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### Game Day Kaimin, October 5, 2013

Students of The University of Montana, Missoula

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# GAMEDAY KAIMIN

Saturday, October 5, 2013

UP WITH MONTANA, BOYS, DOWN WITH THE FOE. OLD MONTANA'S OUT FOR A VICTORY; SHE'LL SHOOT HER BACKS AROUND THE FOE-MEN'S LINE; A HOT TIME IS BEING NOW, OH, BROTHER MINE. UP WITH MONTANA, BOYS, DOWN WITH THE FOE. GOOD OLD GRIZZLY'LL TRIUMPH TODAY; AND THE SQUEAL OF THE PIG WILL FLOAT ON THE AIR; FROM THE TUMMY OF THE GRIZZLY BEAR. UP WITH MONTANA, BOYS, DOWN WITH THE FOE. OLD MONTANA'S OUT FOR A VICTORY; SHE'LL SHOOT HER BACKS AROUND THE FOE-MEN'S LINE; A HOT TIME IS BEING NOW, OH, BROTHER MINE. UP WITH MONTANA, BOYS, DOWN WITH THE FOE. GOOD OLD GRIZZLY'LL TRIUMPH TODAY; AND THE SQUEAL OF THE PIG WILL FLOAT ON THE AIR; FROM THE TUMMY OF THE GRIZZLY BEAR. UP WITH MONTANA, BOYS, DOWN WITH THE FOE. OLD MONTANA'S OUT FOR A VICTORY; SHE'LL SHOOT HER BACKS AROUND THE FOE-MEN'S LINE; A HOT TIME IS BEING NOW, OH, BROTHER MINE. UP WITH MONTANA, BOYS, DOWN WITH THE FOE. GOOD OLD GRIZZLY'LL TRIUMPH TODAY; AND THE SQUEAL OF THE PIG WILL FLOAT ON THE AIR; FROM THE TUMMY OF THE GRIZZLY BEAR. UP WITH MONTANA, BOYS, DOWN WITH THE FOE. OLD MONTANA'S OUT FOR A VICTORY; SHE'LL SHOOT HER BACKS AROUND THE FOE-MEN'S LINE; A HOT TIME IS BEING NOW, OH, BROTHER MINE. UP WITH MONTANA, BOYS, DOWN WITH THE FOE. GOOD OLD GRIZZLY'LL TRIUMPH TODAY; AND THE SQUEAL OF THE PIG WILL FLOAT ON THE AIR; FROM THE TUMMY OF THE GRIZZLY BEAR. UP WITH MONTANA, BOYS, DOWN WITH THE FOE. OLD MONTANA'S OUT FOR A VICTORY; SHE'LL SHOOT HER BACKS AROUND THE FOE-MEN'S LINE; A HOT TIME IS BEING NOW, OH, BROTHER MINE. UP WITH MONTANA, BOYS, DOWN WITH THE FOE. GOOD OLD GRIZZLY'LL TRIUMPH TODAY; AND THE SQUEAL OF THE PIG WILL FLOAT ON THE AIR; FROM THE TUMMY OF THE GRIZZLY BEAR. UP WITH MONTANA, BOYS, DOWN WITH THE FOE. OLD MONTANA'S OUT FOR A VICTORY; SHE'LL SHOOT HER BACKS AROUND THE FOE-MEN'S LINE; A HOT TIME IS BEING NOW, OH, BROTHER MINE. UP WITH MONTANA, BOYS, DOWN WITH THE FOE. GOOD OLD GRIZZLY'LL TRIUMPH TODAY; AND THE SQUEAL OF THE PIG WILL FLOAT ON THE AIR; FROM THE TUMMY OF THE GRIZZLY BEAR. UP WITH MONTANA, BOYS, DOWN WITH THE FOE. OLD MONTANA'S OUT FOR A VICTORY; SHE'LL SHOOT HER BACKS AROUND THE FOE-MEN'S LINE; A HOT TIME IS BEING NOW, OH, BROTHER MINE. UP WITH MONTANA, BOYS, DOWN WITH THE FOE. GOOD OLD GRIZZLY'LL TRIUMPH TODAY; AND THE SQUEAL OF THE PIG WILL FLOAT ON THE AIR; FROM THE TUMMY OF THE GRIZZLY BEAR.

# GRIZZLY



# NO SCHOOL LIKE THE OLD SCHOOL

## Montana adjusts to pro-style offense

**KARL SCHNEIDER**

Montana Kaimin

After a 5-6 season, head coach Mick Delaney knew Montana needed a change. Equipped with an unfamiliar offense, the coach with 35 years of experience went back to the drawing board.

Unlike many college teams today — implementing new formations, looking to score as quick and often as possible, keeping the defense guessing — the Griz switched from a spread offense to a pro style.

“Now what we are saying is, ‘We’re going to line up, we’re going to show you what we are going to do, now you’ve got to defend it,’” said Scott Gragg, one of Montana’s co-offensive coordinators.

Delaney, who stepped in as coach after Robin Pflugrad, planned to make the switch when he took over in the spring of 2012, but was unable with spring camp already in progress.

“The kids had already been through two weeks of spring football,” said Delaney, who has run a pro style offense for more than 15 years. “Then coach (Timm) Rosenbach leaving probably put the icing on the cake, so to speak, as to what we were going to do.”

After the 2012 season ended, former offensive coordinator Rosenbach left Montana for the University of Nevada-Las Vegas to join former Griz coach Bobby Hauck. After Rosenbach’s departure, the coaching staff decided the team and coaching personnel

were better suited for the pro style offense.

Unlike the spread offense, which focuses on speed and getting the ball carrier out in space, the pro-style offense is more direct. Tight ends line up attached to the linemen with the quarterback under center and one or two running backs. This formation is run-orientated, which then sets up play-action passing situations for the offense by drawing the defensive backs to the line of scrimmage and throwing it over their heads.

In order to switch from one offense to another — changing the entire philosophy of the team — everyone needed to be on board.

Gragg said everything started to come together when he and

co-offensive coordinator Kefense Hynson went on a recruiting trip to Helena, sitting in a car for hours talking strategy.

“Whatever he said and (did) in the past, it resonated with me and they were things that I had talked about implementing in the spread, certain blocking schemes and protections,” said Gragg, who spent 11 years in the NFL playing the pro-style offense as an offensive lineman. “He was all for it and advocating for the same things.”

As important as it is to have the coaching staff on the same page and familiar with the strategy, they need players who can run this offense.

“It’s not so much as what you’re doing but who’s doing it,” Del-

aney said. “I think we have a tremendous offensive line with great size and good athleticism. When you have that, then you have the opportunity to have a little more ball control and sets up your play action game, which plays right into the hands of Jordan Johnson, a 5-foot-11, 6-foot quarterback.”

Johnson is not the prototypical quarterback for a drop-back, pass offense. Adjusting to a pro-style offense was a first for Johnson, who ran a spread offense dating back to high school in Eugene, Ore.

After meeting with Johnson, Hynson didn’t know if the junior and his skill set could make the switch. But Johnson adjusted.

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FROM PAGE 2

"He picked it up right away," Hynson said. "Nothing really abnormal. It was a new offense so everybody had a learning curve, but I thought he did a good job right out the gate."

Delaney said working with the centers on snaps over winter helped progress Johnson even more.

"He didn't just go into spring with those being his first snaps under center," Delaney said.

The switch has been successful so far this season. Through four games the Griz rank in the top three Big Sky Conference teams in pass efficiency, third down conversions, points per game and rush yards per game.

With the balance of run and pass, the Montana offense keeps opposing defenses honest, and even manipulates them at times.

"In the pro set, or the zone-blocking schemes, there is a

direct emphasis on where we're passing the ball — where we think the ball is going to go," Gragg said. "So by our alignment, by our footwork, by our eyes, all those things, we can influence linebackers and block them in a certain way to where we know where they're going to be without even laying a hand on them necessarily."

Substitutions are also easier to make in the pro-set offense compared to the spread.

"In a spread, no-huddle offense, everyone's got to be able to do multiple things," Gragg said. "If you lose one of those things, that can expose you."

By running the pro-style offense, Montana has expanded the availability of its roster, plugging holes in the offense caused by injuries.

While the pro-style offense provides many benefits for the Griz, it also has weaknesses.

Unlike the spread offense, the pro style is geared toward time



Hunter D'Antuono/Montana Kaimin

Travon Van (8) stiff-arms Appalachian State's Karl Anderson in Washington-Grizzly Stadium on Aug. 31, 2013, during the Grizzly's season opening game. The Griz beat the Mountaineers 30-6.

# 'IN A SPREAD, NO-HUDDLE OFFENSE, EVERYONE'S GOT TO BE ABLE TO DO MULTIPLE THINGS.'

-Scott Gragg

possession and keeping their own defense on the sidelines. But by slowing the pace of play, it can provide the opposing defense with time to adjust.

"We (were) really successful at playing really, really fast and the defense couldn't adjust to that," Gragg said. "But now you give the defense a chance to adjust, for them to prepare."

The Griz experienced this drawback for the first time in their BSC opening loss against Northern Arizona University, 34-16, last Saturday. For the first time this

season, the Griz offense didn't dominate its opponent on the line with its size and athleticism.

Instead, it lost the battle to the smaller but faster NAU front seven, who could break down the formation, knowing where they needed to be to make a play.

But following the loss, senior offensive guard William Poehls said the issues from Saturday's loss could be fixed.

"We just need to come in and execute," Poehls said. "I think if we do that we'll get back on track. We just have to get our swagger

back."

While the Griz have moved away from the spread offense, they haven't completely left it behind, adding a little bit of the new school flavor to the old school.

"We are able to add things that we learned from the spread, whether it be the read-option or the bubble screens or things like that," Gragg said. "We can add aspects of that because it's a strength of this team. We can kind of play in both worlds."

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# MONTANA VS PO

## #26

### RUNNING BACK

## JORDAN CANADA

The 5-foot-9, 190-pound junior running back leads Montana in rushing with 75 yards per contest. Combined with fellow junior Travon Van, the Grizzlies have a strong one-two punch in the backfield. Canada, a West Covina, Calif., native is in the top 25 for the Grizzlies all-time career rushing list.

## #94

### KICKER

## BEN WORST

Montana's new starting kicker is a perfect four-of-four in field goal attempts this season. The true freshman from Twin Falls, Idaho, nailed a 50-yard field goal on Sept. 21, giving him the sixth-longest field goal in school history. Last week against Northern Arizona, Worst connected on a 42-yard attempt to put the Grizzlies on the scoreboard, down 14-3 with 5:20 remaining in the first quarter.

## #1

### CORNERBACK

## ANTHONY GOODWIN

Nicknamed "Chief," Goodwin entered the season as the Grizzlies most experienced defensive back. In four games this season for Montana, the 6-foot-1, 180-pound senior leads the conference in pass breakups, averaging 1.25 per game. Goodwin has 15 tackles this season, including a forced fumble in Montana's 30-6 win over Appalachian State to open the 2013 season.

- 1 Anthony Goodwin, Cornerback, Murrieta, Calif.
- 1 Treshawn Favors, Running Back, Glendale, Ariz.
- 2 Taylor Walcott, Wide Receiver/Returner, Eugene, Ore.
- 2 Ryan McKinley, Defensive Back, Anthem, Ariz.
- 3 Brady Gustafson, Quarterback/Holder, Billings, Mont.
- 4 Chris Parker, Defensive Back, Sioux Falls, S.D.
- 5 Chase Naccarato, Wide Receiver/ Returns, Spokane, Wash.
- 6 Jamaal Jones, Wide Receiver, Spanaway, Wash.
- 7 Ellis Henderson, Wide Receiver/Returner, Portland, Ore.
- 8 Travon Van, Running Back/ Returner, San Diego, Calif.
- 9 Addison Owen, Linebacker, Vancouver, Wash.
- 10 Jordan Johnson, Quarterback, Eugene, Ore.
- 11 Trent McKinney, Quarterback, Miliani, Hawaii
- 11 Nate Harris, Cornerback, Chino, Calif.
- 12 Matt Hermanson, Free Safety, Sioux Falls, S.D.
- 13 Zach Gratton, Strong Safety, Billings, Mont.
- 13 Josh Janssen, Wide Receiver, Missoula, Mont.
- 14 Joshua Dennard, Cornerback, Phoenix, Ariz.
- 16 Marq Roogers, Wide Receiver, Fort Wayne, Ind.
- 17 Makena Simis, WR, Boise, Idaho
- 18 JR Nelson, Cornerback/Returner, Hacienda Heights, Calif.
- 19 Shay Smithwick-Hann, Quarterback, Kalispell, Mont.
- 20 Herbert Gamboa, Strong Safety, San Clemente, Calif.
- 21 Joey Counts, Running Back/ Fullback, Mesa, Ariz.
- 24 Cam Warren, Wide Receiver/Holder, Bellevue, Wash.
- 24 Steven Rominger, Safety, Missoula, Mont.
- 25 Marlon Miles, Running Back, Portland, Ore.
- 26 Jordan Canada, Running Back, West Covina, Calif.
- 27 Nico Graham, Wide Receiver, Missoula, Mont.
- 28 Jamaal Anderson, Cornerback/Returner, Fontana, Calif.
- 29 Connor Strahm, Linebacker, Eugene, Ore.
- 30 Bo Tully, Strong Safety, Spokane, Wash.
- 31 Justin Whitted, Free Safety, Los Angeles, Calif.
- 32 Zach Vis, Wide Receiver, Lynden, Wash.
- 33 Connor Lebsock, Linebacker, Billings, Mont.
- 34 Jamal Wilson, Fullback, Fontana, Calif.
- 35 Kendrick Van Ackeren, Linebacker, Bellevue, Wash.
- 36 Gavin Hagfors, Fullback, Great Falls, Mont.
- 37 Jordan Tripp, Linebacker/Deep Snaps, Missoula, Mont.
- 38 John Nguyen, Running Back, Seattle, Wash.
- 39 Jake Dallaserra, Safety, Butte, Mont.
- 40 Cooper Sprunk, Tight End, Portland, Ore.
- 41 Mick Delaney, Safety/Wide Receiver, Bozeman, Mont.
- 42 Kelsey Lippert, Linebacker, Fort Benton, Mont.
- 43 Nate Bradley, Noseguard, Billings, Mont.
- 44 Caleb Kidder, Defensive Tackle, Helena, Mont.
- 45 Jeremiah Kose, Linebacker, Oceanside, Calif.
- 46 Clay Pierson, Tight End, Twin Bridges, Mont.
- 47 Derek Crittenden, Defensive End, Whitefish, Mont.
- 48 Jonathan Richards, Tight End, Butte, Mont.
- 49 Jordan Harper, Tight End, Great Falls, Mont.
- 50 Aaron Held, Snaps, Sacramento, Calif.
- 51 Tucker Schye, Linebacker, Malta, Mont.
- 52 John Kanongata'a, Linebacker, Bellevue, Wash.
- 54 Trevor Rehm, Defensive Tackle, Dillon, Mont.
- 56 Brock Coyle, Linebacker, Bozeman, Mont.
- 58 Zack Wagenmann, Defensive End, Missoula, Mont.
- 65 Jordan Hines, Offensive Guard, Phoenix, Ariz.
- 66 Logan Hines, Center, Phoenix, Ariz.
- 68 McCauley Todd, Offensive Guard, Cedar Rapids, Iowa
- 69 Kjelby Oiland, Center/Snaps, Spokane, Wash.
- 70 Ben Weyer, Offensive Guard, Bozeman, Mont.
- 71 Devon Dietrich, Offensive Line, Woodinville, Wash.
- 72 Trevor Poole, Offensive Guard, Spokane, Wash.
- 73 Samson Kaleikini, Offensive Guard, Kapolei, Hawaii
- 74 John Schmaing, Offensive Tackle, Billings, Mont.
- 75 William Poehls, Guard, Chandler, Ariz.
- 76 Danny Kistler Jr., Offensive Tackle, Seattle, Wash.
- 78 Clint LaRowe, Offensive Tackle, Miles City, Mont.
- 79 Max Kelly, Offensive Tackle, Spokane, Wash.
- 80 Sean Haynes, Wide Receiver, Los Angeles, Calif.
- 81 Mitch Saylor, Wide Receiver, Vancouver, Wash.
- 82 Noah Scarver, Tight End, Minneapolis, Minn.
- 83 Ryan Burke, Wide Receiver, Billings, Mont.
- 84 Kevin Berland, Wide Receiver, Missoula, Mont.
- 85 Spencer Hale, Wide Receiver, Missoula, Mont.
- 86 Austin Carver, Wide Receiver, Dillon, Mont.
- 87 Chris Lider, Kicker, Bellevue, Wash.
- 88 Stephen Shaw, Punter, Fullerton, Calif.
- 89 Aschan Richards, Tight End, Butte, Mont.
- 90 Bo Harris, Defensive Tackle, Fairfield, Mont.
- 91 Tyrone Holmes, Defensive End, Eagle Point, Ore.
- 92 Alex Bienemann, Defensive Tackle, Denver, Colo.
- 93 Zach Peevey, Defensive End, Missoula, Mont.
- 94 Ben Worst, Kicker/Punter, Twin Falls, Idaho
- 95 Tonga Takai, Defensive Tackle/Snaps, Honolulu, Hawaii
- 97 Ryan Johnson, Defensive End, Vancouver, Wash.
- 98 Mike Ralston, Tight End, Eugene, Ore.
- 99 Jesse Ginn, Defensive Tackle, Missoula, Mont.

# PORTLAND STATE

## #94

### DEFENSIVE END

## BRYANT LONG

As a captain on defense for PSU, Long has had no problem getting to opposing quarterbacks, recording 2.5 sacks this season on a Vikings team that ranks second in the conference with 17 sacks. Originally from South Orange, N.J., the 6-foot-3, 245-pound Long also has 11 tackles in just two starts.

## #4

### QUARTERBACK

## KIERAN MCDONAGH

Under center for the Vikings, a team that ranks first in total offense in the BSC, is 6-foot-2, 240-pound McDonagh. After starting as a true freshman for Portland State in 2012, McDonagh was named a finalist for the Jerry Rice National Freshman of the Year Award. This season, the sophomore has thrown for 1,331 yards, 11 touchdowns and five interceptions.

## #10

### RUNNING BACK

## DJ ADAMS

The senior running back, who transferred from the University of Maryland, is the focal point to the Vikings' running game, which is No. 1 in the Big Sky Conference with an average of almost 300 yards per game. Adams is 12th in the nation in rushing yards per game with 123.4 and boasts seven touchdowns through five games this season.

- 1 Victor Dean, Wide Receiver, San Diego, Calif.
- 2 Shaq Richard, Running Back, Hawthorne, Calif.
- 3 David Edgerson, Safety, New Orleans, La.
- 4 Kieran McDonagh, Quarterback, Vancouver, Wash.
- 5 Roston Tatum, Wide Receiver, Fort Worth, Texas
- 6 Jaycob Shoemaker, Linebacker, Sacramento, Calif.
- 7 Jake Woolley, Linebacker, Moorpark, Calif.
- 8 Josh Milhollin, Wide Receiver, Medford, Ore.
- 8 Darien Washington, Cornerback, Norwalk, Calif.
- 9 Zach Walen, Linebacker, Lake Oswego, Ore.
- 10 DJ Adams, Running Back, Norcross, Ga.
- 11 Steven Long, Running Back, Sherwood, Ore.
- 12 Walter Santiago, Safety, Kahuku, Hawaii
- 13 Davon Dunn, Cornerback, San Diego, Calif.
- 13 Bobby Howell, Quarterback, Tehachapi, Calif.
- 14 David Jones, Wide Receiver, Kent, Wash.
- 15 Paris Penn, Quarterback, Portland, Ore.
- 16 Marcus Kinsella, Punter, Melbourne, Australia
- 17 Julian Cruell, Cornerback, Tacoma, Wash.
- 18 Josh Kraght, Quarterback, Lynden, Wash.
- 19 Hayden Plinke, Tight End, Hillsboro, Ore.
- 20 Austin Baird, Wide Receiver, Eugene, Ore.
- 21 Dean Faddis, Safety, Ramona, Calif.
- 22 Corey Crowder, Linebacker, Elk Grove, Calif.
- 23 Justin Lilley, Running Back, Thousand Oaks, Calif.
- 24 Dennis Fite, Cornerback, Citrus Hills, Calif.
- 25 Nate Tago, Running Back, Rancho Santa, Calif.
- 26 JC Genova, Defensive Back, Newport Beach, Calif.
- 27 Chevy Walker, Cornerback, Bellevue, Wash.
- 28 Anthony Jenkins, Wide Receiver, Mesquite Texas
- 29 Kyle Loomis, Punter, Roseburg, Ore.
- 30 Jeremy Lutali, Linebacker, Long Beach, Calif.
- 31 Demetrius Jackson, Cornerback, Duarte, Calif.
- 32 Rey Vega, Running Back, Modesto, Calif.
- 34 Mishawn Cummings, Safety, San Jose, Calif.
- 36 Aaron Sibley, Cornerback, Decatur, Ga.
- 37 Cameron Thompson, Tight End, Lebanon, Ore.
- 38 Xavier Coleman, Defensive Back, Portland, Ore.
- 39 Beau Duronslet, Safety, Milwaukie, Ore.
- 40 Zack Dwyer, Running Back, Graham, Wash.
- 41 Kahlil Dawson, Defensive Back, Spanaway, Wash.
- 42 Sadat Sulleyman, Defensive End, Spanaway, Wash.
- 43 Nick Rothstein, Safety, Portland, Ore.
- 44 Brandon Brody-Heim, Linebacker, Vancouver, Wash.
- 45 Vincent Johnson, Defensive Tackle, Fort Worth, Texas
- 46 Brandon Tobias, Defensive End, Torrance, Calif.
- 47 Nick Moran, Wide Receiver, Salem, Ore.
- 48 Kameron Canaday, Deep Snaps, Eugene, Ore.
- 49 Michael Plummer, Safety, Gresham, Ore.
- 50 Kawika Stant, Linebacker, Hauula, Hawaii
- 51 Justin Outslay, Offensive Line, Salem, Ore.
- 52 Kyle Gardner, Linebacker, Corvallis, Ore.
- 53 Zack Ka'ahanui, Defensive Tackle, Portland, Ore.
- 54 Dennis Taylor, Linebacker, Fontana, Calif.
- 55 Jacob Nall, Defensive End, Sandy, Ore.
- 56 Jeremy Boone, Defensive End, Cleveland, Ohio
- 57 John Norcross, Linebacker, Washougal, Wash.
- 59 Caleb Worthington, Offensive Line, Boise, Idaho
- 60 Chris Graham, Offensive Line, San Jose, Calif.
- 62 John Wall, Offensive Line, Beaverton, Ore.
- 63 Junior Alexis, Defensive Tackle, Los Angeles, Calif.
- 64 Mitchell Van Dyk, Offensive Line, Paso Robles, Calif.
- 65 Thomas Robertson, Offensive Line, Houston, Texas
- 66 Mitch Gaulke, Offensive Line, West Linn, Ore.
- 67 Kyle Smith, Offensive Line, Elmira, Ore.
- 68 Cam Keizur, Offensive Line, West Linn, Ore.
- 69 Joe Lopez, Defensive Tackle, Portland, Ore.
- 70 Ryan Brown, Offensive Line, Portland, Ore.
- 71 James Seuma'ala, Offensive Line, Federal Way, Wash.
- 72 Chad Bach, Offensive Line, Bend, Ore.
- 74 Josh Hanson, Offensive Line, Tenino, Wash.
- 75 Alex Sirois, Offensive Line, Hillsboro, Ore.
- 76 Mike Davis, Offensive Line, Chico, Calif.
- 77 Cornelius Edison, Offensive Line, University Place, Wash.
- 78 Austin Powell, Offensive Line, Corvallis, Ore.
- 79 Cutter Baldock, Defensive End, Tigard, Ore.
- 80 Tyson Heller, Tight End, Caldwell, Idaho
- 81 Jamarr Graves, Wide Receiver, Portland, Ore.
- 82 Darnell Adams, Wide Receiver, Newberg, Ore.
- 83 Alex Toureen, Wide Receiver, Cottage Grove, Ore.
- 84 Cam Sommer, Tight End, Milwaukie, Ore.
- 85 Thomas Carter, Wide Receiver, San Bernardino, Calif.
- 86 Trevor Dye, Wide Receiver, Oregon City, Ore.
- 87 Justin Calo, Wide Receiver, Beaverton, Ore.
- 88 Adam Futter, Tight End, Pendleton, Ore.
- 89 Kasey Closs, Wide Receiver, Lake Oswego, Ore.
- 90 Nick Alexander, Defensive End, Inglewood, Calif.
- 91 William Dawson, Offensive Line, Eugene, Ore.
- 92 Daniel Fusi, Defensive Tackle, Santa Ana, Calif.
- 93 Ian Crist, Kicker, Silverton, Ore.
- 94 Bryant Long, Defensive End, South Orange, N.J.
- 95 Savali Talalemotu, Defensive Tackle, Beaverton, Ore.
- 96 Desmoun Thompson, Defensive Tackle, Burien, Wash.
- 97 Nick Fernandez, Kicker, Murieta, Calif.
- 98 Dame Ndiaye, Defensive End, San Diego, Calif.
- 99 Davond Dade, Defensive End, Los Angeles, Calif.

# THE EMERGENCE OF ELLIS HENDERSON

**ANDY BIXLER**  
Montana Kaimin

Ellis Henderson was supposed to play baseball.

His dad was a center fielder in the Pittsburgh Pirates minor league organization, his mom a semi-professional softball player. Henderson played baseball his entire childhood, and in his bedroom rests a framed picture of a 2-year-old Henderson with his grandfather, clutching a bright yellow Elmo baseball bat.

But in high school, Henderson found another sport that called his name — football. And this year, the 21-year-old Henderson is making a name for himself on the gridiron instead of the diamond.

"It was always football for me," Henderson said. "Never a doubt in my mind."

In four games this season, the wide receiver and kick returner leads the Grizzlies with five touchdowns. Against North Dakota he hauled in five catches for 124 yards, finding the end zone three times.

He is Montana's top deep

threat, but it's a year that hasn't been easy in the making.

During a summer camp before Henderson's junior year of high school, Henderson was using his arms to try to move around a player, when he heard a loud pop, followed by instant numbness. His eyes swam, and he fell to his knees, unable to move his arm.

Henderson tore the labrum in his right arm, a ligament that connects the biceps to the shoulder socket.

"We were actually playing (Grizzly teammate) Addison Owen's team, and I reached out to grab someone and it just popped out of its socket," Henderson said. "I had like a 360 degree tear."

The tear was so complete that it required arthroscopic surgery, but Henderson elected to forgo surgery until the end of the season, playing in every game.

He estimated that his shoulder popped out of its socket at least once per week for his entire junior season.

"Having your shoulder dislocate is one of the most awkward feelings I've had," Henderson said. "You can't feel your arm at first — but when it gets popped back in, it's some of the worst pain I've ever been in."

bling into the end zone.

"The first time I was scared. I hadn't had a major injury like that," Henderson said. "The second time it happened, I was angry."

This injury wasn't as severe

**'IT WAS ALWAYS FOOTBALL FOR ME. NEVER A DOUBT IN MY MIND.'**

*-Ellis Henderson*

As the first, but the rehabilitation process took so long that Henderson was forced to grayshirt his first year at the University of Hawaii, where he committed to a football scholarship.

Being a grayshirt meant Henderson couldn't practice with, or even be around, the team in any official capacity.

It was an unusual experience for Henderson, someone who always was on the field.

"I had a lot of time to sit and think about what I wanted to do, and how I wanted to do it, and how I was going to get there," Henderson said.

Weeks passed in Hawaii as he completed his rehab, but he

couldn't shrug a feeling of isolation.

"I hung out with my roommates, but it wasn't the same as being around a team," Henderson said.

In 2011, Hawaii head coach Greg McMackin, who had recruited Henderson, resigned under pressure. Henderson knew it was time to move on, and was recruited by many schools — including Portland State, where he committed for a week — before choosing Montana.

Henderson is fast. Not the fastest Grizzly, he said. But close.

The 6-foot, 185-pounder said he ran a 4.40 second 40-yard-dash in high school.

His speed is part of what makes him so deadly to an opposing secondary. But another aspect of Henderson's emergence can be traced to his strong friendship with starting quarterback Jordan Johnson.

Henderson and Johnson have become close friends off the field, helping their chemistry, to the tune of 12 completed passes, the most of any Montana receivers.

"I feel like we're just on the same wavelength, and even if I'm in the wrong, which is way more likely than him being in the wrong, he can make it happen," Henderson said. "He's one of those guys where we haven't really had to try to build a friendship. It's just kind of happened."

Scott Gragg, a co-offensive coordinator in his third season with the Griz, said players like Henderson make game-planning easier because his abilities are hard to match up.

"I think we've got a great receiver corps, and it allows Ellis to use his speed and size to his advantage," Gragg said.

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"We can set up plays that will yield more success for him, but also for guys around him, because they've got to defend Ellis."

Opposing defenses have to make a decision on who to focus on — Montana's running back tandem, Travon Van and Jordan Canada — or Henderson.

"In order for a fast, bigger receiver to get open downfield, you've got to establish the running game," Gragg said. "That brings extra defenders into the box where they've got to defend the running game. That gives you one-on-one defenders against a tall, fast receiver, where he can take advantage."

On Saturday, Henderson will face off against a familiar foe in Portland State. In

fact, the Vikings quarterback, Kieran McDonagh, was Henderson's quarterback in high school.

"Any time you're playing any type of familiar team, it's interesting," Henderson said. "It's fun when you know the guys across the line."

Familiarity may breed contempt, but in Henderson's case, it has bred talent. He said his second year in Missoula has improved because he knows what to expect.

"I was a little out of it last year, especially with my year off, so coming back this year to a situation that isn't new — that I'm used to — has helped my confidence," Henderson said. "It's allowed me to reach heights I didn't think were possible."

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**Hunter D'Antuono/ Montana Kaimin**

Ellis Henderson returns a punt in Washington-Grizzly Stadium on Aug. 31, 2013, during the Grizzly's season opening game. The Griz beat Appalachian State 30-6.

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**UM DINING**



# GRIZ LOOK FOR FIRST CONFERENCE WIN

**KARL SCHNEIDER**  
Montana Kaimin

After suffering its first loss of the season, the University of Montana football team wants to give fans something to cheer about. And what better time than homecoming?

After falling 34-16 to Northern Arizona University on the road last weekend, the Griz (3-1 overall, 0-1 Big Sky Conference) will look for their first conference win of the season when they face the Portland State Vikings (3-2 overall, 0-1 BSC) in Washington-Grizzly Stadium Saturday.

"Any good, solid football team, you have to put the week prior behind you, whether it's real, real positive or negative," said Montana second-year head coach Mick Delaney. "If you don't, when you're living on the past week, when you're

successful or not successful, you're in trouble."

In the loss to NAU, the Griz failed to match the intensity of the Lumberjacks, who controlled the time of possession behind standout running back Zach Bauman. This week, the Griz defense will have its hands full again trying to contain PSU running back DJ Adams.

Adams, a 5-foot-10, 210-pound senior, leads the BSC in rushing this season with 617 yards and seven touchdowns through five games.

"He's a good running back," Delaney said. "He's very explosive. He's big. He's strong."

PSU head coach Nigel Burton said the former University of Maryland transfer added a different element to his game this year: speed.

"He's really developed the speed to break away," Burton said. "He's really worked

hard and improved his speed and size to break arm tackles. That's what makes him a special back."

In addition to Adams, the Vikings also bring a strong passing threat in sophomore Kieran McDonagh. At 6-foot-2, 245 pounds, McDonagh leads a pistol offense that ranks first in the conference in total offense.

"They're in the pistol constantly, so their scheme is to run the ball first and pass second," Delaney said. "And they do a nice job of it. They've run the ball against everybody that they've played."

Defensively, the Vikings will look to senior safety Dean Faddis to limit the Grizzlies on offense. Faddis, a 6-foot, 205-pound senior has wrecked havoc in the secondary this season for the Vikings, totaling 47 tackles, one forced fum-

ble and one interception.

"They're in a scheme that they're not going to take a lot of chances," Delaney said. "They're going to keep the ball in front of them. They haven't been a big pressure team and just depend on their front four and sometimes insert a fifth guy to put pressure on (the quarterback)."

Heading into Saturday's matchup, Delaney has stressed to his players that they need to go out and execute the game plan on both sides of the ball and maintain focus, telling them nothing has changed because of the last week's loss.

Saturday's game is scheduled to kickoff at 1:30 p.m. and will be televised on Root Sports.

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**'THEY'RE  
IN A  
SCHEME  
THAT  
THEY'RE  
NOT GOING  
TO TAKE  
A LOT OF  
CHANCES.'**

*-Mick  
Delaney*

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