

BIG SKY CONFERENCE



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*Junior Free Safety
Shann Schillinger
(Cary Shimek photo)*



The **Big Sky Conference** enters its 46th year of athletic competition in 2008-09. The Big Sky is an NCAA Division I member in all sports, with member institutions classified in the Football Championship Subdivision (formally I-AA). The Big Sky returned to a nine-team format in 2006 with the addition of Northern Colorado.

The current lineup includes Eastern Washington, Idaho State, Montana, Montana State, Northern Arizona, Northern Colorado, Portland State, Sacramento State and Weber State. The league has become one of the strongest Division I conferences in the West and is a national leader in the Football Championship Subdivision.

The **Big Sky Conference was established** in 1963 by six charter members - Idaho, Idaho State, Gonzaga, Montana, Montana State and Weber State. Those six schools formed the foundation of the Big Sky before the league expanded in 1970 by adding Boise State and Northern Arizona. Gonzaga left the Sky in 1979 and was replaced by Nevada, which gave the league eight members. The conference grew to nine schools in 1987 with the addition of Eastern Washington.

The **1990s saw change** in the makeup of the league, beginning in 1992 when Nevada departed and put the Big Sky back at eight teams. In 1996 Boise State and Idaho left and at the same time the conference added Portland State, Sacramento State and Cal State Northridge. The Big Sky maintained nine teams for five years before Cal State Northridge departed in the spring of 2001.

With the addition of **Northern Colorado**, the Big Sky spreads across eight states spanning from the Pacific Ocean to the Rocky Mountain Front. The Big Sky is represented along the entire west coast with schools in Washington, Oregon and California. League schools also range up and down the Rocky Mountains with institutions in Montana, Idaho, Utah, Arizona and now Colorado.

Of the eight western-most states in the contiguous United States only one, Nevada, is not represented in the Big Sky.

On Feb 25, 1963, the name Big Sky was adopted by the six presidents of the charter members as the name of the new conference. The name Big Sky originated in a novel written by the late A.B. (Bud) Guthrie of Great Falls, Mont., in 1947 entitled "The Big Sky." Jack Hollowell, a former Montana advertising director, promoted the Big Sky theme for the Treasure State. While on a track and field trip from Pocatello, Idaho, to Missoula, Mont., the legendary Dubby Holt of Idaho State saw a "Welcome to Big Sky Country" sign as his team entered Montana. Holt, and his athletes thought "Big Sky" would be a perfect name for the new conference. Harry Missildine of the Spokane Spokesman-Review called for the newly formed league to be named the Big Sky Conference in his column dated Feb. 20, 1963.

The **Big Sky sponsors** championships in 14 sports, including men's and women's cross country, indoor and outdoor track and field, basketball and tennis. In addition, there are also championships in football, and women's volleyball, golf and soccer.

The **2008-09 season** will mark the 21th year that the Big Sky Conference will sponsor championships in women's sports. The former Mountain West Conference existed from 1982-88, sponsoring championships for women's sports at the same institutions the Big Sky had men's programs. The Big Sky merged with the Mountain West in 1988, forming one league for both men and women.

Doug Fullerton, the fifth commissioner of the Big Sky Conference, will enter his 14th year at the helm. Fullerton took over the Big Sky on July 1, 1995, replacing longtime commissioner Ron Stephenson. Stephenson served the league for 14 years. Steve Belko was the commissioner from 1977-81 while John Roning held the post from 1971-77. The first league commissioner was Jack Friel, who served from 1963-71.



Big Sky Conference

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Doug Fullerton
 Commissioner



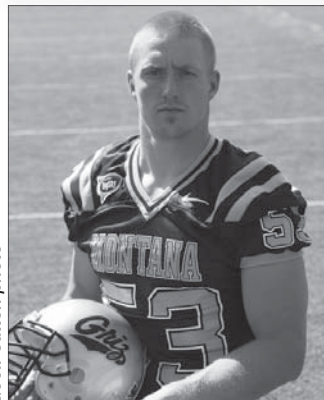
Ron Loghry
 Associate
 Commissioner



Jon Kasper
 Assistant
 Commissioner



Doug Toole
 Coord. of
 FB Officials



Kroy Biermann
 2007 Big Sky Defensive
 Player of the Year



Bobby Hauck
 2007 Big Sky Coach of the Year

Past Big Sky Champs Runnersup

1963	Idaho State (3-1)	Montana State (2-1)
1964	Montana State (3-0)	Idaho State(2-1)
1965	Weber State, Idaho (3-1)	Montana (2-2)
1966	Montana State (4-0)	Idaho (3-1)
1967	Montana State (4-0)	Montana, Weber State, Idaho (2-2)
1968	Weber State, Idaho, Montana State (3-1)	
1969	MONTANA (4-0)	Weber State (3-1)
1970	MONTANA (6-0)	Idaho State (4-2)
1971	Idaho (4-1)	Boise State (4-2)
1972	Montana State (5-1)	Idaho State (4-1)
1973	Boise State (6-0)	Montana State (5-1)
1974	Boise State (6-0)	Montana State (5-1)
1975	Boise State (5-0-1)	Idaho State, Montana State (4-2)
1976	Montana State (6-0)	Idaho (5-1)
1977	Boise State (6-0)	Northern Arizona (5-1)
1978	Northern Arizona	Montana, Montana State (4-2)
1979	Montana State (6-1)	Nevada (5-2)
1980	Boise State (6-1)	Idaho (4-3)
1981	Idaho State, Boise State (6-1)	Montana (5-2)
1982	MONTANA, Idaho, Montana State (5-2)	
1983	Nevada (6-1)	Idaho State (5-2)
1984	Montana State (6-1)	Nevada (5-2)
1985	Idaho (6-1)	Nevada (6-1)
1986	Nevada (7-0)	NAU, Idaho (5-2)
1987	Idaho (7-1)	Weber State (7-1)
1988	Idaho (7-1)	Montana (6-2)
1989	Idaho (8-0)	Montana (7-1)
1990	Nevada (7-1)	Idaho, Boise State (6-2)
1991	Nevada (8-0)	Montana (6-2)
1992	Idaho (6-1)	Eastern Washington (6-1)
1993	MONTANA (7-0)	Idaho, Eastern Washington (5-2)
1994	Boise State (6-1)	Montana, Idaho (5-2)
1995	MONTANA (6-1)	Boise State, Idaho, NAU, WSU (4-3)
1996	MONTANA (8-0)	Northern Arizona (7-1)
1997	Eastern Washington (7-1)	Montana (6-2)
1998	MONTANA (6-2)	Cal State Northridge, Montana State (5-3)
1999	MONTANA (7-1)	PSU, NAU, EWU (6-2)
2000	MONTANA (8-0)	Portland State, Sacramento State, Weber State (5-3)
2001	MONTANA (7-0)	Northern Arizona, Portland State (5-2)
2002	MONTANA, Idaho State, Montana State (5-2)	
2003	MONTANA, Montana State, Northern Arizona (5-2)	
2004	MONTANA, Eastern Washington (6-1).....	Montana State, Portland State (4-3)
2005	MONTANA, Eastern Washington, Montana State (5-2).....	PSU, WSU (4-3)
2006	MONTANA (8-0)	Montana State, Portland State (6-2)
2007	MONTANA (8-0)	Eastern Washington (6-2)

2007 Big Sky Conference Football Standings

Big Sky Games

	W	L	Pct.	PF	PA
Montana#	8	0	1.00	234	124
Eastern Washington	6	2	.750	258	149
Northern Arizona	5	3	.625	230	226
Montana State	4	4	.500	191	191
Weber State	4	4	.500	225	218
Portland State	3	5	.375	292	305
Sacramento State	3	5	.375	172	192
Idaho State	2	6	.250	196	273
Northern Colorado	1	7	.125	96	216

#Won regular-season title and automatic bid to playoffs

All Games

	W	L	Pct.	PF	PA
Montana	11	1	.917	377	168
Eastern Washington	9	4	.692	437	288
Northern Arizona	6	5	.545	322	305
Montana State	6	5	.545	266	239
Weber State	5	6	.455	299	324
Portland State	3	8	.273	338	418
Sacramento State	3	8	.273	201	305
Idaho State	3	8	.373	271	393
Northern Colorado	1	11	.083	136	415

2007 Montana Conference Players of the Week

- Sept. 3 - **Loren Utterback, LB**, Defense
 - Sept. 10 - **Cole Bergquist, QB**, Offense
 - Sept. 24 - **Cole Bergquist, QB**, Offense
Kroy Biermann, DE, Defense
 - Oct. 1 - **Dan Carpenter, K**, Special Teams
 - Oct. 15 - **Kroy Biermann* DE**, Defense
 - Oct. 22 - **Cole Bergquist, QB**, Offense
 - Nov. 12 - **Dan Carpenter, K**, Special Teams
 - Nov. 19 - **Dan Carpenter, K**, Special Teams
- *Co-defensive player

Big Sky Members

School	Location	Web Address
Eastern Washington	Cheney, Wash.	www.goeags.com
Idaho State	Pocatello, Idaho	www.isubengals.com
Montana	Missoula, Mont.	www.montanagrizzlies.com
Montana State	Bozeman, Mont.	www.msubobcats.com
Northern Arizona	Flagstaff, Ariz.	www.nauathletics.com
Northern Colorado	Greeley, Colo.	www.uncbears.com
Portland State	Portland, Ore.	www.goviks.com
Sacramento State	Sacramento, Calif.	www.hornetsports.com
Weber State	Ogden, Utah	www.weber.edu/ahtletics

Senior offensive tackle Brent Russum, Big Sky Conference first team, 2007.



Montana's First Team Big Sky Conference Selections - 1963-2007

1963

Pete Gotay, FB
 Jerry Luchau, OG
 Chris Pomajevich, WR

1964

Paul Connelly, HB
 Wayne Harrington, OC

1965

Terry Bergren, E
 Willie Jones, RB

1966

Warren Hill, Safety

1967

Bob Beers, ILB
 Bob Graham, DT
 Lon Howard, OT
 Larry Huggins, DE
 Bryan Magnuson, RB
 Mick O'Neill, Safety
 Herb White, OG, DE

1968

Bob Beers, ILB
 Tuufuli Uperesa, OT
 Herb White, OG, DE

1969

Arnie Blancas, RB
 Tim Gallagher, LB
 Bill Gutman, OT
 Les Kent, RB
 Larry Miller, DL
 Jim Nordstrom, DE
 Roy Robinson, DB
 John Stedham, OG
 Karl Stein, FS
 Larry Stranahan, DT
 Tuufuli Uperesa, OT

1970

Arnie Blancas, RB
 Larry Miller, DL
 Steve Okoniewski, OT
 Karl Stein, FS

1971

Steve Caputo, RB
 Steve Okoniewski, OT
 Ray Stachnick, OC

1972

Kit Blue, OC
 Barry Darrow, OG
 Mick Dennehy, Safety
 Leo LaRoche, DE
 Ron Rosenberg, ILB

1973

Sly Hardy, CB
 Dave Harrington, CB
 Steve Taylor, DE

1974

Greg Anderson, DB
 Sly Hardy, CB
 Ron Rosenberg*, ILB

1975

Greg Anderson, DB

1976

Greg Anderson, DB
 Paul Cooley, WR

1977

Monty Bullerdick, RB

1978

Guy Bingham, OL
 Greg Dunn, FS
 Steve Fisher, DT
 Allen Green, TE
 Sam Martin, DE

1979

Raul Allegre, K
 Kent Clausen, ILB
 Greg Dunn, FS
 Jim Hard, WR
 Sam Martin, DE

1981

Pat Curry, DE
 Jim Rooney, OT
 Mickey Sutton, CB/PR

1982

Tony Fudge, SS
 Ben Kiefer, OLB

1983

Brian Salonen, TE

1985

Mike Rice, WR/P

1986

Larry Clarkson, OT
 Mike Rice, WR/P

1987

Tony Breland, SS
 Scott Camper, DT
 Larry Clarkson, OT
 Pat Foster, DE
 Mike Rankin, ILB
 Bill Venard, OC

1988

J.C. Campbell, OLB
 Jody Farmer, RB/P/KOR
 Tim Hauck*, FS
 Mike Rankin, ILB
 Quinton Richardson, CB
 Kirk Scrafford, OG

1989

Dan Edwards, DE
 Jay Fagan, OG
 Jody Farmer, RB/P/KOR
 Tim Hauck*, FS
 Mike Rankin, ILB
 Kirk Scrafford, OG

1990

Rick Erps, OG
 Mike McGowan, OLB

1991

Todd Ericson, FS
 Chad Germer, OC
 Chad Lembke, ILB
 Kirk Murphy, DE
 Marvin Turk, WR

1992

Sam Davidson, DT
 Dan Downs, ILB
 Todd Ericson, FS
 Chad Lembke, ILB

1993

Dave Dickenson#, QB
 Dan Downs, ILB
 Carl Franks, CB/FS
 Scott Gurnsey, WR
 Frank Garrett, OG
 Kurt Schilling, OLB

1994

Keith Burke, CB
 Dave Dickenson#, QB
 Dan Downs, ILB
 Scott Gragg, OT

1995

Mike Agee, OG
 Mike Bouchee, LB
 Jason Crebo, LB
 Dave Dickenson#, QB
 Joe Douglass, WR/PR
 David Kempfert, OC
 Yohanse Manzanarez, DE
 Blaine McElmurry, FS
 Eric Simonson, OT
 Matt Wells, WR

1996

Mike Agee, OG
 Brian Ah Yat!, QB
 Jason Baker, OT
 Jason Crebo*, LB
 Joe Douglass, WR/PR
 Corey Falls, DE
 David Kempfert, OC
 Blaine McElmurry, FS

1997

Kelley Bryant, DT
 Jason Crebo, LB
 Justin Gaines, CB
 Brian Ah Yat#, QB
 Kelley Bryant, DT
 Scott Curry, OT
 Tyler Martin, DT
 Jeremy Watkins, WR

1999

Adam Boomer, LB
 Kelley Bryant, DT
 Vince Huntsberger*, SS
 Drew Miller ^, QB
 Chase Raynock, OT
 Thatcher Szalay, OG
 Jeremy Watkins, WR

2000

Adam Boomer, LB
 Calvin Coleman, CB
 Jimmy Farris, WR
 Andy Petek*, LB
 Thatcher Szalay, OG

2001

Calvin Coleman, CB
 John Fitzgerald, FB
 Spencer Frederick, TE
 Yohance Humphery, RB
 Vince Huntsberger*, SS
 Etu Molden, WR
 Chris Snyder, K
 Matt Steinau, OLB
 Thatcher Szalay, OG

2002

John Edwards!, QB
 Tim Bush, DE
 Blake Horgan, DT
 Dylan McFarland, OT
 Levander Segars, Returns
 Vernon Smith, CB
 Chris Snyder, K
 Trey Young*, FS

2003

Dylan McFarland, OT
 Jon Skinner, OG
 Brad Weston, FB
 Chris Snyder, K
 Brent Meyers, OLB
 Dave DeCoite, FS

2004

Cory Procter, OT
 Craig Ochs, QB
 Lex Hilliard, RB
 Mike Murphy, DE
 Shane MacIntyre, ILB
 J. Heidelberger, Special Teams

2005

Brad Rhoades, OT
 Lex Hilliard, RB
 Tuff Harris, Returns
 Alan Saenz, DT
 Brady Green, Special Teams

2006

Eric Allen, WR
 Cody Balogh, OT
 Colin Dow, OG
 Mike Murphy, DE
 Kroy Biermann, DE
 Torrey Thomas, FS
 Colt Anderson, SS/Spec. Teams

2007

Colt Anderson, SS
 Kroy Biermann*, DE
 Dan Carpenter, K
 Tyson Johnson, P
 J.D. Quinn, OG
 Brent Russum, OT
 Loren Utterback, LB

**Defensive MVP*

#Offensive MVP

!Offensive co-MVP

^ Newcomer of the Year