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KICKOFF: NOON, SATURDAY, NOV. 23, 2024

BRAWL OF THE WILD



INSIDE

- **‘It’s always a Super Bowl’: Former NFL linebacker Coyle talks about Brawl**
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'It's always a Super Bowl'

Even for Bozeman product/former Griz Coyle, who played on Super Sunday in 2015, Brawl is 'special'

FRANK GOGOLA
406 MT Sports

MISSOULA — Brock Coyle nearly reached the pinnacle of the NFL when his Seattle Seahawks made it to Super Bowl XLIX.

But the thing is, the Bozeman native participated in what felt to him like a handful of Super Bowls in college. He was a star linebacker for the Montana Grizzlies, who played four games against the Montana State

Bobcats in the annual Brawl of the Wild.

"You can't make the Super Bowl every single year," he said, "but that's really what makes this special is it's always a Super Bowl, a big-time game that you want to win."

Coyle and Seattle lost that Super Bowl but did win an NFC championship game and made the playoffs all three years he was with

ABOUT THE COVER

Montana wide receiver Junior Bergen (5) tries to escape the grasp of Montana State defensive back Blake Stillwell during the 122nd Brawl of the Wild last year at Washington-Grizzly Stadium in Missoula. The Grizzlies won for the second time in three years. The teams will renew their storied rivalry next Saturday in Bozeman.

BEN ALLAN SMITH, MISSOULIAN

the Seahawks. So, he did play in several games with some massive stakes while in the NFL.

The Brawl of the Wild is on a similar level and brings along with it yearlong bragging rights in a football-rabid state that has no professional teams.

"Those games definitely had a similar energy to some of the bigger NFL games I played in," he said. "I definitely would put those games up there with those NFL environments and that stadium energy. It's big time for sure."

Coyle went from playing college home games at Washington-Grizzly Stadium, which is commonly called the "Mecca of FCS football," to playing NFL home games in Seattle, which set the world record for crowd noise at 137.6 decibels with its "12th man" crowd.

Playing in Seattle was memorable to Coyle, as were road games at the Kansas City Chiefs and New England Patriots. While they could be louder than college due to larger crowds, the Cat-Griz games were right there pound for pound.

"In the NFC championship game in Seattle against the Packers, it was so loud I swear my helmet was vibrating, almost echoing through your helmet and your eardrums it was so loud," he said. "The fans are not as close to the sidelines, so sometimes in college, fans are a little closer and can get away with saying some stuff to you."

Coyle joined Seattle near the end of its half-decade rivalry with San Francisco, arguably the best, most-heated NFL rivalry at that time. One of the two teams won the NFC West title every year from 2010-14, and they played each other in the 2013 NFC championship game for a trip to the Super Bowl.

Even then, that rivalry didn't match Cat-Griz for Coyle.

"You just knew it was more of like a respect level and they're bringing their best," he said. "It



MISSOULIAN FILE PHOTO

Montana linebacker Brock Coyle chases MSU quarterback DeNarius McGhee in the 2013 Brawl of the Wild in Bozeman.

didn't compare. There's not much in college football, I don't think, that compares to that (Cat-Griz) rivalry. Maybe Michigan-Ohio State, Auburn-Alabama. It's one of the best rivalries in sports."

Coyle went from playing three years for the Seahawks to playing two years for the 49ers to close out his NFL career. Moving from team to team, even within a division, can be common in the business world of professional football.

Transferring from the Cats to the Griz or vice versa would be sure to cause a stir. It's rare, but there are cases like quarterback Grady Bennett joining the Griz in the 1980s and current offensive lineman Cole Sain moving to the Cats.

"There's never really rivalries that are as great as college," Coyle said. "The Seahawks-Niners was cool because they're two great teams and they were competing

for a shot in the Super Bowl. In college, it's just different. There's more emotion. There's more riding on it. It means more to the fans and the players. It's ingrained into that culture of college football."

Part of the special culture of Cats and Griz football is how loaded the rosters are with home-grown players. Coyle is one of those guys.

Please see COYLE, Page M6



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BRAWL OF THE WILD



Montana's Brock Coyle hits Montana State running back Chad Newell in the 2013 Brawl of the Wild in Bozeman.

Coyle

From M4

He posted a 3-1 record in four games against Montana State. He has the rare distinction of going 3-0 in Bozeman, a result of him playing as a true freshman in 2009, redshirting the next year and playing three more years.

In 2011, the Griz went on the road and knocked off No. 1 Montana State. In 2013, Coyle had one of his best games with 14 tackles, two tackles for loss, one sack and two forced fumbles in his hometown as a senior.

"There was something about being the visiting team in that hostile environment that I almost enjoyed it more," he said. "You make a big play that it silences them and you celebrate with your team and that small, little section of Griz fans. I remember I had a big forced fumble in the fourth quarter and running over to that section and getting all hyped up."

The buildup to the rivalry game is unlike any other game in a college season, Coyle said. The increased energy and focus can be on the level of the two-week preparation to play in the Super Bowl.

He still recalls the rides into Bobcat Stadium and seeing the fans tailgating. The passion college fans have as alums can be different than NFL fans.

"I loved always coming in on the bus even just into the tailgates and the Bobcat fans heckling you and maybe a couple middle fingers, but that's alright, it's only motivation," he said.

It's those passionate fans that help make the rivalry what it is. ESPN's College GameDay even came to Bozeman in 2022 to highlight the Brawl of the Wild, which will be played for the 123rd time at noon on Nov. 23 in Bobcat Stadium.

The Griz have won in Bozeman just once since Coyle last celebrated there by smoking cigars with his teammates and stopping for a steak dinner in Butte. They'll try to win there for the first time since 2015, having lost three straight, their longest road losing streak in the series since four in a row from 1973-79.

"You do miss it, in a way, but I'm definitely fulfilled with having experienced it," he said. "You get a deep appreciation for it looking back and acknowledge how special it was and how lucky you were to play for a great school and be a part of a great rivalry. If you play well and you are successful in those games, they stick with you for the rest of your life and you can hang your hat on that."

Coyle is back living in Bozeman. He's working in real estate while raising a 4-year-old son, who he said is a Griz fan, and an 11-month-old daughter.



MISSOULIAN FILE PHOTOS

Montana linebacker Brock Coyle knocks the ball loose from Montana State quarterback DeNarius McGhee in the 2013 Brawl of the Wild in Bozeman.

He hasn't played in the rivalry in 11 years and has been adapting to being a fan who no longer can have a direct impact on making history in the game.

"Sometimes it can almost be a little bit more stressful watching it," he said. "You always want it for your guys. That's really our Super Bowl."

Frank Gogola is the Senior Sports Reporter at the Missoulian and 406 MT Sports. Follow him on X @FrankGogola or email him at frank.gogola@406mtsports.com.

RIGHT: Montana State running back Cody Kirk is wrapped up by

Montana's Brock Coyle, 56, and Jordan Tripp while Alex Bienemann, 92, comes in to help out in the 2013 Brawl of the Wild in Bozeman.



'Be so great they have to take you'

Treasure State high school coaches talk about Cat-Griz recruiting

CARSON CASHION
406 MT Sports

MISSOULA — The Brawl of the Wild is a calendar fixture in the state of Montana. This year's rendition features the most Montanans in five years.

The rosters of Montana and Montana State include 95 combined Treasure State natives, the most since 2020 and the second-most in the past decade. Missoula Sentinel and Bozeman High lead the way in produced players; unsurprisingly, Sentinel leads in current Grizzlies (nine) and Bozeman leads in current Bobcats (10).

406 MT Sports spoke with high

school coaches from around Montana about their experiences with the recruiting process, what goes into a student's decision-making and more.

"There's so many factors that go into that decision," Sentinel coach Dane Oliver said. "It's really a life-long decision, so you have to weigh it out immensely."

Both Big Sky programs' head coaches, Bobby Hauck and Brent Vigen, appear to have emphasized in-state recruiting in their tenures.

In the three years before Hauck returned to Missoula, when Montana was led by Bob Stitt, UM rostered 31, 27 and 32 Montanans. Hauck's first team back, the 2018 squad, rostered 41 players from Montana high schools. Since then, his teams have rostered at least 48 every year.

Vigen rostered 37 Montanans in

his first year in Bozeman in 2021, a program low across the past decade. But his teams have seen increases in Montana representation each of his four years on the job.

Oliver said he has built working relationships with the two through his time coaching at Sentinel.

Please see **HOMEGROWN**, Page M8

BRIAN MORSE,
BOBCAT CREATIVE SERVICES

Montana State quarterback Tommy Mellott is arguably the most successful and recognizable Treasure State product competing on the FCS level. Mellott grew up in Butte and played for the Butte High Bulldogs. In this photo, Mellott and his teammates head to the sidelines after a touchdown against Utah Tech in St. George, Utah.



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Homegrown

From M7

"Those guys are great talent evaluators. They can see it on film," Oliver added. "When they're talking to me, it's more about who this kid is as a person."

Outside of Sentinel and Bozeman, the next two most represented schools on the current Brawl programs are Billings West (eight players) and Kalispell Glacier (five). All five of Glacier's players attend Montana, while six of West's eight players attend Montana State.

The recruitment process, Oliver said, can be one of the most frustrating things for kids as the decisions are largely out of their control. Attending one-day summer camps and staying in contact with coaches helps players, but the coaches will make their own decisions at the end of the day, Oliver continued.

"I always say, 'be so great they have to take you,'" Oliver said.

The most important aspect, Bozeman head coach Levi Wesche said, is compiling productive on-field tape.

"If they're freshmen, sophomores, I'm telling them it's too early to be worried about much of anything," Wesche said. "You gotta really be focused on whether or not you're a varsity player. You want to get some good varsity film underneath you."

"You can go to all these camps, do all this recruiting stuff, but if you aren't taking care of business in the classroom, in the weight room, on the field, it doesn't really matter."

Aside from individual success, the message from coaches was clear that team success often translates to more eyeballs from the next level. The results back up the notion, too.

Of the four Class AA state semi-finalists each year, the four lead-

ing feeder programs to the 2024 squads make up 10 of the last 16 semifinalists.

"Schools are going to look at winning programs," Wesche said.

While traditional thought may be that Missoula natives would want to represent UM, and Bozeman natives MSU, the decisions of students are often much more complex with a variety of factors to consider. Six Missoula natives, five from Sentinel and one from Hellgate, currently play for the Bobcats; four former Bozeman Hawks are now Grizzlies.

■ "It really comes down to the individual kid," Oliver said. "Are they more of a homebody, did they grow up in Missoula dreaming about being a Griz, are they passionate about academics?"

■ "What's led our kids from Sentinel going to Montana State is the academics. They're interested in being an engineer, they (MSU) have a really strong program down there."

■ As players begin their re-

cruitment process, Oliver said his biggest pieces of advice for potential collegiate athletes is to prioritize the aspects of life outside of football.

"Football can end very quickly, so make sure you're in a home you want to go to school," Oliver said. "It takes one play and your career is over. Make sure it's an environment that takes care of your academics first."

"Pick somewhere that fits your career aspirations. Then, how's the style of play? How's the communication been with you? What's the long-term plan? Does it meet your goals?"

■ Wesche also emphasized committing to programs and cities, not football coaches.

■ "Coaches are fleeting," Wesche added. "They're moving around, doing different things all the time."

■ Wesche also noted that the path to full or partial scholarships has hardened in recent years for Montana kids, many now pursuing

the route of a preferred walk-on. Still, the allure of suiting up for one of Montana's two marquee programs is more than enough to offset the potential negative factors.

■ "What people don't understand is that are not from this state is that we don't have a professional sports team here in this state," Wesche said. "The closest you get in Montana is to say that you play football for the Cats or Griz. That carries a tremendous amount of weight in this state."

■ "It's almost like saying you played professional ball. That means a lot to kids. They want that tag and to say that they did that. Kids still want that, regardless of whether it's a paid scholarship or walk-on."

Carson Cashion is a sports writer for 406 MT Sports, primarily covering the Bitterroot Valley. Follow him on X @CarsonCashion or contact him at carson.cashion@406mstsports.com.



SHAWN RAECKE, FOR THE BOZEMAN DAILY CHRONICLE

Montana State running back Adam Jones rushes for yardage in the red zone against Northern Colorado in this photo from October at Bobcat Stadium. Jones, a Missoula Sentinel grad, is enjoying a breakout season.



BEN ALLAN SMITH, MISSOULIAN

Montana wide receiver/kick returner Junior Bergen (5) tries to break a tackle during a game at Eastern Washington in September. Bergen, a Billings Senior grad, is one of the most dangerous kick returners in the FCS.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Griz, Cats craft gold and silver era

Montana State, Montana experiencing unprecedented simultaneous success

FRANK GOGOLA
406 MT Sports

SPOKANE, Wash. — Montana and Montana State were on opposite ends of the room for the Big Sky Kickoff event in July at Northern Quest Resort & Casino but found themselves sitting right next to each other atop the Big Sky Conference preseason football polls.

What, both of them top two, in both the coaches and media pre-season polls, in the same year?

Well, that was believed to be a first for the Treasure State teams, at least in online and newspaper archives going back to when a media poll appears to have been first added to supplement the coaches poll in 1997.

Expectations were also high on the national scene as the Griz sat third and the Cats fourth in the Hero Sports preseason Top 25. The signs all pointed to these programs being on a collision course for another high-profile Brawl of the Wild with Big Sky championship and playoff implications on the line in November.

"I think it just comes down to the quality of the players," Montana State senior defensive end Brody Grebe, a Melstone native, said of the success. "But not just

that, it's how hard and how bad the players in Montana and the community in Montana wants to be great and the competitiveness of the state.

"When one team is good, it brings it out in the other team. Having great competition elevates the other team. I think that's why both teams have been so successful the last few years."

Montana was coming off a Big Sky championship and run to the FCS national title game in 2023, when Billings native Junior Bergen became a national superstar. That was the Grizzlies' fourth consecutive playoff trip; they made the finals once, quarterfinals twice and second round once.

Please see HEYDAY, Page M12



BEN ALLAN SMITH, MISSOULIAN

Montana head coach Bobby Hauck holds the Big Sky Conference championship trophy over his head after the game between Montana and Montana State on Nov. 18, 2023, at Washington-Grizzly Stadium in Missoula. The Grizzlies beat the Cats in convincing fashion.

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BRAWL OF THE WILD

Heyday

From M9

MSU has made the postseason five straight seasons, highlighted by an unlikely run to the 2021 national title game as the No. 8 seed behind Dillon native Troy Andersen and Butte's Tommy Mellott. They've also advanced to the semifinals twice and the second round twice, and they shared the Big Sky title in 2022. That five-year stretch of postseason berths is the longest in MSU history. The Griz have had longer runs than their four straight trips, but this is the longest consecutive period in which both teams have qualified for the playoffs.

"I think it's heavily on Montana kids," Montana State senior defensive lineman Marcus Wehr, a Billings native, said. "We're not overly recruited by a lot of big schools. We don't go to camps. We're not 3-stars. We're not all this or that."

"But we go to these schools and work hard and I think that's really the reason Montana, Montana State are at this level is because of the play of the Montana kids."

Griz head coach Bobby Hauck has prioritized recruiting Montana kids since he returned to Missoula ahead of the 2018 season. Some of his first recruits — Anaconda's Braxton Hill, Missoula's Levi Janacaro and Billings' Trevin Gradney — have grown into All-Big Sky honorees. Hauck led Montana to seven consecutive Big Sky championships and three FCS title game appearances in his first stint at UM from 2003-09. Montana State competed on the Big Sky leaderboard at that time but didn't make much headway in the playoffs under Mike Kramer.

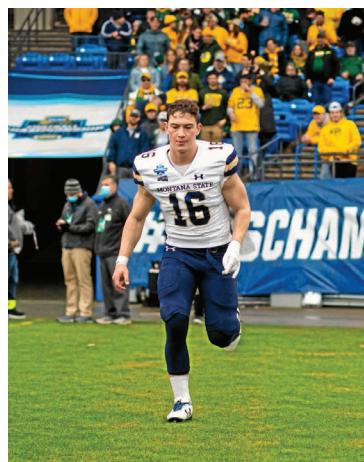
The Cats had more postseason success in the early 2010s under Rob Ash as both programs reached a high point simultaneously in 2011. They made the quarterfinals, the Griz made the semifinals and the teams combined for an FCS Top 25 ranking of eight in the Brawl as the Cats were No. 1 and Griz No. 7.

That was the best combined ranking until they totaled a seven (No. 3 Griz, No. 4 Cats) in 2023.



SAMUEL WILSON, BOZEMAN DAILY CHRONICLE

Montana State head coach Brent Vigen holds the Big Sky Conference football title trophy after the 121st Brawl of the Wild in November 2022 at Bobcat Stadium in Bozeman.



MIKE CLARK, 406MTSPORTS.COM

Montana State's Tommy Mellott tries to run on the sideline after injuring his ankle on the Bobcats' first possession against North Dakota State in the FCS title game on Jan. 8, 2022, in Frisco, Texas.

The total of 10 in 2021 (No. 3 MSU, No. 7 UM) and 11 in 2019 (No. 3 Griz, No. 8 Cats) were the third- and fourth-best combined rankings in the game's 122 years (as of late October).

"It's a great rivalry so you're always trying to beat your rival so that pushes teams ahead," Hauck



BEN ALLAN SMITH, MISSOULIAN

Montana players AJ Forbes (57), Junior Bergen (5) and Ryder Meyer (13) celebrate with the Great Divide Trophy after beating Montana State, 37-7, last November at Washington-Grizzly Stadium in Missoula.

said. "They've been good. They were good when Mike Kramer was there. They were good when Rob Ash was there. They're a re-sourced program. They've got a lot of resources. That helps you elevate your program. They've committed to it. And they're doing a good job." Montana's revival

has come since athletic director Kent Haslam decided to bring back Hauck despite some opposition after a drop-off from the program's usual aspirations following 2011. After Ash, MSU's most consistent era of success began under Jeff Choate with a 2018 playoff berth and has carried on after AD

Leon Costello chose coach Brent Vigen out of Wyoming in 2021.

The Cats had won an NAIA national title in 1956 before the Big Sky was created and an NCAA D-II national crown in 1976 under coach Sonny Holland while UM experienced a decade-long lull. The Griz ended a 12-year Big Sky title drought in 1982, matched MSU with a poor 1983 season, finished last in 1984 while the Dave Arnold-coached Cats won the Division I-AA national title and sat near the bottom of the 1985 standings along with MSU.

The Cats didn't make the playoffs again until 2002, while Don Read launched UM to the stratosphere. He took over in 1986 during the debut of Washington-Grizzly Stadium, led UM to the 1995 national title, and started a stretch of 16 straight rivalry wins and 17 consecutive playoff trips. The Griz then captured the 2001 national crown while winning 12 straight Big Sky titles.

Both teams have recently gone in on the facilities arms race while chasing current national powers North Dakota State and South Dakota State. There have been stadium upgrades over the years. UM opened the Champions Center in 2017. Montana State followed with the Bobcat Athletic Complex in 2021. Montana opened an indoor practice facility in October and MSU will soon have one of its own.

"Our facility development on our side of things is evidence of the commitment we have," Vigen said. "I think both programs, you look at our fan support, the Saturday environments, it's not like that everywhere. I think that in itself allows us, if we do things the right way, to draw really good, talented football players that really value that opportunity to our institutions."

The one thing both programs have come up agonizingly short on is winning a national championship during this stretch. Add Eastern Washington's 2018 FCS title game trip to MSU's in 2021 and UM's in 2023, and Big Sky teams have been in the chipper three times in the past five fall seasons. All three have finished as the runner-up.

Heyday

From M12

EWU's 2010 national title is the most recent by a Big Sky squad. That's even though the stacked Big Sky got a league-record five teams in the playoffs in 2021 and 2022, with three seeded one year and two seeded the other year. In 2022, the Big Sky had a league-record six teams ranked in the final Top 25 poll as the gap between teams seems to have shrunk.

"The Big Sky as a whole is great competition," Montana senior linebacker Ryan Tirrell, a Missoula native, said. "Montana teams have had a lot of success in previous years and it's been cool to have Big Sky teams in the championship. I'd say in the Big Sky, you play a level of competition where you're prepared for the playoffs."

The success of both programs in the state has made recent results of that playoff tune-up game — the regular-season-closing Brawl

of the Wild — all the more perplexing. The home team has won in blowout fashion each of the past four seasons since the Cats' win in the Miracle in Missoula in 2018.

Each team's senior class was in its final year of high school when MSU made that goal-line stand six years ago. Both teams took off after that and have sustained their rise through a pandemic-canceled season in 2020, the ability for players to transfer with immediate eligibility and the introduction of Name, Image and Likeness (NIL) opportunities.

"When we first came in, we were still winning games, so there wasn't a big change in that sense," Montana senior wide receiver Keelan White said. "But I think just overall, in a team mentality sense, it was, yeah, we're going to be competitive for a while."

Both programs have done just that. And now the blue-and-gold-clad Cats and the maroon-and-silver-clad Griz have crafted a gold — and silver — era of football in the Treasure State.



BEN ALLAN SMITH, MISSOULIAN

Montana safety TraJon Cotton (3), offensive tackle Chris Walker (55), linebacker Braxton Hill (35) and offensive lineman AJ Forbes (57) head to midfield for the coin toss during the FCS national championship between Montana and South Dakota State on Jan. 7 at Toyota Stadium in Frisco, Texas.

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BRAWL OF THE WILD

Rollins finds ‘self fulfillment’ at MSU

Lineman’s college life has included mission, transfer, injury

VICTOR FLORES
406 MT Sports

BOZEMAN — An image has lingered in Dylan Rollins’ head: Montana State football players running behind eight horses onto a field blanketed in gold.

He saw this scene before Gold Rush games his brother, Byron, participated in as a defensive lineman for the Bobcats from 2018-21.

“Running out at Gold Rush and seeing 20,000 fans all dressed in gold and the horses in front of you and everything, that’s what football has always meant to me,” Dylan told 406 MT Sports on Oct. 23.

Dylan, an offensive lineman, experienced his first Gold Rush as a Bobcat on Sept. 7.

“This is where I feel the greatest sense of accomplishment and self fulfillment,” Dylan said, adding.

“This is home for me, and this is where I want to be.” Dylan transferred to MSU from BYU earlier this year after a two-year LDS mission. The layoff plus a pre-season injury prevented him from progressing as fast as he wanted, but as the season has worn on, he’s flashed the elite traits that made him a top-notch college prospect at Missoula Sentinel.

“When he’s not hesitating and he runs off the ball and puts his hands on people, they move. He is a very strong man,” MSU offensive line coach Al Johnson said Oct. 28, adding, “He’s very locked in. He wants to be great.”

Dylan was pressing early in his senior season in 2020, probably due in part to the COVID-19 pandemic and his heavy recruitment, said Sentinel head coach Dane Oliver.

Dylan was a three-star recruit and Montana’s top-ranked prospect in the Class of 2025, according to 247Sports. The scholarship



COURTESY PHOTOS

Josh Rollins and son Dylan Rollins (63) pose for a photo after Montana State’s Gold Rush game against Maine on Sept. 7 at Bobcat Stadium in Bozeman.

offers from BYU and MSU were two of many he got from Division I programs, including one from hometown Montana and a pair from the Power 5 — Minnesota and Oregon State — that made his top tier before he committed to BYU.

As he struggled to start his senior season, Sentinel’s coaches told Dylan to just play and be himself, per Oliver. Dylan heeded the advice, leading the Spartans to the 2020 Class AA state championship and earning the Montana Gatorade Player of the Year award — the first Treasure State player since 1993 (Havre’s Lance Lanning) to receive the accolade

solely as an O-lineman.

“His leadership and who he is as a person is what stands out to me most. He’s a high character kid and very much service-oriented. He’s the complete person,” Oliver said. “But when he hits the football field, he wants to assert his dominance.”

Oliver also praised Dylan’s versatility; he started at tackle as a sophomore and junior at Sentinel, then switched to guard as a senior, when he stood 6-foot-6 and weighed about 285 pounds.

“I don’t know if we’ve had a kid that came through Sentinel in the last 40 years that had his stature,” Oliver said.



From left, Montana State team manager Evan Hafliger, defensive back JJ Dolan, offensive lineman Dylan Rollins, defensive end Zac Crews, running back Adam Jones, DB Rylan Ort and team manager Brady Kolendich — all Missoula Sentinel graduates — pose for a photo after the Bobcats’ Gold Rush game against Maine on Sept. 7 at Bobcat Stadium in Bozeman.

“This is where I feel the greatest sense of accomplishment and self fulfillment. This is home for me, and this is where I want to be.”

Dylan Rollins, MSU offensive lineman

Dylan’s Mormon faith and the opportunity to play at the FBS level contributed to his decision to choose BYU. He redshirted his first season in Provo, Utah, and began his mission in Tacoma, Washington, the following year.

As the Cougars enjoyed a 10-3 season in 2021, MSU reached the FCS national title game. Byron was a rotation player on the interior D-line for the Cats that season, so Dylan followed their games closely and attended some.

“We’d obviously grown accustomed to the family culture that we had at Montana State and the excitement that was there,” said Dylan’s and Byron’s father Josh, who played on the O-line at MSU in the late 1990s. “At BYU, it didn’t seem to have the same connectedness.” Dylan entered the transfer portal after the 2023 season. Two years after he strongly

considered joining his brother, Dylan signed with the Cats.

“My time at BYU was a good growing experience,” Dylan said. “It helped me keep the door open for a mission that — I don’t think it would have been closed here (at MSU) — but maybe I wouldn’t have looked at it as hard here.”

“Ultimately, I feel like it was God’s hand that brought me here, and this is where I need to be.”

Familiar faces contributed to Dylan’s transfer. Five current MSU players also attended Sentinel: defensive end Zac Crews, linebacker Neil Daily (who finished his high school career at Billings West), defensive back JJ Dolan, running back Adam Jones and DB Rylan Ort. Ort is among a handful of 2024 Bobcats who played with Byron.

Please see ROLLINS, Page M16



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BRAWL OF THE WILD

Rollins

From M14

"Guys have accepted me, taken me in and kind of allowed me to step in and be part of an awesome group in our offensive line room," Dylan said. "It's a great, family-oriented team." Byron lost about 50 pounds during his mission in Colombia. To avoid the same outcome, Dylan regularly prepared breakfasts full of bacon, eggs and hashbrowns. His lunches and dinners were usually protein packed.

"It was kind of a seafood diet," he said. "You see food, you eat it."

Dylan wasn't able to attend commercial gyms during his mission, but he regularly worked out with dumbbells, a weight vest and a barbell in his Tacoma home.

"He was born gifted with a lot of size and frame and stuff, but he's always been a really hard worker," Byron said Oct. 23, adding, "He was just attacking workouts while he was gone."

Dylan "looked like an O-line-man" when he arrived in Bozeman over the summer, Johnson said.

"I feel like I was in pretty good shape," Dylan said. "But being in good shape and being a good football player are different things. (Johnson has) helped me knock a lot of the rust off and been patient with me."

Dylan was coming along nicely until he suffered a hamstring injury that kept him out of the entire fall camp. Of all the Bobcats, few could afford to miss that time less than him.

"He needed a lot of reps," Johnson said, adding, "Technique, how we go about the blocks, some of the things we do with all the shifts and the motions and how defenses play us... There are a lot of different things that go into how we can run the ball the way we do, the way we see so many different defenses, so there are a lot of little details that I don't let slip." Dylan "attacked his recovery" well, Byron said, and saw his first game action against Utah Tech. Big leads like the one MSU built in that second game of the season allowed Dylan to see more action in future weeks.



SHAWN RAECKE, FOR THE BOZEMAN DAILY CHRONICLE

Montana State offensive line coach Al Johnson and head coach Brent Vigen (right) talk during a game against Mercyhurst next to Everett Carr (57) and Dylan Rollins (63) on Sept. 21 at Bobcat Stadium.

"Offensive line, there are a lot of unnatural movements," he said. "I had to relearn and readjust to doing that, and then just readjusting to pad level physicality, all those things that come with college football. (Johnson) does a great job of it, and then I have a lot of great examples in the room."

MSU's double-repping system has allowed players like Dylan to develop faster than they would at other programs, and he's tried hard to make up for lost time.

"He asks good questions. He wants to watch film more. He wants to be really good, and he's been constantly getting better," Johnson said. "A lot of it for him is just being confident and playing fast and not thinking too much."

The first Brawl of the Wild of Dylan's MSU career will happen

on Saturday, Nov. 23 at Bobcat Stadium. As electric as the environment will be, the runout before that game might not top his first one.

"Watching him run out the first time during Gold Rush, it's just something that really hits," Josh said. "There's a sense of pride and a sense of belonging for all of us."

Email Victor Flores at victor.flores@406mtsports.com and follow him on Twitter/X at [@VictorFlores406](https://twitter.com/VictorFlores406)

MSU ATHLETICS

Montana State's Dylan Rollins (63) blocks as Chance Wilson (13) receives a snap against Portland State on Oct. 19 at Hillsboro Stadium in Hillsboro, Ore.



COMMENTARY

Hate has no place in Treasure State sports

Editor's note: The following is a column written by Missoulian sports editor Bill Speltz five years ago. It has been updated to include thoughts on this season.

These teams genuinely hate one another.

Sound familiar? Probably because you'll hear it at least a dozen times on television this month when college football's storied rivalries are renewed.

Alabama-Auburn, Ohio State-Michigan, Montana-Montana State ... all terrific matchups but they're just games, folks. It's just sports.

Here's a news flash for you passionate rival haters: Guys that play for MSU are just guys that share the same state as football players at UM, dealing with the same day-to-day challenges like



**BILL
SPELTZ**

wintery weather and skyrocketing costs of living in Bozeman and Missoula. The only real difference is the color of the uniform and the location in western Montana.

We at the Missoulian have tried to appease Griz fans that so passionately hate Montana State by running a limited amount of Bobcat stories in the paper — and never any on the front sports page. But the truth is, those fans probably need to grow up and understand we're just trying to give readers more. Heck, they may even discover they have more fun when they start pulling for two Treasure State teams.

Hatred has no place in sports.

Save your hate for the Adolph Hitlers and Osama bin Ladens of the world.

Ever notice how a lot of NFL players react after battling in so-called rivalry games? They walk to the middle of the field to greet one another, regardless of jersey color, and sometimes even exchange jerseys for fun.

Growing up just 70 miles from Iowa City, this one-time-passionate Iowa fan loved to root for the Hawkeyes in their rivalry games against Iowa State. I may have hated to see Iowa lose to the Cyclones, but once the game was over, I was almost as happy to see Iowa State succeed as I was Iowa.

Is that so weird? That I would pull for two teams that made me feel good about my home state?

Please see SPELTZ, Page M18



BEN ALLAN SMITH, MISSOULIAN

Montana head coach Bobby Hauck, left, shakes hands with Montana State head coach Brent Vigen, right, during the 120th Brawl of the Wild football game at Washington-Grizzly Stadium in 2021. The teams will renew their rivalry next Saturday in Bozeman.

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Unpredictability adds intrigue



MEAGAN THOMPSON, THE MONTANA STANDARD

Montana State (left) and Montana battle for control of the line of scrimmage during the 2022 Brawl of the Wild in Bozeman. The Bobcats won that contest and the Grizzlies exacted revenge in Missoula last year.

Brawl has had plenty of surprises since Hauck returned for second stint as Grizzly coach

FRANK GOGOLA
406 MT Sports

MISSOULA — The Brawl of the Wild has been hard to predict in recent years — and that's what makes this year's showdown superbly exciting, intriguing and anticipated once again.

The 123rd rendition of the in-state rivalry will take place next Saturday at noon in Bozeman. The rivalry has produced some of the most memorable — or forgettable, depending on your allegiance — games in recent series history.

Just go back to when Bobby Hauck returned as the Montana head coach in 2018. That game still stands out for how the ending was so ridiculously unpredictable. An instant classic. It was something out of a Holly-

wood movie. In fact, they made a movie — a documentary, *Miracle in Missoula* — about it.

The Griz built a 22-0 lead in what looked like a runaway win. The Cats erased that deficit to go up 29-25. Montana didn't go away, marching down to the 1-yard line in the closing seconds. The Griz appeared to score the winning touchdown, but MSU coach Jeff Choate called a timeout before the snap.

The teams lined up to replay the down. Cats nose tackle Tucker Yates met Griz running back Adam Eastwood in the backfield and forced the ball loose. Derek Marks recovered it for MSU with 10 ticks left. The Cats ran out the clock on UM's playoff hopes, the only Hauck-coached Griz team to miss the postseason.

"We talked all week, last night in particular, that if you really want to be remembered, you make a play in this game," Choate said after the game.

Please see **UNPREDICTABLE**, Page M19

Speltz

From M17

Competitively speaking, hating your opponent is a bad idea anyway. It can be disruptive in the heat of battle because hate and anger go hand in hand and anger can be distracting. Even in a sport as brutal as football, you must keep your wits about you, my friend.

No one hated to lose more than yours truly as a younger man. Not so much in high school or college because I was just happy to earn a starting job. My high school football team went 0-9 but I still had a good time.

In my 30s, after leaving

baseball and football behind, I focused on playing tennis because it's cheap and a good workout. Oddly enough, it was this gentleman's game that planted seeds of hatred in my mind for anyone who dared try to beat me.

Call it the Jimmy Connors Syndrome. I had it in my head that being ranked as the top 35-and-over singles player in Iowa — roughly the equivalent of being the best surfer in Nome, Alaska — was my destiny. A Canadian gentleman was my nemesis, leaving me with more runner-up trophies than Bobby Hauck, the Buffalo Bills and the Minnesota Vikings combined.

Oh, I was a nasty cuss.

I'd roll the ball out of my pocket onto an adjacent court just to make the Canadian chase it. I'd refuse to socialize on changeovers. I'd walk right toward the friendly chap just so he had to walk around me.

After losing to him six or seven times in a row in tournament finals, I finally beat the guy. It was my hometown tournament and I was so happy I gave my racket a bat flip.

As I was exiting the courts, enjoying congratulations from friends and family, my old Canadian rival vanished. Minutes later, he showed up with an icy-cold beverage just for me. It was his way of saying nice match.

The competitive cuss in me snapped that day and I became fast friends with the Canadian. It took me 42 years to get there, but never again would I harbor white-hot competitive hatred toward anyone. How liberating it was.

All season I've pulled for both the Montana and Montana State football teams to win. There, I admit it. Better start your campaign to have me impeached as Missoulian sports editor.

Watching the Cats isn't quite as thrilling as watching the Grizzlies since my children attended UM, but it's all entertainment to me. Those blue-and-gold-clad Bobcats have done the

Treasure State proud in recent years and anyone that says differently needs to work on perspective.

This year's game promises to be a good one. Both teams are among the best on the FCS level.

It's strange the way the rivalry has played out the past three years.

Back in 2021, Montana dumped Montana State in Missoula, 29-10. A week later the Cats switched quarterbacks, going from Matthew McKay to Tommy Mellott, and the result was a thrilling run all the way to the FCS championship.

Two years ago, the Cats buried the Grizzlies, 55-21, in Bozeman. Even Cats fans would have to admit they

never expected such a lopsided contest.

Then last year, Montana whipped Montana State in Missoula, 37-7. The Grizzlies made it all the way to the FCS title game before stumbling.

So what will it be this year? Maybe the first close game in six years?

That's what I'm hoping for, along with the class of both programs and their fans to shine through on the field and in the parking lot after the game.

Bill Speltz is Missoulian Sports Editor and has served as a columnist for the newspaper almost 20 years. If you have a question or comment, email bill.speltz@lee.net.

Unpredictable

From M18

"I've got a pretty sour taste," Hauck added. "This one's particularly gut-wrenching."

As the series shifted to Bozeman in 2019, the Griz were coming off a win over No. 3 Weber State the week before. The Cats were missing do-it-all star Troy Andersen. Advantage: Griz. Or so it seemed.

The No. 8 Cats built a 24-0 lead early in the second quarter and rolled to a 48-14 win behind 171 rush yards by Isaiah Ifanse. That loss kept the No. 3 Griz from winning their first Big Sky title since 2011. UM still made the FCS quarterfinals. The Cats, however, made it one round deeper to the semifinals.

"We got our tail kicked," Hauck offered after the loss.

The rivalry game returned to Missoula in 2021 with Brent Vigen having replaced Choate as Cats head coach. It was perhaps the most anticipated Brawl of

them all at that time. It was the first game between them in two years because of the 2020 pandemic. And it was another top-10 showdown that featured the third-ranked Bobcats against the seventh-ranked Grizzlies.

Montana took the lead for good on the second play of the game on true freshman receiver Junior Bergen's star-making touchdown. That sent the Wa-Griz faithful into a frenzy as the former Cats signee who had flipped to the Griz raced 74 yards for a cathartic score.

UM rocked the stadium again when Jace Lewis knocked the ball out of holder Bryce Leighton's hands on a field goal attempt. Justin Forced scooped up the ball and raced 56 yards for a touchdown. The underdog team won again, 29-10. It was the Cats' lone league blemish as the Griz prevented them from taking the Big Sky title.

Two years ago, MSU blew out UM in Bozeman. Last year, the Griz whipped the Cats in Missoula. What will happen next Saturday? It's anyone's guess.



BEN ALLAN SMITH, MISSOULIAN

Montana tight end Evan Shafer (84) and offensive lineman AJ Forbes (57) celebrate with the Great Divide Trophy after the 2021 Brawl in Missoula.

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BEST OF THE BRAWLS

406 MT SPORTS

These aren't necessarily the closest or best-played of the 122 Brawls of the Wild, although this list features some barnburners and includes games that featured incredible performances.

But this list also includes games that changed the course of the series — even if those changes weren't apparent or evident at the time.

And, of course, like all of these lists, it's subjective. This list was compiled by the sports staff of the Missoulian originally for a section to commemorate the 100th Brawl; it's been updated and revised for this section.



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DESTINATION
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1 2018: Bobcats win 29-25 in Missoula

The Cats appeared destined for defeat after an apparent Adam Eastwood go-ahead rushing touchdown for the Griz with seconds left. But wait! Montana State coach Jeff Choate called timeout before the play started. Montana was forced to try again and opted for the same play with a disastrous result. Tucker Yates knocked the ball out of Eastwood's hands and the Griz turned the ball over near the goal line in front of 26,508 fans. It wasn't just that play that made the game hard for Montana to swallow. And Eastwood most certainly was not the only reason the Grizzlies lost. Montana led 22-0 in the first half and 25-15 with under 8 minutes left before the Cats made an epic comeback fueled by Troy Andersen's offensive heroics.

2 1997: Grizzlies win 27-25 in Bozeman

A few Brawls of the Wild had go-ahead touchdowns in the last moments, and one other had a late field goal to win it. This had both. At a time during The Streak when the Bobcats finally seemed on equal footing, Eric Kinnaman scores with 22 seconds left to put the Cats up 25-24. Kinnaman's conversion run is stopped inches short. MSU's Geoff Groshelle kicks off out of bounds and on the second play from the 35, Grizzly quarterback Brian Ah Yat fakes a handoff and throws deep to Justin Olsen for 46 yards to the Montana State 19. After one more play, the Grizzlies call time out with four seconds left to set up a field goal attempt by Kris Heppner. Heppner, iced for several minutes by a series of timeouts, kicks a 37-yard field goal as time expires for the win.

3 2002: Bobcats win 10-7 in Missoula

By no stretch the best-played or most exciting game of the series, this is nevertheless the victory with the most recent resonance for Bobcat Nation: On a snowy, bitter afternoon in Missoula, The Streak ends — and it's all the sweeter for the Cats because it ends in the Grizzlies' house. Bobcat freshman QB Travis Lulay connects on a 53-yard TD pass to Junior Adams in the third quarter to pad the lead to 10-0, and the Cat defense makes the lead stand up, despite a Griz TD early in the fourth quarter. The Streak ends at 16 straight wins for the Grizzlies.

4 1968: Bobcats win 29-24 in Missoula

Some students of the series consider this to be the best game in the series: Montana State scores 20 points in the

last nine minutes and wins when Paul Schafer leaps into the end zone with 12 seconds left. After Schafer's touchdown, the Grizzlies launch a hasty answer from the 20 with speedy receiver Ron Baines at quarterback. He gains 15 and another 15 are tacked on by an unnecessary roughness penalty. Baines then races 37 yards from midfield before he's dragged down after time expires. Quarterback Dennis Erickson, flanker Ron Bain and Schafer lead the comeback as the Bobcats clinch a tie for the Big Sky championship. In all, 34 points are scored in the final quarter. Bain's touchdown catch with five minutes left brings the Bobcats within 24-22. His brother, Doug, gave the Grizzlies a 17-9 lead early in the quarter on a pass from Ray Brum.

Please see **TOP 10**, Page M21

Top 10

From M20

5 1986: Grizzlies win 59-28 in

Missoula: The game that started The Streak; arguably, no Griz-Cat game did as much to turn the series or a program around. In their second game in Washington-Grizzly Stadium, the Grizzlies lead 31-0 at halftime and 45-7 after three quarters. They roll up 506 yards, roughly 50 percent of it passing, and even their season record at 3-3 under new head coach Don Read. Senior quarterback Brent Pease runs for the first touchdown and passes for two more. The Bobcats make an aerial assault behind reserve quarterback Shaun Shahan in the final period to make it closer. But it's all but curtains for MSU head coach Dave Arnold, whose Bobcats won the national title two years earlier

6 1956: Bobcats win 33-14 in

Missoula: Before the streak of 16 started, Montana State had suffered through a half-century of football woes against the Grizzlies. But the Bobcats wash away five decades of frustration with a convincing win in Missoula – and go on to win 21 of the next 29 Brawls. This time, the Cats cap an undefeated season and secure a berth in the Aluminum Bowl in Little Rock, Arkansas, where they battle St. Joseph's to a 0-0 tie. Big Don Edwards scores two touchdowns in the second half and a freshman triad of quarterback Dave Alt, halfback Jack Rada and center Sonny Holland shine for MSU. Of the three, only Holland plays in subsequent Brawls. He'll finish his career a three-time All-American. Several hundred Bobcat rooters tear down the south goalpost at sunny Dornblaser Field. Coach Tony Storti is toted off the

field on the shoulders of Bobcats celebrating their first victory in Missoula since 1902.

7 1922: Grizzlies win 7-6 in

Missoula: It's dubbed "as hectic and fierce a struggle as Dornblaser field will ever see." It's perhaps also the most controversial ending of any Brawl. UM fullback "Bullet" Joe Kershner of Billings scores the tying touchdown as time runs out in the descending darkness at Montana's Homecoming game. MSU's timekeeper insists the final play didn't start in time. UM's timekeeper says it did, and he has the last word. State College coach Ott Romney charges onto the field during the argument, is shooed off, then returns. "Other dignitaries, all the way from the president of the university to the waterboys ... surged on the gridiron and harassed the officials," reports the Missoulian. Finally the extra-point is attempted and captain Harvey Elliott of Missoula kicks it through. MSU protests it shouldn't count because fans are on the field. "In the eyes of God and in 60 minutes of play, we won that game," proclaims Romney.

8 1954: Grizzlies win 25-21 in

Missoula: The Bobcats roar into their last game of 1954 unbeaten under Tony Storti, with the Cigar Bowl in Florida and the Refrigerator Bowl in Indiana eyeing them. The Grizzlies are last in the Skyline Conference, though they've beaten the Bobcats six straight times and 16 of the last 17. UM's Murdo Campbell runs 61 yards for a TD on the first play from scrimmage. Don Edwards answers with a 43-yard jaunt to set up a Bobcat score. But Edwards is taken to the hospital with a concussion as a brutal battle develops. The Bobcats, their

bowl hopes on the line, close within four on a late interception return by end Jim Posewitz. They're on the Grizzly 32 when a last-ditch pass goes awry at the gun.

9 1947: Bobcats win 13-12 in

Butte: On the 50th anniversary of the first Brawl of the Wild, the Bobcats break a 10-game losing streak that dates back to the depths of the Great Depression in 1932. It's a balmy mid-October day at the all-dirt Butte High field, later named to honor Griz great Eso Naranche. All the scoring is in the second half. Barney Berger, former Grizzly halfback, kicks the winning extra point for the Bobcats following a 4-yard touchdown pass on fourth down from Gene Bourdet to Harry Perrigo in the fourth quarter. That makes it Cats 13-6. The Grizzlies score, but Buck Preuninger misses the extra-long extra point by inches after a penalty moves the ball back. "It was a game for keeps and when somebody was slammed down, it was hard," the Missoulian's Ray Rocene reports.

10 1969: Grizzlies win 7-6 in

Bozeman: The third straight hair-raising Brawl finally goes the Grizzlies' way in the mud. Norwegian-born Frank Kalfoss of the Bobcats leaves a 42-yard field goal try wide left with 25 seconds left. UM hadn't won at Gatton Field since 1955. The winning touchdown is scored late in the first half when quarterback Ray Brum avoids a tackler in the backfield, nearly slips to the ground, then flings the ball downfield to halfback Arnie Blancas, who avoids his defender to consummate a 49-yard TD play. Dan Worrell kicks the vital extra point. On MSU's next series, Kalfoss has his first shot from 42 yards – and makes it.



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BRAWL OF THE WILD

RIVALRY THROUGH THE YEARS

**Montana 28,
Montana State 0**

Game No. 25 - 1920, Missoula.

Injuries have almost done in the Grizzlies after their epic 18-14 victory at Washington.

But on a November afternoon, in the first game played at Dornblaser Field, they dominate one of the top defenses in the West.

A crowd of 3,000 is on hand, and close to 800 students participate in a snake dance on the field at halftime.

Bernie Bierman's Grizzlies make 32 first downs to MSU's two and score a touchdown in each quarter. Harry Adams of Aberdeen, Washington, adds four extra points and engineers the Grizzly running game.

Steve Sullivan, a hard-running half back from Butte, scores the middle two touchdowns and sets up the fourth with an interception.

The Aggies (MSU's old nickname) threaten early in the fourth quarter after Bush recovers a fumble on Montana's 15. Two runs gain nothing. On third down quarterback Ray McCarren fakes a drop kick but is stopped for little gain. A fourth-down pass is intercepted by UM's Earl Barry of Missoula.

**Montana 14,
Montana State 7**

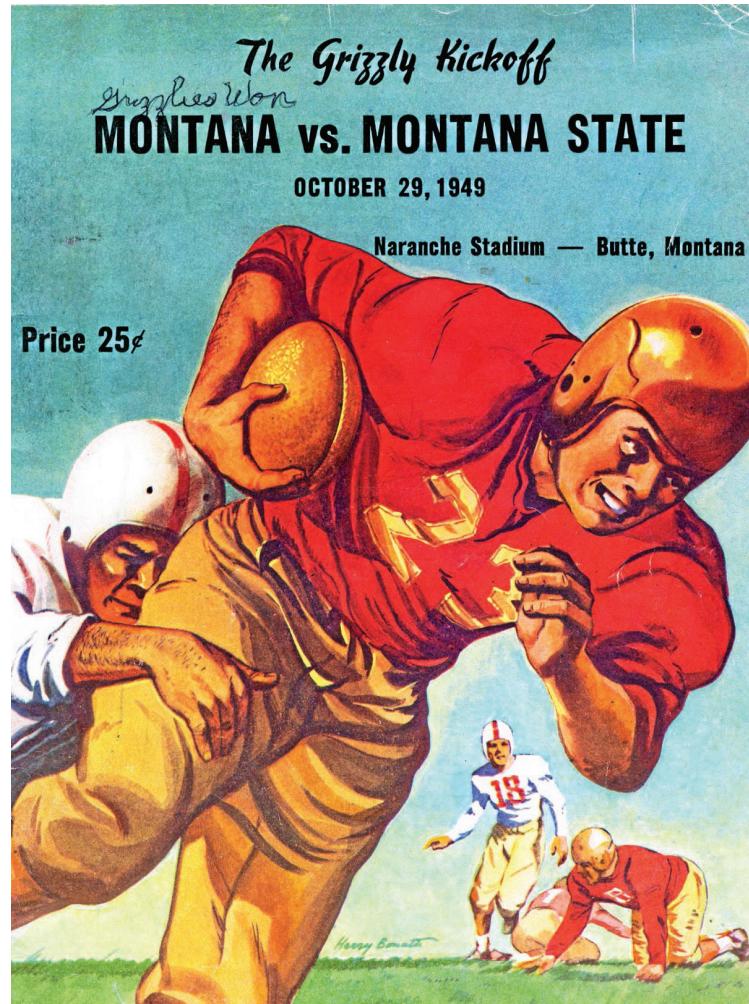
Game No. 26 - 1921, Bozeman.

Steve Sullivan of Butte, a future NFL player, sets up or scores all 14 points for Montana in as "thrilling and viciously contested football contest as Bozeman has ever seen," reports Ray T. Rocene of the Missoulian.

MSU loses at Gatton Field for the first time in five years. Montana hasn't lost in the series since 1908, but its first visits to Gatton in 1916 and 1918 resulted in ties.

Sullivan scores from 4 yards out and kicks the extra point in the first quarter. MSU scores on a short run by quarterback Ray McCarren in the second quarter after a blocked kick and return to the UM 10 by Mashin. Scott McDonald kicks the extra point.

Late in the third quarter, Montana stages the clinching 52-yard scoring drive. Sullivan runs for 38 of the yards. Fullback Ted Plummer, first of two brothers from Stevensville to play at Montana, scores from a yard out.



COURTESY

Featured here is a football program from 1949 Cat-Griz game at Naranche Stadium. The Brawl of the Wild was played in Butte from 1926-1950, first at Clark Park, later at Butte High School from 1939-1950 (except 1942-1945).

Students from UM, among the 190 who traveled to Bozeman by train, snake dance on the field between halves.

**Montana 7,
Montana State 6**

Game No. 27 - 1922, Missoula.

Controversy reigns in the descending darkness at Dornblaser Field.

UM fullback "Bullet Joe" Kershner of Billings scores the tying touchdown either as or after time runs out on Montana's homecoming game.

MSU timekeeper George Davenport maintains the final play didn't start in time.

UM's official timekeeper, who goes unidentified, says five seconds remained when the play began. State College coach Ott Romney charges onto the field during the argument, is shooed off, then returns.

"Other dignitaries, all the way from the president of the university to the waterboys ... surged on the gridiron and harassed the officials," reports the Missoulian.

Referee William Higgins rules touchdown, claiming the game isn't over until the official timer fires his gun. It went off after Kershner crossed the line.

Finally the extra-point goal is attempted and captain Harvey Elliott of Missoula

kicks it through. Umpire William Lowry says fans went on the field during the kick and the goal should not count. Higgins overrules him.

"In the eyes of God and in 60 minutes of play, we won that game," proclaims Romney in an after-dinner speech.

Two of the smallest players are the biggest stars. MSU quarterback Ray McCarren's passing accounts for a touchdown in the first quarter. Tiny Grant Silvernale of Baker leads a Grizzly ground attack that rolls up 278 yards.

Unofficially, this is the first Griz-Cat game. The nickname "Grizzlies" is well-established, but for the first time the Bozeman visitors are called "Bobcats."

**Montana 24,
Montana State 13**

Game No. 28 - 1923, Bozeman.

Sophomore Ted Illman arrives on the scene, scoring two Grizzly touchdowns in his Brawl of the Wild debut.

"Chief" Illman and "Wild" Bill Kelly starred on Missoula High's 1921 state championship team. Kelly, soon to be a Grizzly great, plays on the UM freshman team in 1923.

More than 1,000 Missoula fans and the band show up at Gallatin Field in the wake of the previous year's controversial 7-6 Grizzly win.

This is the last football visit to Bozeman for UM until 1951. The teams play 21 times in Butte in the meantime.

Two MSU scores are direct results of fumbles by Earl Johnson of Missoula, one on the first play from scrimmage. The Bobcats' Floyd Romney kicks two field goals, and Benton scores in the fourth quarter on a 16-yard return of a fumbled punt.

UM takes a 7-3 lead in the first quarter on a short run by Illman, then puts the game away with a flurry in the second quarter. Quarterback Grant Silvernale of Baker scores from 15 yards out, then intercepts a pass. He hits Illman on a pass that "Chief" turns into a 40-yard score.

**Montana 29,
Montana State 7**

Game No. 29 - 1925, Missoula.

"Wild Bill" Kelly of Missoula, in his only Griz-Cat game in Missoula, rips off 211 yards and four touchdowns.

'The Grizzlies didn't play the Bobcats in 1924 and are coming off consecutive trips to Oregon State, ID and Southern California. They receive sweet relief against the Bobcats.

Kelly, playing quarterback, scores on a 42-yard jaunt around end, on two plunges off tackle, and on a 68-yard interception return.

MSU's one tally comes in the first quarter when Gregory intercepts a pass and rambles 62 yards. Glynn, at left end, is a standout for the Bobcats.

Oscar Dahlberg, youngest of four Butte brothers to play for UM, is one of the Grizzly leaders.

It's a sloppy game: three interceptions each, four Grizzly fumbles, and 20 penalties - including 12 for 100 yards for UM. Former Griz star Earl "Click" Clark concludes a two-year stint as head coach. Ott Romney's Bobcats finish a busy 11-game schedule by losing to Utah, BYU and UM. Montana State, winless in its last 17 games against the Grizzlies, won't score a point in the next three.

**Montana 27,
Montana State 0**

Game No. 30 - 1926, Butte.

The Brawl of the Wild moves to Butte for the first of 21 Copper Bowls and Montana runs its series streak to 18 games without a loss.

"The kill took place Saturday afternoon (Oct. 23) at Butte before the largest crowd ever assembled for a sports event in the Treasure state," reports the Missoulian. There were, it says, "8,000 and some odd fans."

"Wild Bill" Kelly tops his four-touchdown performance of the 1925 Brawl. He runs for one Grizzly score, returns a punt for another and throws a pass nearly 50 yards for a third. Kelly also kicks three extra points and intercepts three Bobcat passes.

End Clarence Coyle of Alberton catches Kelly's long TD pass and halfback Milton Ritter of Eveleth, Minn., scores UM's other touchdown.

Montana State, behind halfback Babcock and quarterback Wellington, gains more first downs and almost equal yardage but throws six interceptions.

The Bobcats threaten in the second quarter. Glynn misses a drop-kick try from 41 yards. Grizzly sophomore Eddie Chinske of Michigan City, Ind., intercepts a pass at the Montana 20. Kelly picks one off at the 12 and another at the 5.



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BRAWL OF THE WILD

Montana 6, Montana State 0

Game No. 31 - 1927, Butte.

Alberton's Clarence Coyle speeds down the east side of Clark Park, slips past Bobcat halfback Richards, and hauls in a 30-yard scoring pass from Eddie Chinske of Indiana for the only score.

It comes in the final quarter - "a spectacular play, a thrilling moment, which sent the University rooters into cataclysms of joy," the Missoulian reports.

Chinske, who had two interceptions against MSU in 1926, picks off another at the goal line to preserve the shutout.

MSU's stingy defense, led by end Cashmore, holds the Missoula boys to four first downs. The Cats outgain the Griz 221 yards to 195 behind Eikren, "a slippery line smasher," Gardner, "a hard man to stop at all times," and Babcock.

Two plays before the touchdown, Chinske connects with Sam Kain of Helena for a 28-yard pass. On the winning play, both Kain and Coyle head down the same sideline and Richards has to choose which one to cover. He picks Kain and Chinske hits Coyle just short of the end zone.

Montana 0, Montana State 0

Game No. 32 - 1928, Butte.

Montana, wearing black jerseys and white helmets, comes closest to scoring but fails on three plays from the Bobcat 5-yard line late in the first half.

Bobcat linebacker Ott Gardner drops UM quarterback Jimmy Morrow of Moore for a loss of 3; Waldo Ekegren of Harlem regains 2 of those, and a fourth-down pass is batted down by a Montana State defender.

In the third quarter, Grizzly All-America candidate Tom Davis, from Butte, picks up a Bobcat fumble and runs 44 yards across the goal line. But referee Robert Morris has blown the ball dead, nullifying the score.

The crowd numbers some 8,000.

"It was a sellout, every seat being occupied, and the athletic funds of the two colleges will net a sweet sum as a result," the Missoulian reports.

Montana State 14, Montana 12

Game No. 33 - 1929, Butte.

It's over. On a sunny October day in Butte's Clark Park, the Bobcats end the longest winless streak in series history. Montana State last won in 1908, when the series matched the Aggies and the Varsity.

Max Worthington scores both Bobcat

touchdowns, on a 28-yard pass reception and an end-around near the goal line. Ivar Twilde's long return of the opening kickoff sets up the first MSU score, and his two extra-point kicks are the decisive points. Jim Morrow of Moore misses both extra-point attempts for the Grizzlies.

All scoring comes in the first half as Montana quickly counters each Bobcat touchdown. Billings halfback Clyde Carpenter crashes 13 yards over right guard Clarence Muhlick of Wisconsin to cap UM's first drive.

Waldo Ekegren of Harlem, whose brother Kermit shares halfback duties, scores on a reverse from 3 yards out.

On a last-ditch drive, UM's Morrow runs for 33 yards and passes for 22 to move the ball to the Bobcat 5-yard line. But the final gun sounds before Montana gets off another play.

MSU's second touchdown is aided by a 15-yard penalty "for talking" against Jerry Ryan of Deer Lodge, who is warming up on the sideline for Montana. It gives the Cats the ball on the Grizzly 3.

Montana 13, Montana State 6

Game No. 34 - 1930, Butte.

The Grizzlies regain the winning track, dominating for three quarters and holding off a last-ditch Bobcat assault ignited by three blocked punts. Nearly 8,000 fans gather at Clark Park to see if Maj. Frank Milburn's Montana men can avenge last year's 14-12 defeat - their first to the Bobcats in more than 20 years.

Waldo Ekegren of Harlem scores twice from six inches out in the first half for the Grizzlies. The extra-point kick after the first score by Emile Perey of Philipsburg misses, but the Cats are offside so the Griz get the point. Perey's attempt after the second score is low.

UM's Clyde Carpenter of Billings has a punt partly blocked in the third quarter. Max Worthington of MSU picks it up with clear field ahead but is caught from behind.

Another Carpenter punt is stuffed and recovered on the UM 8-yard line, but the Grizzlies hold on at the 1-yard line early in the final period.

The Cats block a third punt late in the game and take over on the Grizzly 16.

Quarterback DeFrate hits McFarland for a 9-yard touchdown pass to bring Montana State within seven. UM's Gilbert Madden of Roundup helps stave off the Bobcats after that with an interception.

Montana 37, Montana State 6

Game No. 35 - 1931, Butte.

Halloween Day in Butte is mild and even "a trifle warm for those engaged in struggle on the field," a reporter says. And the Grizzlies heat it up even more.

Lowell Dailey of Scobey tallies four touchdowns.

Montana leads just 12-0 late in the third quarter. But the Grizzlies' Chalmer Lyman of Helena catches a short touchdown pass from Bill Boone of Deer Lodge, playing for injured quarterback Cale Crowley of Butte. Moments later Pat Caven of Miles City, playing with a broken nose, intercepts a Bobcat pass and returns it 35 yards for a touchdown. The romp is on.

MSU's lone score comes in the fourth quarter when quarterback Parke hurdles over from a yard out. Halfback Ed Buzzetti leads the Bobcats on defense.

As game time approaches, three Navy airplanes sweep over the city in formation.

Montana State 19, Montana 7

Game No. 36 - 1932, Butte.

Two fourth-quarter touchdowns get the Bobcats back on the winning track. It spawns one of the series' memorable quotes from disgruntled Grizzly coach Bernard "Bunny" Oakes: "I think we ought to play our games from now on in Denmark, we're so rotten."

Though the Oct. 21 morning is sunny and warm, by noon the sky has clouded over. A stiff, cold wind blows from the south during the game. The U.S. is in the depths of the Great Depression and attendance dips to 5,500 at Clark Park, which holds 8,000. Election Day is a couple of weeks away, and Gov. John Erickson spends one half on the Grizzly side and one half with Bobcat fans. He poses for photographs with captains Paul McLean of Helena for MSU and the Grizzlies' Dale Hinman of Greybull, Wyo.

Sophomore Louis Edwards of Hamilton scores the go-ahead touchdown early in the fourth period from a yard out. Later, Ray Buzzetti of Hardin tallies his second TD of the day on a 21-yard jaunt.

Hinman gives the Grizzlies an early spark, intercepting a Buzzetti pass in the first quarter and returning it 93 yards for the first score.

Montana 32, Montana State 0

Game No. 37 - 1933, Butte.

The Griz explode for four touchdowns in the fourth quarter, in "merciless retribution for last year's defeat," a Missoulian reporter says. The Bobcats manage just 50 yards in total offense.

The Grizzlies begin their most dominant

period in series history: The Bobcats won't score for eight straight games.

Montana coach Bernard "Bunny" Oakes opens with "shock troop" - reserve players who three times successfully execute double lateral passes.

Sophomore Edison Kent of Dillon scores nine minutes into the game on a short run. The Bobcats, led by lineman Chris Nagle, blunt Montana after that until a blocked punt in the fourth quarter opens the floodgates.

Sophomore quarterback Hank Blastic of Chicago scores on four straight runs starting at the 17, then hits Louis Hartsell of Anaconda for a 34-yard touchdown. Herb Brandenburg of Miles City makes a leaping, one-hand touchdown catch from reserve QB Bergeson, who scores the last TD from the 5.

Montana 25, Montana State 0

Game No. 38 - 1934, Butte.

The Brawl of the Wild takes a turn toward dull in front of 6,500 on a shirt-sleeve Nov. 10 at Clark Park. The Grizzlies score a touchdown in each quarter and just miss on a couple of others.

Griz coach "Bunny" Oakes, in his fifth and final season, again starts his second-string "shock troops," but the Bobcats make no headway.

Quarterback Hank Blastic of Chicago takes over and engineers the Grizzly assault. He scores twice on short runs. Leland Story of Winnett plows over left guard Leonard Kuka of Havre for the first touchdown. Don Holmquist of Whitefish tallies the final one.

The day's most spectacular play is a triple lateral pass. It goes from Blastic to Naseby Rhinehart of Milwaukee to Bill Hileman of Whitefish to Helena's Cal Emery. It works, but a penalty nullifies the TD.

The Bobcats' best threat ends when the final gun sounds with the ball on the UM 19. Hard-running by Arthur Overturf and Taylor lead the MSU drive.

The Grizzlies even win the halftime cross-country race, which starts and ends in Clark Park. Jack Rose, from Kalispell, kicks at the end to outrun MSU's Bernard Myers by 15 yards. Montana leads series 24-9-5.

Montana 20, Montana State 0

Game No. 39 - 1935, Butte.

Sen. Burton K. Wheeler shows up late and sits among Grizzly fans at Clark Park. It's an early October afternoon that starts in sunshine and ends with threatening rain in the mountains.

Under first-year Griz coach Doug Fessenden of Illinois, they post their third of eight straight shutouts against the Cats.

Senior Hank Blastic of Chicago scores one touchdown and passes for another, to Anaconda's Louis Hartsell. Sophomores Paul Szakash, also of Chicago, and Butte's Milt Popovich -- both destined to become among Grizzly all-time greats -- make their initial marks.

Szakash scores on a 2-yard plunge in the second quarter and kicks two extra points.

The Cats never get inside the Grizzly 30-yard line.

Montana 27, Montana State 0

Game No. 40 - 1936, Butte.

In Montana's coming-of-age season under coach Doug Fessenden, Butte's own Milt Popovich hogs the spotlight for UM.

"Twice speeding down the east side of Clark field on flying feet for touchdowns, reversing from the west side to give his interference a chance to form, Milton Popovich scampered half the length of the gridiron for touchdowns in the second quarter Saturday afternoon," the Missoulian's Ray Rocene writes.

Popovich is both punter and kick returner for the Griz. He unloads a 64-yard punt in the first quarter. In the second period, he returns two punts 49 yards each for touchdowns.

Reserves take charge in the second half for UM. Phil Peterson of Kalispell recovers a blocked punt in the end zone and Joe Mariana of Miles City scores from a yard out in the fourth quarter.

For the second straight year, the Bobcats don't come close to scoring.

Montana 19, Montana State 0

Game No. 41 - 1937, Butte.

It's the Grizzlies' best team in their first 40 years, but things don't start well.

Undefeated and riding an eight-game winning streak, Montana fumbles on the opening kickoff and on the first play from scrimmage at Clark Park.

The Griz recover both times, but it's only 3-0 at halftime after a Paul Szakash field goal.

UM settles matters in the second half as Milt Popovich of Butte tallies from 8 and 12 yards out and Szakash, from Chicago, adds a second field goal.

The Bobcats' deepest threat comes in the first half, when they reach the Grizzly 30 before Szakash intercepts a pass.

**Montana 13,
Montana State 0**

Game No. 42 - 1938, Butte.

It's freezing cold in Butte on Nov. 12, barely 20 degrees, but 7,000 fans are at Clark Park.

Griz co-captain Bill Lazetich of Anaconda, who later plays for the NFL's Cleveland Rams, scores from 2 yards out early.

Halfback Fred Jenkin, also of Anaconda, clinches the victory by executing a "sparkling cutback climax sprint for 21 yards on the second play of the final period," Missoulian sports editor Ray Rocene reports.

At halftime, both bands perform. UM's girls drum corps entertains with flashlights to the music of the band with the stadium lights turned out -- "as attractive and original a stunt as the University musicians have ever demonstrated," one reporter says.

The Bobcats are paced by Stevensville's Max Stark, "a dynamo running with the ball, hard to stop fast, keeping his feet well," reports Rocene.

**Montana 6,
Montana State 0**

Game No. 43 - 1939, Butte.

The game is played at Butte High's field in front of a record 8,500 fans.

Grizzly defensive dominance peaks as the Bobcats manage just one first down and 47 total yards.

The lone touchdown comes midway through the third quarter. Sophomore end Bob Ness catches a bullet pass from Jack Swarthout, described by the Missoulian's Ray T. Rocene as a "160-pound bundle of dynamite," and reaches the 1-yard line.

Another soph, Evan Roberts of Butte, bounces through a hole between left guard Bill Shegina of Anaconda and center Bob Gorton of Kalispell for the score. Swarthout, from Prosser, WA, does much of UM's passing at fullback.

The defensive star is Roger Lundberg, "brilliant ball hawk" from Northwood, Iowa, who has an interception and fumble recovery of a double lateral that sets up the winning score.

The Cats cross midfield just three times. Their deepest penetration is late in the game when Fjeld intercepts a pass and returns it to the Grizzly 21. A clipping call moves it back to the 42.

**Montana 6,
Montana State 0**

Game No. 44 - 1940, Butte.

A crowd of 6,000 under a hot Oct. 19 sun watches the eighth straight shutout of the Bobcats. Doug Fessenden, Montana coach since 1935, is under fire as Grizzlies themselves have been shut out in five of seven previous games. But he still hasn't seen MSU score on his team.

UM's offense is hampered in the final quarter when fullback Jack Swarthout of Prosser, WA, is ejected for punching Bobcat center Lovera of Butte. Swarthout claims he was held three times. He later apologizes to Lovera.

Don Bryan of Billings sets up the winning touchdown in the second quarter with a 14-yard pass to Karl Fiske of Outlook. Fiske is run out of bounds a foot short of the goal. Two plays later, Bryan scores. UM threatens several other times but can't finish.

The Bobcats net minus 27 yards rushing and make just two first downs. Their lone foray across midfield comes early in the second half when Newell Berg intercepts and runs to the UM 25. A bad center pass loses 12 and the Cats end up punting.

**Montana 23,
Montana State 13**

Game No. 45 - 1941, Butte.

Two Bobcat touchdowns -- Montana State's first points against Montana since 1932 -- shock the Grizzlies into action. Butte-grown Eso Naranche and Ben Tyvand go to work after a halftime tribute to Montanans in the armed services. Naranche scores in the third quarter and early in the fourth. He kicks both extra points, the second putting Montana up 14-13.

End Jack Swarthout of Prosser, WA, blocks a Bobcat punt for a safety. Tyvand's runs wear down a sagging MSU line. His 17-yarder to the 1 sets up a plunge by Karl Fiske of Outlook for the final TD.

MSU's "spread" offense catches Montana off-guard. Early in the game, Bobcat quarterback Jinx Anderson throws a lateral to Bill Zupan, who passes downfield to Anderson for a 40-yard touchdown. In the second quarter, Naranche drops back to pass and Bobcat end Jim Peterson snatches the ball from his hand. Peterson romps 60 yards to put MSU up 13-0. Arnold Scott of Plains rips off a 52-yard run in the first half for Montana and finishes with 108 yards on 10 carries.

The game is played on Oct. 25, six weeks before Japan bombs Pearl Harbor. There won't be another Brawl of the Wild until 1946.

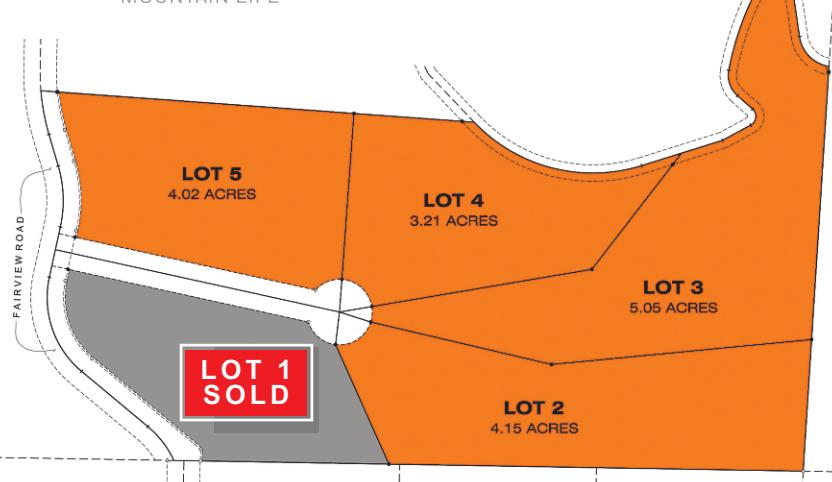
**Montana 20,
Montana State 7**

Game No. 46 - 1946, Butte.

After a four-year truce, the Grizzlies win their 10th straight Brawl of the Wild before 10,000 fans at Butte High's field on a glorious October afternoon. Grizzly end Bill Reynolds of Indiana snags two touchdown passes despite feeling the effects of malaria. UM intercepts Montana State four times and outgains the Cats 330-177.

The Griz lead 13-7 at halftime after touchdowns by Glasgow fullback Dan Radakovich and Reynolds, on a toss from Missoula's John Helding. The Cats' Hogan Krisman scores on a 33-yard pass from future MSU athletic director Gene Bourdet late in the half. Reynolds scores in the fourth period on a 9-yard pass from halfback John Reagan of Chicago. Reynolds and Reagan intercept passes and Jerry Walterskirchen of Missoula pounces on a fumble at the Bobcat 19 to set up a touchdown.

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**Montana State 13,
Montana 12**

Game No. 47 - 1947, Butte.

The Cats break a 10-game losing streak to the Grizzlies in a Brawl of the Wild laced with irony. A former Grizzly halfback, Barney Berger of Billings, kicks the decisive extra point for the Cats.

Montana's Buck Preuninger of Missoula misses his first two PAT kicks of the season, the second by mere inches. "Let it be said (the Bobcats) played better football," concedes the Missoulian's Ray Rocene.

All points come in the second half, MSU's on touchdowns by end Harry Perrigo and halfback John Heine. Jack O'Loughlin of Missoula and Dan Radakovitch of Glasgow score for UM, Radakovitch on a 58-yard pass from Missoula's Pierre Roberts.

A record crowd of more than 10,000 watches the Oct. 17 fray at Butte High "on a dry, dirt field with warm sunshine and only a slight wind."

It's the 50th anniversary of the first Brawl. At halftime bands portray Montana history: "Indians along the trail, honky-tonk dancers, cowboys, sheepmen, railroad men and early automobile travel," Rocene says.

**Montana 14,
Montana State 0**

Game No. 48 - 1948, Butte.

A year after the Bobcats ended a 10-game skein in the Brawl of the Wild, Montana starts a new streak. This time it will run to eight.

Another crowd of more than 10,000 is at Butte High field on Oct. 16 as John Helding runs for one touchdown and throws to fellow Missoula High alum Don Delaney for the other. Buck Preuninger of Missoula, who missed two extra points in the 13-12 loss of 1947, kicks two this time.

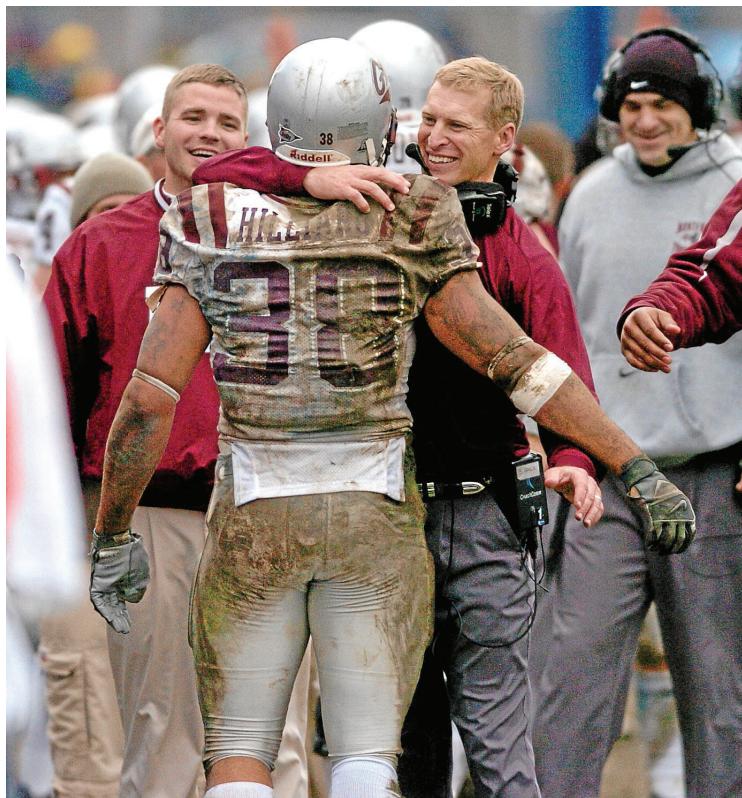
Montana State threatens late when Charles Masten intercepts and returns across midfield. A 17-yard quarterback sneak by Ed Gorilla moves it to the 17. But two runs and two incomplete passes gain just 2 yards. Griz halfback Roy Malcolm runs for a first down, then punts 58 yards to end the game.

**Montana 34,
Montana State 12**

Game No. 49 - 1949, Butte.

A crowd of 7,000 gathers on a chilly Oct. 29 in Butte High's newly-christened Narache Field. The Grizzlies, under new coach Ted Shipkey, start a stretch in which they'll score 30 point or more against the Bobcats for five straight years.

Adam Marshall, who played for the UM frosh, scores both Bobcat touchdowns.



MISSOULIAN FILE

Running back Lex Hilliard gets a hug from Montana coach Bobby Hauck after a three-touchdown day in a 2007 win over Montana State in Bozeman.

The first opens scoring in the second quarter. Soon after, the Grizzlies tackle punter Bill Boston in the end zone for a safety. In short order, Bob "Lefty" Byrne of Billings runs 11 yards for a touchdown; the Grizzlies recover an onside kick, and Chick Murphy of Iowa scores from 11 again. It's 15-6 Griz at halftime.

In the fourth quarter Ray Bauer of Great Falls, leading receiver in the Pacific Coast Conference, catches long TD passes from Missoula's Tom Kingsford and John Helding. Grizzly halfback Roy Malcolm of Missoula scores on a zig-zaggy jaunt of 79 yards that covers at least 120.

**Montana 33,
Montana State 0**

Game No. 50 - 1950, Butte.

It's the last Brawl in Butte, and the Grizzlies come out snorting on Halloween Day. They score 27 points before halftime behind the passing of Missoula's Tom Kingsford. Kingsford, in the process of rewriting the UM record books, throws first-half scoring strikes of 22 yards to Andy Kafentzis of Missoula; 24 yards to Bob Byrne of Billings, and 28 yards to Ed Nearing of Los Angeles. Don Campbell of Great Falls scores on a 2-yard plunge.

A cold, miserable drizzle mars the second half. A short run by UM fullback Bo Laird

of Miles City in the third quarter is the only score.

MSU gets the ball inside Montana's 45 only once, on a fumble recovery at the 14 late in the game. Quarterback Bob Graham is stopped on fourth down at the 8. Graham and fullback Gene Stergar carry much of the load for the Cats.

Butte says goodbye to Griz-Cat games, played in the Mining City since 1925. The Grizzlies won 17 of 21 there, none as lopsided as the final one.

**Montana 38,
Montana State 0**

Game No. 51 - 1951, Bozeman.

The Brawl of the Wild returns to Bozeman after 28 years, and an October storm hits at about the same time.

Minutes in, Gatton Field is hammered by rain.

The Grizzlies are already up 6-0 after tackle Earl Merrill of California blocks a Bobcat punt and Frank Nickel of Billings recovers on the 2. Up 13-0, Montana grabs a fumble on the third play of the second half. Senior Paul Wold of Laurel soon bulls over for a TD.

Dick Shadoan of Billings, one of four Griz quarterbacks, hits Nickel over the middle from 9 yards out for first of three fourth-

quarter touchdowns. Team MVP Bob "Lefty" Byrne, also of Billings, scores his second TD from a foot out. Wold plunges in again after Hal Sherbeck of Big Sandy returns an interception 57 yards.

Hal Maus of Anaconda leads the Griz defense to a second straight shutout of the Cats.

**Montana 35,
Montana State 12**

Game No. 52 - 1952, Missoula.

It's Missoula's turn to accommodate the Brawl of the Wild, for the first time since 1925. A crowd of 3,500 at Dornblaser Field is barely a third of what the series drew at times in Butte from 1926-1950.

The Griz are playing for new coach Ed Chinske. The Bobcats score "first and last on forward passes," the Missoulian's Ray Rocene reports, but the "Grizzlies collected five touchdowns in between, with a safety."

Murdo Campbell of Great Falls throws for two scores and runs around end for a 33-yard TD. Campbell set up the run with an interception. Jim Murray of Anaconda picks off two Bobcat passes, returning the second for UM's last touchdown.

Both Cat scores come on passes from Jack Moore to Joe Barnett. Montana intercepts five passes and dominates with 378 rushing yards, outgaining Montana State 475-147. But the Griz lose two fumbles in the first quarter and two more in the fourth.

Bobcat center Bill Roney recovers two and intercepts a pass.

**Montana 32,
Montana State 13**

Game No. 53 - 1953, Bozeman.

"I told 'em between halves to block," Grizzly coach Eddie Chinske says. "They did."

Dick Imer of Highland, Ind., ignites UM in the third quarter with a 49-yard run and the Grizzlies, trailing 13-6, explode past the Bobcats. Montana gets second-half touchdowns from quarterback Dick Heath of Miles City, Imer, Murdo Campbell of Great Falls and Bill Gue of Great Falls, who catches a 25-yard toss from Heath. Heath and Campbell hook up from 41 yards out for the first-half touchdown.

The Grizzlies set an NCAA record by running 112 plays.

Montana State goes up 13-0 on scores by fullback Tom Hoff and quarterback Tom Parac of Lewistown, future Bobcat coach and athletic director.

**Montana 25,
Montana State 21**

Game No. 54 - 1954, Missoula.

A classic Brawl of the Wild draws 8,000 fans to Dornblaser Field on Nov. 13, and the Grizzlies' Murdo Campbell breaks open the first play from scrimmage for a 61-yard TD.

Bobcat star Don Edwards answers Campbell's run with a 43-yard jaunt to set up a TD. Harvey Wylie, the "Canadian Comet," throws to Frank Landon to put Montana State up 14-6 in the second quarter.

But Bobcat fortunes dip when Edwards is taken the hospital with a concussion. The Griz score two quick TDs before halftime.

Wylie scores two touchdowns for MSU; Campbell has two for UM.

Late in the game, Bobcat end Jim Posewitz intercepts Dick Heath of Miles City and returns it for a TD that cuts the Griz lead to 25-21. A last-second Cat effort, triggered by a blocked punt by Jim Argeris, the Bobcat's All-American center, falls short as the pistol sounds.

**Montana 19,
Montana State 0**

Game No. 55 - 1955, Bozeman.

Grizzly QB Norman Kampschrer of Glendive throws fourth-quarter TD passes to Terry Hurley of Chicago and Dale Shupe of Harlem.

Montana State completes just two passes and earns seven first downs.

For the Griz, Shupe's rushes and punts are highlights, and Dick Dzivis of Kalispell stars for Montana, intercepting a pass and recovering a fumble. The Grizzlies keep MSU star Don Edwards, of Rockfield, Ill., out of the end zone.

But times are about to change in the Brawl of the Wild. In the past 52 years, the Bobcats have won just five times. Over the next 30 years, they'll win 22 games.

**Montana State 33,
Montana 14**

Game No. 56 - 1956, Missoula.

For the first time since 1902, the Bobcats win in Missoula.

A capacity crowd of 8,500 watches the Grizzlies go up 7-6 when quarterback Roy Bray of Missoula dives over from a foot out.

In the second quarter, Bobcat quarterback Dave Alt avoids five Grizzlies to launch a touchdown pass to Jim Powewitz. Alt scores MSU's next TD on a run.

Montana scores before halftime on a 34-yard pass play from Bray to Pete Rhinehart of Missoula.

MSU's Don Edwards scores the only second-half TDs, on runs of 7 yards and 1 yard. Bob Black intercepts a pass and Ron Warzeka recovers a fumble for the Cats.

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BRAWL OF THE WILD

Montana State 22, Montana 13

Game No. 57 - 1957, Bozeman.

Bob Rudio's 49-yard scamper in the first half and a plunge by Rocco Perciavalle in the third quarter help stake the Bobcats to a 19-0 lead.

Griz quarterback Earl Keeley of Vancouver, B.C. sets up Montana's first touchdown on passes to Joe Pepe of Missoula then connects with Larry Myers of Pacoma, CA, for a 51-yard score with 10:50 left.

But the Cats' George Marinkovich of Bethlehem, Penn., booms a 64-yard punt and then intercepts a fourth-down pass. Brad Lowell of Kansas kicks a 28-yard field goal for the Bobcats' final points.

The Bobcats capture the morning bowling match, paced by a 207 game from Tom DeYoung. But the rifle teams manage to salvage some pride for the Grizzlies with a pair of wins.

Montana State 20, Montana 6

Game No. 58 - 1958, Missoula.

A crowd of 7,600 watches on a subfreezing November day as Bobcats cap an 8-1 season with their third straight win over the Grizzlies.

Montana finishes 0-10 under new coach Ray Jenkins.

The score stands 6-6 as the fourth quarter begins. Bobcat fullback Rocco Perciavalle of Pennsylvania bolts "like a rifle bullet" 46 yards on a belly play to put the visitors ahead. Perciavalle finishes with 130 yards and an interception that ends a Grizzly threat. With 1:30 left, the Cats' Tom Molen breaks loose for a 62-yard touchdown to clinch the outcome.

MSU quarterback Darryl Dupuis fires a strike to Jim McLeod for a 34-yard touchdown in the second quarter. A fumble recovery by Bob Everson of Cheney, WA, leads to UM's only score, a short smash by Missoula's Joe Pepe.

UM students park a trailer filled with manure above the east stands and at the foot of Mount Sentinel "in honor of their cousins from across the mountains," the Missoulian reports. After the game, Griz fans fend off Bobcat backers with a fire hose, but the south goal posts at Dornblaser Field go down. The hose breaks and confrontations turn physical.

Montana State 40, Montana 6

Game No. 59 - 1959, Bozeman.

It's all Bobcats as Jim "The Missile" McLeod scores on long plays to open scoring in each half and Montana State outrushes Montana 313 yards to 15. The

Cats post their fourth straight victory in the series and most lopsided since a 38-0 shutout in 1902.

More than 8,000 are at Gatton Field for another sunny Brawl of the Wild on Nov. 7. McLeod, a senior for MSU, thwarts the Grizzlies' first scoring threat when he leaps to intercept a pass and speeds 86 yards. It's 14-0 at halftime.

Other Cat scores come from Bob Rudio, Rocco Perciavalle, Sam Moore and Tommy Molen. The first three are set up by fumble recoveries inside the Grizzly 35.

The Grizzlies score last, on a 2-yard run by Russ Grant of Spokane. Grizzly sophomore John Schulz of Missoula survives a heavy pass rush to complete 15 of 33 passes in place of injured quarterback Bob O'Billovich of Butte.

Montana 10, Montana State 6

Game No. 60 - 1960, Missoula.

The Grizzlies snap the Bobcats' four-year streak in the Brawl of the Wild. Montana scores on consecutive possessions in the first half. The Bobcat touchdown comes late in the game.

The Grizzlies are just 1-for-5 passing but sophomore Terry Dillon of Hopkins, Minn., rushes for 106 yards. Dillon's No. 22 will be the first retired at UM.

Shelby speedster Pat Dodson reaches the end zone on a 5-yard sprint around right end with 4:20 left in the first half, capping a 99-yard drive that started when Bob O'Billovich of Butte intercepted a pass on the 1-yard line.

Glenn Sorenson of Billings boots the extra point, then converts Montana's first field-goal attempt of the season from 30 yards out 30 seconds before halftime.

Cat quarterback Harry Lopsonzski hits end Bert Emery for an 18-yard touchdown with two minutes to play to make it 10-6. A bad snap ruins the PAT try.

The Bobcats get the ball back on their 42 with 20 seconds left, but two passes go for naught.

Montana State 10, Montana 9

Game No. 61 - 1961, Bozeman.

An aerial assault by the Cats wipes out UM's 9-0 lead in the fourth quarter.

Phil Schneider boots a short field goal early in the period to make it 9-3, then adds the conversion with 4:50 left for the winning point. The Bobcats' tying touchdown is set up by a fumble at midfield by Grizzly Terry Dillon of Minnesota. It's recovered by Bill Mulcahy, who proceeds to pass 8 yards to Bill Cords in a Butte-to-Butte connection between two defenders

in the Grizzly end zone.

Montana takes the lead in the first quarter with a 2-yard plunge by Gary Smith of Whitefish. Eugene Moe of Helena had recovered a Bobcat fumble on the home team's 34. A run by Dillon and a pass by Butte's Bob O'Billovich to Mike Trotter of Longview, WA, set up Smith's plunge. Glenn Sorenson of Billings kicks a 23-yard field goal to make it 9-0 Griz in the third period.

Up by one near the end, the Bobcats get an interception by Bob Durado.

Montana 36, Montana State 19

Game No. 62 - 1962, Missoula.

The Bobcats take a 13-0 lead at Dornblaser Field before Terry Dillon strikes for three touchdowns and 115 yards rushing as UM romps in surprising fashion.

There's talk of a new conference forming that for the first time will include both the Grizzlies and the Bobcats. This is billed as a mythical league title game.

Quarterback Paul Miller of Miles City, one of four seniors in the Grizzly backfield, turns a fake field goal into a touchdown early in the fourth quarter. He takes the snap, rolls right and hits Pat Dodson of Shelby from 18 yards out to put UM up 29-19.

Dillon's 17-yard interception return adds a clinching score.

The Bobcats grab an early lead on Butte Central alum Bill Mulcahy's 5-yard pass to Gordie Schlabs of Kalispell; a fumble recovery by Schlabs, and a short plunge by Bucky May. May scores again in the second period on a 10-yard interception return to put the Cats ahead 19-14 at intermission.

Montana State 18, Montana 3

Game No. 63 - 1963, Bozeman.

On a cold November afternoon, the Bobcats reign in the first Big Sky Conference meeting between the schools.

It's the eighth straight loss in '63 for the Grizzlies and the Cats' sixth victory in the last eight Brawls of the Wild. A crowd of 8,500 watches at Gatton Field.

Dan Sundling rushes for 144 yards in 20 carries to set a Bobcat season rushing mark of 672 yards.

The Bozeman boys lead 6-3 at halftime after fullback Dave Miller's 1-yard plunge. UM scores on a field goal by Ted McElhenny, the Grizzlies' left-footed kicker from Butte.

It's still 6-3 in the fourth quarter when Bobcat quarterback Ken Christison of Kalispell dives over from a yard out to cap a 68-yard drive. After a fumbled lateral

by the Grizzlies, Christison clinches it with another 1-yard dive.

Lineman Tom Hauck of Butte leads Montana's defensive effort.

Montana State 30, Montana 6

Game No. 64 - 1964, Missoula.

Jim Sweeney's Bobcats are Camellia Bowl-bound and ready to wrap up their second Big Sky title after bouncing the Grizzlies for the seventh time in nine years.

Reserve quarterback Foy McClung, a senior from Oklahoma, leads the Cat attack with a touchdown, a field goal and three extra points. Starting QB Ray Foley of Butte drives the visitors to a 16-6 halftime lead, passing to halfback Dan Sundling from 18 yards out for the first touchdown. Later Dick Haden rambles 6 yards for a score on a pitch play.

The Grizzlies' lone score comes after Haden's touchdown. Former Billings West star Warren Hill breaks a 75-yard run to the Bobcat 1 before Jim Tuss of Great Falls brings him down. Quarterback Bob Benzy of Green River, Wyo., sneaks over from there. The Cats wrap it up in the fourth quarter on short runs by McClung and Butte's Dan Hodge.

The Bobcats go on to win the Camellia Bowl in Sacramento, 28-7 over Sacramento State.

Montana State 24, Montana 7

Game No. 65 - 1965, Bozeman.

A crowd of 9,000 witnesses the heroics of two soon-to-be Bobcat legends. Jan Stenerud of Fetsund, Norway, kicks a 59-yard field goal 90 seconds into the game. The future NFL Hall of Famer later misses, barely, from 67 yards. Glendive sophomore Don Hass, who'll be known as the "Iron Tumbleweed," scores once and rushes 27 times for 129 yards.

The Grizzlies close a 10-0 gap late in the first half on a 25-yard pass from Missoula Loyola grad Ed Steiner to Shelby's Roger Seeley. But the Bobcats' Jim Tuss of Great Falls deflates the Griz in the third quarter. Tuss, who will coach Helena Capital to state titles in the 1987 and 1993, returns a punt 80 yards for a touchdown. The last score is a 29-yard pass from the Cats' Gary Richards of Broadus to end Ray Foley 53 seconds left.

"My ears are getting tired from smiling," MSU coach Jim Sweeney says afterward. "Wasn't it great?"

Montana State 38, Montana 0

Game No. 66 - 1966, Missoula.

Six Bobcats score as Camellia Bowl-bound Montana State, ranked third in the nation, whips the Grizzlies.

Sophomore Dennis Erickson quarterback the Bobcats, and All-America candidate Don Hass and future NFL Hall of Famer Jan Stenerud star. Stenerud, a soccer-style kicker from Norway, hits a 38-yard field goal and five extra points. Hass, from Glendive, runs for 141 yards and surpasses the Big Sky season record. Gary Popiel of Hamilton returns a punt 74 yards to make it 30-0 Bobcats.

Late in the game, UM's Jim Searles of Missoula hits Warren Hill of Billings for 42 yards. But two plays later, Dan Hodge of Butte intercepts for the Cats. Griz linebacker Mike Smith of Olympia, WA, recovers two fumbles and makes 10 tackles. Montana's Dewey Allen of Kalispell sets a Big Sky record with 10 punts.

Lynn Morrow, ASUM vice president and the loser of a bet, surrenders her slacks to MSU student president Rod Hoxey. "Miss Morrow was well-prepared, however, as she had a pair of striped shorts underneath," the Missoulian notes.

Montana State 14, Montana 8

Game No. 67 - 1967, Bozeman.

Either team can earn at least a share of the Big Sky title on a chilly, windless day at Gatton Field.

More than 10,000 fans are screaming as the fourth quarter opens. Montana, trailing 14-8, faces fourth-and-goal on the Bobcat 1.

Griz quarterback Ed Steiner of Missoula fakes to fullback Bryan Magnuson of Minnesota and keeps it. Bobcats Earl Hanson and Wayne Pitzer pile Steiner up short of the goal and Montana State takes over.

The Cats hold on to claim their fifth straight Brawl of the Wild, all under Jim Sweeney. First-year UM coach Jack Swarthout says he called the play.

"Either it was a poor call or good defense by the Bobcats," says Swarthout.

Senior Don Hass, MSU's "Iron Tumbleweed," runs 42 times for 209 yards. Total yards are almost even: Cats 256, Griz 254.

Hass and quarterback Dennis Erickson score for the Bobcats in the first half. Steiner hooks up three straight times with halfback Rick Strauss of Polson - for 38 yards, for an 8-yard touchdown, and for a two-point conversion.

All-America linebacker Bob Beers of Oregon is in on 27 tackles for the Griz.

**Montana State 29,
Montana 24**

Game No. 68 - 1968, Missoula.

Paul Schafer leaps into the end zone from a yard out with 12 seconds left for the winning touchdown in one of the wildest Brawls of the Wild. It caps a 20-point Bobcat outburst in the final nine minutes.

Schafer carries 58 times, the last six at the end of the winning 67-yard drive.

The Grizzlies appear to have the drive stopped at the MSU 32, but a facemask penalty gives the Cats new life on the 17.

Kalispell brothers Doug and Ron Bain catch touchdown passes in the fourth quarter for opposing teams. Doug's 25-yarder puts Montana up 17-9. Ron's 14-yarder for Montana State shrinks the Griz lead to 24-22 with five minutes left.

After Schafer's touchdown, the Grizzlies insert speedy Ron Baines of Tacoma at quarterback. He gains 15 and a penalty moves the Griz across midfield. As time runs out, Baines zig-zags 37 yards to the Bobcat 12 before he's dragged down.

Bobcat QB Dennis Erickson is the difference. "Erickson killed us," UM's Jack Swarthout says.

**Montana 7,
Montana State 6**

Game No. 69 - 1969, Bozeman.

A third straight down-to-the-wire Brawl of the Wild finally ends in the Grizzlies' favor. A 42-yard field goal attempt by Bobcat sidewinder Frank Kalfoss with 25 seconds left strays to the right, spurring UM's first football league championship celebration ever. On a soggy Nov. 1, Montana claims the Big Sky title and breaks the Bobcats' six-year streak.

Kalfoss, MSU's Norwegian successor to Jan Stenerud, nails field goals of 39 and 42 yards in the first half. Montana's touchdown comes between them, ignited by quarterback Ray Brum of Honolulu.

"Brum dropped back, broke loose from one Bobcat tackler, nearly slipped to ground, then literally flung the ball downfield to (Arnie) Blancas, running step-for-step with MSU defensive back Don Duntsch," reports Missoulian sports editor Bill Schwanke. "Blancas caught the well-placed pass, outmaneuvered Duntsch at the 10 and scored the only touchdown."

Dan Worrell of Great Falls boots the winning extra point.

On third-and-goal at the 2 early in the fourth quarter, Bobcat fullback Gary Hughes fumbles out of the end zone. The ball goes to Montana.

**Montana 35,
Montana State 0**

Game No. 70 - 1970, Missoula.

The Grizzlies win their 19th straight regular-season game under Jack Swarthout after lumbering to 7-0 halftime lead.

Tom Parac's Bobcats regularly put 11 men on the line to stop the Grizzly option, but they're outmanned and worn down in the second half. Les Kent of Honolulu, Tom McMahon of California, Steve Caputo of Seattle and reserve quarterback Elroy Chong score second-half touchdowns for the Griz. The Grizzlies lose leading rusher Arnie Blancas to injured ribs in the first quarter.

Montana is en route to a second straight 10-0 regular season under Swarthout, though it'll end with another loss in the Camellia Bowl.

MSU's biggest threat comes in the fourth quarter when Monte Boston of Missoula blocks a Grizzly punt at the Montana 19. But the Cats, who gain just four first downs all day, go nowhere from there.

**Montana 30,
Montana State 0**

Game No. 71 - 1971, Bozeman.

The Grizzlies score 27 points in the second half and post their second straight shutout in the Brawl of the Wild.

It's a crisp 40-degree day for the last Griz-Cat game at Gatton Field, home of the Bobcats since 1930. Next year they'll move into Reno H. Sales Stadium at the south end of campus.

Senior Steve Caputo of Seattle becomes the first 1,000-yard rusher in UM history, and he's one of three Grizzlies over the 100-yard mark this afternoon. The visitors finish with 420 rushing yards. Caputo receives the game ball in a raucous locker room afterward.

In a surprise, Bobcat coach Sonny Holland starts Zoonie McLean of Plentywood at quarterback. Larry Eyer of Missoula Hellgate takes over in the second half. Grizzly cornerback Robin Peters of Ohio nabs his seventh interception as the first half ends.

Bobcat safety Monte Boston of Missoula Hellgate intercepts a Gary Berding pass in the end zone.

Kalispell's Bruce Robinson recovers a Grizzly fumble for the Cats in the second half.

**Montana State 21,
Montana 3**

Game No. 72 - 1972, Missoula.

"The Cats won't be back until they whip the Grizzlies," MSU coach Sonny Holland growls before the game.

In front of 12,400 at Dornblaser Field, the Cats do just that.

Sam McCullum catches touchdown passes of 50 and 46 yards from Plentywood's Zoonie McLean. McCullum, a junior from Kalispell who'll play in the NFL for the Vikings and Seahawks, breaks an MSU record for TD receptions in a season. Denton's Wayne Edwards scores the final Bobcat touchdown in the fourth quarter.

Bob Turnquist of Billings hits a 42-yard field goal late in the first half for UM's only points.

There are turnovers a-plenty. In the first quarter alone, Grizzly linebacker Terry Pugh of Kalispell forces McLean to fumble; Bobcat cornerback Mike Davis intercepts a pass in the end zone by freshman Van Troxel of Moscow, ID, and Pugh pilfers a McLean pass.

At the end of the half, UM safety Mick Dennehy of Butte grabs his ninth interception.

It's 14-3 late in the third period when Grizzly linebacker Ron Rosenberg of Whitefish blocks a punt and chases it 15 yards before falling on it at the Bobcat 22.

But the Griz can't capitalize, and MSU dominates after that.

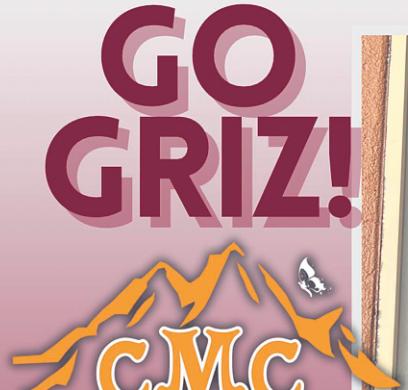


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BRAWL OF THE WILD

Montana State 33, Montana 7

Game No. 73 - 1973, Bozeman.

The Bobcats score 20 points in the final quarter to salt away their second of six straight Cat-Griz victories.

Sophomore Mike Holder of Eureka replaces injured Bobcat quarterback Mike Dunbar of Bozeman in the first quarter and sets a school record for rushing by a QB with 144 yards. MSU scores on its first play when Dunbar, from Bozeman, hooks up with 204-pound Don Bagley of Illinois on a 76-yard pass play. Butte sophomore Pat Bolton kicks two field goals and three extra points to break Jan Stenerud's school record for points in season by a kicker.

The Grizzlies tie it 7-7 at halftime on a pass from Shelby's Rock Svennungsen to freshman Del Spear of Cheney, WA. It's 13-7 in the third quarter when Griz linebacker Ron Rosenberg of Whitefish catches a fumble in midair and returns it to the Bobcat 44. UM's on the 15 when Swarthout inserts quarterback Van Troxel of Moscow, ID. Troxel is thrown for an 8-yard loss, and Svennungsen is intercepted on the next play.

UM gets it right back on a Holder fumble, but a 46-yard field goal attempt by Bob Turnquist of Billings misses. A 72-yard interception return by Randy Hickel of Seattle breaks the Grizzlies' backs.

Montana State 43, Montana 29

Game No. 74 - 1974, Missoula.

Sonny Holland's Bobcats are relentless, scoring their most points ever in a Brawl of the Wild.

"Those mean old Bobcats blew into town and blew the Tips right out of Dornblaser (and pretty much out of the Big Sky race)," writes the Missoulian's Don Bloom.

The tone is set when Steve Kracher of Columbia Falls and Bryan Flraig of Missoula Sentinel score for the Cats in the first quarter, Flraig on a 38-yard pass from Mike Dunbar of Bozeman. Kracher has 163 of the Bobcats' 387 rushing yards. The Cats dominate the yardage battle 471-287.

More than a quarter of UM's total yardage comes in the first quarter on a 75-yard pass play from Rock Svennungsen of Shelby to Del Spear of Cheney, WA. MSU junior Pat Bolton of Butte, who kicks five field goals and 12 extra points in four Cat-Griz games, has three and four this day.

Griz speedster Greg Anderson of Blue Island, Ill., returns a punt 72 yards and the second-half kickoff 95 yards for touchdowndowns. Svennungsen's leap from a yard out and a two-point conversion pull UM within 37-29 with more than 12 minutes left.

But Mike Holder of Eureka caps a 72-yard

drive by hitting John McCaffrey for a 12-yard Bobcat touchdown. Randy Hickel of Seattle, who returned an interception 72 yards late in the 1973 Brawl, picks off Svennungsen after the Griz reach the Cat 6 with 1:40 to go.

Montana State 20, Montana 3

Game No. 75 - 1975, Bozeman.

The Brawl of the Wild's 75th anniversary becomes the Steve Kracher show.

Montana State's star tailback from Columbia Falls gains 165 yards on 26 carries after puncturing the Griz for 163 yards the year before.

"It's the biggest thing in my career, beating them," Kracher says. "We've beaten them all four years I've been here and that means a lot."

With 10 minutes to go, Kracher takes a pitch from Eureka's Mike Holder, gets a block from receiver Jerry Reisig of Billings, and races untouched 30 yards down the left sideline.

Bruce Carlson of Great Falls scores UM's lone points on a 29-yard field goal in the second quarter.

Holder throws for two first-half touchdowns. Montana's Greg Harris, from Kalispell, smothers Pat Bolton's PAT kick after the second one to keep it 13-3 Cats at halftime. Three Griz passers complete just four aerials. The Bobcat defense is anchored by Brad Daws of Bozeman and Les Leininger of Westby.

Bobcat coach Sonny Holland, 3-0 against the Griz as a player, is 4-1 as head coach.

Montana State 21, Montana 12

Game No. 76 - 1976, Missoula.

One day before Halloween, the Bobcats get a scare but continue on their path to the Division II championship.

Grizzly mistakes in front of 12,500 at Dornblaser Field let the Cats out of the bag for their fifth straight win over UM. The Bobcats earn just two first downs before halftime, and the top rushing team in the nation is outgained 206-64. But Montana leads just 6-0.

"We just weren't winning on the front lines in the first half," says Cat coach Sonny Holland.

Holland reinserts sophomore quarterback Paul Dennehy of Butte, who sat out most of the first half.

After Tom Powell recovers a Grizzly fumble at the UM 43, Dennehy hits Bryan Flraig of Missoula Sentinel for the Bobcats' first touchdown from 18 yards out. Jeff Muri of Miles City nails his first of three extra points to give the Cats the lead.



406 MT SPORTS FILE PHOTO

Montana State players celebrate with students in the south end zone of Bobcat Stadium after beating Montana in 2017. It would prove to be the final game for Griz coach Bob Stitt, who was let go days later.

A facemask penalty revives MSU's next drive, and Dennehy catapults over from 12 yards out. He scores the Cats' third touchdown of the third quarter after Les Leininger of Westby hits the arm of Griz quarterback Mike Roban and Tim Nixon intercepts. Dennehy leaps over a block by right guard Ken Verlanic of Anaconda to make it 21-6.

First-year Grizzly coach Gene Carlson plays four future pros: Doug Betters and Greg Anderson on defense, Terry Falcon and freshman Guy Bingham on the offensive line.

Montana State 24, Montana 19

Game No. 77 - 1977, Bozeman.

All points but 10 are scored in the last quarter to give a plodding game a wild finish.

"Over 15,000 people, the most ever to witness an athletic event in the state, were awakened from a semicomatose after Delmar Jones scored his second touchdown on a 21-yard run with 14:37 left to give MSU a 17-0 lead," writes the Missoulian's Vince Devlin.

But then the Grizzlies rally: Grizzly quarterback Tim Kerr of Missoula Sentinel tosses touchdowns to Vern Kelly of Los Angeles and tight end Allen Green of Anaconda in the final 13 minutes. Halfback Monty Bullerdick of California hits Randy Ogden of Michigan for another score on an option pass.

Kerr finishes 19 of 31 passing for 291 yards. Ron Muri of Miles City intercepts him to set up the Cats' clinching score, on

in 11 tries in the fourth quarter.

Trailing 14-0 at the end of the first half, MSU forsakes a field goal and goes for it from the 7. A run by Delmar Jones of Helena gains nothing.

"It was a bad call on my part," says coach Sonny Lubick, who loses in his first Cat-Griz game as head coach. "That's not being very smart."

Scott Hoard of Great Falls tallies the lone MSU touchdown in the third period.

Tackle Arnie Rigoni of Chicago and linebacker Kent Clausen of Aberdeen, S.D., spark the Griz defense.

Montana State 38, Montana 21

Game No. 79 - 1979, Bozeman.

The Bobcats return to the Big Sky throne before yet another record crowd (15,352) at Reno H. Sales Stadium.

Mike Doerfler from, of all places, Missoula, rambles for three touchdowns and 167 yards to cap MSU's rebound from a 1-3 start.

Montana's Raul Allegre of Mexico has a chance to tie it at 17 in the third quarter, but his 31-yard field goal attempt is wide left. Two plays later Doerfler, a Missoula Sentinel graduate, sweeps 74 yards for a touchdown.

In the fourth quarter MSU's Stu Dodds of Spokane punts to the Grizzly 1, then recovers a fumble on the 10 to set up a touchdown. Next time down Dodds intercepts a pass by Bob Boyes of Sacramento and returns it to the Montana 24. The Cats go on to score their final touchdown.

Montana State 24, Montana 7

Game No. 80 - 1980, Missoula.

Game 80 goes badly for new UM coach Larry Donovan's "Team of the 80s."

Twice the Bobcats go for it on fourth-and-1 from the Grizzly 30. Twice sophomore tailback Tony Boddie carries over the right side for a touchdown. Boddie, from Bremerton, WA, ends Halloween afternoon with 134 yards rushing.

Boddie's second TD puts the Cats up 17-0 in the third quarter. Griz freshman Brad Dantic of Laurel, who had his jaw re-broken earlier, takes a handoff from quarterback Bart Andrus of California on an end-around. Andrus throws a block and Dantic races to a 57-yard touchdown.

UM's comeback is stemmed when the Bobcats stop Wayne Harper of Livingston on fourth down. Two plays later, sophomore Britt Freeman snags a pass from Barry Sullivan of Butte High and goes 51 yards for the clinching Bobcat score.

**Montana 27,
Montana State 17**

Game No. 81 - 1981, Bozeman.

Two minutes into the first Halloween Brawl of the Wild since 1913, a chorus of "Poor Grizzlies" rolls across Reno H. Sales Stadium. UM's Mickey Sutton has slipped in the mud and fumbled the opening kickoff, and the Bobcats are up 7-0 after Tony Boddie's 30-yard run.

But quarterback Alan Powell of Lewistown, replacing sore-winged Marty Mornhinweg, leads Larry Donovan's Griz back to a 20-10 halftime lead as fullback Mike Hagen of Auburn, WA, scores three times. Powell goes to tight end Brian Salonen of Great Falls High, a future Dallas Cowboy, to orchestrate one scoring drive. Rocky Klever of Anchorage, a future New York Jet, is the workhorse on another.

Sutton, who'll play for the NFL Rams and Bills, makes amends with a 46-yard punt return to the Bobcat 13.

Bobcat quarterback Barry Sullivan of Butte, who joins Boddie and Klever as a 100-yard rusher, hits Ron Torchia of Great Falls High to bring the Bobcats within 20-17 in the third quarter.

Griz nose guard David Paoli of Great Falls Russell forces a crucial fumble by Boddie and UM scores 17 seconds from the end.

**Montana 45,
Montana State 14**

Game No. 82 - 1982, Missoula.

It's supposed to be a tossup, but the Grizzlies don't care.

A record crowd of 13,598 at Dornblaser Field watches one of the more stunning routs in Brawl of the Wild history.

On the first series, Griz linebacker Curt McElroy of Butte High stuffs MSU's Junior Fulp for a loss on fourth-and-1 from UM's 6.

UM quarterback Marty Mornhinweg of San Jose completes his first seven passes and hits running back Greg Iseman of Kansas on a screen for a 24-yard touchdown.

Mornhinweg throws for three more scores before leaving with a shoulder injury in the third period. He and replacement Alan Powell of Lewistown engineer an offense that amasses 527 yards, 29 first downs and six touchdowns.

UM's Dave Glenn of Elma, WA, catches eight passes, one for a TD. Tight end Brian Salonen of Great Falls High, en route to an NFL career with the Cowboys, snags seven aerials.

Bobcat touchdowns come from Si Timberman of Butte and Dale Halgren of Charlo.

**Montana State 28,
Montana 8**

Game No. 83 - 1983, Bozeman.

Another shocker hits the Brawl of the Wild. The Bobcats, 0-8 going in, dominate a Grizzly team with playoff aspirations.

It's a balmy Oct. 29, and another record crowd of 15,197 watches in Sales Stadium.

The Cats score once on a fake field goal and once on a blocked punt. They collect a safety forced by Mark Fellows of Choteau and three field goals by Kansas transfer Mark Carter.

The Grizzlies get some spectacular catches from Brian

Salonen of Great Falls High but little else.

Bobcat cornerback Derrick Abell of California halts UM's opening drive with an interception.

In the second quarter, Tex Sikora of Billings Senior and Conrad's Clete Linebarger make a key fourth down stop on UM's Derrick Williams of Los Angeles.

Later, freshman Tyler Winter of Wisconsin recovers a blocked punt in the end zone for a Bobcat TD.

Johnny Coppedge of Oregon, UM's third quarterback, hits Salonen for the lone Griz touchdown and Missoula Sentinel's Bob McCauley for the two-point conversion in the fourth quarter.

Bobcat coach Dave Arnold lights up a cigar – the first he's smoked since his daughter was born eight years before.

"I got sick then," he says. "I'll probably get sick this time too. But I don't really care."

**Montana State 34,
Montana 24**

Game No. 84 - 1984, Missoula.

The Bobcats, whose only win in 1983 was over the Grizzlies, are five weeks away from claiming the Division I-AA championship. But they're down 24-12 at halftime on muddy Dornblaser Field.

Then, a defense led by Choteau's Mark Fellows shuts out Montana while halfback David Pandt of Michigan rushes for 118 of his 140 yards. Deer Lodge tight end Joe Bignell makes seven of his school-record 13 receptions after halftime and scores from a yard out on a play the Bobcats call "Big Special."

Kelly Bradley of Minnesota flings touchdown tosses to Tom White of Riverton, Wyo., and Tom Mahlum of Missoula Sentinel.

Marty Mornhinweg, in his last home game for the Griz, passes for 353 yards and touchdowns to Bob McCauley of Missoula Sentinel and Kelly Richardson of Oregon. McCauley also tallies on a double reverse.

But Mornhinweg, playing on two sore legs, is pounded by the likes of Fellows, who has three sacks and sets up a TD with an interception.

**Montana State 41,
Montana 18**

Game No. 85 - 1985, Bozeman.

The Bobcats unleash a heretofore punchless running attack behind bruising fullback Jesse Jones of Tacoma, who gains 136 yards. Five Cats score touchdowns and Swedish-born Anders Larsson of Great Falls Russell kicks two field goals and five extra points.

Hellgate's Bob Byrne becomes the second Missoula product in two years to score a touchdown against UM. Tom Mahlum of Sentinel did it in 1984.

The Grizzlies' own option game is grounded by the likes of linebacker Kirk Timmer of Boulder and safety Clete Linebarger of Conrad. Freshman Shanon Mornhinweg of San Jose plays quarterback for UM in the second half and completes 15 passes for 211 yards. But the Griz score just once, on a short run by LeRoy Foster of Chicago. Losing a third straight Brawl is another blow to UM coach Larry Donovan, who's fired at the end of the season.

The decisive victory marks the end of MSU's golden era in the Griz-Cat series. The Bobcats have claimed 22 of the last 30, but they won't beat the Grizzlies again in the 20th century.



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**Montana 59,
Montana State 28**

Game No. 86 - 1986, Missoula.

Montana has a new coach, Don Read; a new stadium, Washington-Grizzly, and the start of a win streak over the Bobcats.

Behind record-breaking quarterback Brent Pease of Mountain Home, ID, the Grizzlies go up 17-0 after one quarter, 31-0 at the half and 45-7 after three quarters. Pease runs 1 yard for a touchdown to cap UM's first drive.

Pease later throws to Mike Rice of Twin Falls, ID, and Great Falls High product Brad Salonen for scores.

Also in on the Grizzly touchdown parade: Kraig Paulson of Plentywood, Mike Ehlers of Wilsonville, Ore.; John Huestis of Battle Ground, WA; and reserve QB Don Douglas of Butte.

Linebacker Alex Hunter of Vancouver, WA, returns a Bobcat onside kick for a score.

Among UM leaders on defense: linemen Foster, Jason Ray of Missoula Big Sky and Rick Sullivan of Whitefish, and linebacker David Reeves of Sedro Wooley, WA

MSU quarterback Shaun Shahan of Billings West replaces Kelly Bradley and launches a last-quarter bombardment that includes TD passes of 82 yards to Pat Bergman of Miles City and 38 yards to Kelly Davis of Butte.

**Montana 55,
Montana State 7**

Game No. 87 - 1987, Bozeman.

Ninety years after their first win over Montana State, the Grizzlies post one of the most lopsided.

Four punt blocks, a Division I-AA record, lead to three touchdowns and a field goal for UM.

"Poor Bobcats" chants are audible with 13:05 left in the first half after the Griz go up 21-0.

A record crowd of 17,027 fills Sales Stadium. Jason Ray of Missoula Big Sky blocks two punts. Big Timber's Tim Hauck and Quinton Richardson of Oakland, CA, block one apiece. Richardson recovers his own block for the final touchdown.

Griz quarterback Scott Werbelow comes out firing, hitting Matt Clark of Missoula Hellgate for 43 yards and Brad Salonen of Great Falls High for the first touchdown. Nine other Grizzlies catch passes.

Jody Farmer of Libby scores on a pass and a run, and John Huestis of Battle Ground, WA, tallies twice on runs.

MSU, under new coach Earle Solomonson, crosses the 50 once in the first half. Dut-ton's Nate Odden promptly intercepts



BEN ALLAN SMITH, MISSOULIAN

From left, Pat McAfee, Desmond Howard, Rece Davis, David Pollack, Kirk Herbstreit and Lee Corso of ESPN's College GameDay stand on Dyche Field in Bozeman before the 121st Brawl of the Wild on Nov. 19, 2022.

Quarterback John Tetrault's 41-yard scoring run in the third quarter marks the only time the Cats penetrate the UM 40.

**Montana 17,
Montana State 3**

Game No. 88 - 1988, Missoula.

The Hellgate winds of November are howling, and the overflow crowd of 15,142 in Washington-Grizzly Stadium has little to get up about until the second half.

Griz strong safety Tim Hauck of Big Timber blocks his fourth punt of the season. Cornerback Dwayne Hans of Pasco, WA, who blocked a field goal earlier, picks it up and runs 23 yards to put Montana ahead 10-3.

Libby's Jody Farmer puts it away with a 16-yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter after three big plays by John Huestis of Battle Ground, WA Griz defensive ends J.C. Campbell and Dan Edwards, both from western Washington, combine for three sacks and 20 tackles.

MSU's Houston Veer, implemented by Earle Solomonson, has topped 300 yards twice this season. Today it garners 81, and one early field goal by Anders Larsson of Great Falls Russell. UM's Kirk Duce of Missoula Hellgate answers with a three-pointer in the second period.

Bobcat noseguard Jon Wanago of Great Falls High and linebackers Jon Skelton of Minnesota and Mark D'Agostino of Bozeman match the Griz hit for hit.

Sore-thumbed quarterback Grady Bennett of Kalispell, who transferred to UM from MSU, has an off day passing but has some big runs.

**Montana 17,
Montana State 2**

Game No. 89 - 1989, Bozeman.

Weather hasn't played much of a role in many of the first 88 Griz-Cat games, but it does today.

There's thunder and lightning before kickoff. Rain and hail mix with sunshine during the game. But most telling are 40-mph winds buffeting Sales Stadium.

Grizzly coach Don Read says it's the worst environment for a football game he's seen in 20 years of coaching.

The Bobcats enter the last period leading 2-0 after a UM punt snap gets caught in the jet stream and sails out of the Grizzly end zone.

UM's defense turns the tide. Quarterback Grady Bennett of Kalispell scores the go-ahead touchdown after a 32-yard interception return by safety Galen Lawton of California.

Linebacker Bryan Tripp of Missoula Loyola forces a fumble and end Kirk Murphy of Polson recovers to set up a 24-yard field goal by Kirk Duce of Missoula Hellgate. Linebacker Mike McGowan of Seattle returns another interception 24 yards for the final score.

Montana State, the Big Sky's top rushing team, has just a 118-104 edge on the ground. Montana gains only 88 yards through the air, least in the 10-year Read era.

"I was never comfortable," grimaces Read afterward. "I ate a box of Tums,

maybe two boxes."

**Montana 35,
Montana State 18**

Game No. 90 - 1990, Missoula.

It's back to nice weather (sunshine, low 50s) and offense after windy Griz-Cat games the past two years.

Senior quarterback Grady Bennett of Kalispell sets a UM record for total offense with 476 yards as Don Read's Griz extend their series streak to five.

Montana's Shannon Cabunoc of Honolulu and Mike Trevathan of California catch seven passes and one touchdown each.

Earle Solomonson's new passing game at MSU takes a blow when Joe Volek of California is hurt. But John Tetrault of Minnesota connects with Choteau's Rob Tesch for 49 yards to the Grizzly 1. Si Ryan of Billings West scores the first of two straight MSU touchdowns that tie it at 18 with 19 seconds left in the half.

But UM drives quickly for a 40-yard field goal by Kirk Duce of Missoula Hellgate as time expires.

The Griz take over after halftime. An interception by safety Sean Dorris of Coeur d'Alene, ID, is followed by Bennett's 20-yard scoring strike to Trevathan. Kevin Morris of California returns an interception 44 yards for Montana's final TD.

Before kickoff, former All-Pro tight end Russ Francis of Stevensville parachutes bareheaded out of the sky. He lands out of bounds, his chute cords settling over retired UM team doctor Robert Curry.

**Montana 16,
Montana State 9**

Game No. 91 - 1991, Bozeman.

Dropped passes abound as both offenses freeze up in single-digit temperatures. But at least the wind doesn't blow through Sales Stadium.

The Grizzlies win for the sixth straight time under Don Read.

The Griz take a 10-0 lead on their first two possessions. Chuck Mason of Bigfork blocks a Bobcat extra point at the end of the first half that would have tied it 10-10.

Tony Rice of North Bend, Ore., plunges for the final points in the second half to pad a 10-9 Grizzly lead.

Griz linebacker Kurt Schilling of Shelby picks off a Mark Fisher pass on the Grizzly 6 late in the third quarter.

With fourth-and-8 from their own 38 and five minutes to go, the Bobcats punt. They never touch the ball again, as UM quarterback Brad Lebo completes third-down

passes to Billy Cockhill of Helena Capital and to Marvin Turk of California, who took a helmet to the chin that required seven stitches in the first half.

**Montana 29,
Montana State 17**

Game No. 92 - 1992, Missoula.

Quarterback Brad Lebo of Lewiston, Idaho, completes 13 of his first 14 passes and the Griz are up 22-0 in the first 12 minutes on another sunny Brawl afternoon.

"It made it impossible for us," says new Bobcat coach Cliff Hysell, who was 11-2 against Montana as a Bobcat player and assistant coach. "This football team is not ready to get in a scoring contest with anybody at this point."

Lebo winds up 35-of-56 passing for a season-high 410 yards. He throws touchdowns to Shannon Cabunoc of Honolulu and Scott Gurnsey of Tumwater, WA

After Tony Rice's touchdown makes it 6-0, freshman holder Dave Dickenson takes the PAT snap, sprints right and hits Brent Swenson for a two-point conversion.

Chad Mayer, MSU's freshman quarterback from Bozeman, engineers two touchdown drives in the fourth quarter. The rally fizzles when another Bobcat frosh, Dallas Williams of Missoula Hellgate, fumbles and Grizzly safety Sean Dorris of Coeur d'Alene intercepts Mayer.

**Montana 42,
Montana State 30**

Game No. 93 - 1993, Bozeman.

Sophomore Dave Dickenson of Great Falls Russell is UM's new quarterback as the Griz finish off their first unbeaten Big Sky season since 1970.

Dickenson runs for one score and throws for three others, including plays of 64 and 40 yards to Scott Gurnsey. Gurnsey, from Tumwater, WA, has five catches for 173 yards and sets the school single-season record for receiving yards.

It's 28-3 Montana in the second quarter, but the Cats start clicking behind BYU transfer quarterback Brock Spencer. An 88-yard kickoff return by Sean Hill of Colorado makes it 35-24 in the third quarter. The Grizzlies hold on behind a fourth-down stop by Great Falls High's Yohan Manzanarez and the last two of four interceptions. Carl Franks of California gets his second pick of the game. Linebacker Garrett Venters of Richland, WA, bats a pass by Spencer that bounces off the helmet of linebacker Kurt Schilling and into Schilling's hands.

"It reminded me of a Wild West film, shooting cans in the air," says Schilling, an ex-Shelby Coyote.

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BRAWL OF THE WILD

Montana 55, Montana State 20

Game No. 94 - 1994, Missoula.

Unwilling to risk quarterback Dave Dickenson's gimpy ankle, Grizzly coach Don Read turns to Bert Wilberger.

Wilberger, from Ashland, Ore., lights up a dreary day by throwing for 386 yards and three touchdowns. He runs for two more scores in front of 15,640 fans as the 11th-ranked Griz beat the Cats for the ninth straight time.

UM gains a season-high 613 yards, one more than against Carson-Newman in September.

"It was just a not-so-good team not stepping up to play one of the great teams in the nation," says Bobcat receiver Eric Hopkins of Texas.

Bobcat quarterbacks are intercepted four times for the second straight Brawl of the Wild.

UM's Mike Goicoechea of Stevensville partially blocks a punt and Josh Remington of Kalispell blocks an extra-point kick. Goicoechea also intercepts a pass. Griz receiver Scott Gurnsey catches eight passes for 190 yards and a touchdown, and overhauls teammate Shalon Baker for the UM career receiving record. Gurnsey, from Tumwater, WA, had 173 receiving yards against the Cats in '93. He's caught at least one touchdown pass in each of the last three Brawls of the Wild.

Montana's Damon Boddie of California carries 11 times for 143 yards.

Hopkins is MSU's bright spot with seven catches for 149 yards and a touchdown.

Montana 42, Montana State 33

Game No. 95 - 1995, Bozeman.

The Grizzlies, en route to the I-AA national championship, win their 10th straight Brawl of the Wild.

But they trail 25-20 in the fourth quarter on a warm and windy Nov. 18 in Bozeman.

Senior Dave Dickenson of Great Falls Russell prevails in his duel with MSU freshman quarterback Rob Compson by guiding the Griz to three late touchdowns.

He runs for one, passes 16 yards to Matt Wells of Ashland, Ore., for another, and hits Mike Erhardt of Eugene, Ore., from 27 yards out to make it 42-25.

Compson responds with a 47-yard pass to freshman Marquez Lewis. But UM safety Blaine McElmurry of Troy snuffs out the Cat candle, intercepting Compson with 3:19 left.

Montana junior Joe Douglass, an Oregon State transfer, makes 13 receptions for 208 yards, none more important than the bullet he catches while sliding through the end zone just before halftime. Andy Larson's extra point cuts the Bobcats' lead to 19-14.

Wells becomes the Grizzlies' all-time leader in pass receptions in his last regular-season game.

Montana 35, Montana State 14

Game No. 96 - 1996, Missoula.

Washington-Grizzly Stadium is stuffed with 19,042 shivering fans who reach a fever pitch as they watch the Grizzlies move to 11-0 for the first time with their 11th straight win over the Bobcats.

Receiver Joe Douglass, a transfer from Oregon State, locks up the I-AA receiving title with 205 yards on 14 catches from sophomore Brian Ah Yat. Douglass caught 13 for 203 in Bozeman last year.

The Grizzlies record nine quarterback sacks -- four by tackle Ryan Thompson of Missoula Big Sky.

Montana, trailing 14-7 at halftime, scores four unanswered touchdowns.

UM leads 28-14 with 90 seconds left when Ah Yat throws a 12-yard touchdown to Butte's Josh Paffhausen. Bobcat assistants refuse to shake hands afterward. Head coach Cliff Hysell, when asked about the late score, says, "No comment." Then he adds: "It didn't surprise me a bit. I'll put that in there."

Says first-year UM head coach Mick Dennehy: "I didn't feel comfortable with the lead, period, and for some of their coaches not to walk across the field is (expletive). It's (same expletive). You might say B.S. in the paper."

Montana 27, Montana State 25

Game No. 97 - 1997, Bozeman.

The be-all and end-all of endings in the Brawl of the Wild occurs in Sales Stadium.

Kris Heppner's winning 37-yard field goal as time expires is only the last heroic or notorious play in the last minutes of the Grizzlies' 12th straight victory over the Cats.

Eric Kinnaman of Nebraska scores what should be the streak-breaker with 22 seconds left on a 3-yard sweep to make it 25-24 Bobcats. But Kinnaman's two-point conversion run comes up inches short.

The Bobcats' Geoff Groshelle pulls the ensuing kickoff out of bounds, a penalty that takes up no time and sets up UM on its own 35.

Grizzly quarterback Brian Ah Yat of Honolulu fires a prayer pass that Justin Olsen of Helena catches on the Bobcat 19 on 46 yards to the Bobcat 19. After a yard loss, Heppner takes the field with four seconds left. Three timeouts are called before he gets his chance.

"I just got down on my knee for about five seconds and thanked God for putting me in this situation," says the Great Falls High graduate. "This is every kicker's dream."

Another ex-Bison, Eric Manzanarez, makes the snap, as he'd made the one for Andy Larson's game-winning field goal in the 1995 I-AA championship game. Raul Pacheco of Honolulu places it for Heppner.

"I can make it 100 out of 100 times if everything like that goes the same way," says Heppner.

Montana 28, Montana State 21

Game No. 98 - 1998, Missoula.

Brian Ah Yat fakes a handoff and throws to his left. Grizzly tight end Dallas Neil catches it on the east side of Washington-Grizzly Stadium and heads south on a tackle-shaking, tightrope-walking romp for the winning touchdown.

The 18-yard play with 5:21 left nudges the Grizzlies past the Bobcats.

Neil, a junior tight end from Great Falls, slips the grip of the Bobcats' leading tackler, Shon Flores of Hawaii.

"It all happened so fast," he says. "I saw the end zone and my eyes got huge."

The Bobcats can't answer. On their final play senior Rob Compson of Great Falls High has to field a shotgun snap off the ground. He throws incomplete to Chip Hobbs of Oklahoma.

"This is tough," says Compson. "The last four years I've seen the season end this way, and I didn't want that to happen to me."

Montana 49, Montana State 3

Game No. 99 - 1999, Bozeman.

After two nip-and-tuckers, this Brawl of the Wild isn't expected to be close -- and it's not.

Grizzly quarterback Drew Miller, a BYU transfer, battles wind gusts of up to 30 mph at Sales Stadium to pass for 305 yards. Two of his four touchdowns go to Jimmy Farris of Lewiston, Idaho.

Bobcat quarterbacks Dusty Broderick of Omaha and Kasey Harte of Bozeman throw for 126 yards between them.

UM's Yohance Humphrey of Anchorage sets a school record for rushing in a season (1,277). Jeremy Watkins of Missoula Big Sky goes over 1,000 yards receiving.

MSU's Matthew Peot, on track to break the league punting record, kicks five of eight into the wind and loses the record by less than a yard per punt. The Cats get no deeper than their own 40 in the second half.

It's the third most lopsided Griz win over the Cats. In 1904 they won 79-0; in 1987, 55-7.

Cliff Hysell coaches his final game for the Bobcats and Mick Dennehy his last for the Grizzlies. Within two weeks Dennehy and most of his staff will be at Utah State after

a playoff loss to Youngstown State.

Hysell, battling health problems all season, loses his eighth straight to Montana and retires.

"What a way to ride into the sunset," he says. "Life's not the movies, unfortunately."

Montana 28, Montana State 3

Game No. 100 - 2000, Missoula.

A 91-yard TD pass from John Edwards to Jimmy Farris -- the longest touchdown pass in the history of the Brawl of the Wild -- puts the final touch on a sloppily played game, the 100th edition of the Brawl.

The Cats are winless going in; the Grizzlies are headed to the I-AA playoffs. The Grizzlies score two TDs, one an 11-yard TD from Edwards to Yohance Humphrey, the other on a 1-yard Edwards run.

The Cats answer with a Nate Cook field goal from 32 yards out, but the Grizzlies go up 21-3 at halftime with another Humphrey TD, this one from 10 yards out.

Montana 38, Montana State 27

Game No. 101 - 2001, Bozeman.

The Grizzlies take command in the second half to claim their 16th straight win over the Bobcats.

Montana running back Yohance Humphrey scraps for 101 yards and scores twice from 1-yard out in the third quarter, as the Grizzlies break away from a 17-17 halftime tie.

Grizzly senior receiver/holder T.J. Oelkers runs for a 19-yard touchdown on a fake field goal in the second quarter to put Montana ahead 17-14.

"It's the Super Bowl for us in the state of Montana," said Grizzly coach Joe Glenn, who moves to 2-0 against the Cats. "We came in with that train of thought."

The Cats take the opening drive and lead 7-0 on a 3-yard TD run by Ryan Johnson. The Grizzlies answer with a 26-yard TD pass from John Edwards to Etu Molden. Johnson scores again, from 6 yards out to stake the Cats to a 14-7 lead, but then Chris Snyder connects on a 36-yard field goal and Oelkers' run gives the Griz a 17-14 lead. The Cats tie it on Nate Cook's 39-yard field goal.

After Humphrey's pair of third-quarter TDs, the Cats regroup and cut the Griz lead to 31-24 when Tyler Thomas hit tight end Aaron Ware for a 3-yard score on fourth-and-goal. Nate Cook cut the gap to 31-27 on a 35-yard field goal with 14:24 to play. But then Griz QB John Edwards, who had sat out the week before with injured ribs, rolls out on a bootleg and waltzes into the end zone from a yard out to put the Griz ahead 38-27.

Montana State 10, Montana 7

Game No. 102 - 2002, Missoula.

On a bitterly cold and windy day at Washington-Grizzly Stadium, the Cat defense dominates and Griz QB John Edwards suffers through perhaps his worst day in a UM uniform, completing just eight of 32 passes.

Nate Cook connects on a 27-yard field goal that is the only scoring in the first half.

In the third quarter, MSU's freshman quarterback Travis Lulay hooks up with Junior Adams on a 53-yard TD pass and the Cats lead 10-0.

In the fourth quarter, the Grizzlies come back to life as Tim Bush recovers a fumble from MSU workhorse Ryan Johnson, who leads all rushers with 132 yards. David Gober caps the ensuing Grizzly drive with a 1-yard TD which closes the lead to 10-7 with 13:51 left in the game. But the Grizzlies can't get any closer than their own 47-yard line for the rest of the game.

Says MSU safety Kane Ioane of Billings: "Words really can't describe what I'm feeling right now. Just being able to go home now and not have to listen to everybody saying, 'When are you going to beat the Griz, when are you going to beat the Griz?' It's a huge monkey off all our backs."

Meanwhile, both coaches, who have been trying to downplay The Streak, are guarded in their comments: MSU's Mike Kramer calls the streak "immaterial," and UM coach Joe Glenn says: "No archrivalry should get out of hand like that. It makes the whole thing less fun and it becomes very bitter. You can't even joke about it. You all know what I'm talking about. It's been almost sickening since I've been here."

Montana State 27, Montana 20

Game No. 103 - 2003, Bozeman.

Two costly mistakes doom Montana in a game where the Griz dominate almost all of the statistics. Montana State's Corey Smith returns the opening kickoff 90 yards for a touchdown, and safety Kenneth Qualls intercepts a Craig Ochs pass and races 54 yards for a score to give the Cats a 13-10 halftime lead.

The Cats put the game away in the second half with a pair of TD runs, each from 1 yard out: Bruce Molock scores in the third quarter, and QB Travis Lulay, who claims his second win over the Griz, cashes in from 1 yard out in the fourth.

UM closes within 27-20 with a 32-yard Chris Snyder field goal and a 6-yard TD pass from Ochs to Dane Oliver. But a potential game-tying drive ends when Adam Cordeiro and Clive Lowe sacked Ochs on a fourth down with 2:09 to play.

It is the first time the Cats have won a Brawl of the Wild in Bozeman since 1985.

**Montana 38,
Montana State 22**

Game No. 104 - 2004, Missoula.

The Griz ride two touchdowns each from Lex Hilliard and Jefferson Heidelberger to romp to a 38-22 win, despite 386 passing yards from MSU quarterback Travis Lulay and a Brawl-record 235 receiving yards from the Cats' Rick Gatewood.

Heidelberger, who has 131 receiving yards of his own, gives the Griz the lead when he collects a 15-yard scoring strike from Craig Ochs. His second score, a 14-yarder, gives the Griz a 31-16 lead in the third quarter and essentially puts the Cats away.

Gatewood catches a 38-yard strike from Lulay off a fake punt to the tie the game at 7-7 with 6:18 left in the first, and ended the scoring with a 2-yard option run with 6:42 remaining. It wasn't enough because Montana piles up 524 yards of offense, 244 on the ground.

**Montana State 16,
Montana 6**

Game No. 105 - 2005, Bozeman.

On a muddy track in Bobcat Stadium, MSU freshman Evin Groves ran for 143 yards and a touchdown, and teammate Travis Lulay engineered his third win over the Griz in his four seasons as starting quarterback.

Montana State also got three Jeff Hastings field goals while earning a share of the Big Sky title, alongside Montana and Eastern.

Lulay had pedestrian passing statistics: 15-for-31, 171 yards with one interception. But he engineered a 90-yard, first-quarter touchdown drive that was all the 22nd-ranked Bobcats needed. They outgained the No. 3 Grizzlies 370-220.

Montana had its opportunities. In the third quarter, the Griz had first-and-goal at the 3 after a 33-yard run by Lex Hilliard, only to come up empty. With 10:27 left, freshman QB Cole Bergquist completed a fourth-down strike to Mike Ferriter for UM's points.

Hilliard, hampered by a migraine headache, managed 75 yards on 19 carries.

"It's been a long time in the shadow of a great Grizzly program that they've been held to six points," Bobcat coach Mike Kramer said.

**Montana 13,
Montana State 7**

Game No. 106 - 2006, Missoula.

Montana quarterback Josh Swogger threw for 231 yards, including a 54-yard touchdown pass to Eric Allen, but the Grizzly defense and two Dan Carpenter field goals were the difference on a cold, sunny afternoon.

What turned out to be MSU coach Mike Kramer's last "Brawl" was a defensive battle that saw the teams combine for just five third-down conversions.

The Bobcats' only score came on Aaron Mason's 5-yard TD run at 5:07 of the second quarter, set up by a 43-yard pass from Jack Rolovich to Josh Lewis. But the visitors were never out of it.

After Allen's touchdown gave UM a 10-7 lead midway through the third quarter, the Griz twice traded interceptions with the Bobcats. The last pick came from Andre Fuller and gave MSU the ball at Montana's 40-yard line with 4:40 remaining, but the Bobcats' last gasp ended on downs at UM's 25.

"With a couple minutes left to go in the game, we're standing on the doorstep," said Mike Kramer, who went 3-4 against the Griz. "It's us against them. And it was them. Congratulations."

**Montana 41,
Montana State 20**

Game No. 107 - 2007, Bozeman.

Montana's 67th win in the Griz-Cat series was the first for UM coach Bobby Hauck in Bozeman, and was a landmark day as well for seniors Lex Hilliard, Dan Carpenter and Eric Allen in front of 14,877 fans.

Allen caught the go-ahead touchdown pass against the Cats for a second straight

year, a 29-yard reception shortly after UM's Colt Anderson intercepted a Jack Rolovich pass near midfield. That put the Griz ahead 20-14 at 12:08 of the third quarter.

Allen, who had five catches for 89 yards, caught another TD pass early in the fourth as Montana went up 27-14. Hilliard scored his second and third touchdowns, from 2 and 31 yards, in the final 3:38 to put the game away. Montana withstood 115 rushing yards by MSU's Demetrius Crawford, who had two TDs, to go 8-0 in Big Sky play for the second straight year and 11-0 in the regular season for the second time in school history.

Carpenter hit two first-quarter field goals to give him a career total of 72; that and his 403 career points set the FCS standard (he still holds the career kicking records at 75 field goals and 407 points).

But the biggest day belonged to Hilliard, who finished with 181 yards and three TDs on a muddy track. That gave the Kalispell product a school-record 49 career rushing touchdowns and his first win at Bobcat Stadium.

"I think he probably had a little extra spring in his step today, being a Montana guy and playing in this game," noted first-year MSU coach Rob Ash. "He's a senior, too, I hope. Isn't he?"

**Montana 35,
Montana State 3**

Game No. 108 - 2008, Missoula.

The Griz go "old school," donning copper jerseys and yellow helmets for the first time since 1995, and use five MSU turnovers and big plays to beat the undermanned Bobcats.

A record crowd of 25,629 sees Drummond product Chase Reynolds run for 115 yards and two touchdowns for the Griz, though the fans go silent when MSU's Demetrius Crawford tears off an 84-yard run on the Cats' second snap.

The game turns UM's way after Crawford is pushed out of bounds at UM's 3. The Griz mount a goal-line stand, ending with a fourth-down fumble.

The Griz go up 7-0 on Havre flash Marc Mariani's 75-yard punt return in the first quarter, and lead 14-3 at halftime on a 6-yard run by Reynolds.

Crawford runs for 203 yards for MSU, but it isn't enough. Cole Bergquist hits Mariani with a 37-yard TD pass ahead of a Reynolds 15-yard run to cap a 98-yard fourth-quarter drive. Libby's George Mercer delivers the final blow for UM, tumbling into the end zone with a 73-yard interception return in the final minute.

"Everyone just piled up on each other," UM safety Shann Schillinger, who has eight tackles and an interception, said of the final TD. "It kind of set in then that we won, and it was an unbelievable feeling; something I'll never forget."



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**Montana 33,
Montana State 19**

Game No. 109 - 2009, Bozeman.

In a game in which each team scored a safety, Dan Beaudin and Marc Mariani caught two touchdown passes apiece for the Grizzlies, who extended their "Brawl" streak to four and improved to 11-0 for the second time in three seasons.

Beaudin, a senior from Noxon, made nifty catches on a 1-yard pass from Justin Roper and a 14-yard strike from Andrew Selle, who threw for three TDs. The latter made it 33-12. MSU's Cody Kempt, who also threw for a score, had a 1-yard TD run to cap the scoring with a minute left. Shann Schillinger had six tackles, two passes defended and interception to lead the Griz D.

Mariani's second TD began a nightmarish third quarter for the Bobcats, who had the wind in their faces and saw UM use short fields to pad a 9-5 halftime lead out to 26-5.

Yet the key play came after Billings West product Joe Schreibeis scored his first collegiate TD, drawing the Bobcats to 26-12 with 12:40 left. The Griz drove 80 yards into the wind to Beadin's second TD, but needed a fourth-and-4 pass from Selle to

Mariani to keep the drive alive.

Mariani made a dynamite catch; he also had 120 yards on three punt returns, including a 33-yarder that set up Beaudin's first TD.

"The individual stuff is one thing," said Mariani. "But this senior class is 4-0 now, and it's a great feeling. It feels awesome."

**Montana State 21,
Montana 16**

Game No. 110 - 2010, Missoula.

The Griz ran into Washington-Grizzly Stadium in new all-black uniforms but couldn't catch the Bobcats, who scored on their first three possessions and never trailed.

DeNarius McGhee, MSU's freshman quarterback, threw touchdown passes to Great Falls' Tanner Bleskin and C.J. Palmer, and Orenzo Davis provided the winning points with a 17-yard TD run.

The Grizzlies stayed in range, answering the Cats' first two drives with a 59-yard TD burst from Chase Reynolds and a 6-yard scoring run from QB Justin Roper.

But UM was turnover-plagued: Both Reyn-

olds and Gerald Kemp fumbled inside the MSU 5-yard line in the second half. Reynolds' turnover came after a bad punt snap resulted in an MSU safety. The Griz also turned the ball over on downs at MSU's 15 with 1:23 left.

That cinched the Cats' first win over the Griz and first Big Sky title since 2005. Davis ran for 140 yards for MSU.

Reynolds ran for 180 yards for the Griz, who ended up 7-4 and out of the postseason for the first time since 1992.

**Montana 36,
Montana State 10**

Game No. 111 - 2011, Bozeman.

It was set up as a coronation for the newly top-ranked Bobcats, but the No. 7 Griz took command in the second half behind Dan Moore and Peter Nguyen.

Moore rushed for 116 yards, including a 37-yard touchdown to put UM up 29-7 at 5:37 of the third quarter. Nguyen ran for 123, including a 21-yard run to cap the scoring with 9:28 left, and send many of the record crowd of 20,247 at an expanded Bobcat Stadium for the exits.

Griz quarterback Jordan Johnson threw

for two touchdowns, one a 2-yard strike to Kavario Middleton on fourth-and-goal with 2:15 left in the first half. That put Montana up 12-0.

MSU drove to a touchdown to start the second half, DeNarius McGee hitting Elvis Akpla from 7 yards. But the Griz answered on their next offensive snap: Johnson found Jabin Sambrano for 79 yards and a TD to make it 19-7.

Montana gained 316 yards of offense in the second half, and rushed for 309 yards against the Big Sky's top run defense.

"I'm very proud and honored to be involved in a game like this, when it comes down to the great state of Montana for the championship," second-year Griz coach Robin Pflugrad said. "It's nice to get on that bus with a win."

Both teams lost at Sam Houston State in the FCS playoffs; the Griz fell 31-28 in the semifinals.

**Montana State 16,
Montana 7**

Game No. 112 - 2012, Missoula.

The second-ranked Bobcats relied on defense, kicker Rory Perez and quarterback

DeNarius McGhee to subdue the Griz.

Montana led 7-3 after Peter Nguyen's 47-yard scoring run in the first quarter but didn't score again. Bobcat defensive ends Caleb Schreibeis (16 tackles and a sack) and Brad Daly shut down the Griz running game; Montana punted eight times after Nguyen's TD.

A record Washington-Grizzly Stadium of 26,210 saw MSU go in front on McGhee's 15-yard scoring pass to Saco product Kruiz Siewing at 7:54 of the second quarter.

McGhee threw for 246 yards and ran four times on a clock-killing drive that ended in Perez's third field goal with 2:23 left.

That made it a two-score game and clinched the Grizzlies' first losing season since 1985. The Griz, who missed two field goals, finished 5-6.

"We knew they were big up front and knew they would be a physical team," said Schreibeis, who in January became the first Bobcat to win the Buck Buchanan Award for the top defensive player in the FCS. "We just had to weather the storm for a little bit and then let our speed kind of take control."

The Cats improved to 10-1 and finished 11-2 with a loss in the FCS quarterfinals.

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BRAWL OF THE WILD

Montana 28, Montana State 14

Game No. 113 – 2013, Bozeman.

Once again the Montana football team leaves its opponent feeling blue at Bobcat Stadium.

Spurred by a determined veteran defense and quarterback Jordan Johnson's dynamic second half, the fifth-ranked Grizzlies double up 13th-ranked Montana State in front of 21,527 fans. In his illustrious seven-year career with the Bobcats, coach Rob Ash has come up empty in all four home games against the Grizzlies.

"I've never lost in Bozeman," said Montana senior linebacker and future Seattle Seahawk Brock Coyle, a Bozeman native who enjoys a stellar day with a game-high 14 tackles and a critical forced fumble.

The Griz defense turns in perhaps its finest performance of the season. Montana State converts on just 4 of 13 third-down attempts and manages just 277 yards with two costly fumbles. Cats Qb DeNarius McGhee, the preseason player of the year in the Big Sky, struggles in completing 17 of 33 passes for 160 yards.

Johnson starts slowly but comes on like gangbusters. After throwing for minus-3 yards in the first quarter, he completes 20 of 32 passes for 253 yards and a TD in the final three periods.

Montana 34, Montana State 7

Game No. 114 – 2014, Missoula.

The pressure cooker of a week begins with Griz coach Mick Delaney announcing he will retire at the end of the season.

On top of that, the 13th-ranked Griz need a victory over their arch-rivals to gain a berth in the FCS playoffs. It was never a contest.

Montana storms to a 17-0 lead in the first quarter and goes into halftime with a 27-0 advantage.

Griz senior quarterback Jordan Johnson completes 22 of 36 passes for 313 yards and three touchdowns to three different receivers. Classmate Jordan Canada adds 119 yards on 27 carries.

"This is unreal -- just so many emotions right now running through me," says Delaney. "... Today was probably the most special day of my coaching career because of what these young men and our coaches did. Just total domination from beginning to end."

Montana 54, Montana State 35

Game No. 115 – 2015, Bozeman.

The Grizzlies storm out to a 37-14 halftime lead in the final game of Rob Ash's tenure coaching the Bobcats. The winningest football coach in Montana State history is fired two days later after nine years leading the school.

Montana State hits the scoreboard first on a 46-yard touchdown pass from Dakota Prukop to Beau Sandland, but the Griz then reel off 31 unanswered points. UM quarterback Brady Gustafson has three of his four touchdowns in that stretch.

Gustafson finishes with 353 yards passing and three TD tosses to Jamaal Jones, who becomes UM's career leader in receiving yards (3,021) by the end of the season. Gustafson's fourth goes to Ellis Henderson as the Griz win their third straight game to end the season and earn a playoff berth. The rivalry brawl features 1,040 yards of offense with both teams reaching the 500-yard plateau.

Prukop finishes with four scores as well, three through the air and one on the ground, in his final game in a Bobcat uniform before announcing his intentions to transfer to FBS Oregon a month later.

Montana State 24, Montana 17

Game No. 116 – 2016, Missoula.

Montana has designs on a playoff berth, and the only thing standing in its way are the three-win Bobcats. But the Grizzlies can't account for freshman quarterback Chris Murray, who rushes for 142 yards and two touchdowns to lead Montana State to an upset victory in front of 26,182 fans at Washington-Grizzly Stadium.

Murray flips into the end zone head over feet on an 8-yard scoring run to tie the game 7-7 with 4:13 remaining in the first quarter, and MSU reels off 24 consecutive points until a Brandon Purdy field goal closes the gap for UM late in the third quarter.

Murray completes just two passes, but the Bobcats rush for 368 yards and 62 attempts. Murray's 26-yard throw to tight end Connor Sullivan on fourth-and-1 with 1:19 left ices the game. It's the first time neither the Bobcats nor the Grizzlies make the FCS playoffs since 1992.

"You don't ever come into Washington-Grizzly and expect to blow guys off the ball," says MSU All-American lineman J.P. Flynn. "That's not how it goes."

Montana State 31, Montana 23

Game No. 117 – 2017, Bozeman.

Montana enters 7-3, has won five of its past six games and is one win away from

a potential playoff berth. Montana State comes in at 4-6 on a two-game losing streak and looks to play spoiler. The Cats erase a 3-0 deficit after one quarter, rush for 322 yards and get a late defensive stop to earn the win in front of 19,907 fans at Bobcat Stadium.

The Cats scored three of their four rushing touchdowns in the second quarter, including a 71-yard score by Nick LaSane, to take a 21-10 lead. They built their biggest lead, 31-16, on Chris Murray's rushing touchdown with 6:20 to play. Montana answers 55 seconds later on Gresh Jensen's 32-yard touchdown pass to Keenan Curran.

The Griz forced a three-and-out, lost a fumble, then forced another three-and-out. They started at their own 12-yard line with 2:08 left, advanced to the Montana State 28-yard line before throwing four incomplete passes to turn the ball over with 4 seconds left. It's Bob Stitt's last game coaching Montana.

Montana State 29, Montana 25

Game No. 118 – 2018, Missoula.

The game marked the greatest comeback and most inexplicable finish in the history of the series. Both teams entered at 6-4 with postseason aspirations and both were riding a two-game winning streak. The Cats appeared to lose on an Adam Eastwood rushing touchdown with time running out. But Montana State called timeout before the play started. Montana then tried the same play with a disastrous result. Colstrip's Tucker Yates knocked the ball out of Eastwood's hands and Belgrade's Derek Marks recovered as the Cats held on the goal line.

The Pride of Dillon, Troy Andersen, was the offensive MVP for the Bobcats. He rushed for 107 yards and three touchdowns as his team overcame a 22-0 deficit. Andersen's passing wasn't too shabby either as he completed 15 of 24 attempts for 158 yards.

Montana State 48, Montana 14

Game No. 119 – 2019, Bozeman.

Montana's first offensive play resulted in the same as its last snap from scrimmage the previous season – a lost fumble recovered coincidentally by the same player that recovered it in 2018, Marks.

This time Montana State used it to fuel a blowout win. MSU came into the game with Andersen sidelined, but it didn't matter as the Cats scored the first 24 points. The Grizzlies cut their deficit to 17 at halftime but couldn't muster any offense in the second half.

The Bobcats, who claimed their fourth straight win in the series, advanced to the national semifinals while the Grizzlies lost out in the quarterfinals.

Montana 29, Montana State 10

Game No. 120 – 2021, Missoula.

The seventh-ranked Griz snapped a four-game losing streak to the Cats behind strong defense and special teams. Montana's swarming, sure-tackling defense beat blocks on its way to gobbling up nine tackles for loss and four sacks. The Griz forced the Cats to punt nine times in 14 drives, including six three-and-outs. Their streak of consecutive quarters without allowing a touchdown reached 13 before being snapped.

Griz linebacker Pat O'Connell, a Kalispell native, had a game-high 11 tackles. Teammate Jace Lewis tabbed eight tackles and a forced fumble while playing with an effort level UM coach Bobby Hauck called "terrific."

Montana 37, Montana State 7

Game No. 122 – 2023, Missoula.

The third-ranked Griz dominated fourth-ranked Montana State from start to finish. They led wire-to-wire in a 37-7 victory that netted them their first Big Sky championship since 2009, doing so in front of an announced stadium-record crowd of 27,178 fans.

UM completed the regular season with a 10-1 record overall and a 7-1 mark in Big Sky play. Hauck improved to 7-5 in the rivalry game and 2-3 in his second stint. Vigen dropped to 1-2 in the series and is 0-2 playing in the Garden City.

UM scored on seven of 12 drives while it rolled up 430 yards of offense, picked up 21 first downs and converted seven of 14 third downs. The Griz forced MSU into four turnovers on downs and an interception in 11 drives, limited the Cats to 280 yards and held them to 1 of 14 on third and fourth downs.

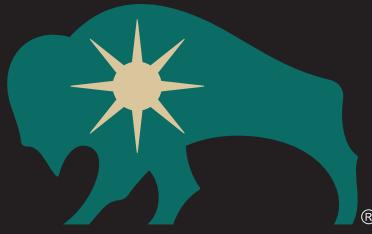
Griz quarterback Clifton McDowell finished 17 of 22 passing for 200 yards and one touchdown, a 20-yard strike to wide receiver Junior Bergen, who had a game-high 91 yards on six catches. Nick Ostmo ran for 85 yards and McDowell added 69 to lead the Griz ground game that racked up 202 yards on 40 totes.

UM held MSU's vaunted rushing attack to 213 yards on 35 carries, well below the Cats' average of 301.4 yards per game, second in the FCS. Mellott piled up 108 yards on 10 carries and running back Julius Davis totaled 107 yards on 14 rushes. MSU was 4-of-16 passing for 67 yards.

The tide truly turned on the following drive. Less than a month after Weber State committed four safeties on high snaps at Bobcat Stadium, UM long snapper Grayson Pibal did the same, and it wasn't a two-point play this time. Senior linebacker Jory Choate, a Bozeman High graduate and son of previous MSU head coach Jeff "Griz Slayer" Choate, recovered the fumble at the 3:13 mark of the first quarter to put the Cats up 21-7.

The Cats finished with 439 rushing yards, their most ever against UM and sixth-most in program history. They rushed 65 times, attempted 10 passes, tallied 561 total yards and didn't punt.

A day that began with ESPN broadcasting GameDay across the street from Bobcat Stadium ended with one of the biggest Brawl beatdowns in MSU history (55 are the most points MSU has scored in a Brawl).



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