

# 1995 Championship Photo Album



An aerial view of Marshall Stadium



Dave Dickenson searches for an open man; Josh Branen (21) holds off one of two Marshall pass rushers.



The "Butte Connection" of Randy Riley, left, and Brian Toone force a safety by Marshall QB Chad Pennington.



"It's good!" Andy Larson hits from 48 yards against Marshall.



Ryan Thompson and David Sirmon corral Chris Parker.



The Griz show off their hardware to thousands of delirious fans who welcomed them home at the Missoula airport.



Joe Douglass sprints for yardage against Marshall. He caught 8 passes for 102 yards in the title game.



## TEAM ROSTER



NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	CLASS	HOMETOWN
1	Nathan Dolan	WR	5-7	165	Jr.	Billings, Mont.
2	Justin Hazel	CB	6-1	190	Jr.	Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.
4	Mike Wilson	WR	5-7	160	Sr.	Wahiawa, Hawaii
5	Matt Wells	WR-PK	5-9	160	Sr.	Ashland, Ore.
6	Justin Gaines	CB	5-10	175	Fr.	Niceville, Fla.
8	Mike Erhardt	WR	6-4	205	Jr.	Eugene, Ore.
9	Sean Gicoechea	SS	6-1	205	Jr.	Stevensville, Mont.
14	Ryan Palma	FS	6-1	205	Sr.	Canby, Ore.
15	Dave Dickenson	QB	5-11	175	Sr.	Great Falls, Mont.
16	Brian Ah Yat	QB	6-1	180	Fr.	Honolulu, Hawaii
17	Josh Paffhausen	QB	6-0	175	So.	Butte, Mont.
19	Mike Temple	CB	5-10	180	Sr.	San Diego, Calif.
21	Josh Branan	RB	5-7	185	So.	Moscow, Idaho
23	Joe Douglass	WR	6-0	180	Jr.	Salem, Ore.
25	Trevor Utter	WR	6-1	180	Fr.	Eureka, Mont.
26	Chase Greene	WR	6-0	170	Sr.	Deer Park, Wash.
27	Jake Dennehy	FS	6-0	180	So.	Missoula, Mont.
28	Justin Olsen	WR	5-10	170	Fr.	Helena, Mont.
30	Kelly Stenrud	RB	6-1	190	Sr.	Missoula, Mont.
32	Dallas Neil	P	6-3	200	Fr.	Great Falls, Mont.
33	Brian Gates	RB	5-9	170	Fr.	Richland, Wash.
34	Blaine McElmurry	FS	6-0	195	Jr.	Troy, Mont.
35	Mike Kowalski	OLB	5-11	203	Sr.	Cut Bank, Mont.
37	Jason Grebo	ILB	6-3	225	So.	Helena, Mont.
38	Larry Tofanelli	WR	5-11	170	Sr.	Stockton, Calif.
40	Chris Morton	RB	5-10	223	Sr.	San Jose, Calif.
41	Mark Hampe	LB	6-2	224	Jr.	Great Falls, Mont.
42	Mike Bouchee	LB	6-2	231	Jr.	Missoula, Mont.
43	Randy Riley	DE	6-3	240	Jr.	Butte, Mont.
44	Josh Remington	SS	6-1	195	So.	Kalispell, Mont.
45	David Sirmon	OLB	6-1	220	Jr.	Walla Walla, Wash.
46	Greg Fitzgerald	ILB	6-0	222	So.	Columbus, Mont.
47	Andy Larson	PK	6-1	180	Jr.	Helena, Mont.
48	Joe Lehman	DE	6-3	225	So.	Coos Bay, Ore.
50	Y. Manzanarez	DE	6-3	267	Sr.	Great Falls, Mont.
52	Dave Hoit	OG	6-1	290	Fr.	Coeur d'Alene, Idaho
54	Randy Alik	DT	6-2	260	Fr.	Missoula, Mont.
55	Eric Buehler	DE	6-3	230	Fr.	Butte, Mont.
56	Eric Simonson	OT	6-5	290	Sr.	Plentywood, Mont.
57	Troy Lucas	OG	6-3	260	Sr.	Canby, Ore.
58	Eric Hart	LB	6-0	202	So.	Shenandoah, Va.
60	Mike Agee	OG	6-4	285	Jr.	Kalispell, Mont.
61	Scott Curry	OT	6-5	250	Fr.	Valier, Mont.
62	David Kempfert	OC	6-4	278	Jr.	Missoula, Mont.
69	Troy Casper	OT	6-4	260	So.	Billings, Mont.
70	Marty Duffin	DT	6-2	270	Sr.	Idaho Falls, Idaho
71	Bob Fenton	OG	6-4	270	Sr.	Medford, Ore.
73	Jeff Zellick	OG	6-5	290	Jr.	Springfield, Ore.
75	Jason Baker	OT	6-7	300	So.	Coos Bay, Ore.
85	David Henkel	K	5-10	170	Fr.	Lake Mary, Fla.
87	Eleu Kane	WR	5-10	165	Fr.	Honolulu, Hawaii
88	Raul Pacheco	WR	5-9	170	Fr.	Honolulu, Hawaii
89	Brian Toone	DT	6-2	275	Jr.	Butte, Mont.
90	Corey Falls	DE	6-2	244	Jr.	Medford, Ore.
93	Ryan Thompson	DT	6-4	275	Jr.	Missoula, Mont.
95	Marc Bebout	TE	6-4	230	Sr.	Riverton, Wyo.
97	Mike Lorentz	DE-DT	6-4	260	Fr.	Thornton, Colo.
98	Wade Scates	DT	6-3	240	So.	Spokane, Wash.
99	Eric Manzanarez	DT	6-3	230	Fr.	Great Falls, Mont.



# 1995 Tourney Bracket

## November 25

Northern Iowa 35

Murray State 34

Jackson State 8

Marshall 38

Hofstra 17

Delaware 38

Idaho 3

McNeese 33

Eastern Illinois 29

Stephen F. Austin 34

James Madison 24

Appalachian State 31

Georgia Southern 24

Troy State 21

Eastern Kentucky 0

Montana 48

## December 2

Northern Iowa 24

Marshall 41

Delaware 18

McNeese 52

Stephen F. Austin 27

Appalachian State 17

Georgia Southern 0

Montana 45

## The University of Montana National Champions

## December 9

Marshall 25

McNeese 13

## December 16

Marshall 20

Montana 22

Stephen F. Austin 14

Montana 70

# Stories from the Eastern Kentucky Game

The following articles were taken from the Missoulian.

## University of Montana vs. Eastern Kentucky (48-0)

### Grizzlies D-mote Colonels

#### RIAL CUMMINGS of the Missoulian

Sunday November 26th, 1995

Eastern Kentucky's I-formation offense came to Missoula in a plain brown wrapper Saturday - and left in a body bag.

On paper, EKU lacked flash but had plenty of substance: A former Georgia Tech quarterback, Tommy Luginbill, who ranked fourth in the Atlantic Coast Conference in passing last year; an NFL prospect in 6-foot-4, 240-pound Jason Dunn; a study line anchored by first-team All-America guard James Hand; three powerful backs who averaged a combined 220 rushing yards per game.

What happened? Montana demoted the Colonels to buck privates in a 48-0 crushing at wet Washington-Grizzly Stadium. Montana took the 14th-ranked offense in Division I-AA football and turned it into mud pie.

Kentucky folk hero Daniel Boone is said to have once slain a bear and carved the exploit as "kilt a bar" on a tree trunk. This time, the "bar" did the "kilting."

Montana recovered five fumbles en route to its first shutout of the season. EKU had 137 yards of total offense - the second-lowest total by an opponent in Montana coach Don Read's 10 seasons.

The same Montana defense that surrendered 175 yards rushing to Montana State last week gave up just 41 on 25 carries. Well, there was one difference: linebacker Jason Crebo, the runner-up in the Big Sky Conference player of the year voting, hardly played because of an injured shoulder.

"Their defense played better than I thought it would," said EKU coach Roy Kidd. "I think a dry field would've helped us in our run game. But their defense played good, they really did."

In place of Crebo's slashing containment, Montana offered the power of 6-foot-3, 257-pound senior Yohanse Manzanarez, who moved back into the middle from his usual defensive end position.

"(Eastern) Kentucky has a really good power running game," said Montana strong safety Sean Goicoechea, who had a team-high four solo tackles and broke up two passes. "They have a lot of size up front, and to combat that you have to beef it up on the inside."

Goicoechea, a junior from Stevensville, said Montana State's success caught UM's attention.

"We went down to Bozeman and kind of got rolled on defense the way they ran the ball," Goicoechea said. "We knew if we couldn't stop the run, it was going to be a long day. The front seven really came out and played well."

Montana coach Don Read said the key was Montana's work on first down.

"One of the things we were scared of coming in is they could run or throw," Read said. "We did a nice job on first down, which made them more predictable."

Read, ahead 48-0 at halftime, substituted liberally in the second half. But Montana's second- and third-string defenders didn't budge. EKU recovered fumbles at the Montana 33 and 49, but couldn't turn either into points. The Colonels' deepest penetration reached the 28 midway through the fourth quarter, but that threat ended on Mike Lorentz's fourth-down sack of backup quarterback Greg Crouch.

Luginbill, who was just 9 of 20 passing for 75 yards, didn't offer the wet conditions as an excuse.

"I just don't think we executed very well," Luginbill said. "When you have five turnovers in the first half alone, that just kills you. Football is about blocking, tackling, and protecting the football, and I don't think we did a very good job of all three."

Grizzly Summary  
E.Kentucky 0 0 0 0 - 0  
Montana 21 27 0 0 - 48

How they scored

#### FIRST QUARTER

Montana - Josh Branen 1 run (Andy Larson kick), 13:02. Drive: six plays, 33 yards. Key plays: ECU QB Tommy Luginbill fumbles on first play and Ryan Thompson recovers. Dave Dickenson completes 17-yard pass to Joe Douglass to the ECU 3. UM 7, ECU 0.

Montana - Branen 1 run (Larson kick), 8:48. Drive: six plays, 66 yards. Key plays: Dickenson completes consecutive first-down passes to Branen, Matt Wells, Douglass and Wells again. UM 14, ECU 0.

Montana - Douglass 19 pass from Dave Dickenson (Larson kick), 3:46. Drive: nine plays, 90 yards. Key play: Branen picks up 5 yards on third-and-1, the only third down faced on the drive. UM 21, ECU 0.

#### SECOND QUARTER

Montana - Larson 37 FG, 10:56. Drive: 10 plays, 68 yards. Key play: Dickenson hits Mike Erhardt with a 30-yard pass to the ECU 29. UM 24, ECU 0.

Montana - Brian Gales 1 run (Larson kick), 7:21. Drive: four plays, 33 yards. Key plays: Mike Bouchee recovers Luginbill's fumble at the ECU 33. Dickenson fields a bad snap 15 yards behind the line of scrimmage and manages a 17-yard pass to Douglass.

UM 31, ECU 0.

Montana - Dickenson 1 run (Larson kick), 4:58. Drive: six plays, 52 yards. Key plays: Yohanse Manzanarez recovers Jason Dunn's fumble at the UM 48. Dickenson completes passes of 16, 15 and 23 yards to Nathan Dolan, Douglass and Wells. UM 38, ECU 0.

Montana - Eleu Kane 29 pass from Dickenson (Larson kick), 1:10. Drive: two plays, 47 yards. Key play: Dickenson scrambles for 18 yards to set up TD pass. UM 45, ECU 0.

Montana - Larson 35 FG, :06. Drive: six plays, 32 yards. Key play: Josh Remington recovers a Rondel Menendez fumble on the UM 43. Dickenson hits Dolan with a 30-yard pass. UM 48, ECU 0.

DEE-fense

Coach Don Read's Montana Grizzlies have held the following teams to less than 200 yards of total offense:

Thomas More, 1990 35  
\*Eastern Kentucky, 1995 137  
Eastern Washington, 1988 152  
Eastern Washington, 1987 154  
Montana State, 1987 159  
Cal Poly-SLO, 1994 161  
Humboldt State, 1991 161  
Montana State, 1989 161  
\*Jackson State, 1989 165  
Eastern New Mexico, 1988 179  
Boise State, 1991 191  
Montana State, 1992 193  
Chico State, 1992 199

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**Being an Eastern Kentucky fan isn't always easy**

**GARY JAHRIG** of the Missoulian  
Sun 26-Nov-1995

Being an Eastern Kentucky Colonel fan can be rewarding, but also expensive.

With the Colonels qualifying for the Division I-AA playoffs every year but one since 1979, hard-core fans have been forced to travel throughout the country just to keep up with their favorite team. Since 1979, Eastern Kentucky has played 30 playoff games in 14 different states. Those games include national championship victories in Orlando, Fla., and Wichita Falls, Texas. Previous trips west for the Colonels included games in Boise and Sacramento.

"You just plan on going somewhere every year," said Mike Mavity, who has followed the Colonels for more than 35 years. "If I can get away, I go with the team."

Mavity was one of about 45 diehard Colonel fans who caught the 1,600-mile flight to Missoula to watch their team play Saturday against the Grizzlies. The trip on the EKV charter airplane cost each fan about \$425, according to David Parke, the EKV athletic business manager.

Richard and Margaret Woodside, whose son Jason is a senior defensive back for the Colonels, said they have followed the team on the road for the past five years. But never have their travels taken them as far from their Lawrenceburg, Ky., home.

"He's a senior and the way it's going, this will be his last game," Richard Woodside said, as he watched Montana rack up a 48-0 halftime lead. "We haven't missed a game in five years."

"This is by far the farthest and most expensive trip," added Margaret Woodside. "It's a big expense, but it's worth it, even if they are getting slaughtered."

Some Colonel fans even felt comfortable in Washington-Grizzly Stadium.

"We found really strong hospitality here," said Skip Daugherty, EKV's dean of student development and a former Colonel player. "Other places people have been really rude. But not here. Two of the last places we went - Youngstown and Marshall - there were nothing but rude fans."

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## Muddied meanings seem to come clear in the rinsing rains

### Bob Meseroll of the Missoulian

Sun 26-Nov-1995

There was talk of mudders and mothers.

Of bad bounces and lucky hops.

Of lessons learned and opportunities lost.

Gray, drizzly days are good for introspection. Philosophy was oozing like mud through cleats following Montana's 48-0 win over Eastern Kentucky Saturday on the sodden turf of Washington-Grizzly Stadium.

No topic received as much attention as the slick stadium turf. Everyone wanted to know what role the muck and mire played in Eastern Kentucky's five lost fumbles, four of which led directly to Grizzly scores. And was that the reason Eastern's powerful running game was held to a measly 41 yards for the game?

"When you've got a field like that and their receivers know where they're running and we don't, the advantage is to them," Eastern Kentucky coach Roy Kidd theorized following the game. "That's the worst (weather) we've played in (this year). That's the worst we ever played and the weather, too."

Montana coach Don Read is in the we-had-to-play-in-it-too camp.

"You can make a lot of the field, but look at it this way," Read said. "We go into a dome, and there's lights in a dome, you're not even outside and there's no wind, and we have to adjust. We go to an astroturf field, and we have to adjust. So to me, part of football is adjusting. There's factors you have to deal with, but they're overplayed in my opinion."

Oh, and about Read's mother. Read said she was upset she couldn't watch her son's game on TV, another topic of much discussion before the game.

Colonel fans, too, were disappointed by the lack of a broadcast back to Richmond. Take heart. Things started ugly and only got worse.

“We came out of the blocks and got a couple of good breaks,” Grizzly strong safety Sean Goicoechea said referring to Eastern's fumble on its opening play of the game.

Six plays later, the Griz scored the winning touchdown.

Then things got really bad. Eastern could do no right, and Montana could do no wrong. Even when things went appeared wrong for Montana \_ like a bad snap over the heads of everyone \_ Dave Dickenson found a way to make it right, turning it into a 17-yard pass play.

All the Grizzlies or the shellshocked Colonels could do was go with the flow. Events had taken on a momentum of their own.

“We're not 48 points better than those guys, no question,” Read said. “Sometimes that football just bounces in your direction. It sure did today. So many things turned our way.”

That fact wasn't lost on Eastern Kentucky quarterback Tommy Luginbill who, like every senior on the field, faced the prospect of playing in his final game. Luginbill accepted the defeat with class and humility.

“For seniors like myself, it's an ugly way to go out,” Luginbill said. “But sometimes these are the games that you learn a lot about life in, about the character of different people under adversity. Those are the things you take with you and move on with.

“Eastern's program ... the tradition of winning is so strong that the young guys on this team, I think, know how to keep it going.”

After the last fumble, the last touchdown pass, the last soggy tackle, the Colonels knelt in the ankle-deep quagmire at midfield. They invited the Griz to join, and slowly but surely they did. The teams offered a prayer together, then the Colonels wished the Griz the best of luck next week.

“Their team came up to us and wanted us to get in on it,” Goicoechea said. “You realize it goes beyond the game of football, there's something else out there, too. I was glad to see that.”

Amen.

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## **Grizzlies pop Colonels, 48-0**

### **Soggy shutout sets up rematch with old nemesis**

**KIM BRIGGEMAN of the Missoulian**

Sun 26-Nov-1995

Everything clicked in the cosmos for the Montana Grizzlies on Saturday.

For those who couldn't watch along on television as UM thrashed Eastern Kentucky 48-0 in the first round of the NCAA Division I-AA football playoffs:

Mud-bedeveled Eastern Kentucky fumbled on the first play from scrimmage, and six more times in the first half.

A sick Dave Dickenson turned a Keystone Cop fumble into yet another Kreskin play, hitting Joe Douglass to set up one of UM's six touchdowns in the first half.

Montana's defense pitched its first shutout of the season, even without star linebacker Jason Crebo, who apparently separated a shoulder at Montana State last week.

And 1,750 miles away in southern Alabama, Georgia Southern intercepted a pass in the end zone 15 minutes after the Missoula game ended. It meant the Grizzlies won't have to fly 1,750 miles to southern Alabama next weekend.

How's that for a cool cosmos?

Georgia Southern edged third-seeded Troy State 24-21. The Eagles, who trounced UM 45-15 in the 1989 semifinals in Statesboro, Ga., will show up in Washington-Grizzly Stadium on Saturday at 12:05 p.m. for the quarterfinals.

It'll be Georgia Southern's first trip west of the Mississippi, other than to national championship games in Tacoma in 1985 and in Pocatello, Idaho, in 1988.

Saturday's winner moves on to the semifinals against the winner of Appalachian State-Stephen F. Austin in Boone, N.C. If Montana wins and Austin does too, the Grizzlies will host a semifinal game for the first time.

"They could go a long way in this," ECU coach Roy Kidd said. "Anybody that can put the points on the board like they can certainly is capable of going a long way \_ maybe even winning it."

"That's one of the finer passing teams we've ever played against," the 32nd-year Colonel coach added. "Their quarterback is unreal."

Only days before ballots are due for the Walter Payton Award, Dickenson had a temperature of 101 degrees on Friday night. On game day he felt weak but not overly sick with a bug that hit eight Grizzlies, according to UM coach Don Read.

Dickenson passed for 399 of his 441 yards in the first half and picked the tentative Colonel defense to shreds.

"He's so right so much of the time," Read marveled.

Douglass, coming off a 13-catch day at Montana State, had nine of his 10 receptions in the first half.

Montana's 48 points, all scored in two quarters, were the most allowed by Eastern Kentucky in years \_ probably since 1972.

Montana scored on eight of nine possessions before intermission. Three touchdowns and a field goal came after turnovers by the Ohio Valley Conference runner-up. The Grizzlies finished with 590 yards, 468 of them before halftime.

"Certainly the offense was impressive with the yards they had and their success," Read said. "But this (Eastern Kentucky) is a team that's very powerful. I just can't say enough about our defense today."

Eastern Kentucky managed just 137 total yards, second fewest by a Grizzly opponent in Read's 10-year tenure. The fewest? Thirty-five yards in 1990, by notorious Thomas More, the only other Kentucky team Montana has played.

Rototilling fumbles, stuffing Colonel tailbacks Daymon Carter and William Murrell, shadowing receiver Dialleo Burks and Bobby Washington \_ it was close enough to a perfect performance by Grizzly defenders old and, in the second half, young.

Quarterback Tommy Luginbill hit just 9 of 20 passes for 75 yards before leaving in the fourth quarter.

"Their defense played better than I thought they would," Kidd said. "I think a dry field would have helped us in our run game, I don't think there's any doubt about that. But their defense played good, they really did."

Eastern Kentucky's first mistake wasn't Grizzly- or mud-induced.

The Colonels started their first drive on their 34. After one snap, it was Montana's ball on the ECU 33. Ryan Thompson recovered the fumble.

"Give their crowd credit," Kidd said. "Our kids couldn't hear the snap count. Our center (Son Tran) was right there with him (Luginbill) and snapped the ball prematurely."

"I really couldn't tell you what happened," Luginbill said. "I remember the ball shooting straight up in the air, and after that I lost it. It got hit by somebody and they recovered it."

Six plays later, Josh Branen scaled the middle of the line for the first touchdown from a yard out.

ECU punted, and Dickenson completed consecutive passes of 29, 10, 11 and 8 yards as the Colonels' hapless pass defense became apparent. Branen, starting for injured Kelly Stensrud, again scored from a yard out.

The Colonels did little blitzing, instead concentrating on keeping Grizzly receivers well in front of them. Dickenson was rarely hit.

“Some of the things we tried defensively sounded good,” Kidd said. “But they just didn't work.”

Dickenson threw his first TD pass, to Douglass, from 19 yards out to make it 21-0. It became 24-0 on a 37-yard field goal by Andy Larson, who had six PATs and two field goals to become UM's second leading career scorer.

Midway through the second quarter, UM center David Kempfert's direct snap to Brian Gales flew over his head. Dickenson and Gales dashed for it, and Dickenson picked the ball up some 15 yards behind the line of scrimmage.

He charged downfield, then feathered a pass to Douglass on the 10-yard line. A Colonel defender arrived a moment too late, and Douglass reached the 1-yard line. Gales got the score from there.

“I know (Dickenson) was fighting Gales for the ball,” Read said with a chuckle. “The ball was loose and he kept saying, ‘I got it, I got it.’ I was hoping Gales would've picked it up, but he might've even pushed Gales. I can't wait to see the film.”

“It just seems like when things go right...”

MONTANA 48, EASTERN KENTUCKY 0

Attendance: 13,830

Records: Montana 10-2, Eastern Kentucky 9-3

Conditions: Low 40s, slight wind, light rain in second half

Time of game: 2 hours, 51 minutes

Saturday's stars:

For UM, safety Sean Goicoechea paced the defense to its first shutout of the season with six tackles and two pass deflections. Dave Dickenson, in one half plus one series, hit 31 of 39 passes for 441 yards, no interceptions and two touchdowns. He also rushed for a TD. Joe Douglass had 10 catches for 146 yards and a touchdown. Josh Branen, in his first start at halfback, scored twice and accounted for 118 yards rushing and passing.

For Eastern Kentucky, LB Tony McCombs had 13 tackles and LB Britt Bowen added 10 stops and recovered a fumble. Dialleo Burks caught five passes for 71 yards. Marc Collins averaged 40.6 yards on seven punts.

Next Saturday: Montana hosts Georgia Southern at 12:05 p.m. in the quarterfinals of the Division I-AA playoffs.

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## **Creamed Colonels**

### **Griz zero in on No. 1**

**By GARY JAHRIG of the Missoulian**

Sun 26-Nov-1995

The Montana Grizzlies made the most of a holiday weekend home stand Saturday by drubbing the Eastern Kentucky Colonels 48-0, setting up an encore playoff game next Saturday at Washington-Grizzly Stadium against Georgia Southern.

The 14th-seeded Eagles, 9-3 on the season, helped the Grizzlies earn a second home playoff game by knocking off third-seeded Troy State, 24-21. If Troy State had won, sixth-seeded Montana would have traveled to Alabama for next week's quarterfinal game.

“Playoff history will tell you the home team has a big advantage,” Grizzly coach Don Read said after the game. “I see us coming into the next game in real good physical and mental shape.”

Montana, as has been the case all season, was led Saturday by senior quarterback Dave Dickenson, who completed 31 of 39 passes for 441 yards and two touchdowns. Dickenson, who played despite suffering from a case of the flu, also ran for a 1-yard touchdown as Montana remained undefeated at home over the past two seasons.

Josh Branen rushed for two touchdowns and Brian Gales added another on the ground, all from 1 yard out. Joe Douglass, who hauled in 10 passes for 146 yards, caught a 19-yard touchdown pass, while Eleu Kane scored Montana's last touchdown on a 29-yard pass play. Andy Larson rounded out the Grizzly scoring, all of which came in the first half, by booting field goals of 37 and 35 yards.

The Montana defense forced five fumbles in the first half and limited the Colonels' offense to 137 yards and eight first downs.

Tickets for next week's 12:05 p.m. game against Georgia Southern will go on sale Monday at 8 a.m. Season ticket holders and University of Montana students have until Wednesday at 5 p.m. to secure their seats. Reserved seats will sell for \$13, with end zone seats going for \$9 for adults and \$6 for students.

To purchase tickets by telephone, call 243-4051 or 1-800-526-3400.

University of Montana linebacker David Sirmon celebrates the Grizzlies' 48-0 victory over Eastern Kentucky Saturday in Missoula. The game marked the first shutout for the Grizzly defense.

## Stories from the Georgia Southern Game

The following articles were taken from the Missoulian.

### Griz `Mountain Men' are tough mudders ..

**KIM BRIGGEMAN of the Missoulian**

Sat 02-Dec-1995

Hey, Mike Agee will say it.

Sure, the mud helped keep Dave Dickenson clean in Montana's 48-0 rout of Eastern Kentucky last week.

"I think the field might have had something to do with that, maybe more than we'd like to believe," the Grizzlies' all-conference offensive guard said. "I think it's harder for D-linemen to get a rush. They have to get around us.

"We just kind of hold our ground, so they're pushing off and peeling out, and chunks of turf are flying out."

Agee will take that edge.

At 6-foot-5, 285 pounds, he's one of the "mountain men" Georgia Southern's front has to deal with in today's quarterfinal match in similarly soggy conditions.

Most often he'll likely see Eagle tackle Hughie Hunt, a 5-foot-11, 269-pound senior. Hunt is backed up by 310-pound freshman Ron Logan.

Hunt told reporters in Georgia this week the Eagles should win if they can sack Dickenson eight times. That's a lofty goal, the way Agee and the rest of Montana's line are blocking lately.

Dickenson hasn't been sacked eight times since the 1994 season in Boise. But there was a spate of games in midseason when he was getting dumped five or more times each Saturday.

In the last three weeks, Eastern Washington got to him once, Montana State twice and Eastern Kentucky once.

Not coincidentally, the Grizzlies averaged 51 points in those three games.

Is this the Air Read offense at optimal performance level?

"It might be," said Agee, who'll probably make a few All-America teams in the next few weeks. "We can always do things better, but I think at this time we're sort of doing our thing, I think the best we have in three years. Everybody's playing real well."

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### Georgia Southern 45, Griz 15 Ex-Griz still feel sting of '89

**Loss haunts Scrafford, Bennett**

**RIAL CUMMINGS of the Missoulian**

Sat 02-Dec-1995

Kirk Scrafford has few holes in in his illustrious football career.

But there's a gaping one: Dec. 9, 1989, the day Montana lost 45-15 at Georgia Southern in the semifinals of the NCAA Division I-AA playoffs.

"I wish I could play it again," said Scrafford, an All-America guard for the Grizzlies who starts for the defending Super Bowl champion San Francisco 49ers. "I think back on that game a lot, how disappointed we all were. When you're one step away from playing for a national championship... I would've loved to have played them in Montana."

The 1995 Grizzlies get that chance today in the national quarterfinals before a sellout crowd and a statewide TV audience.

There's some unfinished business in Grizzlyville, and guys like Scrafford and Grady Bennett, the record-setting quarterback of that 11-3 team, have passed the torch to guys like Mike Agee and Dave Dickenson.

Bennett's reaction when he learned that Georgia Southern would get some northern exposure?

"Wow," said Bennett, who coaches high school football and basketball in his hometown of Kalispell. "I know for the current players, the fact that it's Georgia Southern probably isn't a big deal. But for me, the revenge factor is huge."

The 1989 Grizzlies were one of the best teams in school history, packed with home-grown talent such as Bennett; Scrafford (Billings); All-America safety Tim Hauck (Big Timber), now of the Denver Broncos; running back-punter Jody Farmer (Libby); and wide receiver Matt Clark (Missoula), a starter in the CFL. The semifinal appearance was the first in UM history and the 11 wins is still tied for the school record.

But GSU's double-slot "Flexbone" baffled Montana on a wet day in Statesboro, rolling up 499 total yards, 301 on the ground.

"They were small, quick guys who fired off the ball and scramble blocked," Scrafford said. "We had some bad breaks early, got in a hole, and couldn't climb out."

GSU recovered a blocked punt for a touchdown 2 minutes into the game, the only time that's happened in Montana coach Don Read's 10-year tenure. And GSU took a 31-7 lead on the final play of the first half off a "Hail Mary" pass that Hauck batted, but couldn't knock to the ground.

"When that lucky bomb of theirs bounced off Hauck, I remember thinking maybe it wasn't our day," said Bennett, who threw for just 176 yards and suffered five sacks. "But I give Georgia Southern credit. We went in confident we could move the ball on them, but they did some nice things with their game plan."

Bennett's most vivid memories, however, surround a banquet the two teams attended the night before the game. According to Bennett, several of Montana's most prominent players, including himself, were made the butt of jokes by GSU coach Erk Russell. Russell introduced the Montana players with much fanfare, then introduced their supposed defensive counterparts \_ Bennett remembers them as looking like "some pudgy junior high kids."

"It was an attempt at humor, but a great form of psychology that he was using," Read said. "And I was too dumb to even see it until we were into it."

Bennett said GSU players also plugged into the mind games.

Bennett recalls one of his tablemates, GSU linebacker Michael Berry, extending his hand and introducing himself: "Hi, I'm Michael Berry \_ Mr. Berry to you."

Bennett is amused about the whole affair today, crediting Russell, who retired after that season, for a crafty bit of gamesmanship.

"I knew what Erk Russell was doing, and afterward I'm walking to the bus saying, 'I'm not going to let it get to me, I'm not going to let it get to me.' You know what? It got to me," Bennett said.

Scrafford said he'd love to get away today and watch the telecast, but says it's doubtful. He's slated to start at right guard for the 49ers Sunday against Buffalo. It'll be his ninth start of the season, including stints at both tackle and both guard positions.

"I'll have to get somebody to tape it for me," Scrafford said.

As for Bennett, he'll help coach a 6:30 a.m. basketball practice at Flathead High School, then hit Highway 93 and be in Missoula in time for kickoff.

"This one, I wouldn't miss for the world," Bennett said.

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## Griz, Eagles showcase styles

## **KIM BRIGGEMAN of the Missoulian**

Sat 02-Dec-1995

Georgia Southern had the showcase team in Division I-AA football in the late 1980s. That distinction moved north to Youngstown, Ohio, in the early 1990s.

Where does it go from here?

Come west, the Montana Grizzlies beckon.

They've reached the point, at least, where Georgia Southern has to come to them, for a quarterfinal match at 12:05 p.m. in Washington-Grizzly Stadium.

A capacity crowd of more than 18,500 will rival the largest ever to watch a football game in this state. This week, TV cameras will be beaming it statewide, too.

Sixth-seeded Montana is the Big Sky champion and fresh off a 48-0 blowout of Eastern Kentucky in the first round.

No. 14 Georgia Southern, which finished third in the Southern Conference, did itself and the Grizzlies a huge favor by upsetting third-seeded Troy State last week, 24-21, on a fingertip interception by Rob Stockton in the end zone at the end.

"We got a home game by inches," Grizzly linebacker Mike Bouchee said. "That was sure a nice surprise. I'd like to thank Georgia Southern for that one."

"We were just happy to get into the playoffs," Stockton said. "At 8-3 we were kind of a borderline team to go in. We were willing to go anywhere and play."

The contrasts are stark. Montana passes, Georgia Southern runs. Montana is big, Georgia Southern is small.

And six years ago, in the semifinals in Georgia, the Eagles scored 45 points, the Grizzlies 15.

No one on either team played in '89, of course. But Montana coaches don't forget what was the biggest game in recent school history at the time.

They immediately set out to restructure their defense to handle quick hitters like the Eagles, who start only three players taller than 6-feet on offense.

"I thought we were a pretty good team in '89," UM coach Don Read said. "What we found out is that, although you can be physically bigger and stronger, if you can't match up with speed, you're going to lose."

Today Montana gets to test its new, smaller breed of defenders against their prototypes. They include former receiver-running back Corey Falls at one end, ex-linebacker Yohanse Manzanarez at the other and a buzzsaw linebacking corps led by Bouchee, Jason Crebo and Dave Sirmon.

The challenge hasn't changed much in six years.

"The No. 1 thing that strikes me would be their speed," Bouchee said. "They've got to be the fastest team I've seen so far, at every position."

Senior quarterback Charles Bostick runs the Flexbone option that nets 236 of its 336 yards a game on the ground. Roderick Russell, a sophomore, is in the key fullback position that has garnered nearly 1,200 yards in 12 games.

The Eagles' top rusher, fullback Chet Holmes, won't play after reinjuring a shoulder at Troy State.

Slotbacks Dexter Dawson and Marlow Warthen are big-play runners.

"I would say our offense is improving," coach Tim Stowers said. "I don't think we've played our best football game yet."

"We can't let them have anything easy," Read said. "When they get into the open, we've got problems."

Dave Dickenson and friends pose even bigger problems for Georgia Southern's defense. The Grizzlies lead the nation in scoring and have quickened that pace lately. They've cashed in on 18 of the last 23 drives that Dickenson has run dating back three games.

"They believe they can score every time they get it, and most of the time they do," Stowers said.

"I try to look at these things positively," said Stockton, a strong safety. "This is a great chance. Why not test yourself against the No. 1 offensive team in the country in all classifications? If you can't beat the best, you can't win it all."

## GA. SOUTHERN AT MONTANA

Kickoff: 12:05 p.m., Washington Grizzly Stadium

Records: Georgia Southern is 9-3, UM 10-2

Crowd: Sellout of 18,848

TV: KECI and KCFW

Radio: KYLT (1340-AM)

Forecast: Upper 30s, possible rain and wind

Gates: Open at 10:30 a.m.

Parking: Not available at River Bowl.

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## Griz set to spring

**By KIM BRIGGEMAN of the Missoulian**

Sat 02-Dec-1995

Talk about a feel-good football game today in Washington-Grizzly Stadium.

Unless, of course, history stutter steps again.

Montana enters the NCAA Division I-AA quarterfinal round with a record of dominance on its home field.

Washington-Griz has been remarkably good to the Grizzlies, and vice versa.

"Everybody's fired up, everybody plays harder. It's pretty fun to play at home," Montana guard Mike Agee said.

The 1995 Grizzlies have outscored visitors ranging in caliber from Eastern New Mexico to Boise State by an average of 30 points. They've not lost a home game in two years.

That 48-0 whitewash of Eastern Kentucky in the first round was the most lopsided I-AA playoff game since Idaho State shut out Rhode Island 51-0 on its way to the 1981 national championship.

And remember, all the scoring last week was done in one half.

Grizzly quarterback Dave Dickenson has taken a fourth-quarter snap in Missoula in just two of seven home games. Otherwise, he's been pulled for mercy's sake after a series or two in the second half, with leads averaging 42-6.

It won't hurt the Grizzlies today that the stands will be packed. Throw in the inevitably muddy conditions and a possibility of rain or snow, and the deck seems stacked against Georgia Southern.

The Eagles wouldn't have it any other way.

“We've practiced on muddier fields, we've played on muddier fields,” slotback Dexter Dawson said Friday after a short workout at River Bowl. “It's just a matter of going out and executing what we have to do. It's not so much making excuses with the field.”

“Our team has really taken a lot of pride in overcoming the elements,” Georgia Southern coach Tim Stowers said. “We've played in bad weather. At Liberty (three weeks ago) it was cold and wet, 25 mile-per-hour winds with gusts up to 40 and a threat of a tornado.”

The Eagles won 7-6, the first of three straight victories away from their own formidable house, Paulson Stadium in Statesboro. They went unbeaten in Paulson this season, and they've lost just seven of 77 games there over the years.

Montana is 54-8 in Washington-Grizzly since it opened in 1986.

What makes the Missoula stadium a cut above most others when it comes to homefield advantage?

The grass surface is slower than many opponents are used to. Wet weather seems to help UM's pass attack. Then there are those rasty fans behind the opposing team's bench. And, of course, a team worthy of lusty cheers.

Built in a bowl, with little space between the fans and the field, Washington-Grizzly can be a wall of sound.

“The noise helps a lot,” UM coach Don Read said. “I think the nature of the game sometimes carries over to the fans as well as the players.

“I thought we had a tremendously noisy crowd last week. But I can tell you other games in there I didn't feel it was as noisy. Now why? I don't know. I think matchups, the excitement the game generates beforehand. I think people anticipate, to an extent.”

Permanent bleachers were installed in both end zones this season, increasing by 3,000 the sets of vocal cords the stadium can pack in.

They'll be heard today.

“These are two exciting teams with all kinds of offensive explosiveness,” Read said. “There's a lot of talented players out on the field. Georgia Southern comes in with a reputation on both sides of the ball. To me it should be a noisy, rowdy crowd.”

Agee smiled in anticipation.

“If we could play every game at home, that would be great,” he said.

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## **Georgia's off their mind; Grizzly shutout sets stage for semis**

### **UM's perfect play puts away the past - and GSU's Eagles**

**KIM BRIGGEMAN of the Missoulian**

Sun 03-Dec-1995

It just keeps getting better.

On a December day when even the sun saw playing time, Montana busted some ghosts and ripped Georgia Southern 45-0 Saturday.

A deafening record crowd of 18,518 in Washington-Grizzly Stadium roared, chanted and cheered the Grizzlies' every move.

“Unreal,” was quarterback Dave Dickenson's description of the multitudes.

“It has to be the best in the West,” tackle Marty Duffin asserted.

The victory propelled Montana into the Division I-AA football semifinals for the second straight year. Where, no one knew at the time.

Two hours later, UM head coach Don Read clenched his fists in celebration at the Press Box across the river as a radio described the final moments of Stephen F. Austin's 27-17 upset of Appalachian State.

It meant the semis are coming to Missoula for the first time.

Stephen F. Austin, the tournament's seventh seed and runner-up in the Southland Conference behind top-ranked McNeese State, is next to test the fury of the sixth-seeded Griz in Washington-Griz next Saturday.

The Lumberjacks of Texas, 5-0 on the road, will find a UM team that's outscored two playoff opponents 93-0 and pitched the first back-to-back shutouts in I-AA postseason history.

Montana rolled up 629 yards and set a playoff record with 41 first downs. Dickenson resumed his mind-boggling playoff history with four touchdown passes. He was 37 of 46 for 408 yards, his fourth 400-yard passing day in five playoff games.

He and red-hot receivers Joe Douglass and Matt Wells left after the second series of the third quarter.

"I believe in matchups and I thought we matched up well today," said Read. "We had such an advantage with size and with the field conditions. Plus I think the kids are really focused.

"I really feel like we're playing as good of football as we've ever played around here."

Grady Bennett, Montana's quarterback in 1989 when Georgia Southern embarrassed the visiting Grizzlies 45-15 in the semifinal round, greeted this year's players as they walked off the field and thanked them.

"I guess the cliché is after you lose a game you get over it, the sun comes up the next morning and all that kind of stuff," said Bennett, a high school teacher and coach in Kalispell. "But the fact is that stuff stays with you forever."

Saturday's doings eased the 6-year-old sting, and Montana's score made it doubly sweet for Bennett.

"I was kind of hoping (Montana) wouldn't score again, just to keep that 45 up there," he said.

The Grizzly defense, plugging the middle and owning the perimeter, snapped Georgia Southern's Flexbone offense.

"The obvious thing was to just shut down their run, and the coaches came in with a tremendous game plan, absolutely tremendous," senior defensive end Yohanse Manzanarez said. "The main thing was to get them going sideways. As soon as we got them going laterally our secondary and linebackers did a great job coming up."

Hapless at the pass, even in a comeback mode, the Eagles didn't make a first down until their fifth series, well into the second quarter. By then it was 21-0.

Southern quarterback Charles Bostick was just 3 of 8 passing with one interception. The Eagles fumbled the ball away three times and netted only 91 yards \_ even fewer than Eastern Kentucky's 137 a week ago in a 48-0 loss to UM.

Before Saturday, only Thomas More, a Division III program in its first season of existence in 1990, failed to gain 100 yards against the Grizzlies during Read's 10-year tenure.

"We could not get into sync offensively. That's probably the lowest output we've ever had offensively," Georgia Southern coach Tim Stowers said. "Montana's got an outstanding football team, and I really think it's going to be very, very difficult for any team out there to come into Montana's house right now and beat them."

Dickenson completed eight straight passes as Montana drove 77 yards after the opening kickoff. Joe Douglass caught that touchdown toss, from 4 yards out.

Linebacker D.T. Tanner intercepted a tipped pass on Dickenson's next attempt, but soon the Grizzlies drove 80 yards to score again. This time the pass went to Raul Pacheco, knifing in front of linebacker Chad Nighbert for a 17-yard touchdown.

Dickenson, who was injured and didn't play in last year's semifinal loss to Youngstown State, later tossed a beautifully executed screen pass to Douglass that the junior took 49 yards for a score.

The All-America quarterback, favored to win the Payton Award later this month as Division I-AA's outstanding offensive player, hooked up with fellow senior Matt Wells for a 6-yard score late in the second quarter.

Andy Larson added an 18-yard field goal at the end of the half, and UM went in to rest with a 31-0 lead. That didn't match last week's 48-0 outburst in the first half, but it was plenty.

One of Dickenson's best plays gained only 5 yards. On the first drive of the third quarter, linebacker Derick Austin was in his face as Dickenson squirmed in the pocket. Dickenson's response was to push the ball over Austin's helmet just before contact. It dropped into the waiting hands of running back Josh Branen.

"He just finds a way to do it," Read said. "He's an amazing young athlete."

Dickenson, his ace receivers and tackle Eric Simonson left the game with the Grizzlies up 38-0. They'd scored on six of nine possessions. Wells had 11 catches for 119 yards, Douglass six grabs for 106.

"They didn't do anything fancy, no trick plays or nothing," Eagle safety Rob Stockton said. "They just came out and they executed. I don't think Dickenson made a mistake all day. They deserve all the credit."

The field, though muddy, wasn't as slippery as last week thanks to a new cover that was unrolled on Monday.

"The field was probably not conducive to our type of offense," Stowers said. "However, it was that way on both sides, and we've got to be able to move the football whether it's in mud or in snow or in the rain. So that's not a very good excuse."

"I thought we played awfully good," Read said. "You usually feel like if you can win two parts of the game \_ offense, defense, kicking game \_ you've got a good chance of winning. I really felt like all three facets came together."

UM 454, GEROGIA SOUTHERN 0

Attendance: 18,518 (stadium record)

Records: Montana 11-2, Georgia Southern 9-4

Conditions: Low 30s, NE winds 15-17 mph, broken clouds

Time of game: 3 hours, five minutes

Saturday's stars:

For UM, LB Jason Crebo had a sack and 8 tackles to help nail down the first back-to-back shutouts in I-AA playoff history. Dave Dickenson led an offense that set an I-AA playoff record for first downs. He completed 37 of 46 passes for 408 yards and four touchdowns in 2 1/2 quarters. Receivers Matt Wells and Joe Douglass had 119 and 106 yards, respectively, and three TD catches between them.

For Georgia Southern, Roderick Russell gained 70 yards on 16 carries. LB Chad Nighbert was in on 11 tackles, CB Brancis Williams forced a fumble, recovered another and made 10 stops. LB Chad Nighbert had 11 tackles.

Next Saturday: UM plays host to Stephen F. Austin in the semifinal round starting at 10 a.m.

Dickenson in the playoffs

Dave Dickenson's passing statistics in Division I-AA playoff games:

Yr.	Opponent	C-Att-Int	Yds.	TDs
1993	vs. Delaware	37-44-0	409	4
1994	vs. N. Iowa	38-50-0	436	2
1994	vs. McNeese St.	5-6-0	61	1
1995	vs. E. Kentucky	31-39-0	441	2
1995	vs. Ga. Southern	37-46-1	408	4
5-game totals		148-185-1	1,755	13

Grizzly Summary

Ga. Southern 0 0 0 0 - 0

Montana 14 17 14 0 - 45

How they scored

## FIRST QUARTER

Montana - Joe Douglass 4 pass from Dave Dickenson (Andy Larson kick), 11:01. Drive 10 plays, 77 yards. Key plays: Dickenson completes 6-yard pass to Raul Pacheco on 3rd-and-6 after Georgia Southern offsides penalty on 3rd-and-11 incompleton.

Montana - Pacheco 17 pass from Dickenson (Larson kick), 4:26. Drive: eight plays, 80 yards. Key plays: Dickenson first-down completions to Matt Wells, Mike Erhardt and Wells again move ball to 17.

## SECOND QUARTER

Montana - Douglass 49 pass from Dickenson (Larson kick), 12:32. Drive: four plays, 61 yards. Key plays: Dickenson 12-yard pass to Joe Douglass on 2nd-and-10.

Montana - Matt Wells 6 pass from Dickenson (Larson kick), 2:51. Drive: nine plays, 77 yards. Key plays: Dickenson completes 15-yard pass to Kelly Stensrud and 16-yard pass to Marc Bebout.

Montana - FG Larson 18, :02. Drive: 11 plays, 69 yards. Key plays: Dickenson back-to-back scrambles of 16 and 12 yards, Erhardt diving 18-yard catch and Wells 17-yard reception to 1-yard line.

## THIRD QUARTER

Montana - Josh Branen 1 run (Larson kick), 9:34. Drive: eight plays, 62 yards. Key plays: Dickenson completes 5 and 8-yard passes to Branen for first-and-goal at the 1.

Montana - Brian Gales 16 run (Larson kick), 3:18. Drive: 2-22. Key play: David Sirmon intercepts Charles Bostick on tip by Mike Bouchee at the GSU 22.

## Team statistics

GSU UM

First downs 5 41

Rushing 3 14

Passing 1 27

Penalty 1 0

3rd down eff. 1-14 4-7

4th down eff. 1-9 0-3

Total net yards 91 629

Total plays 50 86

Avg. gain 1.8 7.3

Net yards rushing 70 183

Rushes 42 32

Avg. per rush 1.7 5.7

Net yards passing 21 446

Comp.-Att. 3-8 42-54

Yds. per pass 2.6 8.3

Sacked-yds lost 4-31 4-27

Had intercepted 1 2

Punts-avg 9-39 2-28

Return yards 62 21

Punt returns 0-0 0-0

Kickoff returns 7-59 1-18

Interceptions 2-3 1-3

Penalties-yards 7-35 6-57

Fumbles-lost 5-3 2-1

Time of poss. 23:59 36:01

## Individual statistics

Rushing

GSU UM

No.-Yds No.-Yds

Russell 16-70 Gales 10-97

Warthen 3-17 Branen 9-46

Dawson 4-(-5) Dickenson 4-38

Bostick 16-(-6) Stensrud 5-26  
Sullivan 3-(-6) Paffhausen 2-(-11)  
Ah Yat 2-(-13)  
Passing  
GSU Cmp. Att. Int. Yds  
Bostick 3 8 1 21  
UM Cmp. Att. Int. Yds  
Dickenson 37 46 1 408  
Paffhausen 4 6 1 34  
Ah Yat 1 2 0 4  
Receiving  
GSU UM  
No.-Yds No.-Yds  
Garland 1-17 Wells 11-119  
Dawson 1-8 Douglass 6-106  
Warthen 1-(-4) Branen 5-44  
Pacheco 5-41  
Kane 5-21  
Erhardt 3-34  
Bebout 2-31  
Dolan 2-22  
Stensrud 2-19  
Tofanelli 1-9  
Tackles-assists-sacks  
GSU UM  
T A S T A S  
Nighbert 0 11 0 Crebo 4 4 1  
Williams 6 4 0 Bouchee 0 7 0  
Bradham 6 3 0 Sirmon 3 3 1  
Brooks 2 6 0 Manzanarez 2 4 1  
Austin 1 7 1 Duffin 2 4 1  
Palma 2 4 0  
Interceptions  
Georgia Southern - Tanner, Taylor.  
Montana - Sirmon.  
Missed field goals  
Georgia Southern - none.  
Montana - Larson 44.

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## **Buehler's recovery saves the shutout**

### **Missouliau**

Sun 03-Dec-1995

Of all the great defensive plays turned in by the Grizzlies Saturday, reserve linebacker Eric Buehler was ultimately responsible for keeping Montana's shutout intact.

#### Game notes

Georgia Southern's best scoring opportunity came in the fourth quarter after a Grizzly fumble by Eleu Kane gave the Eagles possession on the Montana 18. Charles Bostick hit Reggie Garland with a 17-yard pass to the 1. But on the next play, Bostick never received the snap from center.

A huge pileup ensued. When the referees finally stripped the last player off the scrum, Buehler, a freshman from Butte, emerged with the ball. Buehler explained why possession is nine-tenths of the law.

“It must've been a fumbled snap,” Buehler said. “The quarterback went down and he had his hands on it, but I took it out of his hands. That's our ball. ... Somebody's got to get on it. We've got to keep that big zero up there on the scoreboard.”

Bostick gave this account of the play:

"The center was trying to dig in and come off the ball," he said. "He might have snapped the ball a little short. I really felt like I had the ball, but eventually they somehow got it."

Kickoff time for next week's semifinal game is governed by television.

Prime Sports will show both the UM-Stephen F. Austin game and the McNeese State-Marshall match in Louisiana. The time slots are set for 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Mountain time.

Montana athletic director Wayne Hogan said the decision may not be made until today about which game will be played first. But he felt confident UM would be cast in the early game because there may not be enough daylight for a 1:30 game.

McNeese State has lights, Montana doesn't.

UM has already looked into the price of portable lighting, and Hogan hopes it's not necessary. He said it would cost \$50,000, "and we'd only need it for 15 minutes or so."

Stephen F. Austin's win at Appalachian State was the third road breakthrough in 12 playoff games. Last year only one team won on its opponent's field in the 15 games leading up to the playoffs.

Nels Kludt remembered. So did Bryan Tripp, Joe Kalafat and Matt Clark.

All were members of the '89 Grizzly team that lost badly at Georgia Southern in the semifinals. They shared the experience with this season's team.

"The 45-point win is for us," safety Sean Goicoechea said. "The shutout is for the team in '89 that didn't do so well in Georgia."

It was the perfect call at the perfect time, and it resulted in the touchdown that all but sealed Montana's berth in the Division I-AA football semifinals.

Georgia Southern trailed 14-0 early in the second quarter when Joe Douglass took a screen pass from Dave Dickenson and bolted 49 yards. After that, in the immortal words of Al McGuire, it was all seashells and balloons for the Grizzlies.

The second-and-10 call came from quarterbacks coach Brent Pease up in the press box and caught GSU in an all-out blitz. The Eagles, who used a four- or five-man rush most of the day, went for the whole enchilada on this one, rushing six players, including both outside linebackers.

"I think that was the only time all day they did that," said Montana offensive coordinator Mick Dennehy. "They brought the farm."

And bought the farm.

Dickenson deftly faked running back Kelly Stensrud to the right, then flipped a short pass to the left. Douglass, lined up outside fellow receiver Matt Wells, looped inside and took the throw just behind the line of scrimmage.

At the same time, guards Mike Agee and Jeff Zellick, and center David Kempfert slipped their rushers and headed upfield.

The play's choreography unfolded without a hitch.

Wells blocked one defender; Zellick took out another. Agee and Zellick bulldozed a third. Douglass, displaying the open field running that's become his trademark, wasn't touched. He cut to his right at the 20 and seemed on a collision course with GSU's last defender, Marco Bradham. But 205-pound wide receiver Mike Erhardt, coming across from the other side of the field, got a piece of the 165-pound Bradham at the 10. Douglass scored standing up.

I-AA playoff shutouts

1981-Idaho State 51, Rhode Island 0

1982-South Carolina State 17, Furmon 0

Delaware 17, Louisiana Tech 0

1985-Georgia Southern 27, Jackson State 0

1987-Appal. State 19, Georgia Southern 0

1990-Georgia Southern 31, Citadel 0

1991-Youngstown State 10, Samford 0

1992-Marshall 44, Eastern Kentucky 0

Citadel 44, N. Carolina A&T 0

Youngstown St. 23, Villanova 0  
1995-Montana 48, Eastern Kentucky 0  
Montana 45, Georgia Southern 0

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## Crebo, Griz learn lesson

### RIAL CUMMINGS of the Missoulian

Sun 03-Dec-1995

Montana linebacker Jason Crebo spent his first collegiate start watching lowly Eastern New Mexico rush for 309 yards. He wasn't a happy camper.

"I'm sure we'll see the option again," Crebo said with a sigh on Sept. 2 after chasing the NCAA Division II Greyhounds in 100-degree heat. "We're young, and we can only get better. Hopefully that won't happen again."

Fast forward to Saturday.

Crebo once again stood on the turf of Washington-Grizzly Stadium after chasing an option football team. Only this time, the temperature hovered near freezing - and the sophomore from Helena was no longer a rookie.

"We've come a long way," Crebo said after registering a team-high eight tackles and a crucial sack in Montana's 45-0 shellacking of Georgia Southern.

GSU, one of the premier option teams in college football, rushed for a season-low 70 yards on 42 carries in the Division I-AA quarterfinal playoff game.

"They were out to test our perimeter the whole day," Crebo said. "We knew if they could keep them from getting outside us, our tackles and everyone else would get to the ball."

A deep shoulder bruise forced Crebo to sit out last week's 48-0 opening-round win over Eastern Kentucky, but he said he felt "close to 100 percent" against GSU.

Crebo was a freshman at Helena Capital in the fall of 1989 when Georgia Southern's quickness foiled Montana 45-15 in the I-AA semifinals. After that loss, UM went after faster recruits - and Crebo is perhaps the brightest star in the Grizzlies' new galaxy of strong, mobile defenders.

Crebo threw the javelin in high school, batted .385 in American Legion baseball and was the Class AA football defensive MVP.

Now, Crebo is living up to No. 37 - the jersey number of defensive leadership he inherited from former Grizzly standouts Todd Ericson and Tim Hauck.

Crebo, at 6-foot-4 and 224 pounds, is quick enough to play passing routes, yet strong enough to wade inside. No one on the Grizzly defense is more versatile, which is a major reason Crebo finished second in voting for the Big Sky Conference defensive player of the year.

Montana coach Don Read compares Crebo's reading of offenses with quarterback Dave Dickenson's reading of defenses. Read also says Crebo is faster than he appears; he has an extra gear, much like former UM running back Jody Farmer.

"He's so instinctive, especially against something like this option," Read said. "He gives us great range, intelligence and makes big plays."

Crebo took over in the second quarter when GSU, down 21-0, made its most serious bid to get back in the game. Crebo had two tackles for losses early in the drive, but was flagged for excessive celebration - he pumped his fist toward the Grizzly sideline - after the second one.

"I don't know what happened. I was surprised (at the penalty)," Crebo said.

The 15-yard penalty gave GSU a first down at its own 47; 11 plays later, GSU faced fourth-and-3 at the Montana 15. The threat ended when defensive end Randy Riley flushed quarterback Charles Bostick to the left, and Crebo rushed in from the outside for

the biggest sack of the game.

Bostick said the sprint-out play was designed to give him the option to run or pass. The fast-closing Crebo erased all options.

“He made a great play, no doubt,” Bostick said.

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## Defense keeps UM's closing statement brief

**BOB MESEROLL**

Sun 03-Dec-1995

Jerome Souers plays his cards close to the vest.

The Grizzly defensive coordinator had every reason to gloat following the Grizzlies' second consecutive playoff shutout.

But that's not his way. Outwardly, Souers' demeanor Saturday reflected the inner peace he couldn't help but feel.

Souers was the picture of tranquility among the chaos at a postgame celebration. Even as coaches and boosters exchanged high fives and a jam-packed Press Box restaurant erupted in cheers when Stephen F. Austin's final score was announced, Souers didn't flinch as he talked about the performance of his defense.

He wouldn't call it vindication, but that's what it was.

Souers was on the sidelines in 1989 when Georgia Southern's Flexbone option attack befuddled the Grizzlies. He was there again two years ago when Delaware's Wing-T option rolled up more points than even Dave Dickenson & Co. could manage.

He admits it. He felt the heat. People were saying the Griz couldn't stop the run, let alone the option.

In the last two weeks, the Grizzlies have totally stymied two potent ground games. As amazing as Montana's offensive numbers are, the most amazing stats of the last two weeks may be these: 101 plays, 228 yards, 2.25 yards per play. That's what the Grizzly defense has surrendered in the playoffs.

So, Jerome, what would you say to your detractors now?

“Our philosophy is our actions speak louder than words,” Souers said. “Let's leave it at that.”

In a sense, Souers said, this game was several years in the making.

“We've studied, I want to say a couple of years, for the eventual rematch with these types of offenses,” Souers said. “It would be arrogant to say we have all the answers. We just played well today in what we were trying to do against their attack. It really boils down to the players.”

Souers allowed himself to revel in the culmination of that painstaking work immediately after the game. He made the jog across Adams Field House from the locker rooms to his office where he grabbed the team's coup stick. It's a tradition Souers, a Lakota Sioux, and the rest of the coaching staff began after Don Read's arrival 10 years ago.

After a victory, two ribbons shaded in the colors of their foe's school are attached to the coup stick. Grizzlies who played key roles in that day's victory are chosen to take part in the ceremony. Saturday it was offensive lineman Eric Simonson, receiver Matt Wells and linebacker Jason Crebo.

“It's a fun deal, a good tradition,” Souers said.

It's easy for the Grizzlies' defense to feel overlooked when the team is scoring points at breakneck pace. How nice it was to hear the crowd chant, “DEE-fense. DEE-fense,” as the team prepared to sing the school song following the win.

“To me, it feels great,” Grizzly tackle Marty Duffin said. “At Montana, the offense gets a lot of publicity. I don't think it was so important to get a goose egg as it was just to show that we're capable of playing good defense.”

“There was a great deal of pressure on the defense coming into this game,” Souers said while crediting defensive coaches Kraig Paulson, David Reeves and Doug Betters for their effort.

Souers also tossed part of the credit back to Dickenson.

“He’s a great ball-control quarterback,” Souers said.

Souers believes the seeds were sown for this defense to blossom during the middle of the season, even through a 55-point lapse at Idaho that Souers chalked up to bad breaks. There were certainly flashes of brilliance, such as the dominating performance against Boise State.

“Deep down the work habits of the players and their attitude has been outstanding,” Souers said. “If you keep doing the things you believe in, eventually you’re going to get where you want to be, and our goal is to become a great defense.”

Souers paused for a moment and cracked a small smile when asked if the Grizzly defense has reached its goal. He chose his words carefully.

“I think we’re peaking at the right time,” he said.

And their timing is impeccable.

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## **Griz go BOOM**

### **Fans roar as Griz rout a second playoff foe**

**By MICHAEL MOORE of the Missoulian**

Sun 03-Dec-1995

OK, so maybe Grizzly football fans Russ Brambo, Chuck Thomas, Ray Wilson and his son, Zach, didn’t always want to be cannon impersonators.

But with the ROTC cannon that usually roars after each Grizzly score silenced for the playoffs, the Boom Club stepped up and lit the fuse.

Truth be told, their first efforts at cannon mimicry lacked a certain explosiveness. On the Grizzlies’ first touchdown, the Boomers misfired. First, there was considerable confusion as to whether they should shout “Boom” after the touchdown itself or after the extra-point conversion.

And then there was the matter of the lettered placards spelling out \_ of course \_ BOOM. The four letters never quite got together. Indeed, the Boom Boys once spelled out the meditative OM.

“Well, we had practice, but two of the letters didn’t show up,” said Brambo, the first O. Brambo, it is said, has a mouth like a cannon.

After the Grizzlies scored again for a 14-0 lead, the yell came off well, but the letters got muddled again \_ B--M, then -OOM.

By the third touchdown, the Boom Club erupted with military might. The countdown to BOOM came off perfectly, the letters went up together AND in order.

“Now we’ve got it,” said Ray Wilson.

The Boom Club was born last week for the Grizzlies’ first postseason game. The group commandeered seats in the northeast corner of Washington-Grizzly Stadium, just above the spot where the cannon usually sits. Their fledging effort was a cheer-only affair; the lettered placards were this week’s addition.

Laure Plasmier drew up two letters, but Brambo’s 5-year-old daughter, McKenzie, finished the last two because Laure, by her own admission, couldn’t color within the lines.

In fairness to everyone involved, the Boom Club is more than just the placard-holders; Wilson and his friends bought a block of 30 tickets for Saturday's game. And their enthusiasm for BOOMing spread throughout the stadium. By the second half, UM fans seated above the woefully depressed Georgia Southern section were doing the BOOM themselves.

The Grizzlies, of course, gave the club plenty to shout about, scoring six touchdowns and a field goal en route to a 45-0 blanking of the Eagles.

And the explosions aren't finished. Stephen F. Austin's late-afternoon win over the Appalachian State Mountaineers guaranteed at least two things; another home game for quarterback Dave Dickenson, and another round of BOOMs.

## Stories from the Stephan F. Austin Game

The following articles were taken from the Missoulian.

### A little ol' place called what?

By SHERRY DEVLIN of the Missoulian

Sat 09-Dec-1995

Welcome, people of Nacogdoches.

We here at the Missoulian, hoping - of course - to make you feel more at home, did a little research Friday.

About ya'll.

Nacogdoches? we asked. How do you say that?

"Nackadoches," came the reply, ever-so-drawled by Cristy Gann, a senior at Stephen F. Austin State University who also answers the telephone at the Chamber of Commerce.

But why Nacogdoches? What's it mean?

Gann referred us to Bob Murphy, formerly the Nacogdoches district attorney, more recently a humorist with claims to two guest appearances on "Hee Haw."

"Nacogdoches is an Indian word," Murphy advised. "Means 'It's a long way to El Paso.'"

But seriously folks, seems there was once a Caddo Indian chief who had twin sons, Nacogdoches and Natchitoches. Unable to decide which son was more worthy of chieftom, he split the tribe - sending Nacogdoches three days to the west, his brother three days to the east.

Thus, Nacogdoches, Texas. And Natchitoches, Louisiana. (And the modern-day football rivalry between Stephen F. Austin and Northwestern Louisiana State, who each year play for the nation's largest traveling trophy - a 7-foot-6, 320-pound statue of Chief Caddo).

And that's just the start of it. "We are history, history, history," said Gann, whose boyfriend plays on the SFA football team that today plays the Montana Grizzlies in a I-AA semifinal game in Missoula.

"We are the oldest established town in Texas," she said. The university, in fact, is named for the Father of Texas. Five men who signed the Declaration of Independence (of Texas from Mexico) are buried in the Nacogdoches cemetery.

"We are also the birthplace of the zip code," said Murphy. "Nobody could spell our town, so the government just gave us a number to use."

75961.

What, besides football, do the fine people of Nacogdoches do for fun?

Gann gave us the skinny on car trips to Shreveport, La., to gamble on the riverboats. Murphy, as you can imagine, told another tale. "Just here about two weeks ago, the pool hall burned down. Fifteen left homeless."

Did we mention Murphy's dozen-plus appearances on Ralph Emery's talk show on The Nashville Network? And the Grand Ole Opry?

"Yep," he said, "I kid a lot about us. A fellow told me one time that he heard that people in Nacogdoches only take a bath once a week. I told him that's nothing but gossip. We take a bath every day. We just throw out the water once a week."

But what about bidness (er, business) in Nacogdoches?

Timber, came the reply, a unanimous decision from both the Chamber's Gann and "Hee Haw's" Murphy. Thus, the Stephen F.

Austin Lumberjacks.

“We have the best forestry school in the country,” said Gann. “We’re in the heart of the piney woods of east Texas. You can’t walk three feet on campus without hitting a tree. They grow here like you can’t imagine.”

National forests? we asked.

Davy Crockett National Forest. 161,478 acres, a wide stretch in nearby Houston and Trinity counties. And International Paper has a fiberboard plant in town.

But the biggest employer in Nacogdoches is the university \_ 1,338 employees in a town of 33,000.

“Oh, we all love our SFA,” said Gann. “Everybody is really worried about the boys on the football team being up there in all that cold. They tried practicing early in the morning so it would be a little cooler - you know, more like Montana - but it was still in the 50s.”

“Nothing funny about it,” said Murphy. “We’re all worried about our boys.”

Don’t worry, we said. We’ll take care of ‘em.

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## **Straightforward seniors quietly get the job done**

**They weren’t flashy.**

### **Rial Cummings of the Missoulian**

Sun 10-Dec-1995

But made-in-Montana seniors Eric Simonson and Kelly Stensrud did themselves proud in the final home game of distinguished yet under-appreciated careers.

Simonson and Stensrud were quietly effective, as usual, in Montana’s 70-14 demolition of Stephen F. Austin Saturday at Washington-Grizzly Stadium.

Simonson, the 6-foot-5, 291-pound left tackle from Plentywood, delivered some textbook pass blocking to help quarterback Dave Dickenson throw for five touchdowns.

“I think Simo might’ve had his best game ever,” Dickenson said. “He was so physical out there. I don’t see a lot, but I saw him knock down lots of people. He’s one of my best friends, but he’s on my back side, so I usually know if he’s blocking or not.”

With Simonson, a first team All-Big Sky selection, guarding his blind side, Dickenson suffered only one sack.

Stensrud’s statistics were modest: seven yards rushing on three carries, 16 yards receiving on two catches. But the good-hands running back from Missoula Hellgate, an honorable mention all-league selection, made four important plays in the first half when the game was decided.

Stensrud kept Montana’s opening drive alive with a fumble recovery after wide receiver Joe Douglass was stripped at the UM 47-yard line; four plays later, Stensrud drew a pass interference penalty from linebacker Larry Echols that gave the Grizzlies first-and-goal at the 5. From there, Dickenson hit a wide open Mike Erhardt for the tying touchdown.

In the second quarter, with Montana nursing a 14-7 lead and facing third-and-20 from its own 13, Stensrud took the snap and booted a 46-yard quick kick into the wind that couldn’t be returned. That nifty switch in field position paid off when SFA went three-and-out and shanked a punt. Montana started its next possession at its own 32 and drove for a 21-7 lead.

With 2:05 left in the first half, Stensrud picked up a blitz and provided the key block that allowed Dickenson to hit Raul Pacheco on a 19-yard score. Montana scored again less than two minutes later and the rout was on.

Simonson and Stensrud were surrounded by family and friends after the game. Stensrud, a Missoula fixture for more than a decade dating back to his days in Little Grizzly football, was one of the last players to leave the field.

They stayed the course, mostly without fanfare. Now, they'll play for a national championship.

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## Dolan's TD catch signaled the end

### Rial Cummings and Kim Briggeman of the Missoulian

Sun 10-Dec-1995

Wide receiver Nathan Dolan does everything with fanfare. But until Saturday, the junior from Billings hadn't caught a touchdown in his Grizzly career.

That changed in the last minute of the first half against Stephen F. Austin. Dolan broke free down the middle and gathered in a 23-yard scoring toss from Dave Dickenson. The TD, capping a three-play, 56-yard march that took only 22 seconds, put Montana in control, 35-14.

"Let me tell you what, it's been a long time," said Dolan, a third-generation Grizzly player who starred for his father, Pat, at Billings Senior. "It's been frustrating. I've been here four years and I haven't scored a touchdown. ...I'm glad it came at a crucial time. I don't know if it was the one that put it away, but it felt good."

No defender was within 5 yards of Dolan when he caught the ball in the end zone and tumbled backward for his 10th reception of the season.

"I remember them blowing their coverage and me being wide open and praying that Dave was going to find me up the seam," Dolan said. "He told me he'd be looking, so I was ready for it."

Dolan made the most spectacular catch of the season last week against Georgia Southern, leaping horizontally to the turf and bringing in a bullet from Josh Paffhausen - one-handed.

Montana, which set a school record with its 12th victory, heads into the 15th final game almost completely healthy. Defensive tackle Brian Toone returned and played well after missing five games with a broken arm.

"You couldn't ask for better momentum," Read said. "It's remarkable we've been able to hold out on injuries like we have. I think part of it is we've been able to use a lot of players. I think all 55 played today."

Quick kicks: The most points Montana ever scored in a football game? Try a 133-0 win over Mt. Saint Charles, the predecessor to Carroll College, in 1920.... Until Saturday, the most points Montana had scored in a game since World War II was 63 against Eastern Washington this season and Idaho State in 1987.... It was Stephen F. Austin's worst loss since a 64-0 blanking at the hands of West Texas State in 1930.... Andy Larson's 10 conversion kicks broke the Montana school record. Larson had nine earlier this season against Eastern Washington to tie the mark set by Russell Sweet vs. Montana Tech in 1924. Larson has converted 52 of 54 PAT kicks this season.

S.F. Austin 7 7 0 0 - 14

Montana 14 21 28 7 - 70

How they scored

#### FIRST QUARTER

S.F. Austin - Leonard Harris 1 run (Brian Minton kick), 9:29. Drive: 13 plays, 65 yards. Key plays: Personal foul on Montana gives SFA first down in UM territory. James Ritchey throws 22-yard pass to Kevin Goodwin for first-and-goal at the nine.

Montana - Mike Erhardt 5 pass from Dave Dickenson (Andy Larson kick), 7:05. Drive 9 plays, 73 yards. Key plays: Dickenson completes 5-of-5 passing for 37 yards and scrambles 13 yards for a first down. Pass interference call against SFA gives UM first-and-goal at the 5.

Montana - Dickenson 8 run. (Larson kick), 2:31. Drive 7 plays, 72 yards. Key plays: Illegal substitution penalty against SFA on 3rd-down incompleting keeps drive alive. Josh Branen takes Dickenson pass for 36 yards.

#### SECOND QUARTER

Montana - Joe Douglass 33 pass from Dickenson. (Larson kick), 7:44. Drive: 7 plays, 68 yards. Key plays: Branen gets ball on first four plays of drive, picking up 12 yards rushing and 23 receiving.

S.F. Austin - Harris 2 run. (Minton kick), 3:45. Drive: 9 plays, 42 yards. Key plays: Lumberjacks take over on Montana 42 after Matt Wells' onside kick fails to travel ten yards. Dameien Vallery 15-yard run gives SFA first-and-goal at the 2.

Montana - Raul Pacheco 20 pass from Dickenson. (Larson kick), 2:05. Drive: 5 plays, 60 yards. Key plays: Dickenson completes 16-yard and 19-yard passes to Douglass.

Montana - Nathan Dolan 23 pass from Dickenson. (Larson kick), :28. Drive: 3 plays, 56 yards. Key plays: On defense, Justin Hazel breaks up a pass, Jason Crebo and Yohanse Manzanarez sack Ritchey, and Mike Temple breaks up a pass to force a punt. Dickenson finds Wells for 11 yards and Douglass for 22.

### THIRD QUARTER

Montana - Erhardt 28 pass from Dickenson. (Larson kick), 13:38. Drive: 5 plays, 67 yards. Key plays: Branen returns kickoff 23 yards. Dickenson completes passes to Pacheco (16 yards), Wells (12) and Kelly Stensrud (15).

Montana - Branen 2 run. (Larson kick), 9:02. Drive: 8 plays, 71 yards. Key plays: Branen rushes five times for 45 yards and three first downs. Dickenson passes 18 yards to Erhardt for first-and-goal.

Montana - Brian Gales 10 run. (Larson kick), 6:00. Drive: 6 plays, 53 yards. Key plays: Josh Paffhausen scrambles for 15 yards. Gales takes swing pass and runs for 17 yards.

Montana - Chris Morton 15 run. (Larson kick), :42. Drive: 10 plays, 73 yards. Key plays: Brian Ah Yat completes 27-yard pass to Justin Olsen. Ah Yat converts on fourth-and-5 with a 17-yard pass to Larry Tofaneli.

### FOURTH QUARTER

Montana - Morton 2 run. (Larson kick), 9:31. Drive 9 plays, 29 yards. Key plays: Blaine McElmurry intercepts Ritchey on SFA 46 and returns it 17 yards. Paffhausen converts on fourth-and-11 with an 18-yard pass to Tofaneli.

#### Team statistics

SFA UM  
First downs 15 38  
Rushing 7 12  
Passing 6 23  
Penalty 2 3  
3rd down eff. 4-15 7-15  
4th down eff. 2-3 2-2  
Total net yards 264 669  
Total plays 66 90  
Avg. gain 4.0 7.4  
Net yards rushing 52 196  
Rushes 35 42  
Avg. per rush 1.5 4.7  
Net yards passing 212 473  
Comp.-Att. 10-31 31-48  
Yds. per pass 6.8 9.9  
Sacked-yds lost 5-39 1-1  
Had intercepted 2 0  
Punts-avg 6-28 2-35  
Return yards 125 79  
Punt returns 0-0 0-0  
Kickoff returns 8-125 3-60  
Interceptions 0-0 2-19  
Penalties-yards 10-86 9-80  
Fumbles-lost 2-0 1-0  
Time of poss. 24:40 35:20

#### Individual statistics

Rushing  
WSU UM  
No.-Yds No.-Yds

Harris 19-43 Branen 8-58  
 Vallery 5-30 Morton 10-50  
 Norwood 2-16 Gales 10-46  
 Goodwin 1-(-1) Dickenson 4-19  
 Ritchey 8-(-36) Paffhausen 3-14  
 Stensrud 3-6  
 Ah Yat 4-3  
 Passing  
 SFA Cmp. Att. Int. Yds  
 Ritchey 8 27 2 136  
 Quinn 2 4 0 76  
 UM Cmp. Att. Int. Yds  
 Dickenson 25 36 0 370  
 Ah Yat 4 8 0 68  
 Paffhausen 2 4 0 35  
 Receiving  
 SFA UM  
 No.-Yds No.-Yds  
 Jefferson 5-94 Douglass 8-127  
 Goodwin 2-87 Wells 6-62  
 Walker 1-13 Branen 3-59  
 Oyedakum 1-9 Erhardt 3-47  
 Ricks 1-9 Olsen 2-45  
 Pacheco 2-36  
 Stensrud 2-16  
 Dolan 1-23  
 Morton 1-18  
 Gales 1-17  
 Tofanelli 1-17  
 Kane 1-6  
 Tackles-assists-sacks  
 WSU UM  
 T A S T A S  
 Love 4 7 0 Crebo 3 8 1  
 Speights 3 4 0 McElmurry 1 10 0  
 Reynolds 2 4 0 Palma 3 4 0  
 Powell 1 5 0 Falls 4 2 1  
 Kern 1 4 1 Bouchee 0 6 0  
 Bell 3 2 0 Y.Manzanarez 1 3 1  
 Interceptions  
 S.F. Austin \_ none.  
 Montana \_ Hazel, McElmurry.  
 Tickets  
 The University of Montana Field House ticket office will put 2,000 tickets for the national championship game on sale Monday morning at 8 a.m. Cost is \$15. Tickets may be purchased in person or with a credit card by calling 243-4051 or 1-800-526-3400. The game, which will be broadcast nationally by ESPN, begins 10 a.m. Mountain Time.

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## Griz took scenic route on the way to this rout

**The Montana Grizzlies were correct last week.**

**Kim Briggeman of the Missoulian**

Sun 10-Dec-1995

No way would their semifinal game against Stephen F. Austin be a 40-plus point blowout. It was 50-plus.

But the Grizzlies' 70-14 victory Saturday didn't start out as a lopsided affair.

They fell behind for the first time in the playoffs when SFA took the opening drive 65 yards for a touchdown. The Lumberjacks stayed on the ground on 10 of the 13 plays and converted two fourth downs. The second was the scoring run from inside the 1 by Leonard Harris.

The Grizzlies answered with a 5-yard touchdown pass from Dave Dickenson to Mike Erhardt, who caught another in the second half. When it was SFA's turn, the Lumberjacks passed on five of six plays. Montana tackle Ryan Thompson, whose roughing penalty boosted the Lumberjacks' opening drive, deflected James Ritchey's third-down pass to force a punt.

It was the crack that widened into a fissure that widened into Hellgate Canyon.

“After we moved the ball down the first couple of times, we didn't move it very well after that,” SFA coach John Pearce said. “They did a couple of what we call ‘dogs’ (blitzes) that kept us a little bit off our timing. But overall, I think it was our inability to slow them down.”

Dickenson ran for an 8-yard score, holding the ball out at arm's length as he dived across the front left corner of the north end zone.

Joe Douglass, who had his fourth straight 100-yard game receiving, took a screen pass and accelerated through a swarm of tacklers for a 33-yard TD play. Blocking back Kelly Stensrud catapulted a blitzing linebacker and Dickenson rifled a 20-yard scoring pass to Raul Pacheco.

Montana's only glaring faux pas was an onside kick that didn't work after it went ahead 21-7. Matt Wells' bunt didn't go far enough, and the Lumberjacks scored on a short 42-yard drive.

With two minutes left in the half, the Grizzlies led 28-14. With a minute left, Stephen F. Austin punted.

And with 28 seconds left, Dickenson levied the coup de grace, a 23-yard scoring toss to Nathan Dolan. It capped a quick three-play, 56-yard possession.

“That was a big one,” Dickenson said. “I knew if we could get some points on that last drive it would really put them in a tough spot.”

Montana's 35-14 halftime lead wasn't unusual. In three of their four previous game, the Grizzlies led Eastern Washington 49-0, Eastern Kentucky 48-0 and Georgia Southern 35-0.

“When the week started, we thought that, like the last two games, we were going to see a lot of deep coverage and a lot of zones that take away our deep pass threat,” Erhardt said. “Once the game started, we found out they were mostly in man coverage. I think I was kind of shocked to see that much man.”

Dickenson hit Erhardt for a 24-yard score and Josh Branen tallied from 2 yards out to start the Grizzlies' second half. That gave them a 49-14 lead.

Backup QBs Josh Paffhausen and Brian Ah Yat traded off after that, mostly handing the ball off to Brian Gales and Chris Morton. The score and the snow kept mounting.

Gales, a freshman who has been impressive every time he helps mop up lately, had a 10-yard TD jaunt. Morton, a senior, made Missoula's last two touchdowns of 1995.

## BLOWOUTS

The most lopsided football games in NCAA Division I-AA playoff history:

- 56 - Montana 70, Stephen F. Austin 14, semifinals, 1995
- 51 - Northeast Louisiana 78, Alcorn State 27, first round, 1992
- 51 - Idaho State 51, Rhode Island 0, first round, 1981
- 48 - Montana 48, Eastern Kentucky 0, first round, 1995
- 47 - Louisiana Tech 66, Mississippi Valley State 19, first round, 1984
- 45 - Montana 45, Georgia Southern 0, quarterfinals, 1995
- 45 - Furman 59, Rhode Island 14, quarterfinals, 1985
- 44 - Marshall 44, Eastern Kentucky 0, first round, 1992
- 44 - Citadel 44, North Carolina A&T 0, first round, 1992

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## Showtime

**Griz drop curtain on SFA, set stage for grand finale**

**By KIM BRIGGEMAN of the Missoulian**

Sun 10-Dec-1995

The cannon boomed again. The Grizzlies did too.

In another frigid and wondrous performance Saturday, Dave Dickenson and the Montana Grizzlies made their final sprint to the Division I-AA football title game.

UM dismantled the Stephen F. Austin Lumberjacks 70-14 - the most lopsided decision in playoff history - and roared into next week's title game against Marshall.

The ROTC cannon, silent the past two weeks, resumed its celebratory explosions. The temperature never topped 10 degrees, but another record crowd in Washington-Grizzly Stadium - this time announced at 18,523 - stayed and drained the last raucous moments of the historic victory in a building snowstorm.

"This is about the most exciting time of my coaching career," said Montana coach Don Read, who's been at it since 1959. "But I especially feel good for these kids."

His kids have outscored three playoff foes 163-14. In 18 I-AA tournaments, no team has approached such dominance on its way to the title game.

The Grizzlies couldn't stop making touchdowns, even when Dickenson left the Washington-Griz field for the last time six minutes into the second half. UM led 49-14. The senior from Great Falls had thrown for five of the seven touchdowns and scored another on an 8-yard scramble.

Montana has never scored 70 points in Read's 10-year term. It's been 71 years since a Grizzly team last did. In 1924, UM swamped Montana Tech 106-6.

Now it's off to Huntington, W. Va., and artificial-turfed Marshall Stadium. The Grizzlies are tentatively scheduled to fly away on Wednesday after practice.

Marshall, host of the title game one way or the other, made it to its own party with a 25-13 upset win over McNeese State in Louisiana.

The dominant themes are already set: Marshall's top-ranked defense against Montana's No. 1 offense.

The Thundering Herd, coached by Jim Donnan, have been to the finals four times in five years. The Grizzlies have never gone.

"I feel great, but I can see how I could possibly feel better," jubilant UM defensive end Yohanse Manzanarez said.

Dickenson noticed a banner in the north end zone that read, "It's Showtime." He said it reminded him of his high school coach, Jack Johnson at Great Falls Russell, who used to sidle up before a game and give him the same message.

"That brought back some good memories," Dickenson said. "And that's really what it was, on both sides of the ball. It was showtime out there, people making plays and doing the job."

"It just seemed like nothing was going to stop us."

"You don't give up 70 points and blame the weather," SFA coach John Pearce said. "Both teams played in the same conditions. Both teams had the same footing. Just lay it like it is: the best football team won."

SFA scored the first touchdown on a long drive, but Dickenson and his receivers immediately got a pleasant surprise: the Lumberjack secondary was playing man defense.

"I was kind of shocked to see that much man," said Mike Erhardt, who caught scoring passes of 5 and 28 yards.

Montana's Matt Wells undercut an onside kick attempt in the second quarter \_ "I think I got all tee," he said - and it didn't go the required 10 yards. The Texas team scored its second and final touchdown shortly after on a 42-yard drive to pull within 21-14. Leonard Harris tallied both SFA touchdowns.

Beyond that, Montana's flying defense shackled the Lumberjacks. The offense was stopped short of the end zone only twice

while Dickenson was at the controls, tallying twice in the last 2:05 of the first half to go up 35-14.

Reserve running back Brian Gales had one TD run and Chris Morton the last two to polish up in the second half.

When it was over, Stephen F. Austin was a good team badly beaten. Montana, which had 41 first downs last week to Georgia Southern's five, had a 38-15 edge in that category this time. The Grizzlies outgained the Jacks 669-264 and didn't turn it over once.

They've now topped 600 yards and 45 points in each playoff game.

SFA defensive lineman James Kern was asked how Dickenson can be stopped.

"I don't know, because we didn't stop him very many times," Kern said. "I couldn't give you insight into what it would be like to stop him."

Ritchey, who said the cold didn't bother his passing, completed just 8 of 27. Blaine McElmurry and Justin Hazel each intercepted him once.

Linebacker Jason Crebo terrorized Ritchey and the Jacks in the first half, recording 11 tackles, two of them sacks and two other tackles behind the line.

Ritchey paid tribute to Montana's aggressive defense.

"We're not accustomed to people coming in and compressing the pocket like that," said Ritchey, who was sacked five times. "We feel there were numerous times we shot ourselves in the foot, whether by assignment errors or penalties."

MONTANA 70, S.F. AUSTIN 14

Attendance: 18,523 (stadium record)

Records: Montana 12-2, SFA 11-2

Conditions: Cold and cloudy, with temperatures in high single digits. NE breeze 10-12 MPH. Steady snow in last quarter and a half.

Time of game: 3 hours, 28 minutes

Saturday's stars:

For UM, Dave Dickenson passed for five TDs and ran for another. He completed 25 of 36 passes for 370 yards with no interceptions. Joe Douglass had his third straight game over 100 yards receiving with 127 on eight catches. LB Jason Crebo had 11 tackles and 2 sacks, all in the first half. FS Blaine McElmurry had 11 tackles and an interception.

For SFA, Leonard Harris scored both TDs on short runs. Chris Jefferson caught five passes for 94 yards. LB Cameron Love led the defense with 11 tackles.

Next Saturday: Montana in Division I-AA national championship game against McNeese State, Marshall University in Huntington, W. Va., 10 a.m. (ESPN).

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## 70-14

### Grizzlies earn a shot at the title

By **SHERRY DEVLIN** of the Missoulian

Sun 10-Dec-1995

With 10 minutes left in the fourth quarter Saturday, Santa started the chant from the north end zone of Washington-Grizzly Stadium:

``70, 70, 70, 70."`

University of Montana running back Chris Morton delivered at the 9:31 mark. His 2-yard touchdown run and Andy Larson's extra point (which Santa caught) gave UM a 70-14 victory over Stephen F. Austin in the NCAA Division I-AA football semifinals and a trip to the championship in Huntington, W.Va.

``There is no place on earth like Missoula, Montana," proclaimed St. Nick, a.k.a. Danny Cox in a Santa suit. ``This community believes."`

A record 18,523 blanket-wrapped, frosty-nosed fans provided the proof, filling all seats in the stadium and staying in them far past the point when there was any doubt which team would emerge the victor.

``This is a complete community effort," said Cox. Added son Tony, ``We can't leave. This is too much fun."`

Thus the crowd: They brought signs beseeching parents for airfare to next week's championship game and touting quarterback Dave Dickenson for the Walter Payton award. They hooted. They hollered. And hooted some more. And worked like crazy to stay warm in the single-digit cold.

UM band member Ben Morris wrapped his tuba in a patchwork quilt and strapped packets of hand warmers to the valves. ``It takes lots and lots of warm air to keep from freezing up," he said. ``You have to work at it every minute."`

Across the field, the Stephen F. Austin band suffered from a decided lack of cold-weather know-how. Every wind instrument was frozen by halftime except one mellophone that played a lonely, frozen-lipped rendition of ``Dixie."`

``We normally have 172 in our band, but we could only bring 54 all this way," said Molly Galloway. ``And now we can't play any of our music. It's a good thing we have the drums."`

SFA had never played in such a bone chiller, at least not in Galloway's recollection. ``It was a little chilly last weekend in North Carolina, but we just wore long-sleeved shirts," she said.

What most impressed the Lumberjack band about Missoula, though, was not the weather, but ``how nice everyone has been to us," Galloway said, her fellow band members nodding their agreement. ``We went downtown and everyone was wishing us luck and giving us food.

``I think they felt sorry for us."`

Honorary band member for the afternoon was Donald ``Diz" Zanoﬀ, a speech pathologist on the Flathead Indian Reservation and a 1986 graduate of Stephen F. Austin.

``I wanted to be with my people," Zanoﬀ said. ``Actually, I'm thrilled about this game. Either way, a team I love will go to the finals."`

Zanoﬀ's younger brother was with the Grizzly fans in the north end zone; he's a student at UM, the first of the Zanoﬀ children not to graduate from SFA.

The day, of course, belonged to the Montana fans - a dozen of whom peeled off their shirts midway through the third quarter as a show of support (or insanity, some in the crowd suggested).

``We're going all the way," bellowed David Lumdell, who runs track for UM and made considerable sport of showing the crowd the tattoo of a Canadian flag on his back. He is, after all, from Quebec.

The weather? What weather? Lumdell and associates proclaimed.

For the record, the temperature at kickoff was 6 degrees, but improved to 8 degrees at halftime and 10 degrees by game's end. With the wind, estimated at 10 to 12 mph, the chill factor was minus 16.

Also for the record, there were five more fans in attendance Saturday than at the previous week's quarter-final game. Their names: Shamus Kirschbaum, Mindy Jensen, Chris Johns, Jeff Rankin and Anthony Shawmede. Their assignment: fire the Army ROTC cannon after each touchdown, field goal and extra point.

Missing from the last two Grizzly football games, first because of Thanksgiving vacation, then because of university fears about

firing a cannon so close to such a large crowd, the ROTC cadets were back by popular demand.

And with 70 points on the scoreboard, they were busy all game long.

The fans in Section 129 still provided the ``BOOM" cheer and poster boards started during the cannon's two-week absence. And said they intend to continue next season.

``Hey, that's how we're keeping warm," said Brenda Thomas. ``Lots of hot chocolate. Lots of blankets. And LOTS of BOOMS."

# Stories from the Marshall Game

The following articles were taken from the Missoulian.

## Heart of the matter

**In the end, the championship was ``all about team'**

**By KIM BRIGGEMAN of the Missoulian**

Date: Sun 17-Dec-1995

HUNTINGTON, W. Va. - It was a stately celebration. It was one for the ages.

The sun dropped behind the pressbox in Marshall Stadium on Saturday, but the scoreboard glistened:

**Montana 22, Marshall 20.**

No player, no coach rode anyone's shoulders when the Grizzlies became Division I-AA football champions.

Andy Larson, who won it with a field goal with 39 seconds left, took a knee and wept.

Then he joined in as Montana joined in. Hundreds of fans from a state thousands of miles away cascaded onto the field to share the moment.

Coach Don Read, who turned 39 again Friday, met the press a short time later.

``At our university and our state, we have so many people who help us," he said. ``We played the game with that in mind. We talked to the kids about saying thanks to everyone who helped us along the way, from the governor, to the president of the university, to our athletic director, to our support people, to our fans.

``Our way to say thank-you was to play the very best we could and try to win it."

Read then repaired to the locker room, where he presented the championship trophy to his seniors.

It will take a special place in the trophy case ``forever and ever and ever and ever and ever and ever," Read said.

The Grizzlies won for the 13th time in ways few counted on. Both defenses dominated. UM held Marshall to 112 yards on the ground and disrupted the Herd of its ball-control plan.

Marshall's ferocious front sacked Dave Dickenson 10 times and kept him under 300 total yards for just the second time this season.

Larson kicked first his longest collegiate field goal, then his biggest. The winner came from 25 yards out. It seemed anything but a bull's eye to those without an angle. Even the officials considered an extra heartbeat before raising their hands to the West Virginia sky.

``God was with me on that one. It went right inside the left pole," a dazed Larson said. ``This is so crazy. I'm so emotional. I mean every time I look at that scoreboard I almost break down.

``It's the best feeling I've ever had in my whole life."

``I was right on the sideline going, 'Please, Andy, please.' It never went through my mind that he wasn't going to make it," said receiver Matt Wells, who scored both UM touchdowns on passes from Dickenson.

``Andy's become a first-class kicker," Dickenson said. ``I thought he'd make it, but I wasn't sure we had the game wrapped up yet. When he made it I was, I don't know, like a coach or something.

``I wanted to make sure there was no celebration. I was yelling out defensive advice, something I don't even know anything about."

The "Legend" was almost prophetic.

Larson squibbed the kickoff to the 22. Chris Parker, who scored Marshall's only two touchdowns, fielded the ball and almost broke the return. He was stopped at the Marshall 46 with 31 seconds left.

With no timeouts left, freshman quarterback Chad Pennington hit Tharen Todd for 8 yards. Justin Hazel made the stop, and costly seconds ticked off during the unpiling.

Pennington spiked it to stop the clock with 11 ticks left. Hazel broke up a pass to Tim Martin, and the clock was down to :02.

Tim Openlander, who has a career long of 51 yards, tried a 63-yard field goal that fell well short as time ran out.

"This is a tremendous disappointment and it is hard on our kids," Marshall coach Jim Donnan said. "I can't rationalize this or sit back here and say it's OK, it's not. We've won a lot of games here, but we've lost three national championships, too. Today, we lost it."

Marshall started the game with a fumble on fourth and short inside the UM 40. Erik Thomas dropped a potential touchdown pass late in the first period. B.J. Summers' late hit on Wells seemed to pop UM's offense out of its malaise late in the first half.

The Thundering Herd was called for 12 penalties costing 109 yards. Montana had one of its cleanest games - four flags, 18 yards.

UM's defense also adjusted quickly to the artificial turf, keeping Marshall out of the end zone in the first half while taking a 10-3 lead.

"It was all team," said linebacker David Sirmon. "You see the heart of the team everywhere. It's heart and character and really a love for each other."

"You saw it come out those last few seconds."

Montana 22, Marshall 20

Attendance: 32,106 (I-AA playoff record)

Records: Montana 13-2, Marshall 12-3

Conditions: Sunny, 51 degrees, slight breeze

Time of game: 3 hours, 32 minutes

Saturday's stars:

For Montana, Andy Larson kicked two field goals - a personal best 48-yarder and the game-winner from 25 yards out with 39 seconds left. Dave Dickenson survived 10 sacks to complete 29 of 48 passes for 281 yards and two touchdowns. Matt Wells had two TD receptions, Mike Erhardt caught a game-high nine passes and Joe Douglass had eight for 102.

LBs Jason Crebo and Mike Bouchee combined for 23 tackles. Mike Temple had an interception. Brian Toone and Randy Riley combined for a crucial safety in the third quarter.

For Marshall, Chris Parker scored two second-half touchdowns and rushed 23 times for 94 yards. Chad Pennington was 23 of 40 passing for 246 yards. TE Jermaine Wiggins caught five passes for 81 yards, DE B.J. Cohen had three of the Herd's 10 sacks, and CB Jason Grayson had two sacks and a pass interception. LB Jason Embry had 10 tackles.

Summary

Montana 3 7 2 10 - 22

Marshall 0 3 7 10 - 20

How they scored

## FIRST QUARTER

Montana - FG Andy Larson 48, 6:09. Drive: 6 plays, 13 yards. Key plays: QB Dave Dickenson passes 7 yards to WR Joe Douglass, then scrambles 12 yards to the Marshall 25. A 6-yard sack by CB Jayson Grayson on Dickenson sets up the longest field goal of Larson's career. Montana 3-0.

## SECOND QUARTER

Marshall - FG Tim Openlander 39, 12:54. Drive: 11 plays, 51 yards. Key plays: RB Erik Thomas drops deep pass behind secondary on second play, but Marshall scores anyway. QB Chad Pennington, on third-and-10, hits WR Tim Martin for 15 yards, then throws 12 yards to WR Ricky Carter to the Montana 24. On the next play, RB Chris Parker recovers his own fumble, snatching the ball from LB Mike Bouchee. Tied 3-3.

Montana - Matt Wells 24 pass from Dave Dickenson (Andy Larson kick), :59. Drive: 5 plays, 77 yards. Key plays: Dickenson passes 7 yards to Wells, and Marshall DB B.J. Summers is penalized 15 yards for a late hit. WR Joe Douglass, aided by blocks from Dave Kempfert and Mike Agee, picks up 31 yards on a screen pass to the Marshall 25. Wells beats SS Scott Smythe on a corner route for the TD. Montana 10-9.

## THIRD QUARTER

Marshall - Chris Parker 10 run (Tim Openlander kick), 9:46. Drive: 11 plays, 48 yards. Key plays: A 22-yard punt by Montana's Dallas Neil allows Marshall to start at the Montana 48. Marshall runs eight times, converting a pair of fourth-and-ones on a 3-yard run by RB Javonne Darling and a 1-yard run by RB Chris Parker. On the TD, Parker starts out to the right, then cuts upfield and scores standing up. Tied 10-10.

Montana Safety, Chad Pennington intentional grounding in end zone, 6:54. Key plays: Dallas Neil's 44-yard punt pins Marshall on its own 5-yard line. On second-and-9, QB Pennington drops back into the end zone and throws the ball to the turf under the pressure of DE Randy Riley. The intentional grounding penalty results in a safety. Montana 12-10.

## FOURTH QUARTER

Montana - Matt Wells 1 pass from Dave Dickenson (Andy Larson kick), 12:30. Drive: 4 plays, 20 yards. Key plays: Montana gets a fumble recovery at the Marshall 21 when LB Jason Crebo strips the ball loose and DE Eric Manzanarez pounces on it. Dickenson eludes the grasp of a defender and scrambles for 5 yards, then passes 14 yards to Joe Douglass to the 2. On the TD, Dickenson rolls left, sidesteps a rusher to buy time, and finds Wells. Montana 19-10.

Marshall - FG Tim Openlander 21, 10:05. Drive: 7 plays, 51 yards. Key plays: A short kickoff and 15-yard return sets up Marshall at its own 44. QB Chad Pennington passes 31 yards to TE Jermaine Wiggins at the Montana 6. On third-and-goal from the 5, FS Blaine McElmurry breaks up a pass, forcing the field goal. Montana 19-13.

Marshall - Chris Parker 26 run (Tim Openlander kick), 4:45. Drive: 8 plays, 76 yards. Key plays: On second-and-10 from the Montana 35, QB Chad Pennington is stripped of the ball, picks it up on one bounce, and passes 16 yards to WR Tharen Todd. On the TD, Parker breaks five tackles. Marshall 20-19.

Montana - FG Andy Larson 25, :39. Drive: 12 plays, 72 yards. Key plays: QB Dave Dickenson completes 6 of 8 passes. On fourth-and-3 at the 50, RB Kelly Stensrud blocks SS Scott Smythe on a blitz and Dickenson passes 20 yards to WR Mike Erhardt. After passes of 5 and 10 yards to Erhardt, Dickenson scrambles 10 yards up the middle. That sets up Larson's winning field goal from the right hashmark. Montana 22-20.

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**Date: Sun 17-Dec-1995**

## Quotable coaches

### Montana coach Don Read:

"I thought it was a great game from all aspects. It was close, it was hard-fought. It was the kind of game the kids like, the fans like, I'm sure. Marshall is a very, very good football team. We've not seen a better defensive football team in years and years and years. I thought our kids played with their hearts and their heads. I'm so proud of the job they did."

“Anytime you win, be it a game or a championship or whatever, it reflects work and preparation. At our university in our state we have so many people who help us. We played the game with that in mind. We talked to the kids about saying thanks to everyone who helped us along the way, from the governor, to the president of the university, to our athletic director, to our support people, our fans. Our way to say thank you was to play the very best we could and try to win it.”

“Two things happened (on the offensive line). One, I think there was a mental and psychological adjustment. They are very fast and we're not an AstroTurf team, we're a grass team and we've been in mud, and I think there's an adjustment there to a degree. I'm not using that as an excuse. They're so talented, their front people. The other thing we did was we closed the splits down so they didn't have as much room as the game went on. We like to split people out so David (Dickenson) has alleys in which to look up and throw and move around. We closed the splits down, which gave them less room in the rush lanes and that helped us. The biggest thing was the adjustment of our linemen - mentally, psychologically, physically - to their people.

“Today you have to credit Marshall with the pressure. I think they gave David (Dickenson) about one second less (to throw) over the course of the game than he normally has. That's a tribute to those guys.”

“(Huntington) is a wonderful community and very supportive to this game and to their university. In a playoff situation like that, it's such a home-court advantage. I thought our guys overcame that, although I think it was a factor.”

### **Marshall coach Jim Donnan:**

“This is a tremendous disappointment and it is hard on our kids. Things just didn't go like they should have. Give credit to Montana for their execution. They made big plays on us. This is not easy for me because we didn't play our best. But I am not down on Montana because they played extremely well. Our sloppiness hurts me more than losing.”

“We hung in there awhile and had good chances to win. We pride ourselves on our execution and today we just pressured up and made some pretty bad plays and that was the difference. We had too many missed assignments and penalties. But penalties did not lose this game - it was lack of execution and I take full credit for that. We should have been better prepared.”

“Every call in this game was right. The officiating crew took charge. All the penalties fall back on me. We lost three games this year that personal fouls have been a part of and we've got to work on that in the off-season.”

“I can't rationalize this or sit back here and say it's OK, it's not. We've won a lot of games here, but we've lost three national championships, too. Today, we lost it. There's no question in my mind we lost it. Give them credit for making the plays, but we lost it to 'em and that's what happens in most games, a team loses it.”

“It's hard to lose, but it's good to see that the game's decided on the field. They have a tough time selecting the teams in the field, it's a tough and thankless position. I would a whole lot rather have it like this than like it was when I was at Oklahoma where you don't decide it on the field.”

“My hat's off to Montana. Again, I want to make sure everybody understands that they're one of the best coached teams we've played since I've been here. They deserve to be national champions. Hurts me bad, but I'll still get up tomorrow morning.”

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## **CHAMPS! Grizzlies subdue the Herd 22-20**

**By BOB MESEROLL** Missoulian sports editor

Date: Sun 17-Dec-1995

HUNTINGTON, W. Va. - Montana coach Don Read gathered his newly crowned Division I-AA football champions close around him late Saturday afternoon.

“And now there is only one,” Read said as the Grizzly locker room erupted in cheers.

Indeed there is, and it's the University of Montana Grizzlies.

Andy Larson kicked a game-winning 25-yard field goal with 39 seconds to play to lift Montana to a 22-20 win over Marshall. It was the first national championship for the Grizzlies, who finished the season at 13-2. The game was played before a playoff-record 32,106 fans at Marshall Stadium.

The win capped an amazing playoff run in which the Griz defense surrendered just 34 points in four games, one point less than

the previous record by Furman en route to the 1988 title.

Record-shattering quarterback Dave Dickenson, meanwhile, came through when he had to, completing six of eight passes for 69 yards to drive the Grizzlies to Larson's winning field goal.

"I'm happy, but in the same sense I planned on winning it," Dickenson said. "I wasn't coming down here to lose."

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**Chris Walterskirchen**

Date: Mon 18-Dec-1995

## TRIVIA

The Grizzlies' win at Marshall marked the fifth true playoff road win for a Big Sky Conference team in Division I-AA playoff history and only the second against a non-Big Sky opponent. Idaho's win over Northeast Louisiana in 1993 was the only previous Big Sky victory against a non-league team on the opponent's home field.

As the Super Bowl has gotten more and more one-sided in recent years, the I-AA championship game seems to be the ticket for those who enjoy close games. Over the past nine seasons, the I-AA championship has been decided by an average margin of less than eight points.

With the Grizzlies' win on Saturday, the state of Montana joins Idaho as the only state to have had more than one school win a I-AA title. Boise St. took the crown in 1980, while Idaho State did the trick the next year.

As Don Read begins to prepare his troops for the start of the 1996 season, he might tell them this story. The 1996 Grizzlies will begin defense of their national title in Oregon, as did the 1985 Bobcats. That Bobcat team suffered a 46-28 humbling by none other than Portland State, coached by Don Read. The Griz open next season at Oregon State.

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## The right time for right team

### That championship season

**By MICK HOLIEN of the Missoulian**

Date: Mon 18-Dec-1995

Editors note: For the past three years, Mick Holien has watched the University of Montana football team from a special vantage point: as the "Voice of the Grizzlies." Here he looks back on a remarkable season

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The 1995 University of Montana football team dared to dream the impossible, then set about to accomplish more than most of us could even visualize. And in the end, their focus, pride and resilience produced for their state the unimaginable: a Division I-AA national championship.

The 98th edition of Grizzly football generated momentum after a semifinal playoff loss last year to Youngstown State, captured its second Big Sky Conference title in three years, then dominated the playoffs like no other before to etch its name onto the championship plaque.

Built from a base of outstanding senior starters, sprinkled with transfer and redshirt freshmen at skill positions, dashed with in-state and Northwest talent and frosted by I-AA All America quarterback Dave Dickenson, a diverse team personality emerged as one with every integer complementing all others, eventually producing a finely tuned machine on both sides of the ball.

In the end a defense - mangled after 28 first-quarter points in an eventual loss at the University of Idaho - the greatest quarterback in UM history, a solid corps of receivers and an exciting quartet of running backs marched into Saturday's championship game with the confidence to succeed and the tools to make it possible.

From a radio broadcaster's point of view, the season seated the final stone in Dave Dickenson's crown.

But aside from the countless times he meticulously drove the Grizzlies into the end zone, even more enjoyable was his demeanor as I watched him patiently deal with the demands of his success with friendly understanding - but most of all with class.

As sports is but a microcosm of life, the legend of Dave Dickenson has just begun.

But this year's Grizzlies, who attracted a record of more than 135,000 spectators to nine home games, didn't ride to victory on the back of a single-faceted philosophy.

On offense, diminutive Matt Wells lived up to his billing and eclipsed the receiving marks of last year's stalwarts, Scott Gurnsey and Shalon Baker; Mike Erhardt grasped the football like a vice; and newcomers Joe Douglass and Raul Pacheco surfaced to corral more than 100 receptions and made focusing on a single Grizzly receiver simply impossible.

Kelly Stensrud was Mr. Dependable, seldom making a mistake, and proved to be a terror with countless cut blocks on rushing defenders, giving Dickenson an added count to slice through the opposition's defense with record-setting passing efficiency.

Speedster underclassmen Josh Branin and Brian Gales brought sprinter explosiveness to the always potent passing attack, keeping opponents honest and producing some of the most exciting moments of the season.

The offensive front of tackles Eric Simonson and Jason Baker, guards Mike Agee, Bob Fenton and Jeff Zellick, and center Dave Kempfert played their best football at the tail end of the season.

Players like defensive end Corey Falls and Yohanse Manzanarez, tackles Marty Duffin and Ryan Thompson and linebackers Mike Bouchee sparkled, while in the secondary safeties Blaine McElmurry and Sean Goicoechea contributed greatly and covered effectively.

But the defensive story of the season was sophomore linebacker Jason Crebo, who took legendary No. 37 to yet another level with his speed and vicious hitting. The runner-up for Big Sky Conference defensive player of the year, Crebo's enthusiasm and leadership put monikers on a preseason ``No Name Defense."

Freshman Dallas Neil, who led the nation in punting early in the year, countlessly pinned opponents deep in their own territory. His punting average fell while he kicked the football away from the best returners, but Montana's net punting average was among the best around.

And how about kicker Andy Larson, who won the championship game with a 25-yard field goal with 39 seconds left Saturday against Marshall? The Helena junior was near perfect in conversions and also won the Northern Arizona game with a 29-yard field goal at the gun. Bolstered, he said, after beating McNeese State with a field goal in the playoffs last year, Larson's confidence continues to blossom.

Every member of this Grizzly edition could be mentioned, as each contributed and many excelled and played their roles with the utmost of efficiency.

On the 10-year anniversary of his hiring, Montana coach Don Read celebrated his birthday a day late with a boisterous Grizzly locker room chirping Happy Birthday.

The dean of Big Sky Conference coaches heads a program that puts everything in its proper perspective and values athletes as students - and more importantly, as citizens.

With 33 victories in the last three years and a trio of consecutive playoff appearances, Grizzly football is in its finest hour.

For us, the fans, Christmas 1995 came 2,200 miles away and nine days early, but the return to Missoula five hours after claiming victory was oh so sweet.

Could there ever be a more enjoyable day? Well, with just seven senior starters, if there could, it might come in 1996.

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## Local Heroes

By **KIM BRIGGEMAN** of the Missoulian

Date: Tue 19-Dec-1995

No one wants this season to die.

More than 5,500 people - sometimes raucous, sometimes daubing at their eyes - paid tribute to the Montana Grizzlies' first national championship football team in UM's Dahlberg Arena on Monday night.

They roared at every mention of Andy Larson's name. His last-minute field goal gave the Grizzlies the title in Saturday's 22-20 victory over Marshall in Huntington, W. Va.

They laughed at senior receiver Matt Wells' reminiscence of his first encounter with freshman roommate Dave Dickenson, the star of the night and of the season.

"I said to myself, 'This guy's a bookworm. He's not a quarterback,'" said the diminutive Wells. "And I'm sure he said to himself, 'This guy's a horse jockey. He's not a wide receiver.'"

Gov. Marc Racicot read a special citation to the Grizzlies that began, "You have awed, excited, exhilarated and captivated our entire state with week after week of incredible athletic exploits."

School president George Dennison called the Grizzlies "a remarkable group of winners."

Grizzly coach Don Read thanked the UM support staff and the fans of Montana.

"This season was really a 'we' deal," he said. "Everyone here and around the state contributed."

The night closed with one anticipated presentation and two surprises.

Dickenson, surrounded by his family, received the Walter Payton Award as Division I-AA's outstanding offensive player.

Then the loudspeakers played a tape of a telephone conversation, recorded at the KUFM studio minutes before the rally began, between Read, Dickenson and President Clinton.

Finally, Dickenson's jersey number, 15, was formally retired. He was presented his copper jersey on a glassed frame, along with a 'Dave's World' poster.

Dickenson fought back tears as soon as his introduction began.

"I didn't think I'd be quite this emotional," he confessed. "I'm just so proud and happy to be in Missoula, to be a Montana Grizzly and to be part of this team."

He shared the stage with his parents from Great Falls, Bob and Sue, and with brother Craig and sister Amy.

Among those Dickenson thanked were UM weight trainers who helped beef him up for an injury-free senior season and his old friend and ex-Grizzly Tony Arntson, who came to UM as a quarterback in the mid-1980s.

"He was the last guy to lose to the Cats, but we still liked him," Dickenson joshed.

"I just thank God that Dave's too young to run for office," Racicot said.

The hook-up with Clinton wasn't easy. David Purviance, director of communications at the university, said the president was in budget meetings with Newt Gingrich and Bob Dole all afternoon. Purviance said he gave up trying to make contact after 5 p.m.

When Clinton's people called nearly two hours later, Purviance and his aides rushed to get Read and Dickenson to the phone.

"I tell you what," Clinton told Dickenson. "That four-minute drive - you may get a lot of pros who want you to show them how you did that."

"Until they see my size," Dickenson replied. He then thanked the president "for caring about the small schools."

"This means a lot for I-AA and for a lot of athletes around the nation, I'm sure," the quarterback said.

Several senior players spoke, including cornerback Mike Temple.

``Save your cheers for next season too," he said. ``Because I'm sure we'll win another one."

# 1995 Grizzly Football Statistics

[Regular Season Final Statistics](#)  
[UM vs. Eastern Kentucky Statistics](#)  
[UM vs. Georgia Southern Statistics](#)  
[UM vs. Stephen F. Austin Statistics](#)  
[UM vs. Marshall Statistics](#)

## 1995 UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA CUMULATIVE FOOTBALL STATISTICS 11 GAME TOTALS

### TEAM STATISTICS

#### GAME-BY-GAME RESULTS

G#	DATE	OPONENT	SCORE	ATTEN	SITE	REC	CONF REC
1	9/ 2	Eastern New Mexico	41-14 W	12,375	H	1-0-0	0-0-0
2	9/ 9	Washington State	21-38 L	28,312	A	1-1-0	0-0-0
3	9/16	Minnesota-Duluth	54- 6 W	12,508	H	2-1-0	0-0-0
4	9/23	*Boise State	54-28 W	18,505	H	3-1-0	1-0-0
5	9/30	UC Davis	41-20 W	11,723	H	4-1-0	1-0-0
6	10/ 7	*Weber State	49-22 W	14,088	H	5-1-0	2-0-0
7	10/14	*Northern Arizona	24-21 W	15,707	A	6-1-0	3-0-0
8	10/21	*University of Idaho	43-55 L	14,912	A	6-2-0	3-1-0
9	11/ 4	*Idaho State	35-21 W	15,490	H	7-2-0	4-1-0
10	11/11	*Eastern Washington	63- 7 W	3,272	A	8-2-0	5-1-0
11	11/18	*Montana State	42-33 W	15,197	A	9-2-0	6-1-0

\* = BIG SKY

Overall Record: 9-2-0 Conference: 6-1-0 Home: 6-0-0 Away: 3-2-0 Neutral: 0-0-0

Overall Attendance: 162089 Overall Average: 14735  
 Conference Attendance: 97171 Conference Average: 13882  
 Home Attendance: 84689 Home Average: 14115  
 Away Attendance: 77400 Away Average: 15480  
 Neutral Attendance: 0 Neutral Average: 0

SCORE (QUARTERS)	1ST	AVG.	2ND	AVG.	HALF	AVG.	3RD	AVG.	4TH	AVG.	HALF	AVG.	S.D.	TOTAL GAME	AVG.			
UM	138	12.6	151	13.7	26.3	95	8.6	83	7.6	16.2	0	467	42.5					
Opponent Totals	45	4.1	96	8.7	12.8	56	5.1	68	6.2	11.3	0	265	24.1					

NET PUNTING	PUNTS	YARDS	AVG.	OPP	RETS	OPP	RETN	YDS	OPP	RETURN	AVG.	NET	AVG.
UM	43	1674	38.9	14	94	536	6.7	11.2	36.7	32.1			
Opponent Totals	74	2909	39.3	48									

### TEAM STATISTICS CATEGORY

### UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA OPPONENT TOTALS

First Downs (Rush-Pass-Penalty)	71+185+ 23 = 279	82+106+ 14 = 202
Rushing Attempts	320	415
Rushing Yards Gained	1540	1838
Rushing Yards Lost	393	392
NET RUSHING YARDAGE	1147	1446
Yards Per Rush	3.6	3.5
Rushing Yards Per Game	104.3	131.5
Passes Attempted	500	382
Passes Completed	336	210
Passes Had Intercepted	12	17
Pass Completion Percentage	.672	.550
NET YARDS PASSING	4490	2364
Yards Per Pass Attempt	9.0	6.2
Yards Per Pass Completion	13.4	11.3
Passing Yards Per Game	408.2	214.9
Total Plays	820	797
Total Plays Per Game	74.6	72.5
TOTAL NET YARDS	5637	3810
Yards Gained Per Play	6.9	4.8
Yards Gained Per Game	512.5	346.4
Kickoff Rtns/Kickoff Rtn Yds	30/630	62/1094
Ave Ydage Per Kickoff Return	21.0	17.7
Kickoff Returns Per Game	2.7	5.6
Punt Rtns / Punt Rtn Yards	48/536	14/94
Ave Ydage Per Punt Rtn	11.2	6.7
Punt Returns Per Game	4.4	1.3
Inter Rtns/Inter Rtn Yds	17/301	12/171
Ave Ydage Per Inter Rtn	17.7	14.3
Ave Interceptions Per Game	1.6	1.1
Punts / Total Punt Yardage	43/1674	74/2909
Average Yards Per Punt	38.9	39.3
Ave Number of Punts Per Game	3.9	6.7
FumbLes / FumbLes Lost	22/16	19/10
Penalties / Yards Penalized	95/846	87/734
Average Yards Per Penalty	8.9	8.4
Penal Per Gm/Yds Pen Per Gm	8.6/76.9	7.9/66.7
2 Point Safety / 1 Point Safety	0/0	0/0
3rd Down Conv Attempts/Made	148/66	171/56
3rd Down Conv Percentage	.446	.328
Time of Possession	5:29:32	5:30:28

### INDIVIDUAL PLAYER STATISTICS

RUSHING	G/GS	ATT.	GAIN	LOSS	NET	YDS/ATT.	YDS/GAME	TD	TD/GAME	LONG	RUN	(AGAINST)
Josh Branan, RB	11/0	57	396	7	389	6.8	35.4	6	.6	42	(BSU)	
Kelly Stensrud, RB	11/11	70	269	10	259	3.7	23.6	6	.6	16	(WSU)	
Brian Gates, RB	9/0	39	259	13	246	6.3	27.3	2	.2	67	(UMD)	
Chris Morton, RB	7/0	37	165	7	158	4.3	22.6	2	.3	14	(ISU)	
Josh Paffhausen, QS	9/0	18	96	25	71	3.9	7.9	2	.2	16	(UCD)	
Dave Dickenson, QB	11/11	89	322	289	33	4	3.0	3	.3	27	(WebSU)	
Larry Tofaneli, WR	6/0	1	15	0	15	15.0	2.5	1	.2	15	(EWU)	
Mike Wilson, WR	3/1	1	8	0	8	8.0	2.7	0	.0	8	(UMD)	
Mike Erhardt, WR	10/10	1	6	0	6	6.0	.6	0	.0	6	(UI)	
Joe Douglass, WR	11/10	1	0	0	0	.0	.0	0	.0	0		
ELeu Kane, WR	7/0	1	0	5	-5	-5.0	-.7	0	.0	0		
Dallas Neil, P	11/ 1	2	4	10	-6	-3.0	-.6	0	.0	4	(NAU)	
Brian Ah Yat, QB	5/0	2	0	7	-7	-3.5	-1.4	0	.0	0		
TEAM	1/0	1	0	20	-20	-20.0	-20.0	0	.0	0		
UM	11/11	320	1540	393	1147	3.6	104.3	22	2.0			
Opponent Totals	11/11	415	1838	392	1446	3.5	131.5	15	1.4			

### PASS

PASSING	G/GS	ATT.	CMP.	PCT.	INT	PCT.	YDS	ATT	CMP.	YDS/	YDS/	TDS/	TDS/	TDS/	EFF.	LONG	(AGAINST)
Dave Dickenson, QS	11/11	455	309	.679	9	.020	4176	9.2	13.5	379.6	38	.080	.123	3.5	168.6	90	(BSU)
Josh Paffhausen, QS	9/0	30	21	.700	1	.030	257	8.6	12.2	28.6	0	.000	.000	0	135.3	30	(UMD)
Brian Ah Yat, QS	5/0	5	6	.400	2	.133	57	3.8	9.5	11.4	0	.000	.000	0	45.3	18	(UCD)
UM	11/11	500	336	.672	12	.020	4490	9.0	13.4	408.2	38	.080	.113	3.5	162.9		

Opponent Totals 11/11 382 210 .550 17 .040 2364 6.2 11.3 214.9 19 .050 .090 1.7 114.5

Table with columns: RUSHING YARDS, PASSING YARDS, I, ATT, CMP, YARDS, TDS, PLAYS, YDS, YDS/PLAY, YDS/GAME, TDS, TDS/GAME. Rows include players like Dave Dickenson, Josh Branan, Kelly Stensrud, etc.

UM 320 1540 393 1147 22 500 336 4490 38 820 5637 6.9 512.5 60 5.5
Opponent Totals 415 1838 392 1446 15 382 210 2364 19 797 3810 4.8 346.4 34 3.1

Table with columns: RECEIVING, G/GS, RECEPTS, YDS, YDS/REC, YDS/GM, TDS, TDS/GAME, REC/GM, LONG, RECEPT (AGAINST). Rows include players like Joe Douglass, Marc Wells, Mike Erhardt, etc.

Table with columns: RUSHING, RECEIVING, PUNT RETS, KICKOFF RETS, YDS, YDS/PLAY, YDS/GAME. Rows include ALL-PURPOSE RUNNING, Joe Douglass, Matt Wells, etc.

Table with columns: PUNT RETURNS, RETURNS, YDS, YDS/RTRN, YDS/GM, RTNS/GM, TDS, LONG, RET. Rows include Joe Douglass, Nathan Dolan, Matt Wells, etc.

Table with columns: KICKOFF RETURNS, RETURNS, YDS, YDS/RETURN, YDS/GM, RTNS/GM, TDS, LONG, RETURN. Rows include Josh Branan, Brian Gales, Nathan Dolan, etc.

Table with columns: INTERCEPTIONS, INTCPPTS, YDS, YDS/RETURN, INT/GM, TDS, LONG. Rows include Sean Golcochea, Ryan Palma, Elaine McClumry, etc.

Table with columns: PUNTING, PNTS, YDS, YDS/PNT, PNTS/GAME, INSIDE, DISTANCE, OFF 20, BLKD, 1-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, >70, LONG. Rows include Kelly Stensrud, Dallas Neil, P.

Table with columns: FIELD GOALS, G, FGA-FGM, PCT, YARDS, 1-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, OVER 50, FGA-FGM, PCT, BLK, FG/G, LONG. Rows include Andy Larson, David Henkel, K.

POINT AFTER CONVERSIONS	G	KICKING			CONSECUTIVE KICKS			RUSHING			PASS RECEIVING			TOTAL	
		ATT-MADE	PCT	KICKS MADE	BLKED	ATT-MADE	PCT	ATT-MADE	PCT	ATT-MADE	PCT	ATT-MADE	PCT	POINTS	TOTAL
Andy Larson, K/P	10	31	.30	.97	0	0	0	0	0	0	.00	1	0	.00	32
David Henkel, K	6	13	.12	.92	1	0	0	0	0	.00	0	0	.00	13	
Dave Dickenson, OB	11	0	0	.00	0	0	3	0	0	.00	9	0	.00	12	
Josh Paffhausen, OB	9	0	0	.00	0	0	0	0	0	.00	1	0	.00	1	
Larry TofaneLLI, WR	6	0	0	.00	0	0	1	0	0	.00	0	0	.00	1	
UM		11	.44	.42	.96	1	0	4	0	.00	11	0	.00	59	
Opponent Totals	11	24	.21	.88	0	1	3	1	.33	6	3	.50	33	25	

SCORING	G	TOUCHDOWNS			EXTRA POINTS			SAFETY	TOTAL PTS	PTS/GAME
		PASS RCPT	RUSH	RETURN	TOTAL	KICK	PASS RCPT			
Mike Erhardt, WR	10	10	0	0	10	0	3	0	0	66
Matt Wells, WR	11	10	0	0	10	0	1	0	0	62
Joe Douglass, WR	11	7	0	2	9	0	2	0	0	58
Kelly Stensrud, RB	11	3	6	0	9	0	1	0	0	56
Andy Larson, K/P	10	0	0	0	0	30	0	30	5	45
Josh Branan, RB	11	1	6	0	7	0	0	0	0	42
Raul Pacheco, WR	10	4	0	0	4	0	1	0	0	26
Dave Dickenson, QB	11	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	18
Brian Gates, RB	9	1	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	18
David Henkel, K	6	0	0	0	0	12	0	12	0	18
Josh Paffhausen, QB	9	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	12
Blaine McEtmurry, FS	11	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	12
Chris Morton, RB	7	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	12
Sean Goicoechea, SS	11	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	6
Larry TofaneLLI, WR	6	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	6
ELeu Kane, WR	7	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	6
Marc Bebout, TE	4	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	6
UM		11	38	22	5	65	42	8	0	50
Opponent Totals	11	19	15	1	35	21	3	1	25	8

DEFENSE	G/GS	UT	AT	TT	QB SACK/-YRDS	TL/-YRDS	FF	FUMREC	BLOCK	MISC-TD	PD	INT	SAFETY
Mike Bouchee, ILB	11/11	36	61	97	5/	30	2/	4	2	0	0	0	0
David Sirmon, OLB	11/11	24	50	74	1/	3	2/	9	0	0	0	0	0
Jason Crebo, ILB	11/11	29	42	71	5/	30	9/	28	1	0	0	0	0
Blaine McE(murry, FS	11/11	32	32	64	0/	0	0/	0	1	1	0	1	3
Sean Goicoechea, SS	11/11	21	27	48	0/	0	2/	5	0	1	0	0	3
Corey Falls, DE	11/10	20	40	9/	57	24	0	3	0	0	0	1	0
Josh Remington, SS	11/0	20	18	38	0/	0	1/	2	0	0	1	0	3
Justin Hazel, CB	11/11	18	20	38	0/	0	0/	0	1	0	0	0	9
Yo Manzanarez, DE	11/11	15	22	37	4/	31	9/	13	0	0	0	0	1
Marty Duffin, DT	10/4	10	27	37	2/	8	1/	1	1	1	0	0	0
Randy Riley, DE	11/0	20	16	36	6/	43	2/	6	0	0	0	0	0
Mike Temple, CB	11/11	20	15	35	0/	0	0/	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greg Fitzgerald, OLB	10/0	21	35	1/	6	2/	5	1	0	0	0	0	8
Ryan Palms, FS	10/0	16	17	33	0/	0	0/	0	1	1	0	0	3
Ryan Thompson, DT	9/9	9	23	32	3/	16	1/	1	0	1	0	0	1
Mark Hampe, ILB	9/0	9	21	30	0/	0	0/	0	0	0	0	0	2
Brian Toone, DT	7/7	10	18	28	5/	48	1/	4	0	0	0	0	0
Mike Kowalski, OLB	8/0	9	16	25	1/	7	0/	0	0	1	0	0	1
Eric Mazanarez, DT	9/0	5	13	18	3/	16	1/	3	0	0	1	0	2
Jake Dennehy, FS/P	8/0	6	11	17	0/	0	0/	0	0	0	0	0	0
Paul Jenkins, ILB	7/0	5	11	16	0/	0	0/	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eric Buehler, ILB	4/0	5	9	14	0/	0	1/	2	0	0	0	0	1
Scott Spraggins, CB	3/0	4	5	9	0/	0	0/	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wade Scates, DT	6/0	4	5	9	1/	6	0/	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chris Morton, RB	7/0	3	5	8	0/	0	0/	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mike Lorentz, DE	3/0	1	7	8	1/	4	1/	4	0	0	0	0	0
Randy Allik, DT	4/0	1	6	7	0/	0	1/	2	0	0	0	0	0
Justin Gaines, CB	2/0	2	3	5	0/	0	0/	0	0	1	0	0	2
Josh Branan, RB	11/0	0	3	3	0/	0	0/	0	0	0	0	0	0
Andy Larson, K/P	10/0	2	0	2	0/	0	0/	0	0	0	0	0	0
Joe Lehman, DE	2/0	1	1	2	0/	0	0/	0	1	0	0	0	0
Todd Hering, WR	2/0	1	1	2	0/	0	0/	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dave Dickenson, OB	11/11	0	2	2	0/	0	0/	0	0	1	0	0	0
Larry TofaneLLI, WR	6/0	1	0	1	0/	0	0/	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mike Erhardt, WR	10/10	1	0	1	0/	0	0/	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scott Curry, OT	1/0	0	1	1	0/	0	0/	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bob Fenton, OG	2/0	1	0	1	0/	0	0/	0	0	1	0	0	0
Josh Paffhausen, QB	9/0	1	0	1	0/	0	0/	0	0	0	0	0	0
James Howell, SS	1/0	1	0	1	0/	0	0/	0	0	0	0	0	0
Marc Bebout, TE	4/0	1	0	1	0/	0	0/	0	0	0	0	0	0
Joe Douglass, WR	11/10	0	1	1	0/	0	0/	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eric Hart, DT	1/0	0	1	1	0/	0	0/	0	0	0	0	0	0
UM		11/11	378	551	929	47/	305	41/	113	9	2	2	42
Opponent Totals	11/11	398	480	878	42/	264	44/	160	14	22	0	37	12

GAME 12:  
November 25, 1995  
MONTANA 48, EASTERN KENTUCKY 0  
(Washington-Grizzly Stadium/Missoula, Montana)  
NCAA DIVISION I-AA FIRST ROUND PLAYOFF GAME

Attendance: 13,830  
Weather: 40, Cloudy, Rain

Eastern Kentucky 0 0 0-0  
Montana 21 27 0-48

TEAM-QUARTER-TIME-PLAY-LEADER  
UM-1st-13:02--Branen, I Run (Larson kick), 7-0 UM  
UM-1st-8:48---Branen, I Run (Larson kick), 14-0 UM  
UM-1st-3:46 --- Douglass, 19 Pass from Dickenson (Larson kick), 21-0 UM  
UM-2nd-10:56--Larson, 37 Field Goal, 24-0 UM  
UM-2nd-7:21 --- Gales, I Run (Larson kick), 31-0 UM  
UM-2nd-4:58---Dickenson, I Run (Larson kick), 38-0 UM  
UM-2nd-1:10 --- Kane, 29 Pass from Dickenson (Larson kick), 45-0 UM  
UM-2nd-0:06 --- Larson, 35 Field Goal, 48-0 UM

UM TEAM STATS EKU  
25 First Downs 8  
38 Rush Attempts 25  
123 Net Yds. Rush. 41  
467 Passing Yards 96  
84-590 Plays-Tot. Yds. 51-137  
2 (-15) Sacks (-Yds) 1(-10)  
46 Pass Attempts 26  
35 Completions 11  
0 Had Intercepted 0  
5-2 Fumbles-Lost 7-5  
10-79 Penalties-Yds. 2-9  
3-40.7 Punts-Average 7-40.6  
5x14 3rd Down Conv. 1x11  
38:49 Time of Poss. 21:11

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

Rushing  
UM-Branen: 14-54/2 TDs; Gales: 9-55/1. EKU-Daymon Carter: 11-37/0; William Murrell: 6-22/0.

**Passing**  
UM-Dickenson: 31x39-0=441/2 TDs; Paffhausen: 4x5-0=26/0; Ah Yat: 0x1-0=0/0. EKU-Tommy Luginbill: 9x200=75/0; Greg Couch: 2x5-0=21/0.

**Receiving**  
UM-Douglass: 10-146/1; Branen: 5-64/0; Wells: 5-67/0; Erhardt: 4-57-/O; Kane: 2-35/1. EKU-Dialleo Burks: 7-71/0.

**Defensive Leader(s)**  
UM-Bouchee: 6 TT, FR, PD, TL (-); Goicoechea: 6 TT, 2 PDs; Remington: 4 TT, FF, FR. EKU-Tony McCombs, 13 TT; Britt Bowen: 10 TT, TL (-2), FR.

**GAMENOTES:** Dickenson played a flawless first half, and the Griz defense stifled EKUs potent running attack, as Montana recorded its largest margin of victory ever, in this, its 10th NCAA Division I-AA playoff game.

Dickenson led Montana to scores on eight of its nine first-half possessions for the only points of the game. Dickenson was suffering from the flu and had a 101-degree temperature prior to the contest. He was 26-of-32-0 (81.3%) for 399 first-half yards, and finished with 441 passing yards. Both of his touchdown throws also came in the first half.

"He's so right so much of the time," Read said of his record-setting quarterback.

Branen, subbing for an injured Kelly Stensrud (knee) rushed 13 times for 53 yards and scored on two 1-yard runs -- both in the first half.

UM's defense had its first shutout of the season, and its first since beating Cal Poly, SLO 45-0 in 1994. It was only the fourth Griz shutout in the last 10 seasons. The Griz "D" recovered five of EKUs seven fumbles.

Montana held EKU to 137 total yards -- second least by an opponent in the last decade and the "Read Era."

About 15 minutes after the Griz game, Montana got word that Georgia Southern edged third-seeded Troy State, 24-21. GSU (9-3) entered the 16-team playoff as the No. 14 seed. GSU was third (5-3) in the Southern Conference behind Appalachian State and Marshall, and the 11 other teams are still participating in the playoffs. (GSU beat Montana 45-15 in a I-AA semifinal game in Statesboro in 1989).

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**GAME 13:**  
December 2, 1995  
MONTANA 45, GEORGIA SOUTHERN 0  
(Washington-Grizzly Stadium/Missoula, Montana)  
NCAA DIVISION I-AA QUARTERFINAL GAME

Attendance: 18,518  
Weather: 34, Broken Clouds, 17-20 mph winds

Georgia Southern	0	0	0-	0	
Montana	14	17	14	0-	45

TEAM-QUARTER-TIME-PLAY-LEADER  
UM-1st-11:01--Douglass, 4 Pass from Dickenson Larson kick, 7-0 UM  
UM-1st-4:26 --- Pacheco, 17 Pass from Dickenson (Larson kick), 14-0 UM  
UM-2nd-12:32--Douglass, 49 Pass from Dickenson (Larson kick), 21-0 UM  
UM-2nd-2:51 --- Wells, 6 Pass from Dickenson (Larson kick), 28-0 UM  
UM-2nd-0:02,--Larson, 18 Field Goal, 31-0 UM  
UM-3rd-9:34---Branen, 1 Run (Larson kick), 38-0  
UM-3rd-3:18 --- Gales, 16 Run (Larson kick), 45-0 UM

UM	TEAM STATS GSU	
41	First Downs	5
32	Rush Attempts	42
183	Net Yds. Rush.	70
446	Passing Yards	21
86-629	Plays-Tot. Yds.	50-91
4 (-31)	Sacks(-Yds.)	4 (-27)
54	Pass Attempts	8
42	Completions	3
2	Had Intercepted	1
2-1	Fumbles-Lost	5-3
6-57	Penalties-Yds.	7-35
2-28.0	Punts-Average	9-39.2
4x7	3rd Down Conv.	1x14
36:01	Time of Poss.	23:59

## INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

**Rushing**  
UM-Branen: 9-46/1 TDs; Gales: 10-97/1; Dickenson: 4-38/0. GSU-Roderick Russell: 16-70/0.

**Passing**  
UM-Dickenson: 37x46-1=408/4 TDs; Paffhausen: 4x6-1=34/0; Ah Yat: 2x1-0=4/0. GSU-Charles Bostick: 3x8-1=21/0.

**Receiving**  
UM-Douglass: 6-106/2; Branen: 5-44/0; Wells: 11-119/1; Erhardt: 3-34-/O; Pacheco: 5-41/1. GSU-Reggie Garland: 1-17/0.

**Defensive Leader(s)**  
UM-Crebo: 8 TT, 2 TLs (-7), Sack (-7); Bouchee: 7 TT, PD; Sirmon: 6 TT, Sack (-7), Int.; Marty Duffin: 6 TT, Sack (-5). GSU-Chad Nighbert: 1 1 TT; Brancis Williams: 10 TT, FR.

**GAMENOTES:** A record crowd saw Dickenson and the Griz offense play another excellent opening half, and the Griz defense stifled GSUs potent "flexbone" running attack as Montana recorded its second straight shutout in the playoffs.

Montana is the first team since the tournament started (1978) to register back-to-back shutouts.

Two hours later coach Read celebrated at the local Press Box Restaurant as a radio announcer described Stephen F. Austin's 27-17 victory over host (and No.2 seed) Appalachian State. That meant that the Grizzlies would host their first semifinal ever since they were seeded a notch higher (sixth) than the Lumberjacks.

Montana racked up 629 yards and set a playoff record with 41 first downs. Dickenson was 37-of-46 for 408 yards and 4 touchdown passes -- his fourth 400-yard passing day in five playoff games. He, and leading receivers Douglass and Wells left the game after the second series in the third quarter.

"I really feel like we're playing as good of football as we've ever played around here," Read said.

UM's defense held GSU to 91 total yards -- the Eagles' lowest offensive output in 26 playoff games. The Eagles had only five total first downs (two in the second half) and their 91 yards in 50 plays gave them an average of 1.8 yards per play, compared to the Grizzlies' 7.3 yards per play (86 for 629).

Montana's offense scored on six of its first nine possessions, and Dickenson left the contest with UM leading 38-0. "He just finds a way to do it," Read said. He's an amazing young athlete."

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**GAME 14:**  
December, 9, 1995  
MONTANA 70, STEPHEN F. AUSTIN 14  
(Washington-Grizzly Stadium/Missoula, Montana)  
NCAA DIVISION I-AA SEMIFINAL GAME

Attendance: 18,523  
Weather: 6, Broken Clouds

Stephen F. Austin	7	7	0	0-	14
Montana	14	21	28	7-	70

TEAM-QUARTER-TIME-PLAY-LEADER  
SFA-1st-9:29-Leonard Harris, 1 Run (Brian Minton Kick), 7-0 SFA  
UM--1st-7:05-Erhardt, 5 Pass from Dickenson (Andy Larson), 7-7  
UM--1st-2:31-Dickenson, 8 Run (Larson kick), 14-7 UM  
UM--2nd-7:44-Douglass, 33 Pass from Dickenson (Larson kick), 21-7 UM

SFA-2nd-3:45-Harris, 2 Run (Minton kick), 21-14 UM  
 UM--2nd-2:05-Raul Pacheco, 20 Pass from Dickenson (Larson kick), 28-14 UM  
 UM--2nd-0:28-Nathan Dolan, 23 Pass from Dickenson, 35-14 UM  
 UM--3rd-13:28-Erhardt, 28 Pass from Dickenson, (Larson kick), 42-14 UM  
 UM--3rd-9:02-Branen, 2 Run (Larson kick), 49-14 UM  
 UM--3rd-6:00-Gales, 10 Run (Larson kick), 56-14 UM  
 UM--3rd-0:42-Morton, 15 Run (Larson kick), 63-14 UM  
 UM--4th-9:31-Morton, 2 Run (Larson kick), 70-14 UM

UM	TEAM STATS SFA	
38	First Downs	15
42	Rush Attempts	35
196	Net Yards Rush.	52
473	Passing Yards	212
90-669	Plays-Tot. Yds.	66-264
5 (-39)	Sacks (-Yds)	1(-1)
48	Pass Attempts	31
31	Completions	10
0	Had Intercepted	2
1-0	Fumbles-Lost	2-0
9-80	Penalties-Yds.	10-86
2-35.0	Punts-Average	6-28.0
7x15	3rd Down Conv.	4x15
35:20	Time of Poss.	24:40

## INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

### Rushing

UM-Branen: 8-58/1 TDs; Gales: 10-46/1; Morton: 10-50/2; Dickenson: 4-21/1. SFA-Harris: 19-43/2.

### Passing

UM-Dickenson: 25x36-0=370/5 TDs; Paffhausen: 2x4-0=35/0; Ah Yat: 4x8-0=68/0. SFA-James Ritchey: 8x27-2=136/0; Mike Quinn: 2x4-0=76/0.

### Receiving

UM-Douglass: 8-127/1; Branen: 3-59/0; Wells: 6-62/0; Erhardt: 3-47-/2; Pacheco: 2-36/1. SFA-Chris Jefferson: 5-94/0; Kevin Goodwin: 2-87/0.

### Defensive Leader(s)

UM-Crebo: 11 TT, 2 TLs (-2), 2 Sacks (-11); McElmurry: 11 TT, Int., PD; Falls: 6 TT, Sack (-10), TL (-2); Yo Manzanarez: 4 TT, 2 Sacks (- 12). SFA-Cameron Love: 11 TT.

**GAME NOTES:** For the second week in a row a record crowd saw the Griz offense and Dickenson shine, and the defense once again made several big plays, as Montana advanced to the Division I-AA championship game for the first time in school history. (UMdid advance to the Division II titlegame in 1969 and 1970, losing to North Dakota State both times).

Montana scored crucial back-to-back touchdowns in the final two-plus minutes of the first half, breaking open a close contest for a 35-14 halftime lead. Dickenson possessed for 370 yards and 5 TDs in a little more than two quarters of work. Four different players had scoring catches, while the Griz rushed for 5 TDs and 196 yards.

The Lumberjacks were limited to 264 total yards and 15 first downs, while the Grizzlies had 669 (473 passing).

Not only does coach Read and his team have to go on the road for the first time in the 95 playoffs, but they also have to play the Marshall Thundering Herd at the home turf in Huntington, West Virginia.

## GAME 15.

December 16, 1995

MONTANA 22, MARSHALL 20

(Marshall University Stadium/Huntington, West Virginia)

NCAA DIVISION I-AA CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

Attendance: 32,106

Weather: 51, Sunny

Montana	3	7	2	10-	22
Marshall	0	3	7	10-	20

### TEAM-QUARTER-TIME-PLAY-LEADER

UM--1st-6:09--Larson, 48 Field Goal, 3-0 UM  
 MU--2nd-12:54-Tim Openlander, 39 Field Goal, 3-3  
 UM--2nd-0:59--Wells, 24 Pass from Dickenson (Larson kick), 10-3 UM  
 MU--3rd-9:46--Chris Parker, 10 Run (Openlander kick), 10-10  
 UM--3rd-6:54--Chad Pennington, Intentional Grounding in End Zone, 12-10 UM  
 UM--4th-12:30-Wells, 1 Pass from Dickenson (Larson kick), 19-10 UM  
 MU--4th-10:05-Openlander, 21 Field Goal, 19-13 UM  
 MU--4th-4:45--Parker, 26 Run (Openlander kick), 20-19 MU  
 UM--4th-0:39--Larson, 25 Field Goal, 22-20 UM

UM	TEAM STATS MU	
21	First Downs	17
29	Rush Attempts	32
49	Net Yards Rush.	112
281	Passing Yards	246
77-333	Plays-Tot. YDS.	73-358
0	Sacks (-Yds.)	10 (-57)
48	Pass Attempts	41
29	Completions	23
1	Had Intercepted	1
0-0	Fumbles-Lost	4-1
4-18	Penalties-Yds.	12-109
8-28.1	Punts-Average	5-37.0
4x16	3rd Down Conv.	6x16
30:14	Time of Poss.	29:46

## INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

### Rushing

UM-Branen: 6-33/0 TDs; Gales: 1-11/0. MU-Parker: 23-94/2.

### Passing

UM-Dickenson: 29x48-1=281/2 TDs. MU-Pennington: 23x40-1=246/0.

### Receiving

UM-Douglass: 8-102/0; Wells: 8-62/2; Erhardt: 9-90/0. MU-Ricky Carter: 5-56/0; Tim Martin: 4-50/0.

### Defensive Leader(s)

UM-Crebo: 12 TT; Bouche: 11 TT; Sirmon: 8 TT, TL (-7); Goicoechea: 7TT; Temple: 6 TT, Int., PD. MU-Jerome Embry: 10 TT, PD; Thomas Maxwell: 9 TT, Sack (-2), PD; B.J. Cohen: 6 TT, 3 Sacks (-17).

The Montana Grizzlies made the best of their first-ever trip to the division I-AA championship game, staging a dramatic, 22-20 come-from-behind victory over host Marshall University in the Thundering Herd's packed (a record crowd of 32,106) stadium.

Trailing 20-19 with 4:45 left in the game, Dickenson once again showed that he was the best quarterback in the I-AA ranks (and in Montana history for that matter), guiding the Grizzlies 72 yards in 12 plays to the Herd's 8-yard line. That drive set up the game-winning field goal -- a 25-yarder by Larson. Larson had scored the game's first point on a career-long 48-yard field goal in the first quarter.

Montana's 3-0 lead was short-lived as kicker Tim Openlander tied the game 3-3 on a 39-yard field goal in the second quarter. Montana regained the lead in the closing seconds of the second quarter on a 24-yard pass from the record-setting Dickenson to record-setting receiver Matt Wells who also hooked up for the Griz's other touchdown.

The Griz scored two crucial points when the "Butte America" connection of Brian Toone and Randy Riley tackled MU quarterback Chad Pennington in the end zone, forcing him to intentionally ground the ball.

The BIG play in Montana's final drive, aka: "the drive, the catch and the kick," was on a 4th-and-three from the 50-yardline, when Dickenson hit Erhardt on a short slant pass for a 20-yard gain. Six plays later Larson booted his game-winner.

"And now there is only one," Coach Read said as the Grizzly lockerroom erupted into cheers.

## 1995 Walter Payton Award Winner - Dave Dickenson

The following articles were taken from the Missoulian.

### Payton Award announcement due

#### Team, fans to celebrate success

by **MICK HOLIEN** of the Missoulian

Date: Mon 18-Dec-1995

University of Montana football fans who flocked to three playoff games and followed the Grizzlies to the Division I-AA national championship in West Virginia on Saturday can celebrate with the team tonight in Harry Adams Fieldhouse.

The free public event, which begins at 7, will include video highlights of the team's march to the championship shown on a 14-foot television screen.

The Walter Payton Award, emblematic of the nation's finest Division I-AA player, will be announced Monday in New York and if UM quarterback Dave Dickenson wins the coveted plaque as anticipated, it will also be featured in the ceremony.

UM head coach Don Read said last week he expected Dickenson to be the ninth winner of the award, which has been dominated by Big Sky Conference quarterbacks.

Idaho's John Friesz was the third recipient in 1989, followed by Weber State's Jamie Martin in 1991 and Idaho's Doug Nussmeier two years ago. Alcorn State's Steve McNair was last year's winner.

"All indications from New York have been very, very positive about Dave's chances," said UM Sports Information Director Dave Guffey, who labeled Dickenson as the "Legend of the Fall," and promoted the record-setting quarterback to a nationwide panel of SIDs and media.

Payton voting closed Dec. 6, he said, and playoff totals did not figure in the balloting.

Montana Gov. Marc Racicot, UM President George Dennison, Read and selected senior players will speak during the hourlong affair.

Dave Paoli, a Missoula lawyer and former player, will represent fans and previous UM football teams.

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### Payton Award caps Dave's Grizzly legend

by **KIM BRIGGEMAN** of the Missoulian

Date: Tue 19-Dec-1995

Dave Dickenson insisted Monday night was not Dave Dickenson Night.

More than 5,000 Grizzly fans and Dickenson's own football coach knew better.

Dickenson talked to the president of the United States on the phone before a rally in Dahlberg Arena celebrating the Montana Grizzlies' 1995 Division I-AA national championship. Later, the senior quarterback from Great Falls had his No. 15 retired.

In between, Dickenson was given the division's most prestigious award \_ the Walter Payton trophy, symbolizing the outstanding player in Division I-AA.

Grizzly coach Don Read presented Dickenson with the bust of Payton, the former Jackson State and Chicago Bears star, and told Dickenson, "Dave, on behalf of this audience and all your fans and all your friends and teammates, we're not buying you saying it's not Dave Dickenson Night. It is Dave Dickenson Night.

"We're all part of it. But I tell you what: I've been coaching a lot of years, and I've not been around one like this. He is truly special."

Thus ended a storybook career for the kid from Great Falls who proved he wasn't too small.

Dickenson's statistics in three years as a Grizzly starter were staggering. He leaves with 26 UM records, seven league marks and the I-AA standard-setter in passing percentage at 67.3.

Montana lost only five games in which he played since 1993. In UM's 13-2 championship campaign, he passed for 5,676 yards and 51 touchdowns.

"I can't imagine going out on a better note," Dickenson said in a released statement. "The national championship and the Payton Award are two things that a lot of people thought would never come to the University of Montana. Now they have, and I think everyone should be proud."

The Payton Award has been around for nine years. It came into being to honor accomplishments of players below the I-A level, a niche that has produced such greats as Payton, Joe Greene, Terry Bradshaw and Jerry Rice.

It's voted on by sports information directors from I-AA schools around the country. They made Dickenson the runaway choice.

He received 55 first-place votes and 825 points all told. McNeese State quarterback Kerry Joseph was a distant second with 19 and 285. Murray State running back Derrick Cullors was third with 11 and 165.

Dickenson finished third in last year's balloting behind winner Steve McNair of Alcorn State and running back Arnold Mickens of Butler.

Before this year the Payton trophy was presented in New York City. That changed this year, "to permit as many family members, friends, fans, teammates, coaches and local (media) to attend as possible," according to a release from The Sports Network, which coordinates the voting.

The Payton bust, along with a Grizzly helmet, will be placed on permanent display at the College Football Hall of Fame in South Bend, Ind.

Payton wrote Dickenson to congratulate him.

"I must say that your statistics are very impressive and I am honored to have an award bearing my name to be given to such a gifted individual," Payton's letter said. "I am confident that you will take these traits and apply them in future life endeavors."

Dickenson received the award on a stage with his teammates seated behind him.

"It all came to me tonight that I won't see a lot of these guys again," he said, his voice choking. "It was such a great year, and I'm just so proud and happy to be in Missoula, Montana; to be a Montana Grizzly, and to be a part of this team."

#### **PAYTON AWARD WINNERS**

1995-Dave Dickenson, QB, Montana

1994-Steve McNair, QB, Alcorn State

1993-Doug Nussmeier, QB, Idaho

1992-Michael Payton, QB, Marshall

1991-Jamie Martin, QB, Weber State

1990-Walter Dean, RB, Grambling

1989-John Friesz, QB, Idaho

1988-Dave Meggett, RB, Towson State

1987-Kenny Gamble, RB, Colgate



## 1995 Division I-AA National Coach of the Year - Don Read

The following articles were taken from the Missoulian.

### End of an era

#### Players, friends, fans pay tribute to Read

By **KIM BRIGGEMAN** of the Missoulian

Date: Tue 16-Apr-1996

As Don Read recounted it, he was booed at his own retirement announcement Monday.

It came at a 15-minute meeting with the Montana Grizzlies, mostly current but some from the past, on the eve of spring drills.

Read explained to the players why he was stepping down as their head football coach after 10 seasons.

"Then I tried to give them incentive for the future, any way I knew," he said.

His tips:

"I talked to them about staying vanilla with the media," Read said, that omnipresent glint in sometimes teary eyes. "I talked to them about always believing they can do it, always believing in themselves.

"And I talked to them about learning to appreciate country music."

That, he said, is when the boos came.

"They started walking out, but I saw some clapping in the back," said Read, an avowed fan of the Travis Tritt set.

Everyone you talked to Monday agreed: Read, named the Division I-AA coach of the year, is walking away a winner. Funny thing, few referred to his win-loss record at UM (34-7 over the past three seasons and 85-36 overall) or even to the national championship that capped it last December.

"He's the best winner ... and the classiest winner we've ever seen here," said local businessman Bruce Danielson, one of Read's best friends and leading agitator in his Quarterback Club.

"He sort of transcends all those things you think about when you think of a head football coach," said Kathy Noble, assistant commissioner of the Big Sky and former associate athletic director at UM. "I've worked with some great coaches \_ Harold Schnellenberger and Jimmy Johnson (at the University of Miami). Don has some of their same characteristics. But he's a much more human person."

That's why UM sports information director Dave Guffey closed Read's retirement press conference Monday by doing something he said he'd always wanted to do. In front of supporters, reporters, administrators and coaches, Guffey walked from the podium to Read's chair and gave him a hug.

"It's a loss for the University of Montana," said Bob Beers, one of Read's former assistant coaches and now a scout for the Denver Broncos. "He's a class act. I'll tell you, I owe my career to Don Read. He brought me there as a coach."

Like many, Harley Lewis expressed shock at Read's announcement.

A sales representative in Fayetteville, Ark., Lewis was athletic director at UM in 1986, when Read was hired.

"Don is one of those special people who probably doesn't have an enemy in the world," Lewis said. "As I looked back at the University of Montana, I thought I had some very good people. Don Read would have to rank as the best. And he has essentially put University of Montana football on the map."

"This is a tough day, it really is. A lot harder than any of us wanted to believe," Grizzly defensive coordinator Jerome Souers said. "Don's presence in the program, you can't calculate it. You can't measure it. It just is."



"I don't know if anyone knows how old he is," said offensive coordinator Mick Dennehy, viewed as probably the frontrunner to be Read's successor. "I certainly hope I have the same kind of focus, drive, determination and will that he's demonstrated when I'm his age."

"I know one thing. I never, ever saw the guy defeated."

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## Remembrances of Read

### Kim Briggeman of the Missoulian

Date: Sun 28-Apr-1996

They'll never publish a Don Read pep talk.

"To me," assistant coach Jerome Souers said, "the Knute Rockne-type speeches are pre-planned, demonstrative, motivational techniques. Coach Read always spoke from the heart."

"I'm really not a believer you can do a lot before a game or even at halftime," Read said. "I think it's done all in long-range preparation. Monday or Tuesday (before a game) is too late."



He said his mission was "to convince the kids, one at a time, why each game was the most important game of their careers. I felt that was my responsibility."

Not that Read didn't launch verbal fireworks once in awhile.

"The first pregame speech I heard him do was in 1985 at Portland State, just before the Bobcat game," Souers said. "It moved me to no end. There was very little doubt what we were going to do after that."

The Vikings defeated Montana State 46-28.

Read became impassioned enough at Fresno State in 1989 that his players actually feared for his health. The Grizzlies had a horrid start, but battled back into contention late in the first half.

"He gave a doozy at halftime," said former defensive tackle Nels Kludt, now head coach at Western Montana College. "It was fire and brimstone. It was one of those things that came at the perfect moment."

Bennett remembers it too.

"It was probably his greatest speech I heard from him," he said. "I think everybody thought he'd have a heart attack. We all go storming out of the locker room and he doesn't come out for, like, 10 minutes. We got to wondering."

Fresno State pulled out a 52-37 verdict with some late scores. The Grizzlies' offensive explosion was a harbinger of one of their best seasons.

Joe Kalafat, former defensive tackle, said his nomination for Read's greatest speech was one that came at a low point in Read's stint here. The Grizzlies, unbeaten and ranked second entering their 1990 homecoming, blew a big lead late and lost to Eastern Washington.

Read gathered the players in the tunnel leading from Washington-Grizzly to the locker room.

"I don't remember so much what he said as the feeling I got out of it," Kalafat said. "It was basically that we were still winners, that this team was built on that type of character."

"He was always the first guy to praise the other team, to give them all the credit that they did it right," said Kludt. "He'd tell us we'd get better next time."

"He won with a lot of class and he lost with a lot of class."

Fire starter

No one knew what the 4's were for.

Grizzly football players encountered them everywhere during the 1989 season, on locker room bulletin boards, on office walls, even in bathrooms.

There were so many and they hung around so long, they rarely provoked comment after awhile.

They'd been there when the players came to camp in August. Now it was November. The cat was released from the bag.

It was time for the Cats.

``Four" was the number of consecutive victories Montana would have against Montana State if it beat the Bobcats. In later years, there'd be 7's and 9's and, last fall, 10's as the streak continued.

Don Read, master motivator, was at work.

``A lot of times he did it in a sleight-of-hand type of way. It wasn't in your face," said Joe Kalafat, a Grizzly defensive tackle from 1988-90.

Read put the 1989 season to bed with a team meeting after a semifinal loss at Georgia Southern. He launched straightaway into the 1990 opener at Oregon State.

``The next week the Oregon State bulletin board went up," recalled quarterback Grady Bennett. ``We started focusing on Oregon State eight months before we played them. (Coach) Tommy Lee was talking about the no-huddle offense we'd use.

``When we finally played them, we had 'em so confused it was 22-0 before they knew what happened."

The Grizzlies held on to win 22-15. It was their only victory over a Division I-A team in Read's 10 years at UM.

Gentleman

Don Read loves to tell his stories. Always did.

Now that the house he and Lois built in the university district of Missoula is up for sale, Read says the realtor's sign keeps popping up in the yards of neighbors.

Danielson, suspects Read.

Bruce Danielson is a local insurance agent, one of Read's favorite rah-rah guys in his boisterous Quarterback Club. Read figures whenever something like this happens, it's Danielson's doing.

``Whenever we lost a big game in the last 10 years, there was a For Sale sign in front of my house the next day," Read said.

Danielson.

He's almost sure.

What is Missoula losing? Danielson was asked on the day Read retired.

The mischievous grin faded. His eyes welled. Danielson was at a loss for words.

Later he put it on paper.

``Sorry I lost my composure today," Danielson wrote. ``It is almost impossible to imagine how this has affected my family and myself.

``I will always cherish the memory of Don and Lois spending the night with us in 1989, the Friday night before the Bobcat game, at St. Patrick's Hospital when my son, Cory, was in a coma after being hit by a car the night before.

“It was the night of the Grizzly auction and the night before the Bobcat game. Yet Don and Lois cared enough to be with us to offer comfort at one of the worst times of my life.

“It did not end there. Don always did special things for Cory, from taking him into the locker rooms, to the post-game celebrations under the stadium. He truly cared about this odd-acting, brain-injured little boy. This is the kind of man Coach Read is.

“Missoula, the university, and everyone who knew him will miss him dearly. I will miss him more than most.”

The Bear?

We missed that one in Don Read's 10-year tenure as football coach of the Montana Grizzlies.

Oh sure, we hear him rant at officials, saw him prowl the sidelines of Washington-Grizzly Stadium.

What didn't come through from the stands was something intensely clear on the sideline:

“In coaching parlance, he was a nasty competitor who wanted to win at all cost. But he was ethical about it,” said Eastern Washington coach Mike Kramer, a long-time admirer. “People have to realize that the Grizzlies were great because Don Read was an intense competitor in everything he did.”

Jerome Souers has been coaching Read's defenses since they were both at Portland State.

“I think that was the hardest part for me as a young coach, to know him off the field and on the field,” Souers said. “It's two different people. On the field, he was very intense, very competitive. Very isn't a strong enough word.”

“He was everywhere, yelling at the refs, encouraging players,” said Matt Wells, UM's all-time leading receiver who finished his career last season. “Sometimes I'd just watch him on the sideline. He was hilarious.”

Read claimed he mellowed out in his later years, after officials around the Big Sky became acquainted with him and the way the Grizzlies did things.

What exactly was his job description in a game?

“Chew gum and yell at the refs,” he offered.

Read almost never called a play. “Game psychology” was his area of expertise.

“Do we need to gamble more? Do we need to be more conservative? Defensively, do we need to get the ball back more? Do we need to create turnovers?” Read said.

He coached individual players, imploring, cajoling, most often encouraging.

Grady Bennett (quarterback, 1988-90) remembers walking up to the line once and hearing Read's entreaties.

“He was going, ‘C'mon, Grady. C'mon, Grady.’ He must have said it a dozen times.”

“He worked hard, he coached hard,” Souers said. “He had a tremendous feel for the game. He was the one who had his eyes on the whole field.”

As hot as the fires of competition raged during a game, Read was able to quell the flames immediately.

“It must be experience that enables you to be able to turn it on and off like that,” Kramer said. “Don's a master at it. I've learned a lot from him.”

Kramer still shakes his head about the aftermath of last November's whipping, when Eastern Washington lost 63-0 in Cheney.

“I didn't really know what to say to him,” Kramer remembered. “He comes up and says, ‘Mike, you're a winner.’

“I almost started laughing. I wouldn't have thought of that in a million years.”

## Inventory

You know the line.

Don Read is reluctant to name names, because he's sure he'll forget some.

But when he thinks of toughness, he thinks of what Scott Gragg did as a gangly, young offensive tackle in big games against Nevada and Idaho.

He thinks of Jason Ray blocking a punt the hard way, on an inside rush, at Montana State.

He thinks of the guys who played and played well in pain: Pat Foster and Sam Davidson, Renard Coleman, Grady Bennett, Mike Trevathan, Matt Clark, Mike Agee, Matt Wells, Scott Gurnsey, Dave Dickenson, Mike Erhardt...

Competitors? Jay Fagan. Mike Rankin. Brent Pease. Clay Clausen.

Characters? Jody Farmer tops the list.

“He was so unique, so daring,” Read says. “He was fun because he put fun into the game. He was reckless, but you loved him for it.”

Scott Spraggins, whose career was ended early by two concussions last season, spiced up a practice during Bobcat week. He stripped to a jockstrap, painted his body blue, and clattered down the bleachers screaming like a banshee.

Rick Sullivan of Whitefish, a conservative-looking Grizzly if ever there was one, was known to eat worms at practice.

“He was always the instigator of trouble,” Read recalls fondly.

And yes, there were his “pets.”

“The reality is, you try to treat everybody the same, but some guys get your attention more than others,” Read says.

Wells. Gurnsey. Gragg and Clark. Brad Salonen. Joe Kalafat. Bryan Tripp. Danny Downs and Mike McGowan. Yo Manzanarez. Mike Ehlers. Kelly Stensrud. Kirk Scrafford. Nels Kludt. Dave Dickenson.

“They're kids who, I don't know, you'd want to be your son. They were great kids, and I had a fun time with them,” Read says. “They saw other things and enjoyed other things, and I appreciated that. And they were contagious.”

“One of them would come into my office and get candy out of the drawer, or read my mail. Then somebody else would be in. I really enjoyed that part of it.”

## Epilogue

So how'd he do it? How did Don Read turn a listless program into a national champion?

Don Read let his coaches coach. He was intensely loyal to each of them.

“I don't believe a coach, without the means, without the direction, without the support of the institution, will ever get it done,” he says. “When there's that loyalty to you, the support to you, you need to pass it down to the guys under you.”

The University of Montana decided to build a football stadium before Read got here in 1986. The administration made it clear when he came it wanted to compete and win in the Big Sky, and it would provide him the means with which to do it.

“You had to believe football was going to be important here,” Read says.

The coaches coached. More important, Read claims, the players played.

“The attitude they had was they really believed they had a chance to win every game we played,” he says. “I felt like in many cases we didn't have the people to win it. But because of the attitude of the kids, we had a chance.”

“The thing I'll remember is the quality of the kid, and his attitude toward believing in himself and thinking he could beat anyone.”

“It's the end of an era,” Joe Kalafat said. “Since Coach Read has been here, he's built a program that contains, and I hope always has, his personality and flavor to it, one that really was void of ego.

“The players were always good people, good in the community. I hope that's kind of the gold standard that all Montana teams strive for.”

## THE READ YEARS: 1986-90

1986

4-4, 6-4; fourth in Big Sky behind Nevada, NAU, Idaho

Montana lost three of its first four games, while making a major adjustment from the wishbone offense left behind by Larry Donovan, to Read's highly sophisticated passing game. In addition, Read moved a number of Grizzlies to new positions in an attempt to shore up what he perceived as Montana's major weakness, team speed.

The Grizzlies took their lumps at the hands of conference powers Nevada-Reno (51-17) and Boise State (31-0). Only a controversial end-zone call against Eastern Washington, which left Eagles coach Dick Zornes fuming, kept them from starting 0-4.

But each week they got a little better. And quarterback Brent Pease, who was ready to transfer if Donovan was retained, began to emerge as one of the best passers in the country.

A touchdown pass from Pease to All-American Mike Rice successfully christened Washington-Grizzly Stadium with a 38-31 win over Idaho State in front of 10,580 fans.

The Grizzlies went on to win five of their last six games, scored over 50 points three times and thumped hated Montana State, 59-28. It was their first win over their arch-rivals in four years and just the fourth in 15 tries. They've not lost to the Bobcats since.

Pease, who went on to play for the Houston Oilers, became Montana's all-time single-season passing leader and a legacy had begun.

1987

5-3, 6-5; third in the Big Sky behind Idaho and Weber State

A quarterback quandary haunted the Grizzlies until senior Scott Werbelow took command from freshman Scott Waak in Game 4 at Northern Iowa. Werbelow's passing efficiency mark the rest of the way was one of the best in UM history.

Read believes the 33-16 victory in the UNI-Dome in Cedar Falls, Iowa, keyed by running backs Jody Farmer and Renard Coleman, was one of the most significant in the early building years of his regime. It came on the heels the Grizzlies' most crucial home victory in years, a 41-29 decision over Nevada.

Later, the Grizzlies rolled MSU 55-7 and recorded their first shutout in 13 years, 63-0 over Idaho State. But the 6-5 didn't set well for Read.

“We thought ourselves better,” he said after the season.

The hardest one to swallow was a 29-26 defeat at home to Weber State, which dropped UM out of first place and probably cost it a playoff berth. One of the sudden stars of '87 was troubled defensive tackle Scott Camper, a transfer from junior college and Arizona State who tore up the league alongside senior end Pat Foster of Savage. Both got pro football tryouts.

The season marked the beginning of a storied career for defensive back Tim Hauck, the Big Timber graduate who walked on from Pacific University in Oregon. Now a Denver Bronco, he was the Big Sky's defensive MVP in 1988 and '89. It was also the end of All-American tackle Larry Clarkson's college years, as well as fellow all-conference picks Bill Venard (center) and Tony Breland (safety).

1988

6-2, 8-4; second behind Idaho

Montana made the playoffs for the first time under Read, falling at Idaho 38-19 in the first round. The playoff berth was a surprise bonus: many players had turned in their gear and left for Thanksgiving break after losing 21-0 at Portland State to close the regular season.

It was the year of Nygren's Ride, the 94-yard interception return by safety Greg Nygren that squelched heavily favored Idaho in Washington-Grizzly Stadium. Missoula native John Friesz threw the interception.

This was also the debut of quarterback Grady Bennett, a sophomore from Kalispell who transferred to UM from Montana State the year before. He took over when Waak was knocked out in Game 2 against South Dakota State.

But 1988 was mostly the year for Bill Smith's defense. Son of Boise State coaching legend Lyle Smith, the Grizzly defensive coordinator directed the likes of Hauck, Mike Rankin, J.C. Campbell and Quinton Richardson to Big Sky prominence. The Grizzlies led the league in every major defensive statistic.

Hauck led the way, becoming the first UM defender since Greg Anderson in 1975 to be named to first team All-America.

"No way you could pick him out of a crowd and say, 'Here's a guy who knocks helmets off.' He just does it," said Read.

1989

7-1, 11-3; second behind Idaho

It was the Grizzlies' first taste of the national stage. Not coincidentally, it was the first real blend of explosive offense, with Bennett pulling the trigger, and a crackerjack defense ignited by Hauck.

A bitter 30-24 loss at Idaho on ESPN early in the year was a prelude to eight straight victories. The string didn't end until a wretchedly cold, sleety day in Statesboro, Ga., in the Division I-AA semifinals. Georgia Southern blitzed the Grizzlies 45-15 and went on to win the national championship.

Before that, UM hosted its first two playoff games, cleaning up on Jackson State 48-7 and edging Eastern Illinois 25-19. "The big thing was that we had the offense rise to the occasion one day, and then the defense would come through in the next," Read said.

The Grizzlies became the first Big Sky team to lead the nation in rushing defense, permitting just 70.2 yards per game. Hauck, ends Dan Edwards and Gregg Smerker and a salty linebacking corps of Rankin, Mike McGowan, Bryan Tripp and Steve Collins were the keys.

Farmer completed a storied career and Matt Clark caught 60 passes. The motor to the offense was an offensive line anchored by seniors Kirk Scrafford and Jay Fagan. Scrafford, now a San Francisco 49er, has played in the NFL ever since '89.

1990

4-4, 7-4; fourth behind Nevada, Boise State and Idaho

The Grizzly balloon has burst no louder than on the homecoming day in 1990. Key ignitors of 1989's offense were back \_ Bennett at quarterback, Clark and Trevathan at receivers. UM opened with a 22-15 win at Oregon State, then cruised through home victories over fledgling Thomas More and McNeese State.

In front of a then-record crowd of 15,142 at sunny Washington-Grizzly Stadium, the second-ranked Grizzlies led EWU 35-17 with eight minutes left. Three straight touchdown passes by backup Eagle QB Scott Stuart to Tom Owens ruined everything.

UM was crushed 41-3 the next week at Boise State and hopes for a Big Sky title were gone. Wade Thoemmes blocked a last-ditch field goal try at Weber State to preserve a 39-37 victory, and the Washington-Grizzly attendance record was again broken in a 35-18 win over Montana State. But consecutive losses in November at Nevada and against Idaho knocked Montana out of the Top 20 for good.

Bennett left with a school-high 3,091 yards. Kicker Kirk Duce, just a junior, took over the school scoring lead. Trevathan, bound along with Clark for a long career with the British Columbia Lions in the CFL, became the school's top career receiver. His 71 catches were also a single-season record.

## THE READ YEARS: 1991-1995

1991

6-2, 7-4; tied for second behind Nevada

It was arguably Read's best coaching job. In February, the Grizzlies announced they'd signed prep stars Dave Dickenson, Shalon Baker, Kelly Stensrud and Yohanse Manzanarez. The same day, it was learned offensive coordinator Tommy Lee and line coach Bob Beers were leaving for the World League of American Football. Mick Dennehy was hired a couple of months later.

Junior Brad Lebo stepped into Bennett's quarterback spot and struggled. A costly 10-day trip in September to humid Louisiana resulted in a close loss at Louisiana Tech and a 31-3 thrashing at McNeese State, dropping UM to 1-2.

The nadir was reached two weeks later at Eastern Washington, when Montana failed to achieve a first down in the first half. The Grizzlies battled back behind reserve QB Bert Wilberger, only to lose on a late field goal. At 2-3, they hosted ranked Boise State. Montana's defense took over in a 21-7 victory that resulted in Read's first Gatorade bath. "It feels tacky and bad," he said.

Lebo exploded for five touchdown passes and 466 yards in a 47-38 victory over Weber State. He broke the school passing record that day and in the season finale at Idaho. Montana won five of its last six. The lone loss was a manic two-overtime affair at home against Nevada that cost the Grizzlies a share of the title and probably a playoff berth.

Marvin Turk caught fire and broke Trevathan's record for receiving yards in a season with a dramatic TD catch in the finale at Idaho. The Grizzlies won in overtime 35-34 when Chuck Mason blocked a Vandal extra point kick, only their second victory in Moscow since 1947.

1992

4-3, 6-5; tied for third behind Idaho and Eastern Washington

Read pegged it early. "I like our team. I don't like our schedule."

The Grizzlies faced September games at Washington State and Kansas State and started just 1-5. Eastern Washington ruined homecoming again, and a last-ditch drive at Boise was snuffed by the clock.

It took a five-win rush at the end to keep intact Read's streak of winning seasons. Lebo completed 13 of his first 14 passes as the Grizzlies took a 22-0 lead over Montana State en route to a 29-17 victory. The highlight of the season was a 47-29 victory over second-ranked Idaho in Missoula in Game 9. Montana jumped to a 38-7 halftime lead and Lebo outplayed Vandal counterpart Doug Nussmeier. Tackle Eric Simonson made his first of 44 straight starts, most of any player in Read's career.

Montana closed the season with a 21-14 squeaker at Idaho State. It tied Read with Jack Swarthout atop the school victory chart and raised Read's career mark to a break-even 120-120-1. In the three seasons since, the Grizzlies are 27 games over .500.

UM's defense was steady, led by tackle Sam Davidson, linebacker Chad Lembke and junior safety Todd Ericson, who picked off six passes.

No Grizzly offensive lineman made first team all-conference, the only time in Read's 10 years that happened.

1993

7-0, 10-2; first in the Big Sky

The Dave Dickenson era was launched in astounding style. Down 38-7 to South Dakota State in the third quarter of the opener, the sophomore quarterback spurred the greatest comeback in Division I-AA history to win 52-48. The next week at Oregon, he almost did it again. The Grizzlies trailed 28-3 in the second quarter before rallying. They ultimately lost 35-30. Read, former coach of the Ducks, calls it one of his most difficult defeats at UM.

Montana was held under 35 points just once after that. Dickenson, who didn't salt away the starting job from Wilberger until the Oregon game, led the nation in total offense and was named the Big Sky's outstanding offensive player ahead of Idaho's Nussmeier, I-AA's Walter Payton Award winner.

"He's just a tough little guy who makes things happen with his head and his feet," Read said of Dickenson.

The Grizzlies clinched their first league championship since 1982 at Idaho. Dickenson was razor sharp in the 54-34 victory, completing 80 percent of his passes for a school-record 512 yards and four touchdowns. He ran for two more scores.

Montana's dream season came to a sudden end. The Grizzlies had what they thought was a favorable draw in the playoffs: a home game against Delaware, a bubble team. But the Blue Hens' Wing-T offense proved as unstoppable as AirRead. In an amazing shootout on a frozen field, Delaware scored last to win 49-48.

It was a shocking way to finish.

"I just think this team had the capability of going on and winning more games if we got by that first one," Read said.

1994

5-2, 11-3; tie for second behind Boise State

The Grizzlies were on fire. For two months, they played perhaps their best football in history, pummeling lesser teams like Sonoma State and Cal Poly-SLO, squeezing by physical North Texas 21-17 in Denton, playing a near-perfect second half against Weber State to come from behind and squelching Idaho for the fourth straight time, 45-21. Dickenson passed for 510 yards in the last one.

Then November hit. Aroused Boise State, en route to the national championship game, ambushed the Grizzlies in Boise. The Broncos led 38-14 in the fourth quarter when Dickenson came down wrong on an ankle during a desperate scramble. He was out the next week in a 28-23 loss at Idaho State and the next, a 55-20 pounding of Montana State.

Wilberger led the Grizzlies in both games, and again in the playoff quarterfinals. That one ended in a 30-28 victory over McNeese State on Andy Larson's 37-yard field goal through a swirling snowstorm. It was UM's most dramatic win \_ for a year and a week.

The Grizzly offense was no match for Youngstown State's defense in the semifinals. The Penguins won 28-9 in a pouring Ohio rain.

"I really think we had more to do and more to give," Read said. "But we weren't far from the goals the kids set for themselves. I do feel good. They did it our way."

1995

6-1, 13-2; first in the Big Sky

Read went out with an exclamation mark. Dave Dickenson stayed healthy, the defense startled four straight playoff foes and the Grizzlies won the Division I-AA national championship.

The climax came at Marshall University. Montana didn't trail until the last five minutes, at which time Marshall went up 20-19.

The Grizzlies started at their own 20. Dickenson completed six of eight passes, including a 20-yarder to Mike Erhardt on fourth-and-3. With 39 seconds left, Larson placed a 25-yard field goal just inside the left upright for a 22-20 victory.

The boys of '95 included many heroes. Matt Wells caught two touchdown passes at Marshall and finished his career as UM's all-time leading receiver. Jason Crebo stepped into the starting lineup and became one of the most feared linebackers in I-AA.

Larson kicked a 29-yarder as time ran out to give the Grizzlies a critical 24-21 victory at Northern Arizona. Blaine McElmurry made a crucial stop at the goal line to help subdue pesky Idaho State. Joe Douglass, a transfer from Oregon State, led the team in receptions, including 13 as the Grizzlies had to come from behind to beat Montana State for the 10th straight time.

UM's only losses came within eight miles of each other \_ in a September opener at Washington State, and in a 55-43 October donnybrook at Idaho.

When it was done, Read said he wanted UM officials and the people of Montana to share the moment for all the support they'd given.

"Our way to say thank you was to play the very best we could," he said.