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Grizzlies put perfect Big Sky record on the line this weekend/ Host Idado, Boise State

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GRIZZLIES PUT PERFECT BIG SKY RECORD ON THE LINE THIS
WEEKEND/ HOST IDAHO, BOISE STATE

MISSOULA--

THE GAMES: The University of Montana Grizzlies go for their fifth straight Big Sky Conference win Friday, Jan. 23, when they host the Idaho Vandals, who are also 4-0 in conference. Boise State visits Missoula, Saturday, Jan. 24.

TIPOFF: Home games begin at 8:05 p.m. in Montana's 9,329-seat Dahlberg Arena.

PRELIMS: The Montana Cubs will play in preliminary games prior to both Big Sky games this weekend. The 2-1 Cubs host the Helena Americans Friday, Jan. 23, and Lame Deer, the following night. The games start at 5:45 pm.

RADIO: Grizzly Bill Schwanke of KYLT-AM radio of Missoula, will begin his pre-game report at 7:45 p.m. both nights. Schwanke has called the play-by-play the last 10 seasons.

THE SERIES: Idaho leads the series 65-44, while BSU and UM are tied with 11 wins each in 22 meetings.

LAST YEAR: Idaho defeated the Grizzlies twice, 63-62 in Moscow and 51-44 in Missoula. However, Montana knocked the Vandals off (63-53) in the opening game of the post season Big Sky tournament, held in Ogden. UM beat BSU 64-59 in Boise and 83-62 in Missoula.

THE COACHES: UM's Mike Montgomery is now 42-29 in two-plus seasons; Idaho's Don Monson is 43-26 in two-plus seasons and BSU's Dave Leach is 2-12 in his first year.

LAST WEEK: The Grizzlies made two dramatic road breakthroughs, beating defending champion Weber State 69-62, and Idaho State 53-49. (See season's scores for opponents win-loss marks.)

PROBABLE STARTERS:

IDAHO
G-Brian Kellerman (14.8,1.5)
G-Ken Owens (13.5,2.9)
C-Ron Maben (8.1,5.3)
F-Dan Forge (13.7, 4.4)
F-Phil Hopson (12.4,8.1)
6-Jeff Brudie (6.3,3.3)
(over)

BOISE ST.
G-Kevin Ross (3.0,1.2)
G-Rodger Bates (6.9, 2.5)
C-Larry McKinney (14.7,8.7)
F-Eric Bailey (16.4,5.1)
F-Randy Brown (2.5,2.5)
6-Scott Ludwig (6.2, 1.5)

GRIZZLIES RECORD-- add one

GRIZZLY STARTERS: Montana's probable starters (as of Jan. 19) , are: Blaine Taylor and Craig Zanon at guard, Marty Green center and Rod Brandon and Derrick Pope at forward. See enclosed stats for Montana scoring and rebounding figures.

OPPONENT SCORES:	ID	IDAHO(15-1,4-0)	OPP	BSU	BOISE ST. (2-12,0-3)	OPP
	64	@Nebraska	53	87	Santa Clara	100
	65	Wash. St. (Spokane)	51	54	Puget Sound	73
	79	Simon Fraser	69	40	Fresno State	65
	73	@Gonzaga	69	92	Great Falls	77
	78	US Intl.	56	51	Wyoming	76
	69	San Jose St.	55	67	@Oregon	99
	90	St. Martin's	46	65	@Portland St.	71
	113	Wis.-Oshkosh	67	64	@Pacific	81
	94	NW Nazarene	55	40	@Cal Poly, SLO	38
	74	Oklahoma City&	61	73	Lewis & Clark St.	76
	90	Long Island U&	68	63	Idaho State*	64
	83	Oklahoma St.&	94	66	Weber State*	86
	57	Weber St.*	46	66	@East. Wash.	68
	75	Idaho State*	60	57	Idaho*	45
	63	@Nevada-Reno	59		@Montana State*	
	57	@Boise State*	45		@Montana*	
		@Montana*				
		@Montana State*				

&All-College Tournament

*Big Sky game

PLAYERS OF WEEK: Idaho's Brian Kellerman, 6-5 sophomore guard, was named the Big Sky's Player of the Week. He scored 38 points in road wins over Reno and Boise State. He also had 7 assists, 6 rebounds and 2 steals. UM's Montgomery nominated the entire Grizzly team for the award.

BIG SKY RANKINGS: Montana's Craig Zanon remains the Big Sky scoring leader (17.4). BSU's Eric Bailey (6-6, Jr.) is fourth at 16.4, and Idaho's Kellerman is 11th (14.8). Idaho has three players in the top 10 in field goal percentage. Phil Hopson (6-6, So.) leads at 64.1, Dan Forge is third at 62.3 and Kellerman is 8th at 54.5. Zanon is 6th (57.3). The Vandals also have three players ranked in free throw percentage. Ken Owens (6-0, Jr.) is 7th (74.2), Forge is 8th at 74.0 and Kellerman is 9th (72.0). Zanon is second at 83.3. BSU's Larry McKinney (6-10, Sr.) is 4th in rebounding, averaging 8.7. Hopson of UI is 5th at 8.1. Idaho leads in five team statistics: scoring offense and defense, scoring margin and field goal percentage offensively and defensively. They are nationally ranked in the last three categories.

BIG SKY STANDINGS:	Big Sky Conference	W	L	Overall	W	L
	Idaho	4	0		15	1
	Montana	4	0		11	5
	Montana St.	3	1		8	8
	Idaho State	2	2		8	7
	Nev-Reno	1	3		7	9
	Weber State	1	3		4	13
	N. Arizona	0	3		6	8
	Boise State	0	3		2	12

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE: Thursday, Jan. 22: Idaho State at NAU; Weber State at Reno.

(more)

GRIZZLIES RECORD-- add two

Friday, Jan. 23: Boise at MSU; Idaho at Montana. Saturday, Jan. 24:
Boise at Montana; Idaho at MSU; ISU at Reno; Weber at NAU.

GRIZ NOTES:

Zanon is 11th on the all-time scoring list with 872 career points. He has scored 278 thus far this season. Rod Brandon is shooting 75 percent from the field in conference games (18 of 24) and averaging 7.5 rebounds.

Zanon is averaging 19.8 points in conference games.

Montana has nine players averaging more than 15 minutes per game, and only one averaging more than 30 (Zanon, 31.8).

The Grizzlies have had nine different starters throughout the season. Montana leads its opponents in every category. The Grizzlies have taken 104 more free throw shots than opponents. Opponents have had 56 more field goal attempts.

Montana has six players averaging more than three rebounds a game, led by Brandon (5.3). Zanon is second (4.4)

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