANDOUT

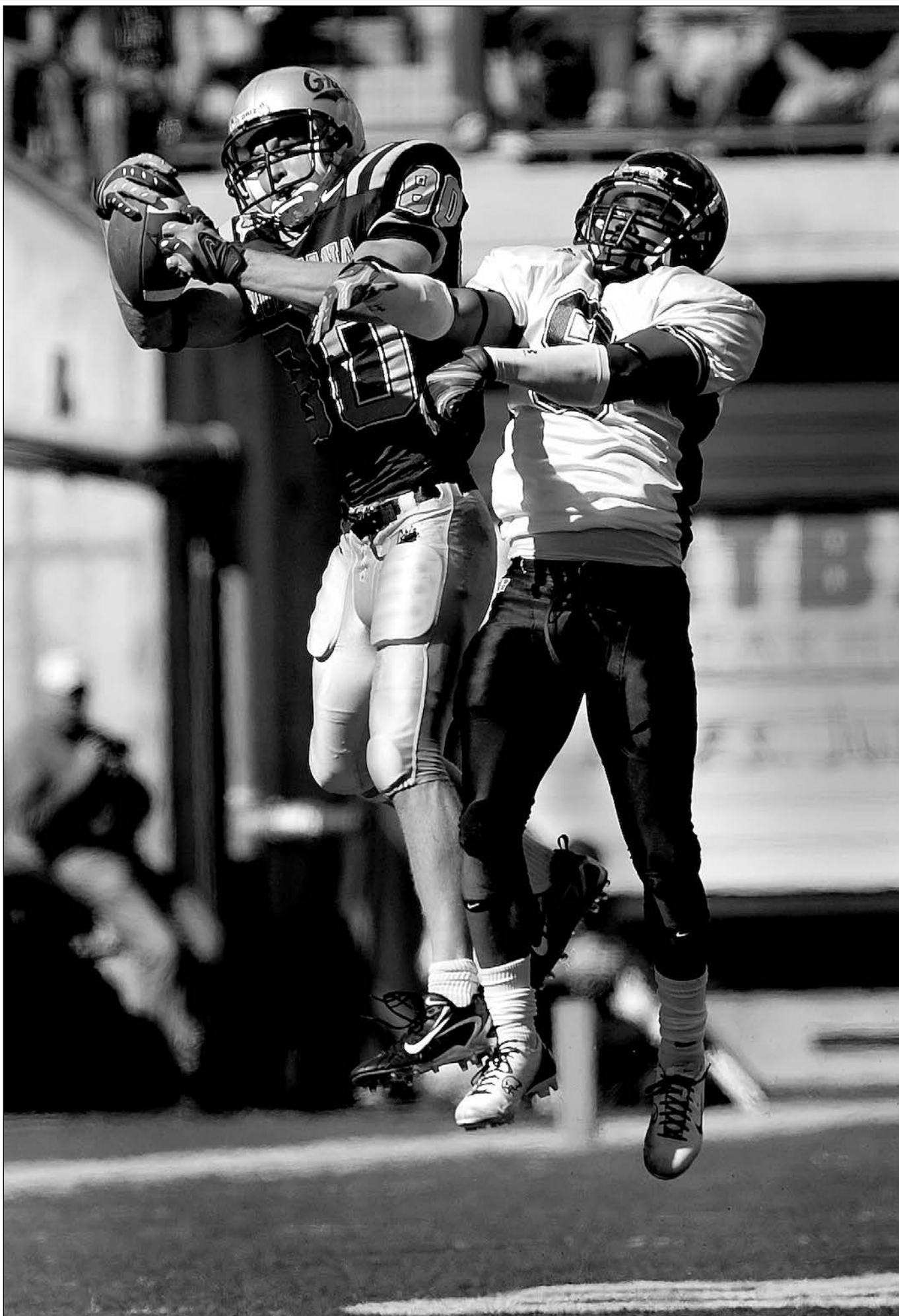
Wearing the maroon and silver is
a dream come true for Marc Mariani

by
Jake Grilley



MONTANA VS. NORTHERN COLORADO

www.montanakaimin.com



Tim Kupsick/GameDay Kaimin

Grizzly wide receiver Marc Mariani makes a catch against Weber State corner back Jonathan Carrawa. Mariani averages over 15 yards per catch and averages 40 yards for kick returns.

Walk-on earns the fruits of determination

Jake Grilley
GAMEDAY KAIMIN

Marc Mariani stood just in front of the Montana end zone inside Washington-Grizzly Stadium. The 6-foot, 174-pound sophomore from Havre nervously awaited the kickoff. His blond crew cut and thin frame were all but hidden beneath his helmet, pads and the number 80 University of Montana jersey he had worked so hard to wear.

Just two years prior, Mariani had enrolled at the University of Montana with intentions of making the Grizzlies as a walk-on.

Mariani said his first day stepping on the practice field was an overwhelming experience.

"It was a quick transformation from being a big fish in a small pond to being a small fish in a huge

pond," he said.

Week one of practice made Mariani wonder what exactly he had gotten himself into.

"The first week was real scary," he said. "Being out there, coaches yelling at you, guys getting beat up, doing tackling drills you have never done before."

After seeing all the talent that Montana had, Mariani knew his journey wouldn't be easy.

"There was a lot of question marks, lots of hard work in front of me," Mariani said.

Mariani was willing to put in the hard work. He participated in the team's freshman lifting program that began at 5:30 a.m. four days a week.

He tried not to worry about what he couldn't control.

"I just had fun with it, I didn't know where it was going to go," he said. "I just worked as hard as I could and waited to see where it

would take me."

Although he was uncertain where his hard work would take him, Mariani never doubted his decision to walk-on for the Griz.

"I felt like I could play, I thought I could play and I wanted to prove it to myself," he said.

Growing up in Havre he envisioned himself playing at Montana someday.

"For me it was just the top goal," Mariani said. "I am from small town Montana and this has been the biggest goal that I was shooting for as soon as I started playing football. This is what I dreamed of, this is the place I wanted to be."

As sure as he was about his dream, he was just as uncertain about it ever happening.

"I was more of a basketball player growing up," he said. "I was always the small guy (on the football team.)"

But Mariani was determined not

to let his size stand in the way of his aspirations and by his junior year of high school he was emerging as a standout football player.

Mariani was a first-team All-state free safety his junior season. It was during his senior year that Mariani broke out as a wide receiver, setting the Havre High record in single-season receiving yards.

These kinds of performances garnered Mariani calls from various Division II and NAIA programs. But the one school he wanted to take a look at him didn't seem to notice.

"I wasn't getting recruited hard by (Montana)," Mariani said. "I kinda thought at one point I should look around. I didn't think I would be able to do it."

Despite not being heavily sought after by the Grizzlies, Mariani decided to take his best shot at playing for the two-time national champs.

"I just wanted to push myself,"

Mariani said. "I didn't want to settle for something and regret not giving this a shot. I didn't want to go somewhere and always wonder 'what if I could have made it?'"

Mariani was among a handful of walk-ons competing for a roster spot that fall.

"There is not a difference between walk-on and scholarship really," Mariani said. "You just have to earn respect and earn your spot on the team."

Part of earning that respect was taking some knocks.

"I remember me and a few walk-on guys got thrown in (a drill)," Mariani said. "We were getting screamed at and yelled at and had no clue what was going on. I think in the first week I got absolutely taken out by Mike Murphy."

Sophomore wide receiver and fellow walk-on at the time Bryan

MARIANI continued on page 3

Griz 6-0 despite low performance numbers

Bill Oram
GAMEDAY KAIMIN

The University of Montana football team is ranked No. 3 in the nation. Yet when compared to teams in their own conference, the Griz have put up numbers that could best be described as middle-of-the-road.

The Griz have been out-gained nearly 2-to-1 each of the last two weeks in total offense, and have been forced to rely on big, game-saving plays in the fourth quarter to squeeze out wins against Eastern Washington and Sacramento State.

Despite having arguably the most talented group of running backs in the conference, the Griz are ranked second to last in rushing yards per game in the Big Sky, and their pass offense ranks dead last in the nine-team league.

Against Eastern Washington, the Eagles posted a gaudy 565 offensive yards, while the Griz mustered just 289. As an encore, the Grizzlies were doubled-up offensively when Sac State had 346 yards – exactly twice as many as the Griz – in the 17-3 Montana win.

Despite the lack of offensive productivity, the Griz stand at 6-0 with their sights set on a probable playoff berth, barring a late-sea-

son meltdown.

"I'm not into numbers other than the 'W' in the left-hand column," Montana head coach Bobby Hauck said Tuesday.

Today the Griz will look to improve on their marginal numbers when they host a team that is also familiar with futility. The Northern Colorado Bears are winless on the season, but also played a grueling preseason schedule that included games at Hawaii, San Diego and Cal Poly. But the Bears also lost a home game to Division II Chadron State, who also knocked off Montana State last season in Bozeman.

The highly regarded Grizzlies can expect a challenge from the Bears, Hauck said.

"Northern Colorado will come in hungry, they're playing hard," he said. "I've watched every game in some form or fashion that they've played this year. Their coaches have them playing hard, that's what we expect. They have not come out in the win column like they wanted to in numerous games."

Despite concerns surrounding the Montana offense, Northern Colorado coach Scott Downing doesn't see where the Griz have a lot of holes.

"I don't think they have a lot of problems," he said. "I would tell

you this, I think their scheme is good, they're very well coached, they're technically very sound."

Downing said he didn't think the Grizzlies had been under-producing in recent weeks, rather that other teams were playing up to Montana's level.

"I think one of the things that probably catches up with a team like Montana, like I've said before, they've got a big target on their chest," he said. "They're the top team in the league and one of the top teams in the nation." Senior offensive tackle Cody Balogh said the Grizzly offense was planning to spend this week in practice regrouping and trying to find a rhythm.

"Northern Colorado's a good team, but we're going to focus on us this week," Balogh said. "We've got some stuff we've got to take care of, and hopefully it will end up in a good way on Saturday."

Hauck cautioned that the Griz couldn't overlook the Bears.

"They're a team that we can beat if we go out and play well," he said.

Downing said he's been pleased with the team's effort, and that even though the wins haven't happened yet this year, the Bears have a positive attitude.

"Our kids are tired of losing.

Our coaches are tired of losing, but it's not from a lack of effort," he said.

Just a week removed from being ranked No. 1 in The Sports Network's top 25, the Grizzlies are in a completely opposite situa-

tion.

"That team at Montana knows how to win," he said. "Sometimes maybe they don't win by the point margin that people want them to win by, but we don't get any style points for margin of victory."



Tim Kupsick/GameDay Kaimin

Grizzly defense knocks Eastern Washington running back Dale Harris out of bounds on Oct. 6. Grizzlies beat the Eagles 24-23.

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MARIANI

Continued from page 2

Riggs was impressed by Mariani's determination and focus.

The things that made Mariani successful then and now are his hard work ethic and ability to keep a level head, Riggs said.

Junior wide receiver and fellow punt and kick returner Rob Schulte said Mariani put in the time he needed to be a success.

"You can put in lots of time or you can choose not to," Schulte said. "He is the kind of guy that puts in the time."

Mariani said other players on the team kept him motivated.

"The thing is you never stop working," Mariani said. "As soon as you stop working, someone else is going to pass you by."

He said although he is very self-motivated, it helped to have friends and family encouraging him.

"I made all the decisions," Mariani said. "But the support I get from my friends and family is everything. When times get hard you need someone to fall back on and that is what I have for sure."

It wasn't until after spring meetings that Mariani would get to know if all his hard work had paid off.

"Those last few weeks of spring were nerve-racking as heck," he said. "I mean, you've gone through a year of practicing and it all comes down to that, whether you will be on the team next year or not."

He said he tried to walk into the meeting with the confidence of knowing that he had given it his best shot.

"I didn't know what to expect," Mariani said. "I was pretty nervous. I thought I had done as well as I could have but it was all up in the air."

As he sat down for his final meeting with head coach Bobby Hauck, Mariani crossed his fingers and

wished to himself that he had made the team, but he didn't get his hopes up because, he said, "there is always that chance."

The butterfly Mariani was feeling were quickly eliminated when Hauck asked him back for the fall.

Mariani's dream of becoming a Montana Grizzly had become a reality.

"I hadn't done anything yet," Mariani said. "But I made the team, and that was my first goal."

Now, a year and a half after making the team, Mariani is making an impact.

He is the team leader in both punt return and kick-off return averages, with 13.4 and 40 yards, respectively. Mariani's punt return average is also the highest in the conference and his 40-yard average on kick returns would eclipse the conference high of 26.5 if Mariani had more returns.

Mariani also has the title of being the team's fastest man.

He clocked in at a 4.49 in the 40.

The ever-modest Mariani downplayed his achievement.

"I probably cheated, it probably wasn't right," he said.

Schulte believes the sky is the limit for Mariani.

"He is the people's favorite," Schulte said. "He is the kind of guy you want to see succeed. He has done that and will continue to."

Mariani understands that Grizzly fans expect big plays from their returners.

"Everyone in Montana is used to a big time punt returner," he said. "We've had (Levander Segars) and (Tuff Harris) those are some big, big shoes to fill."

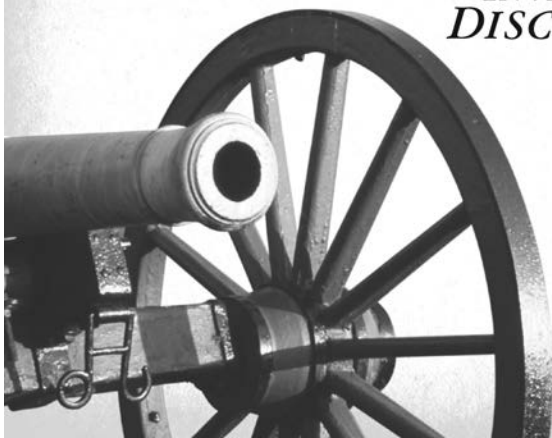
Although Mariani has met his goals, don't think he hasn't set more for himself.

"My next goal is to help the team win," he said. "Anything I can do special teams, returns, receiver whenever my number is called. That is what it comes down to and that is my immediate goal right now."

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University of Montana

2007 Record • 6-0, 3-0 Big Sky



Defense



#32 Torrey Thomas
Free Safety

6'0" 194 lbs, senior, business administration
On a team that struggled offensively last week at Sacramento State, Thomas was proof that even defensive players score touchdowns. Thomas returned an interception for a score. Not only has the senior shined as the starting free safety the past three seasons, but he has also been one of Montana's leading tacklers and has 14 career picks.

Special Teams



#29 Dan Carpenter

Kicker
6'2" 207 lbs, senior, chemistry
Carpenter tied his career long at Sac State last weekend with a 54-yard field goal. He had five total points in that game when combined with PATs, and now trails former Griz kicker Chris Snyder by just 34 points. If the Helena native continues to score at this rate, he will have no trouble breaking the record before leaving UM.

NUMERICAL ROSTER

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

GRIZ OFFENSE vs



#71 Cody Balogh
The senior health and human performance major from Steilacoom, Wash. is an experienced veteran on O-line starting for his third season in a row. In 2006 he was a third-team All-American and was a first-team All-Big Sky selection.

Ryan Bagley 3

WR

Mike Ferriter 82

WR

Cody Balogh 71

T

Eric Michel 78

G

Lex Hilliard 38

RB

Cole Bergquist 14

QB

Colin Dow 79

C

Terran Hillesland 77

G

Brent Russum 66

T

Steven Pfahler 88

TE

Eric Allen 5

WR

GRIZ DEFENSE vs

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

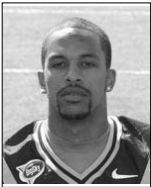
DT

Kroy Biermann 53

DE

Chris Clark 21

CB



#34 Quinton Jackson
Jackson played spectacularly at Sac State last Saturday, recording five tackles and intercepting two passes for a total of 70 yards. The senior cornerback from Seattle has five picks and 51 tackles in his career as a Grizzly.

CB

Eric Brown
25

LB

Joe Kenney
47

FS

Stephen Michon
39

DE

Joe Silipo
90

DT

Vinny Pallone
56

DT

Ben Sibert
50

DE

John Eddy
96

LB

Christian Sarmiento
22

LB

Asa Matthews
8


ROV

D.J. Craft
26

CB

Myles Hayes
4

#47 Joe Kenney



Kenney, a junior linebacker, tallied 10 tackles last weekend against the Wildcats. He always seems to play well against Weber State, as he had nine solo stops last season in the WSU game. His career highlight? Grabbing an interception last year against No. 23 Texas State.

WSU Bears Offense

WR

Cory Fauver
7

T

Jacob Thornbure
73

G

Chris Jones
66

C

Jake Gable
61

QB

Matt Nichols
16

G

Ryan Kemp
62

T

Eric Christenson
78

TE

Clint Wright
84

WR

Jason Caprioli
86


TB

David Woods
21

FB


Dan Freismuth
33

#3 Jeff Vaden




Vaden made the switch from linebacker to running back at the end of 2006. His play was limited last weekend at Weber, as he had two carries for just eight yards. But don't expect him to stay quiet for long. If the Griz defense isn't on top of their game, he could put up numbers today.

Offense



#7 Cory Fauver
Wide receiver/punt returner
5'9" 185 lbs, junior
Fauver may be part of a struggling offensive squad, but has consistently been one of the team's top performers nonetheless. He caught a team-high three passes for 33 yards against Weber State Saturday and had 17 yards on returns.

Defense



#39 Stephen Michon
Defensive back
5'10" 180 lbs, sophomore
Michon led the Bears' defense with 12 tackles in last week-end's game. He has been making a name for himself this season after starting just one game in 2006. He played well against Weber State last season, too, with seven stops.

2007 Record 0-7, 0-3 Big Sky

NUMERICAL ROSTER

2	Korey Askew	SO	DB	5-8	160 lbs	Denver, Colo.
3	Jeff Vaden	SR	RB	6-0	185 lbs	Commerce City, Colo.
4	Myles Hayes	JR	DB	6-0	180 lbs	Aurora, Colo.
5	Andy Birkel	SR	WR	6-2	200 lbs	Lincoln, Neb.
6	Brent Brown	FR	WR	6-0	175 lbs	Muskogee, Okla.
7	Cory Fauver	JR	WR	5-9	185 lbs	Colorado Springs, Colo.
8	Asa Matthews	SR	LB	6-2	225 lbs	Thornton, Colo.
9	Ryan Chesla	JR	TE	6-5	240 lbs	Colorado Springs, Colo.
10	Quincy Wofford	SO	DB	6-2	180 lbs	Pueblo, Colo.
11	Max Hewitt	FR	DB	6-1	195 lbs	Aurora, Colo.
12	Brandon Smith	SO	WR	5-7	165 lbs	Pueblo, Colo.
13	Dylan Orms	FR	QB	6-1	185 lbs	Wheat Ridge, Colo.
14	Dominic Breazeale	SR	QB	6-6	260 lbs	Alhambra, Calif.
15	Anthony Harrison	FR	DB	6-2	185 lbs	Richmond, Va.
16	James Schrenk	FR	QB	6-2	215 lbs	Greeley, Colo.
17	Mike Vlahogeorge	JR	QB	6-3	245 lbs	Lafayette, Ind.
18	Derek Gaine	SO	WR	6-1	180 lbs	Aurora, Colo..
19	Rafael Mendoza	SR	P	6-1	230 lbs	Thornton, Colo.
20	Aaron Henderson	SR	DB	5-9	175 lbs	Colorado Springs, Colo.
21	David Woods	JR	RB	5-8	210 lbs	Shawnee, Kan.
22	Cristian Sarmiento	JR	LB	6-1	220 lbs	Lakewood, Colo.
23	Colby Riggins	FR	DB	5-10	165 lbs	Littleton, Colo.
24	Michael York	SO	PK	6-2	180 lbs	Greeley, Colo.
25	Eric Brown	JR	DB	5-10	175 lbs	Aurora, Colo..
26	D.J. Craft	SR	DB	6-0	205 lbs	Littleton, Colo.
27	Chuks Nweke	FR	DB	6-2	190 lbs	Colorado Springs, Colo.
28	Jamathon Lyle	FR	DB	5-10	180 lbs	Boulder, Colo.
29	Ryan Lutz	SO	DB	5-10	185 lbs	Lakewood, Colo.
30	Nigel Nelson	FR	RB	5-9	220 lbs	Denver, Colo.
31	Matt Vlahogeorge	FR	LB	5-11	200 lbs	Lafayette, Ind.
32	Tyrone Wilson	SO	RB	5-7	200 lbs	Washington, D.C.
33	Dan Freismuth	FR	RB	6-1	210 lbs	Loveland, Colo.
34	Justin Askew	SO	RB	5-6	230 lbs	Denver, Colo.
35	Eric Carlson	SO	DB	6-0	180 lbs	Estes Park, Colo.
36	Andy Muns	FR	RB	5-7	195 lbs	San Diego, Calif.
37	Mike Van Portfliet	FR	DB	5-10	180 lbs	Parker, Colo.
38	Cameron Kaman	FR	P/K	6-0	175 lbs	Overland Park, Kan.
38	Trey Keene	JR	RB	6-2	200 lbs	St. Charles, Mo.
39	Stephen Michon	SO	DB	5-10	180 lbs	Englewood, Colo.
40	Zak Bigelow	FR	P/K	6-1	200 lbs	Littleton, Colo.
41	Casey Herron	JR	LB	6-2	210 lbs	Limon, Colo.
42	Thomas Stuemky	FR	LB	6-0	180 lbs	Del Norte, Colo.
43	C.J. Stemo	FR	LB	5-10	205 lbs	Bennett, Colo.
44	Alfonzo Moore	FR	RB	6-0	225 lbs	Denver, Colo.
45	Preston Neill	FR	TE	6-3	190 lbs	Montrose, Colo.
45	John Steven	FR	RB	6-2	210 lbs	Westminster, Colo.
46	Rory Chinatti	SO	RB	5-9	190 lbs	Boulder, Colo.
47	Joe Kenney	JR	LB	6-1	205 lbs	Colorado Springs, Colo.
48	Scott Allen	SO	DE	6-3	230 lbs	Tulsa, Okla.
49	Lamont Bryant	JR	LB	5-9	200 lbs	Aurora, Colo.
50	Ben Sibert	SR	DL	6-4	270 lbs	Highlands Ranch, Colo.
52	Carl Freeman	FR	DT	6-1	250 lbs	Greeley, Colo.
53	Chris Schardt	SO	LB	6-3	200 lbs	Colorado Springs, Colo.
54	Dominique Ceja	FR	DT	6-0	290 lbs	Centennial, Colo.
55	Matt King	FR	LB	6-3	230 lbs	Golden, Colo.
56	Vinny Pallone	SR	DL	6-0	300 lbs	Broomfield, Colo.
57	Tim McGraw	FR	OL	6-2	270 lbs	Castle Rock, Colo.
61	Jake Gable	SR	OL	6-3	295 lbs	Papillion, Neb.
62	Ryan Kemp	SO	OL	6-3	265 lbs	San Antonio, Texas
63	James Zapp	SO	OL	6-5	315 lbs	Englewood, Colo.
64	Mark Rodden	JR	OL	6-2	295 lbs	Jones, Okla.
65	Alex Shapiro	FR	OL	6-2	270 lbs	Englewood, Colo.
66	Chris Jones	SO	OL	6-2	285 lbs	Fort Collins, Colo.
67	Kenny Pittman	FR	DT	6-1	270 lbs	Evans, Colo.
68	Darren Grenemyer	FR	OL	6-2	285 lbs	Arvada, Colo.
71	Jason McMullin	FR	OL	6-5	255 lbs	Aurora, Colo.
73	Jacob Thornbrue	JR	OL	6-6	320 lbs	Oklahoma City, Okla.
74	Joel Fassler	FR	OL	6-4	300 lbs	Castle Rock, Colo.
75	Brandon Bunies	FR	OL	6-3	330 lbs	Thornton, Colo.
77	John Ellsworth	FR	OL	6-5	270 lbs	Denver, Colo.
78	Eric Christensen	JR	OL	6-5	290 lbs	Broomfield, Colo.
79	Andrew Dunkley	FR	OL	6-5	270 lbs	Long Beach, Calif.
80	Alex Clark	FR	WR	6-2	185 lbs	Fountain, Colo.
81	Gio Machado	FR	WR	6-5	180 lbs	Palm Spring, Calif.
82	Lawrence Barker	FR	TE	6-3	230 lbs	Denver, Colo.
83	Sam Sewell	FR	WR	6-4	195 lbs	Aurora, Colo.
84	Clint Wright	SR	TE	6-5	250 lbs	Greeley, Colo.
85	Ian Kane	FR	WR	6-2	200 lbs	Denver, Colo.
86	Jason Caprioli	JR	WR	6-0	175 lbs	Bakersfield, Calif.
87	Alex Applekamp	FR	TE	6-7	190 lbs	Parker, Colo.
88	Brian Barmann	SR	WR	6-3	220 lbs	Weston, Mo.
89	Andrew Emmerling	SO	TE	6-3	240 lbs	Lakewood, Colo.
90	Joe Silipo	FR	DL	6-3	245 lbs	Centennial, Colo.
91	Josh Mack	FR	DE	6-3	255 lbs	Pueblo, Colo.
92	Ethan Davis	SO	DT	6-0	265 lbs	Centennial, Colo.
93	Amal Gumbs	FR	DT	6-3	255 lbs	Denver, Colo.
94	Martin Awachie	SO	DT	6-3	255 lbs	Fort Collins, Colo.
96	John Eddy	SO	DE	6-3	240 lbs	Greeley, Colo.
97	Derek Palmer	FR	DE	6-0	215 lbs	Greeley, Colo.
99	Beck Easton	FR	DE	6-4	290 lbs	Pueblo, Colo.

Plenty of action around the Big Sky Conference

Amber Kuehn
GAMEDAY KAIMIN

While the Griz try to stay undefeated, several other conference teams will vie to move up the Big Sky standings. Meanwhile, Eastern Washington takes a break from league play to face BYU.

Northern Arizona at Weber State (1:05 p.m.)

These two teams first met in 1964 and they've met every year since, with the Wildcats holding a one-game advantage in the series. The Lumberjacks sit at 3-1 in Big Sky action and are alone in second place. NAU managed 588 total yards in their 45-24 victory over Idaho State last Saturday. Today they face a Wildcats squad that is on a two-game win streak and beat Northern Colorado 23-0

for their first shutout in 27 years. NAU quarterback Lance Kriesien received Player of the Week honors after his 320 yards of total offense and trio of touchdowns. He completed 75 percent of his passes and was dangerous on the ground with 17 carries. Kriesien has played both quarterback and wide receiver in his two seasons. As a quarterback, he has rushed for 390 yards and five touchdowns to rank eighth in the conference in total rushing yards. NAU leads the league in rushing offense. Leading the Lumberjacks attack is Lionel Scott, who is averaging 107.2 yards in conference competition. Last Saturday he was responsible for three touchdowns. The Jacks are also strong on the defensive side of the ball. NAU leads the league in interceptions with 13. K.J. Gerard leads the FCS

in interceptions with six this season and leads the Lumberjacks in total tackles with 38. For the Wildcats, Bryant Eteuati is one to watch out for. He had eight receptions for 146 yards and two touchdowns against the Bears. Eteuati is also the best in the Big Sky at kickoff returns. The Wildcats are league-leaders in scoring defense and pass defense. NAU has won three of its last four games in Stewart Stadium. For that reason, and their numbers so far this season, I'm taking the Lumberjacks.

Sacramento State at Montana State (1:05 p.m.)

Sac State managed to double Montana's offensive output last Saturday but the Griz defense was too much for the Hornets. They now must face another strong defensive unit from the same state. Both Sac State and MSU are coming off losses. The Bobcats suffered their first Big Sky loss of the season to Eastern Washington, 35-13. MSU only managed 22 rushing yards in that contest. Sac State should beware of Bobcats linebacker Bobby Daly. He has had double-digit tackles in four straight games and was named to the Buck Buchanan Award watch list this week. As far as the Cats' offense, Demetrius Crawford leads the team in rushing yards. Wide receiver Josh Lewis also has over 100 yards receiving in two games

in the past three weeks. The Hornets have only posted one win this season and the Cats have only two losses (their other was to Texas A&M), which were both respectable considering the tough teams they were facing. I don't see MSU losing this one. **Portland State at Idaho State (3:05 p.m.)** The Vikings haven't won in Pocatello since 1999, and are coming off a bye week that followed a heartbreaking 44-43 loss to NAU. Idaho State is also coming off a loss to the Lumberjacks, falling 45-24 last weekend. Both squads sit at 2-4 in the Big Sky. The Bengals are averaging 403.5 yards of offense but are guilty of 16 turnovers in six games. Freshman Russel Hill and sophomore Luke Butler have split time under center, and have combined to complete 58 percent of their passes. Tailback Josh Barnett currently leads the league with 548 rushing yards. Receiver Eddie Thompson is the league leader in receptions with 50 in six games, which is also third in the nation. Portland State is banged up, with 10 players suffering injuries this season. But the athletes they have playing have been playing extremely well. PSU quarterback Brian White has played spectacularly lately and has led the Vikings to two come-from-behind victories. He

has thrown for over 1,500 yards in the past four games. Vikings senior fullback Olaniyi Sobomehin leads the team and the Big Sky with nine touchdowns in six contests. He has 72 carries for 344 yards. Want my opinion? Jerry Glanville and crew are going to get their first win in Pocatello in seven years. **Eastern Washington at BYU (3:35 p.m.)** The Eagles may get a break from conference action, but that doesn't mean they are getting a break. The Cougars are dangerous on both offense and defense and Brigham Young University is one of the most powerful college teams in the country. BYU ranks 16th in the FBS in total offense with 462.8 yards and is only allowing 313.3 yards per game. Quarterback Max Hall ranks sixth in the nation. Both teams sit at 4-2. EWU has never beaten a Mountain West Conference member, and BYU is undefeated in the MWC this season. The Eagles win over MSU last weekend moved them up to No. 22 in the Sports Network FCS Poll. It would be nice of me to pick the Eagles since they are a fellow conference member. But football isn't about being nice, so I'm going to play it safe and say BYU wins.

GAMEDAY KAIMIN

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Where are they now: Marty Mornhinweg

Bill Oram
GAMEDAY KAIMIN

Great quarterbacks are as much a staple in Montana football history as tourists are in Glacier National Park during summer.

Dave Dickenson, Brian Ah Yat, Drew Miller, John Edwards and Craig Ochs have all taken their place in the spotlight for the Grizzlies. But it's a quarterback often forgotten in discussions of great Griz gridiron generals who has had arguably the most successful professional career.

Marty Mornhinweg is better known for his career calling plays from NFL sidelines than from under center for the Grizzlies in the early 1980s.

He was the head coach of the Detroit Lions in 2001 and 2002, and for the past five years has been with the Philadelphia Eagles, currently as offensive coordinator. Stops in San Francisco, Green Bay, Chicago, Detroit and Philadelphia make his NFL passport an enviable one.

Long before Dickenson and Edwards, two national championships, and nine straight Big Sky Conference titles, Montana football had its up and down years. Before 23,000-plus fans packed into Washington-Grizzly Stadium, Griz games were played at Dornblaser Field with its wooden bleachers. Fans were just the toss of a beer – especially when Montana State was in town – from the action.

Former Montana coach Joe Glenn said the Mornhinweg-led teams of the '80s were largely responsible for the transition from middle-of-the-pack to top-of-the-heap.

"The times weren't as good as they have been since they moved into the stadium," said Glenn, who was an assistant coach during Mornhinweg's tenure and now coaches the Wyoming Cowboys.

"(Mornhinweg) was amazing to watch. He probably played with a cast of less talented players than have been there since Marty."

In his years as Griz quarterback, Mornhinweg's teams were 22-30-1, a record that would likely make modern-day Griz fans cringe.

Yet, Mornhinweg's teams were the first to prove the Grizzlies could contend, a fact that is consistent with recent Montana history.

"I think the fellows that I played with were tough. They were the types of guys (who) didn't make excuses," Mornhinweg said. "We didn't whine or cry, we got better every day. Tough guys usually rise to the occasion. I don't think we were quite the most talented team, but we won it."

After Mornhinweg and his potent crop of receivers – highlighted by Brian Salonen and Bob McCauley – the Grizzlies didn't win another Big Sky title for 11 years.

"I was happy for the teammates I had because they put a lot of time, effort, sacrifice and many of them were upstanding citizens and great students," Mornhinweg said.

The San Jose, Calif., native came to Montana highly regarded, but major schools shied away from him and his 5-foot-9, 185 pound frame. But not the Griz.

"He played quarterback position like a linebacker," said Daryl Gadbow, former Missoulian

sports editor. "He was really tough. If he ran the ball there was no sliding; he ran right smack into somebody."

Mornhinweg's social life exuded the same zeal as on the field. He was a presence in the bar scene and was known for frequently dealing poker at the Stockman Bar.

"He was a partier and he liked to gamble," Gadbow said. "The Grizzlies used to play down at (the University of Nevada) Reno and I heard they couldn't drag him out of the casinos at night."

Prior to his senior season in 1983, Mornhinweg was suspended after being accused of cheating on an exam. He sat out the year before returning in 1984.

"I think that most fans thought he was a good player and I think people thought he made a mistake and he paid for it," he said. "And he stuck around."

Mornhinweg's stats at Montana were good, but not great. He threw for 6,083 career yards, sixth most all-time, and averaged 169 passing yards per game. However, even then he had the mind of a coach, Glenn said.

He was introduced to great coaching early in his career. At Oak Grove High School in San Jose, one of his coaches was Mike Holmgren, coach of the Packers when they won the 1997 Super Bowl and currently coach of the Seattle Seahawks.

Mornhinweg's first shot to run an NFL team came in 2001 when

he was hired by the mercurial Matt Millen to guide the hapless Lions. However, he was fired after two years and a 5-27 record.

Glenn said although Mornhinweg's stretch at the top of an NFL team was short-lived, he has redeemed himself in Philadelphia. The Eagles have produced record-setting offensive numbers in his tenure, and he deserves another shot.

"He'll get another chance," Glenn said. "The first one didn't work out so well as a head coach. People like him, players like him."

Mornhinweg didn't rule out coaching in the college ranks, at least once his four kids – the youngest is 8 years old – are out of the house.

"I've got a little time left here, but my wife and I have discussed some of those things," he said. "It would be nice to get to a university setting one of these days."

Mornhinweg, with his wife and kids, visited Missoula for the first time in 15 years this past summer, and said he frequently chats with former teammates.

Despite his extensive and lucrative career in the pros, Mornhinweg insisted the NFL isn't as glamorous as it is portrayed by Hollywood.

"It may seem like that to some people, but we work hard, we prepare," he said. "We do everything we can to have success that next week. You got to do it day-to-day, week-to-week. And we did this at the University of Montana."

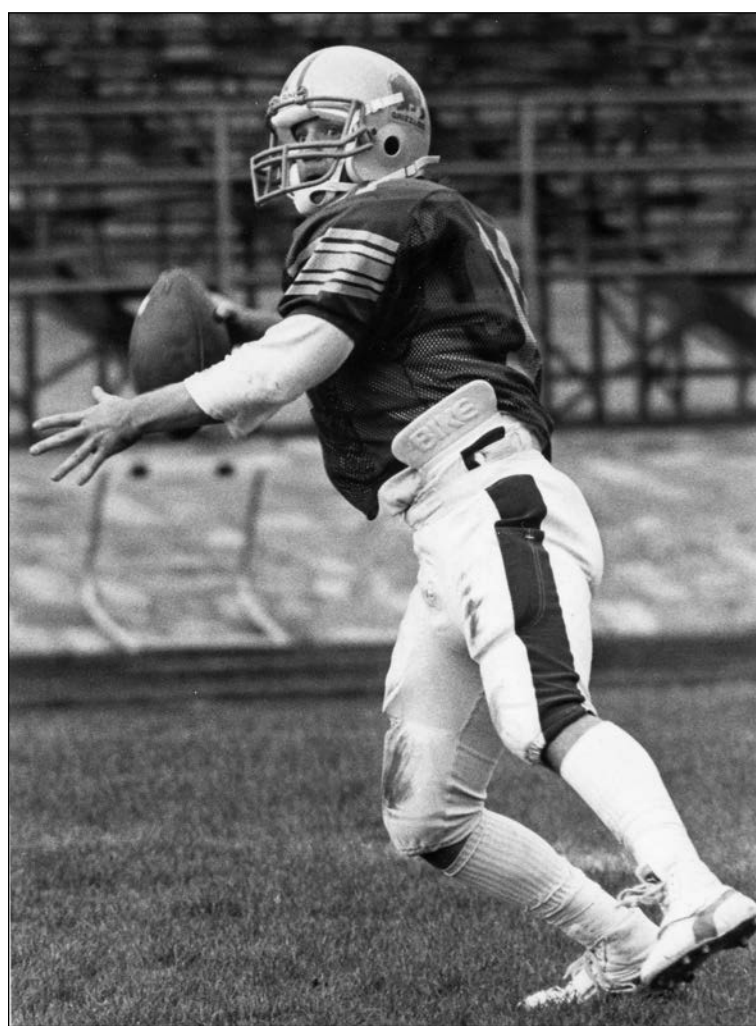


Photo courtesy of sports information

Marty Mornhinweg, former Griz quarterback.

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