



Members of the Big Sky Conference. . .

- Eastern Washington
- Idaho State
- Montana
- Montana State
- Northern Arizona
- Portland State
- Sacramento State
- Weber State



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BIG SKY HISTORY

The 2004-2005 athletic season marks the 42nd year of the Big Sky Conference and has solidified itself as one of the strongest leagues in the West as well as the nation.

With its roots established in 1963, the Big Sky Conference began with six charter members: The University of Idaho, Idaho State University, Gonzaga University, The University of Montana, Montana State University and Weber State University.

On July 1, 1970, the league experienced its first expansion, adding Boise State University and Northern Arizona University to the fold to create an eight-member league. On July 1, 1979, charter member Gonzaga left the league and was replaced by the University of Nevada. In 1987, Eastern Washington was admitted to the league to create the first version of a nine-member Big Sky Conference. The University of Nevada's departure in 1992 moved the league to eight members until July 1, 1996 when both Boise State and Idaho left the Big Sky, but the three additional institutions moved the league into a nine-member scenario for the second time. Cal State Northridge entered the conference in 1996 and left it in the spring of 2001.

The Big Sky conference sponsors championships in 15 sports, including men's and women's cross country, golf, basketball, tennis, indoor track and field, outdoor track and field, in addition to football, women's volleyball and soccer. The Big Sky is a NCAA Division I member in all sports, with member institutions classified as I-AA in football.

The 2004-2005 athletic season marks the 16h year in which the Big Conference will sponsor championships in women's sports. Thirteen years ago the Big Sky Conference merged with the Mountain West Athletic Conference, forming one league for both men's and women's athletics. The Mountain West had been in existence since 1982, sponsoring championships for women's athletics at the same institutions the Big Sky had sponsored men's programs.

BIG SKY SCANS SEVEN STATES

The eight Big Sky Conference member institutions are located in seven states that span from the Pacific Ocean to the Rocky Mountains and from the Canadian to the Mexican borders. The entire west coast is now represented by the Big Sky with members in Washington, Oregon and California, and of the eight western-most states in the contiguous United States, only one (Nevada) does not contain a Big Sky member. League members can be found in Arizona, California, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington and Utah.

BIG SKY TRADITION

The name BIG SKY originated in a novel written in 1947 by the late A.B. (Bud) Guthrie of Great Falls, Mont., entitled *The Big Sky*. Jack Hallowell, former Montana advertising director, promoted the Big Sky theme for the Treasure State, and Harry Missildine of the Spokane (Wash.) *Spokesman-Review* called for the newly formed league to be named "The Big Sky Conference" in his column dated Feb. 20, 1963. Five days later, on Feb. 25, the name Big Sky was adopted by the six presidents of the newly formed league.

On July 1, 1995, Doug Fullerton became the fifth commissioner of the Big Sky Conference. Fullerton replaced longtime commissioner Ron Stephenson, who retired after 14 years in the position. The first commissioner of the Big Sky was Jack Friel, who served from the league's inception until 1971. After Friel, John Roning directed the conference for six years until 1977 when Steve Belko assumed the commissioner's role. Belko was with the league for five years.

2003 Big Sky Conference Football Standings

Big Sky Games

	W	L	PCT	PF	PA
Montana State*	5	2	.714	197	118
Montana#	5	2	.714	240	122
Northern Arizona#	5	2	.714	233	192
Weber State	4	3	.571	183	165
Idaho State	4	3	.571	224	260
Eastern Washington	3	4	.429	230	247
Portland State	1	6	.143	105	214
Sacramento State	1	6	.143	117	211

*Received Big Sky's automatic bid to I-AA playoffs
#Earned at-large berth to I-AA playoffs

All Games

	W	L	PCT	PF	PA
Montana State	7	6	.538	330	215
Montana	9	4	.692	430	266
Northern Arizona	9	4	.692	409	305
Weber State	8	4	.667	325	241
Idaho State	8	4	.667	394	423
Eastern Washington	6	5	.545	344	321
Portland State	4	7	.364	220	327
Sacramento State	2	9	.182	237	332

2003 Montana Conference Players of the Week

- Sept. 1 - **Levander Segars**, Special Teams
- Sept. 29 - **Chris Snyder**, Special Teams
- Oct. 13 - **Chris Snyder**, Special Teams
- Oct. 20 - **Chris Snyder**, Special Teams
 - Nov. 3 - **Levander Segars**, Special Teams
 - Nov. 10 - **Dave DeCoite**, Defense
 - Nov. 17 - **Justin Green**, Offense



Past Big Sky Champs Runnersup

1963	Idaho State (3-1)	MSU (2-1)
1964	Montana State (3-0)	ISU (2-1)
1965	WSU, Idaho (3-1)	Montana (2-2)
1966	Montana State (4-0)	Idaho (3-1)
1967	Montana State (4-0)	Montana, WSU, Idaho (2-2)
1968	WSU, Idaho, MSU (3-1)	
1969	MONTANA (4-0)	WSU (3-1)
1970	MONTANA (6-0)	ISU (4-2)
1971	Idaho (4-1)	Boise State (4-2)
1972	Montana State (5-1)	Idaho State (4-1)
1973	Boise State (6-0)	MSU (5-1)
1974	Boise State (6-0)	MSU (5-1)
1975	Boise State (5-0-1)	ISU, MSU (4-2)
1976	Montana State (6-0)	Idaho (5-1)
1977	Boise State (6-0)	NAU (5-1)
1978	Northern Arizona	Montana, MSU (4-2)
1979	Montana State (6-1)	Nevada (5-2)
1980	Boise State (6-1)	Idaho (4-3)
1981	ISU, BSU (6-1)	Montana (5-2)
1982	MONTANA, Idaho, MSU (5-2)	
1983	Nevada (6-1)	ISU (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, BSU (6-2)
1991	Nevada (8-0)	Montana (6-2)
1992	Idaho (6-1)	EWU (6-1)
1993	MONTANA (7-0)	Idaho, EWU (5-2)
1994	Boise State (6-1)	Montana, UI (5-2)
1995	MONTANA (6-1)	BSU, UI, NAU, WSU (4-3)
1996	MONTANA (8-0)	Northern Arizona (7-1)
1997	Eastern Washington (7-1)	Montana (6-2)
1998	MONTANA (6-2)	Northridge, MSU (5-3)
1999	MONTANA (7-1)	PSU, NAU, EWU (6-2)
2000	MONTANA (8-0)	PSU, Sac State, WSU (5-3)
2001	MONTANA (7-0)	NAU, PSU (5-2)
2002	MONTANA, ISU, MSU (5-2)	
2003	MONTANA, MSU NAU (5-2)	

Chris Snyder

2003 Big Sky Football Attendance

All Games			
Team	G	Total	Avg.
Eastern Washington	11	113,641	10,331
Idaho State	12	118,804	9,900
Montana	12	214,341	17,862
Montana State	12	120,685	10,057
Northern Arizona	11	137,082	12,462
Portland State	11	118,329	10,757
Sacramento State	11	102,484	9317
Weber State	12	113,884	9,490
Totals	92	1,039,250	11,296

Home Games			
Team	G	Total	Avg.
Eastern Washington	5	30,909	6,182
Idaho State	6	45,451	7,575
Montana	7	163,532	23,362
Montana State	6	72,352	12,059
Northern Arizona	5	45,739	9,148
Portland State	6	37,561	6,260
Sacramento State	6	41,078	6,846
Weber State	7	50,995	7,285
Totals	48	487,617	10,159

Home High-Opponent		
Eastern Washington	7,891	Montana State
Idaho State	11,434	Montana
Montana	23,687	Cal Poly
Montana State	15,087	Montana
Northern Arizona	12,281	Montana
Portland State	10,519	Texas A&M
Sacramento State	15,403	UC Davis
Weber State	10,311	Southern Utah

Big Sky Team Leaders Among NCAA Div. I-AA Rankings

The Conference leaders and their NCAA ranking

Category	School	Statistic	NCAA Rank
Rushing Offense	Weber State	203.2 yards/game	23rd
Passing Offense	Idaho State	299.6 yards/game	6th
Total Offense	Northern Arizona	428.5 yards/game	13th
Scoring Offense	Idaho State	32.8 points/game	19th
Rushing Defense	Montana	89.9 yards/game	4th
Pass Defense	Montana State	165.5 yards/game	16th
Total Defense	Montana State	282.1 yards/game	7th
Scoring Defense	Montana State	15.0 points/game	5th
Punting	Montana	37.5 net average	9th
Punt Returns	Montana State	15.6 average	4th
Kickoff Returns	Montana	29.2 average	1st
Turnover Margin	Northern Arizona	+1.18 margin/game	7th



Justin Green, 2003 Conference Newcomer of the Year