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Game Day Kaimin, October 1, 2011

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GAMEDAY KAIMIN

Saturday, October 1, 2011

INSIDE:

FAMILY TRADITION:
the Gratton brothers

GRIZ / BEARS
roster guide

UNC COACH FACES
FORMER MENTOR





Drew Vetere/Montana Kaimin

Chase Reynolds breaks away from Northern Colorado defenders for a 54-yard touchdown run in the third quarter Nov. 14, 2009. Reynolds rushed for three touchdowns in the Grizzlies' 38-10 win, the last time the Grizzlies faced the Bears in Washington-Grizzly Stadium.

GRISLY HOMECOMING

Griz hoping to rebound against Northern Colorado

Daniel Mediate
Montana Kaimin

After falling for the first time ever to Sacramento State last Saturday, the Grizzlies are trying to avoid falling into the here-we-go-again mentality of last season.

It's time to heal up and look ahead.

The No. 19 Grizzlies (2-2, 1-1 Big Sky Conference) will look to rebound this Saturday for Homecoming when they play host to the Northern Colorado Bears (0-4, 0-2) inside Washington-Grizzly Stadium, with kickoff at 1 p.m.

"We got to leave last week in the past," said senior wide receiver Antwon Moutra. "If we dwell on that too much, (Northern Colorado) can come in and beat us on Homecoming, which wouldn't be a great feeling at all, especially los-

ing two games in a row."

Montana currently holds a 10-1 all-time advantage over Northern Colorado, including last year's 30-7 win in Greeley, Colo. The Bears' lone win against Montana came in the two teams' first ever meeting in 1976.

With four games down on the season, the Grizzlies are still feeling out an identity.

Three weeks ago, sophomore quarterback Jordan Johnson threw for 240 yards against Cal Poly for a win. The Grizzlies followed up with a 300-plus yard rushing campaign against Eastern Washington. Last weekend against Sacramento State, Montana couldn't seem to get either offensive dynamic rolling, especially through the air as Johnson turned in a three-pick performance.

"He probably tried to press his game a little too much," said Montana head coach Robin Pflugrad. "He threw into some double and triple coverages.

"He wasn't the Jordy we need him to be."

Last weekend's loss acted as a wake up call for the Grizzlies.

"They were ready to play and we weren't," said senior safety Mike McCord.

Hornets' senior QB Jeff Fleming ran for two touchdowns and threw for two more to lead the Hornets' win over the Grizzlies. Sac State never trailed, outgained the Griz 462 to 323 in total yards, and held the ball more than twice as long.

"We didn't tackle. That was our worst game as far as tackling our opponent. Our lack of production on special teams and our turnover

ratio was the worst," Pflugrad said. "When you add those three things up, one on each side of the football, those are big-time negatives."

The Bears will look to expose the Grizzlies' flaws, and first-year head coach Earnest Collins Jr. will be looking to break into the win column after a 0-4 start.

Saturday's clash will transform a former mentor-student relationship into a rivalry.

Bears' coach Collins Jr. played for Griz defensive coordinator and former UNC coach Mike Breske in the early '90s.

"I know the mindset of Mike Breske; I played for him as a college athlete. I know he'll have his guys ready to go. Mike always has something special for each team he plays so we got to be ready for that as well."

Despite struggling to gel their offense, the Bears head into Missoula with a speedy defense.

Northern Colorado's defense is tied atop the Big Sky Conference in interceptions with five and sacks with 13.

UNC sophomore linebacker Clarence Bumpas leads the UNC's defense after tallying a career-best 19 tackles last weekend against Weber State. His 19 stops are tied for the second most in the school's history, and just one off the record of 20.

Star senior safety Chuks Nweke, sitting on career tackle No. 99, will look to breach triple digits against the Grizzlies.

"Their team speed looks more than adequate," Pflugrad said. "They get around the football."

See **PREVIEW**, back cover



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SPORTS

Downtime with Daniel: Scapegoats

By Daniel Mediate, Sports Editor

We seek to place blame.

Anything that goes wrong, we look for scapegoats. And in sports, it's elevated.

On Tuesday evening, ESPN debuted "Catching Hell," another hit documentary in its "30 for 30" series.

It revolved around two of the biggest blunders in sports history: Bill Buckner and Steve Bartman.

The theme: "Fate can be either fair or foul."

I couldn't agree more.

Buckner, playing first base for the Boston Red Sox in the 1986 World Series game six against the New York Mets, let a ground ball slip below his glove and between his legs. As the ball rolled into the outfield, Ray Knight, New York's third baseman, scored the winning run, and the Mets went on to clinch the championship crown in game seven of the series, leaving Buckner forever condemned in Red Sox Nation.

In October 2003, Bartman, sitting in the stands down the left field line at Wrigley Field in the

Chicago Cubs National League Championship game against the Florida Marlins, saw a foul ball flying his way and reached for it. He bobbed the ball and prevented Cubs left fielder Moisés Alou from making a play.

Would Alou have caught it? Who knows. Was there a Cubs fan in Wrigley that chilly night who would have had the presence of mind to say, "Everybody, back up. Let the outfielder try to jump up and catch it"? Doubt it.

The Marlins, like the Mets, later went on to win the World Series, and Bartman, like Buckner, was fashioned into the Cubs' culprit and a villain Chicago's century-long World Series drought.

In last Saturday's embarrassing 42-28 loss to then-unranked Sacramento State, the Montana Grizzlies flopped in about every facet of

the game: offense, defense and special teams. The Hornets simply outmatched them. Yet all the blame funneled toward sophomore quarterback Jordan Johnson and his three interceptions.

Immediately following the game, users on Ivnternet fan forums raged that Jordy should be standing on the sideline as a redshirt freshman behind juniors Gerald Kemp and Nate Montana on the depth chart.

Did people already forget that the 19-year-old Johnson led the Grizzlies to wins over Cal Poly and reigning Football Championship Series king Eastern Washington — something that Montana senior quarterbacks Andrew Selle and Justin Roper failed to do last year?

We seek to place blame, but sometimes we forget there's more than one player.

daniel.mediate@umontana.edu

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for Sale

GRIZZ [profile]



senior, defensive tackle **BEN HUGHES**

Age: 22

Hometown: Grants Pass, Ore.

Number: 98

Major: Health and human performance

Pregame music on my iPod: I don't even own an iPod

Favorite TV show: Family Guy

Favorite food: Pepperoni pizza

What sport I would play if not football: Wrestling

Favorite activity: Relax and watch movies

Favorite team as a kid: Oregon State University Beavers

Favorite movie: The Shawshank Redemption

Favorite city to visit: Going home to Grants Pass

Personal goal: Take the touchdown record

Team goal: Win a national championship

Talent I'd like to have: Be a little taller

BEN HUGHES

DANNY KISTLER JR.

Age: 20

junior, offensive guard

Hometown: Seattle, Wash.

Number: 96

Major: Sociology

Nickname: Big Kiss

On my iPod: I like to keep it calm with country or go hard with rock

Favorite TV show: Sons of Guns

Favorite food: Mom's home-cooking

What sport I would play if not football: Basketball

Individual goal: Graduate college

Team goal: Win the Big Sky and then win the national championship

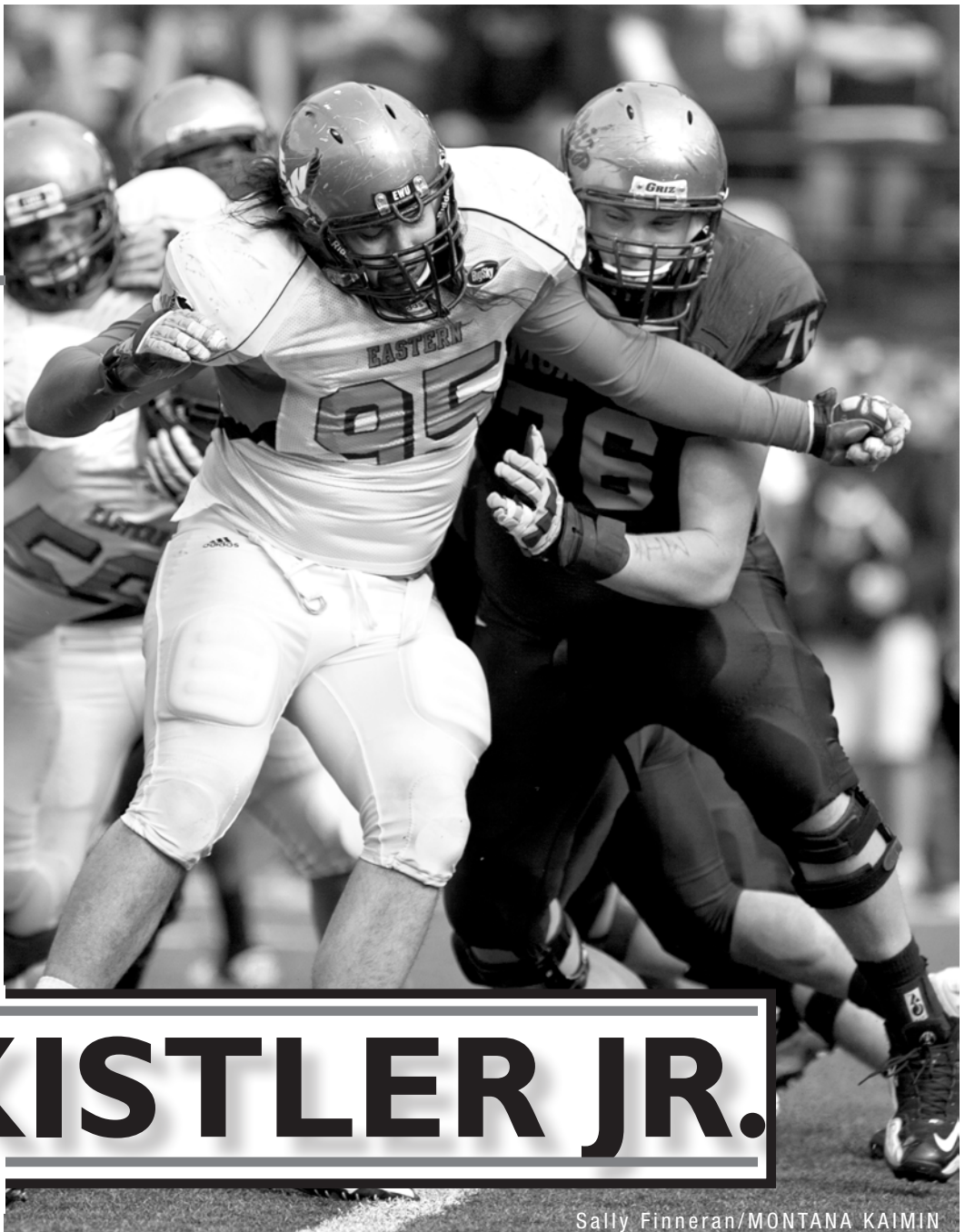
Favorite activity: Fishing

Favorite team as a kid: Seattle Seahawks

Favorite city to visit: Going home to Seattle

Talent I'd like to have: Be able to sing

Would like to trade places for a day with: Tony Romo when he was dating Carrie Underwood



DANNY KISTLER JR.

THE GRATTON BRO

story by JESS NEARY

photos and cover by FOREST CHAPUT DE SAINTONGE



1

BROTHERHOOD:

A term used to describe the bond
between friends and teammates,
embedded in their loyalty to each other.
From the **sweat of a hard-fought victory**

to the **off-the-field memories**

that define college life,

three generations of the Gratton family

have understood this tradition.

And for Griz junior wide receiver Sam and freshman safety Zach Gratton,

THEIR BROTHERHOOD RUNS DEEP.

"The Griz football team has been successful over the years because it's not just the guys that look good on paper, it's the guys that love and live Grizzly football," said Scott Gratton, former Grizzly and Sam and Zach's father.

Scott was a linebacker for the Griz from 1979-1982 and played a role in the '82 Big Sky Conference Championship, the first in 12 years. His father, Mirl Gratton, took graduate classes at UM 1969-74 and ignited the fire that still burns in the Gratton family.

"I taught and coached in Seeley Lake, Montana," Mirl said. "I actually changed a lot of our Saturday games to Friday so we could go watch UM play."

Scott was able to experience Griz football throughout his life and handed this passion down to his sons.

"I was raised with it early on when my dad started this whole thing," Scott Gratton said. "There's been a lot of history and tradition."



OTHERS

2



“Bozeman is bad, Missoula is good. That was our upbringing, and I’m proud of it.”

Sam Gratton, Griz wide receiver

Growing up, Zach and Sam’s home away from home was Missoula and the University of Montana.

“They’ve been Griz ever since they’ve been able to say Griz,” Scott said. “When we used to drive from Billings to Missoula, they wouldn’t even let me stop in Bozeman.”

“Bozeman is bad, Missoula is good,” Sam said. “That was our upbringing and, I’m proud of it.”

Scott added that Sam attended his first Griz game when he was one year old.

“We were groomed from a very early age that this was the place to go,” Sam said. “I never really considered anywhere else.”

In 1981 Scott learned a lesson that would translate into his sons’ upbringing, Sam’s especially. As a junior playing against Weber State University with a score of 8-6 in the fourth quarter, Scott had the opportunity for an interception but dropped it.

“We lost the game,” Scott said. “So I started to throw a Nerf football with (Sam) when he was only two years old and he still catches it the same way to this day.”

The Gratton family does not end with Zach and Sam, however; there are many stepsiblings with whom to contend. The recent loss of one has greatly impacted the family.

“We’ve got a large family, but we lost a brother in July, Tanner,” Scott said.

The Gratton’s stepbrother Tanner died in a car accident, but the family holds on to his memory with love and affection. A tattoo stretches across Sam’s skin in his honor.

“It felt right getting it,” Sam said. “It’s going to be there forever so Tanner is always going to be here.”

Their father is very proud of the fact that through these hardships, the boys have remained strong.

“Losing a brother and having a grandpa that is getting treated for cancer are things Sam and Zach are dealing with,” Scott said. “But they are still both good kids academically and realize what’s important.”

See **GRATTON**, back cover

3



1. Junior Sam Gratton (right) dodges senior Donny Lisowski during Wednesday afternoon’s practice.

2. Junior Sam Gratton and his brother Zach Gratton stand next to the Grizzly practice fields Tuesday afternoon before football practice.

3. Freshman Zach Gratton (left) completes a drill during Wednesday afternoon’s practice in the Washington-Grizzly Stadium.



Who brings the

MOTIVATION

Tim Goessman/Montana Kaimin
 ABOVE: The University of Montana Cheer Team perform a stunt for the crowd in Washington-Grizzly Stadium Sept. 10, before Montana's first home game against Cal Poly.

Sally Finneran/Montana Kaimin
 RIGHT: Griz Kidz gather on the sidelines of Washington-Grizzly Stadium Sept. 17 while the cheerleaders and football players warm-up for the game against Eastern Washington. Griz Kidz is a non-profit program created to provide financially disadvantaged children with the opportunity to experience a Griz game.



UNC's new coach put to the test at Montana



Kyle Houghtaling
 Montana Kaimin

University of Northern Colorado's Earnest Collins, Jr. has been dealt a trying hand for his first season as the Bears' head coach.

A 0-4 start only tells part of the story. In their first game of the year, Division II Lindenwood kicked a last second field goal to hand the Bears an embarrassing 22-20 loss. Two weeks later they allowed perennial bottom feeder Idaho State to torch them for 544 yards through the air in a 50-20 rout. This week they find themselves at Washington-Grizzly Stadium, not the most hospitable stadium in the Big Sky Conference.

Courtesy photo

LEFT: University of Northern Colorado head coach Earnest Collins Jr.

"Only thing I can give insight on is what it's like to go up there and play in a hostile crowd and go and play in a great venue like Montana stadium," Collins said. "I've been up there once before in 2002 and understand the level of excitement and level of noise, and we're doing everything we can to get our kids prepared for that and go up there and try and get a victory."

Despite UNC's foibles, Collins prepares his team with the same hardworking approach that he personified as a player for Northern Colorado from 1991-1994. Mike Breske, Grizzlies defensive coordinator, coached Collins during his career for the Bears and expects great things out of him during his tenure at Northern Colorado.

"He was just a hard-nosed football player," Breske said. "He was a

punt returner for us, special teams player, he didn't want to come off the field. You see that, that's his mentality coaching, and he'll be a good one."

Collins amassed 978 punt return yards in his career and still holds the single season record for punt return yards with 497. This standard of excellence has created tense moments on the sideline for the first-year head coach and his team.

"You get frustrated at times when you know your kids are capable of doing certain things, and you're not executing, and you get frustrated," Collins said. "They have got to maintain their level of competition. They've got to do what they're taught to do or the next guy is going to come in and

See UNC COACH, back cover

SPORTS **BIG SKY**

around the

By Court Weston

Eight of the Big Sky Conference's nine teams will be in action Saturday, and the weekend has potential to be exciting. The 2011 season is proving to be playing out unexpectedly. The defending Football Championship Subdivision champs are 0-4, Sacramento State beat Montana for the first time in the program's history, and Montana State is the highest-ranked team in the Big Sky. It could be another crazy weekend around the Big Sky.

Weber State

(2-2, 2-0)

AT

Eastern Washington

(0-4, 0-2)

The defending FCS champs' season is getting worse each week. After falling at home to Montana State 36-21, it seems last season's magic has left the Eagles. Perhaps some of that magic has gone to Weber State. The Wildcats have been stellar in Big Sky Conference games: They beat Sacramento State 49-17 on Sept. 17, and then compiled 513 yards in a 45-21 win against Northern Colorado last week. A second straight road game combined with a desperate Eastern Washington team does not spell victory for Weber State.

PREDICTION: EAGLES SURVIVE WILDCAT SCARE, EARN FIRST VICTORY, 31-28.

No. 25 Sacramento State

(2-2, 1-1 Big Sky)

AT

No. 4 Montana State

(3-1, 1-0)

No. 4-ranked Montana State earned a third consecutive victory last weekend, a 36-21 downing of Eastern Washington. The Sacramento State Hornets are coming off their first-ever defeat of the Montana Grizzlies, forcing five turnovers to claim a 42-28 win. MSU sophomore quarterback DeNarius McGhee did not have to do much (11-for-25, 150 yards passing, one touchdown and one interception) as the Bobcats racked up 266 rushing yards against the defending FCS champs. Sacramento State, now No. 25 in the polls, used a balanced attack (224 yards passing, 238 yards rushing) to beat Montana in Sacramento, but playing in Bozeman should prove more difficult for the Hornets.

PREDICTION: BOBCATS POUNCE ON HORNETS, 45-17.

Portland State

(2-2, 1-0)

AT

Idaho State

(2-2, 1-1)

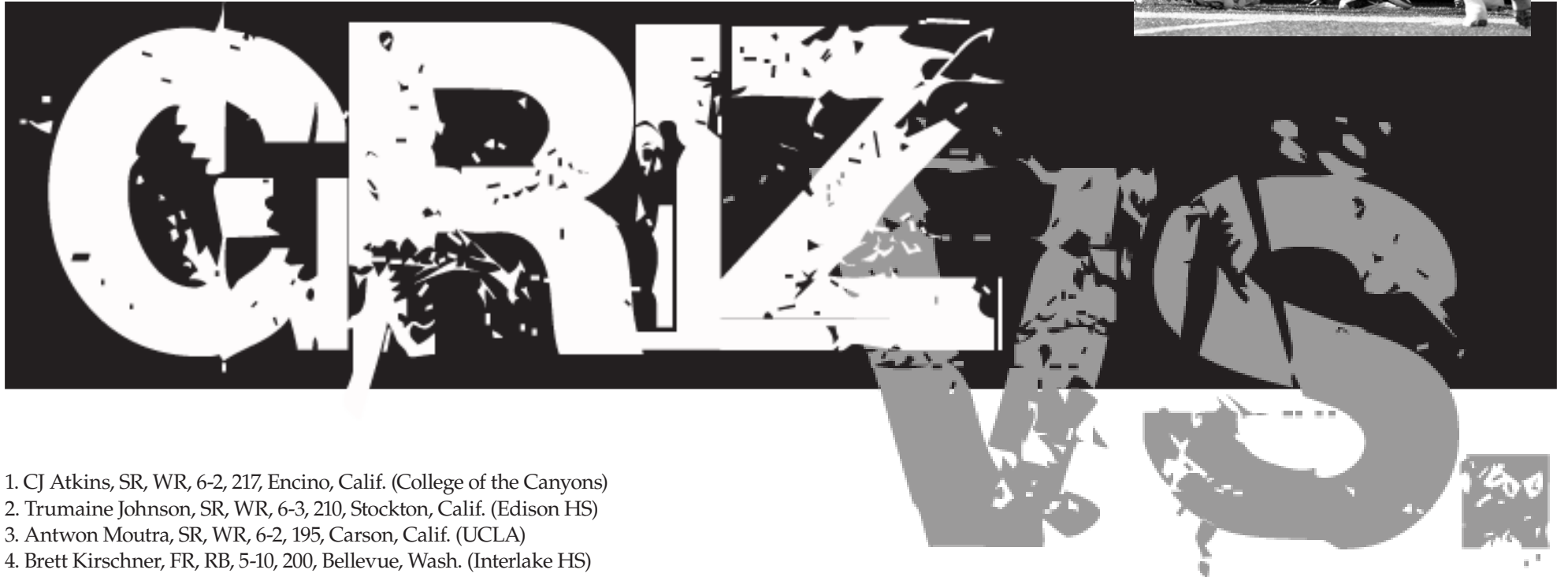
After going up 3-0 in the first quarter, Portland State surrendered 41 straight points en route to a 55-13 plowing by Texas Christian University. The Vikings allowed 462 yards in the defeat. The Idaho State offense was held in check as it managed a mere three points, falling to Northern Arizona 20-3. The Bengals' defense could not stop the Lumberjack attack, surrendering 485 yards on the day, 336 of them rushing. PSU gained 119 rushing yards against a tough TCU team and should have a field day against an atrocious ISU run defense.

PREDICTION: VIKINGS RUN PAST BENGALS, 36-13.

GRIZ PLAYER TO WATCH

#3 Antwon Moutra

Last year's leading receiver in yards (600), yards-per-catch (16.7) and receiving touchdowns (6), Moutra has been slow out of the gates to repeat those numbers. This year's leading receiver, Jabin Sambrano, should take most of the attention away from the University of Northern Colorado secondary, which has allowed 1,399 yards through the air, ranking last in the Big Sky. That gives Moutra a ripe opportunity to pick up big yards this week.



1. CJ Atkins, SR, WR, 6-2, 217, Encino, Calif. (College of the Canyons)
2. Trumaine Johnson, SR, WR, 6-3, 210, Stockton, Calif. (Edison HS)
3. Antwon Moutra, SR, WR, 6-2, 195, Carson, Calif. (UCLA)
4. Brett Kirschner, FR, RB, 5-10, 200, Bellevue, Wash. (Interlake HS)
5. Donny Lisowski, SR, CB, 5-11, 188, Seattle, Wash. (O'Dea HS)
6. Brandon Maguire, FR, WR, 6-1, 200, Olympia, Wash. (Olympia HS)
7. Archie Woulard, JR, WR, 6-4, 180, Chandler, Ariz. (Chandler HS)
8. Sam Gratton, JR, WR, 6-0, 198, Billings, Mont. (Senior HS)
9. Mike McCord, SR, SS, 6-0, 199, Phoenix, Ariz. (Maryvale HS)
10. Jordan Johnson, SO, QB, 6-1, 202, Eugene, Ore. (Sheldon HS)
11. Trent McKinney, FR, QB, 6-0, 182, Miliani, Hawaii (Miliani HS)
11. Nate Harris, FR, CB, 5-10, 185, Chino, Calif. (Chino Hills HS)
12. Matt Hermanson, FR, S, 6-1, 188, Sioux Falls, SD (Washington HS)
13. Matt Berg, FR, QB, 5-9, 180, Butte, Mont. (Butte HS)
13. Sean Murray, SO, CB, 6-1, 190, Corona, Calif. (Santiago HS)
14. Josh Dennard, FR, DB, 5-11, 180, Phoenix, Ariz. (Brophy Prep)
16. Jabin Sambrano, SR, WR, 5-11, 175, Temecula, Calif. (Great Oaks HS)
17. Gerald Kemp, JR, QB, 6-2, 215, San Diego, Calif. (Rancho Bernardo HS)
18. Nate Montana, JR, QB, 6-4, 215, Concord, Calif. (Notre Dame/Pasadena CC)
19. Shay Smithwick-Hann, RS FR, QB, 6-4, 215, Kalispell, Mont. (Glacier HS)
20. Houston Roots, SR, CB, 5-10, 185, Sacramento, Calif. (Sierra College)
21. Kevin Frank Jr., JR, CB, 6-0, 190, Sacramento, Calif. (Sierra College)
23. Cam Warren, SO, WR, 5-6, 167, Bellevue, Wash. (Bellevue HS)
24. Steven Rominger, SO, FS, 5-10, 188, Missoula, Mont. (Sentinel HS)
25. Marlin Miles, JR, CB, 5-9, 170, Portland, Ore. (Western Michigan)
26. Jordan Canada, RS FR, RB, 5-9, 172, West Covina, Calif. (Duarte HS)
27. Justin Whitted, RS FR, FS, 6-0, 188, Los Angeles, Calif. (St. Bernard HS)
28. Peter Nguyen, JR, RB, 5-8, 182, Seattle, Wash. (Bellevue HS)
29. Bryce Carver, JR, WR, 6-1, 180, Dillon, Mont. (Beaverhead County HS)
30. Bo Tully, SO, SS, 6-2, 195, Spokane, Wash. (Mead HS)
31. Andrew Badger, SR, SS, 5-11, 210, Elmer, N.J. (College of the Sequoias)
32. Alex Shaw, SR, LB, 6-1, 232, Spokane, Wash. (Lewis and Clark HS)
33. Connor Lebsock, FR, S, 6-2, 198, Billings, Mont. (Skyview HS)
34. Nelo Butler, FR, RB, 5-9, 200, Helena, Mont. (Helena HS)
35. Dan Moore, JR, RB, 5-11, 235, Tuscon, Ariz. (Mountain View HS)
36. Gavin Hagfors, FR, RB, 6-2, 207, Great Falls, Mont. (C.M. Russell HS)
37. Ryan Fetherston, SR, DE, 6-4, 235, East Helena, Mont. (Helena HS)
38. Zach Gratton, FR, S, 6-0, 185, Billings, Mont. (Senior HS)
39. Lance Carl, SR, RB, 5-11, 190, Missoula, Mont. (Big Sky HS)
40. Caleb McSurdy, SR, LB, 6-1, 242, Boise, Idaho (Borah HS)
41. Caleb Walden, SO, RB/P, 5-9, 195, Boise, Idaho (Capital HS)
42. Ty Timmer, SO, LB, 6-2, 224, Great Falls, Mont. (Great Falls HS)
43. Brian Maus, FR, LB, 6-2, 232, Missoula, Mont. (Sentinel HS)
44. Jordan Tripp, JR, LB, 6-3.5, 232, Missoula, Mont. (Big Sky HS)
45. Beau Donaldson, JR, RB/LB, 6-1, 233, Missoula, Mont. (Big Sky HS)
46. Clay Pierson, SO, DE, 6-3, 239, Twin Bridges, Mont. (Twin Bridges HS)
47. Derek Crittenden, FR, DT, 6-3, 250, Whitefish, Mont. (Whitefish HS)
48. Jake Raynock, JR, FB, 6-2, 225, Billings, Mont. (Skyview HS)
48. Jonathan Richards, FR, LB, 6-3, 215, Butte, Mont. (Butte Central HS)
49. Addison Owen, FR, LB, 6-2, 210, Vancouver, Wash. (Camas HS)
50. Bryan Waldhauser, SR, DT, 6-4, 260, Worden, Mont. (Huntley Project HS)
51. Chris Bradford, SO, DT, 6-2, 260, San Bernadino, Calif. (Arroyo Valley HS)

52. John Kanongata'a, SO, LB, 5-11, 227, Bellevue, Wash. (Bellevue HS)
53. Josh Stuberg, JR, LB, 6-2, 232, Helena, Mont. (Helena HS)
54. Trevor Rehm, RS FR, DE, 6-3, 244, Dillon, Mont. (Beaverhead County HS)
55. Taylor Tuliaupupu, RS FR, LB, 6-0, 225, LaVerne, Calif. (Clairemont HS)
56. Brock Coyle, SO, LB, 6-2, 235, Bozeman, Mont. (Bozeman HS)
57. Charles Burton, SR, OT, 6-5, 315, Long Beach, Calif. (Milikan HS)
58. Zack Wagenmann, RS FR, DE, 6-3.5, 230, Missoula, Mont. (Sentinel HS)
59. Tyrone Duncan, SR, DT, 6-3, 285, Westlake Village, Calif. (Washington)
61. Shawn Bradshaw, FR, OG, 6-3, 240, Missoula, Mont. (Sentinel HS)
62. Christian Licciardi, FR, OL, 6-3, 280, Orange, Calif. (Orange Lutheran HS)
63. Brett Brauer, JR, OC, 6-2, 270, Missoula, Mont. (Big Sky HS)
64. Zachary Taves, FR, OL, 6-4, 260, Long Beach, Calif. (Millikan HS)
65. Jordan Hines, SO, OL, 6-4, 315, Phoenix, Ariz. (Phoenix College)
66. Logan Hines, SO, OT, 6-4, 310, Phoenix, Ariz. (Phoenix College)
67. John Schmaing, FR, OL, 6-6, 255, Billings, Mont. (Senior HS)
68. Stephen Sabin, SR, OC, 6-4, 308, Chandler, Ariz. (Scottsdale CC)
69. Kjelby Oiland, SO, OL, 6-4, 285, Spokane, Wash. (UNLV)
70. Jeremy LaPan, JR, OT, 6-5, 302, Garden Grove, Calif. (Santa Ana College)
72. Trevor Poole, FR, OT, 6-5, 275, Spokane, Wash. (Ferris HS)
73. Samson Kaleikini, FR, OL, 6-5, 270, Kapolei, Hawaii (Kapolei HS)
74. Jon Oppenrud, SR, OT, 6-7, 300, Portland, Ore. (Milwaukie HS)
75. William Poehls, SO, OG, 6-8, 331, Chandler, Ariz. (Chandler HS)
76. Danny Kistler Jr., SO, OG, 6-8, 315, Seattle, Wash. (O'Dea HS)
77. Jake Hendrickson, SR, OC, 6-3.5, 300, Gilbert, Ariz. (Scottsdale CC)
78. Kyle Kmet, JR, OG, 6-5, 275, Bonita, Calif. (Bonita Vista HS)
79. Joe Dahl, FR, OL, 6-4, 240, Spokane, Wash. (University HS)
80. Sean Haynes, RS FR, WR, 6-3, 190, Los Angeles, Calif. (Bishop Alemany HS)
81. Mitch Saylor, RS FR, WR, 6-5, 210, Vancouver, Wash. (Union HS)
82. Jacob Haas, JR, TE, 6-5, 225, Portland, Ore. (Central Catholic HS)
83. Brody McKnight, SR, K/P, 6-0, 204, Vancouver, B.C. (Purdue)
84. Kevin Berland, RS FR, WR, 5-9, 175, Missoula, Mont. (Loyola Sacred Heart HS)
85. Kavario Middleton, SR, TE, 6-5, 252, Lakewood, Wash. (Washington)
86. Greg Hardy, JR, TE, 6-5, 245, Fairview, Mont. (Fairview HS)
87. Chris Lider, FR, K/P, 6-1, 195, Bellevue, Wash. (Sammamish HS)
88. Stephen Shaw, FR, K/P, 6-3, 225, Boise, Idaho (Capital HS)
89. Aschan Richards, FR, TE, 6-6, 215, Butte, Mont. (Butte Central HS)
91. Bobby Alt, SR, DE, 6-3, 240, Ontario, Calif. (Mt. San Antonio College)
92. Alex Bienemann, SO, DT, 6-2, 275, Denver, Colo. (Regis Jesuit HS)
93. Garrett Riggio, JR, DE, 6-3, 245, Scottsdale, Ariz. (San Diego State)
94. Sean Wren, SR, P, 6-6, 210, Yorba Linda, Calif. (Fullerton JC)
95. Tonga Takai, RS FR, DT, 6-2, 320, Honolulu, Hawaii (Damien Memorial HS)
96. Josh Harris, JR, DE, 6-5, 251, Kalispell, Mont. (Flathead HS)
97. Ethan Pateman, SO, LB, 6-3, 230, Stevensville, Mont. (Stevensville HS)
98. Ben Hughes, SR, DT, 6-0, 285, Grants Pass, Ore. (Shasta JC)
99. Jesse Ginn, FR, DT, 6-5, 285, Missoula, Mont. (Hellgate HS)



Chuks Nweke #6

One of the few weapons the Bears have in their secondary is Chuks Nweke. The 6-foot-1, 203-pound senior safety has played in every game since his redshirt freshman season and is coming off back-to-back seasons where he's had multiple interceptions. Look for Nweke to be all over the field as he is tied for seventh in the Big Sky in total tackles and is averaging more than eight per game.

BEARS
PLAYER
TO
WATCH



1. Patrick Walker, WR, Sr., 5-8, 181, Long Beach, Calif./Long Beach Poly
2. Marcell Peoples, WR, RFr., 5-7, 169, Corona, Calif./Santiago
3. Dimitri Stimphil, WR, Fr., 5-8, 170, Homestead, Fla./South Dade Senior
4. AJ Moosa, DB, Sr., 6-1, 202, Los Angeles, Calif./Cleveland
5. Dylan Orms, QB, Sr., 6-1, 198, Wheat Ridge, Colo./Wheat Ridge
6. Chuks Nweke, S, Sr., 6-1, 203, Colorado Springs, Colo./Cheyenne Mountain
7. Finnis Caldwell, DB, Jr., 5-11, 177, Stockton, Calif./Edison
8. James Davis, DB, Fr., 5-10, 175, Miami, Fla./Miami Northwestern
9. Seth Lobato, QB, So., 6-5, 221, Eaton, Colo./Eaton
9. Brandon Owens, DB, Sr., 6-0, 179, Bakersfield, Calif./Ridgeview
10. Matt Baca, QB, Jr., 6-0, 208, Chino Hills, Calif./Ayala
11. Courtney Hall, DB, Fr., 5-7, 162, Pompano Beach, Fla./Blanche El
12. Tim Tancik, QB, So., 5-9, 184, Den.er, Colo./Mullen
13. Aisea Vave, LB, Jr., 6-3, 258, Kaha.ui, Hawai'i/Meridian (Idaho)
14. Travis Bernard, RB, Fr., 5-7, 176, Valley Center, Calif./Valley Center
15. Devin Smith, DB, Fr., 5-8, 162, Coral Springs, Fla./Coral Springs
16. Dominic Gunn, WR, Jr., 5-11, 175, Aurora, Colo./Rangeview
18. Chris Morris, WR, Jr., 6-2, 194, Burbank, Calif./John Burroughs
19. Dajuan Mack, WR, So., 6-1, 214, Lakewood, Colo./Bear Creek
20. CJ Glenn, DB, So., 6-1, 197, Windsor, Colo./Windsor
21. Isiah Cooper, ATH, Fr., 5-8, 156, Bowling Green, Ky./Denver Montbello
22. David Deans, RB, Sr., 5-11, 216, Natchitoches, La./Roy J. Wasson
23. Colby Riggins, CB, Sr., 5-11, 183, Littleton, Colo./Mullen
24. Garrett Lieber, DB, RFr., 6-1, 230, Orange, Calif./Orange Lutheran
26. Elliott Dorsey, DB, Sr., 5-11, 202, Oakland, Calif./Berkeley
27. Robert Davis, DB, RFr., 6-1, 205, Aurora, Colo./Overland
28. Anthony Kereluk, RB, RFr., 5-9, 203, Phoenix, Ariz./Desert Vista
29. JaQueal Walker, LB, Fr., 6-1, 200, Plaquemine, La./Newman Smith (Texas)
30. Jordan Bible, S, Jr., 5-8, 191, Aurora, Colo./Cherokee Trail
31. John Burnley, RB, Jr., 6-0, 208, Colorado Springs, Colo./Palmer
32. Marcel Gibbons, S, Jr., 5-11, 193, Colorado Springs, Colo./Mesa Ridge
33. Quintin Hildreth, RB, So., 5-7, 200, Aurora, Colo./Denver East
34. Willie Saunders, RB, Fr., 5-9, 165, Colorado Springs, Colo./Sierra
35. Andrew Downing, FB, Sr., 5-9, 256, Greeley, Colo./Greeley West
36. Robert Holland, RB, Fr., 5-11, 196, Golden, Colo./Golden
37. Cameron Kaman, P, Sr., 5-10, 163, Overland Park, Kan./Blue Valley
38. Dave Eden, K/P, So., 5-11, 178, Westminster, Colo./Standley Lake
39. Ernest Marshall, RB, Fr., 5-9, 212, Oakland, Calif./McClymonds
40. Mason Puckett, PK, Jr., 5-11, 201, Mililani, Hawai'i/Aiea
41. Albert Dunn, LB, Fr., 5-11, 233, Aurora, Colo./Centauri
42. Kyle Griffin, LB, Fr., 6-2, 198, Arvada, Colo./Ralston Valley
43. Taylor Young, LB, Fr., 6-2, 195, Colorado Springs, Colo./Colorado Springs Christian
44. Dylan Kildahl, DL, Jr., 6-4, 259, Ault, Colo./Highland
45. Matt Gackle, LB, RFr., 5-11, 242, Colorado Springs, Colo./The Classical Academy
46. Conor Sparacio, LB, So., 6-1, 228, Aurora, Colo./Smoky Hill
47. Clay Haverty, LB, So., 6-1, 210, Windsor, Colo./Windsor
47. Austin Wilbers, TE, So., 6-2, 242, Englewood, Colo./Cherry Creek
48. Ryan Holmes, DE, So., 6-1, 227, Scottsdale, Ariz./Chaparral
49. Gavin Miller, LB, So., 6-2, 227, Greeley, Colo./Greeley West
50. Cody Gilmore, OL, Jr., 6-2, 294, Aurora, Colo./Grandview
51. Cameron Friend, LB, Jr., 5-11, 223, Denver, Colo./Mullen
52. Ryan Gackle, LB, Fr., 6-1, 234, Colorado Springs, Colo./The Classical Academy

53. Curtis Truett, LB, So., 6-0, 206, Aurora, Colo./Smoky Hill
54. Dominique Ceja, DT, Sr., 5-10, 290, Centennial, Colo./Grandview
54. Hawk Hanoa, OL, Fr., 6-0, 253, Honolulu, Hawai'i/Kamehameha
55. Brandan Boyle, LB, Fr., 6-1, 219, Boulder, Colo./Fairview
56. Clarence Bumpas, LB, So., 6-2, 244, Colorado Springs, Colo./Sierra
57. Jake Solomon, OL, Jr., 6-4, 332, Gilbert, Ariz./Mesquite
58. Matt Heppard, LB, Jr., 6-1, 230, Greenwood Village, Colo./Cherry Creek
59. Chris Sanchez, LB, Fr., 6-3, 205, Arvada, Colo./Arvada West
62. Jonathan Martin, DL, Sr., 5-10, 252, Colorado Springs, Colo./Rampart
63. Marcus Felker, DT, Sr., 6-0, 368, Thornton, Colo./Thornton
64. Zak Thrall, OL, So., 6-3, 286, Eagle, Colo./Eagle Valley
65. Alex Shapiro, C/OG, Sr., 6-2, 289, Englewood, Colo./Cherry Creek
67. Amal Gumbs, OL, Sr., 6-3, 301, Denver, Colo./Kent Denver
69. Jake Schalamon, OL, Jr., 6-3, 246, Boulder, Colo./Fairview
71. Chris Anderson, OL, Jr., 6-4, 290, Valencia, Calif./Hart
72. Rick Aversano, OL, Jr., 6-3, 272, Santa Clarita, Calif./Hart
73. Nick Urbaniak, OL, Jr., 6-3, 247, Colorado Springs, Colo./Palmer
74. Sean Palinckx, OL, Fr., 6-7, 305, Parker, Colo./Ponderosa
75. Filipo Mose, OT, Fr., 6-6, 330, Long Beach, Calif./Long Beach Poly
76. Lee Barbiasz, OT, Sr., 6-7, 306, Milford, N.H./Kent Prep
77. Nick Candler, OT, Jr., 6-5, 286, Boulder, Colo./Boulder
79. Conner Pawlak, OL, RFr., 6-2, 308, Glenwood Springs, Colo./Glenwood Springs
80. Denzel Washington, WR, Fr., 6-5, 176, Littleton, Colo./Littleton
83. Sean Leslie, WR, Fr., 6-3, 192, Arvada, Colo./Arvada West
84. Doug Steele, TE, Jr., 6-3, 255, Tucson, Ariz./Canyon Del Oro
85. Darin McDonald, ATH, Jr., 6-1, 228, Greenwood Village, Colo./Cherry Creek
86. Derek Vander Velde, WR, Fr., 6-4, 193, Littleton, Colo./Dakota Ridge
87. Trevor Evanson, WR, Fr., 6-4, 200, Golden, Colo./Golden
88. Cameron Stewart, TE, So., 6-4, 239, Eaton, Colo./Eaton
89. Christian Remmo, TE, Fr., 6-4, 254, Loveland, Colo./Fairview
91. Devontae Chapple, DE, RFr., 6-5, 259, Denver, Colo./Northglenn
92. Chris Urbaniak, DE, Fr., 6-4, 242, Colorado Springs, Colo./Palmer
94. Lexington Smith, DL, RFr., 6-2, 294, Denver, Colo./Denver East
95. VJ Holmes, DE, Sr., 6-3, 260, Colorado Springs, Colo./Doherty
97. Nick Hernon, DE, Sr., 6-1, 220, Castle Rock, Colo./Douglas County
98. Sawyere Monson, DL, RFr., 6-4, 229, Aurora, Colo./Cherokee Trail
99. Marcus Lucas, DE, Jr., 6-3, 235, Aurora, Colo./Rangeview

PREVIEW
From page 2

On offense, the Bears are led by explosive junior wide receiver Dominic Gunn, who is closing in on 2,000 all-purpose yards for his career. Gunn currently sits at 1,815.

Northern Colorado is the only team in the Big Sky Conference that has not missed a field goal this season (4-for-4), which could be a key factor if both teams struggle to find a rhythm on offense.

"It's Homecoming for them, but for us it's just another chance for us to see where we are as a young football team and try to get a win," Collins Jr. said.

Last weekend, for the second time this season, Northern Colorado outscored a team in the second half but was unable to overcome a lead in the first half, as the Bears fell 45-21 to Weber State on Homecoming in Greeley.

The Bears outscored the Wildcats 21-10 in the second half, but Weber State built a 35-0 lead in the first half to remain perfect in conference play.

Griz senior linebacker Caleb McSurdy — who ranks second in the nation with an average of 13.2 tackles per game — and the rest of Montana's forceful defense will look to suffocate Northern Colorado's offense.

"(Montana's) defense flies around like no other," Collins Jr. said. "That's something we're going to have to prepare for."

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UNC COACH
From page 8

take their job. The frustration is just getting guys to play up to their potential and get them to buy in what we're trying to do."

Fortunately the future is bright for Collins' squad. Red-shirt freshman defensive end Devontae Chapple has already made his 6-foot-5, 260-pound frame known. He leads the team with four sacks on the season and is currently second in the Big Sky in that category. His potential is off the charts.

"He's going to be a really good player in the years to come if he continues to improve, which I believe he will," Collins said. "He's doing a great job for us now as a freshman. I'm pleased with him."

The Bears are nurturing cubs on the offensive side of the ball as well. Sophomore Seth Lobato is their signal caller after seeing action in only four games last season. Lobato has outperformed senior Dylan Orms and junior Matthew Baca and has been on the field the majority of the time this season. However, UNC's passing offense ranks next-to-last in total yards. Currently, Lobato is 47-92 passing for 529 yards, five touchdowns and five interceptions.

"Seth is the best passer we have. He can get the ball off

when he has time. If we can protect him, Seth can do some things with his arm," Collins said. "The more experience he gets, the better he's going to be."

Northern Colorado will get all the experience it can handle coming into Washington-Grizzly, where Montana has allowed only 304 yards passing in two games. Whether Collins can turn his program around with a paramount victory against the Grizzlies or fold again will depend on whether his team can grow up in a hurry.

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FCS

TOP 25 COLLEGE FOOTBALL POLL

1. Georgia Southern Eagles (124), 3-0
2. Northern Iowa Panthers (17), 2-1
3. Appalachian State Mountaineers (8), 3-1
4. Montana State Bobcats (2), 3-1
5. North Dakota State Bison (8), 3-0
6. Delaware Blue Hens (1), 3-1
7. New Hampshire Wildcats, 2-1
8. Wofford Terriers, 2-1
9. James Madison Dukes, 3-1
10. Richmond Spiders, 3-1
11. William & Mary Tribe, 2-2
12. Southern Illinois Salukis, 2-1
13. Lehigh Mountain Hawks, 3-1
14. Jacksonville State Gamecocks, 3-1
15. Chattanooga Mocs, 2-2
16. Sam Houston State Bearkats, 3-0
17. Southern Utah Thunderbirds, 3-1
18. McNeese State Cowboys, 2-1
- 19. Montana Grizzlies, 2-2**
20. Massachusetts Minutemen, 2-1
21. South Dakota Coyotes, 2-2
22. South Carolina State Bulldogs, 2-2
23. Towson Tigers, 3-0
24. Indiana State Sycamores, 3-1
25. Sacramento State Hornets, 2-2



Forest Chaput de Saintonge / Montana Kaimin
Brothers Sam and Zach Gratton (from left) run around the football field to complete another drill, during Wednesday afternoons practice.

GRATTON
From page 7

the family, although they recently found out it is not as serious as originally thought.

Throughout these ordeals, the brothers always have been able to focus on football with the support of their family and coaches. Their high school head coach Mark Sulser, another UM alum, played football for the Griz 1987-88 and encouraged the boys to pursue football in college.

"Sulser and I are really close, and he's been a good role model for me in a lot of ways," Zach said.

Before playing at UM, the brothers attended Senior High School in Billings, and were prominent football stars on their hometown Bronc turf. During his high school football career, Sam made 149 receptions for 2,155 yards and scored 16 touchdowns. He was also selected as the PrepNation player of the year for Montana in 2007.

"I loved playing there," Sam said. "I liked our high school coach, and we threw it a lot, so it was pretty fun to play receiver."

Although the two were Broncos for one year together, Zach remained on the freshman squad while Sam played varsity. Both,

however, were selected to play in the Shrine Bowl and the MonDak All-Star games during the same season.

"Now it's just fun and cool to see Zach on the same team," Sam said. "We never really got to play with each other in high school."

As a defensive back, Zach plowed his own way through his three-year varsity career as a starter in high school and landed the First Team All-State Class AA title in 2010. He came away with 97 tackles (59 solo), two interceptions, a fumble recovery, a blocked kick, a sack and 10 broken-up passes.

"I loved playing for Senior," Zach said. "I started as a sophomore and played 31 games total, and like now, I worked hard and paid attention, and I guess it worked."

With UM influences hitting the brothers at every angle, the decision to sign on as a Griz was not difficult.

"(Scott) never forced me to go to the Griz," Zach said. "But I could always tell that would make him really happy to have both his sons playing for his alma mater."

Sam was a major factor in Zach's decision to attend UM as well.

"Sam was the biggest thing that got me here because I wanted

to play with him," Zach said. "I've looked up to him my whole life."

Starting as No. 8 for Griz football, Sam is rolling into his third solid year as the No. 3-ranked wide receiver and was named player of the week Sept. 7.

"It's good and as a receiver you always want the ball, but you've got to understand that's not realistic," Sam said. "But as long as we win I'm happy."

Following in his brother's footsteps, Zach now dons his No. 38 jersey with pride as a safety on the scout team.

"Sam's a really good role model," Zach said. "He leads by example, but I know people on the team respect him because he's tough, and he does what he needs to do."

Although Sam and Zach are brothers, most would never consider them related based on physical appearances and personality.

"People are still finding out on the team that we are brothers," Sam said. "We're polar opposites."

Their character may differ, but Sam and Zach have become close throughout their college experience, and if they have one thing in common, it's football.

"We're extremely close," Zach said. "Sam's the best person I have in the world."

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