

# Saints Game day

THURSDAY,  
DECEMBER 14, 2017

*Senior guard  
Ryan Imhoff's  
performance  
will be key  
to Saints'  
postseason run*

Looking for a  
**big finish**

Independent Record | [helenaity.com](http://helenaity.com)





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Ryan Imhoff earned all-American and academic all-American honors as a chemistry major last season. He averaged a team-high 17.4 points and 6.2 rebounds per game.

# Preseason snubs IGNORED

Senior big man ready to prove himself anyway

**ERIK ANDERSEN**  
[406mtsports.com](http://406mtsports.com)

**R**yan Imhoff doesn't care much for buzz. Preseason polls, awards or rankings do little to stir the senior big man from Napa Valley, California. As an all-American on the basketball court and chemistry major with

academic all-American chops, he doesn't need extra validation.

Whether folks nationally start to take notice of his rare combination of athletic gifts and academic prowess is out of his hands. All he can do is continue to excel in each task put in front of him.

"I don't know if there's any other player in the nation averaging over 20 points, over 5 rebounds, over 3 assists,

over three steals and a block a game," Saints coach Carson Cunningham said. "I don't think there is, but maybe there is.

"It's not something you see very often. When was the last time a chemistry major, who is a academic all-American caliber performer in the classroom, is a legitimate top tier candidate for national player of the year? I don't know the exact

answer, but I'm guessing never, or very, very, very rarely."

Cunningham lights up when he describes Imhoff.

It's not enough to be a tremendously gifted basketball player for Cunningham. The coach, who has a PhD in

**PLEASE SEE IMHOFF, Page 8**

Tyler Miller  
The Independent Record  
Publisher

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MEN’S SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME/RESULT
10/21/2017	Yellowstone Christian College	Helena, Mont.	W 103-53
10/22/2017	Salish Kootenai College	Pablo, Mont.	W 125-53
11/1/2017	Purdue (Exhib.)	West Lafayette, Ind.	L 71-98
11/4/2017	Saint Francis (Ill.)	Joliet, IL	W 67-57
11/17/2017	Our Lady of the Lake University (Texas)	Helena, Mont.	W 78-71
11/18/2017	Southwestern Christian University	Helena, Mont.	W 85-63
11/26/2017	Montana (Exhib.)	Missoula, Mont.	L 75-86
12/2/2017	Montana State University-Northern	Havre, Mont.	W 99-90 OT
12/3/2017	University of Providence (Mont.)	Great Falls, Mont.	W 86-76
12/8/2017	Salish Kootenai College	Helena, Mont.	W 116-57
12/19/2017	Bethesda College	Costa Mesa, Calif.	8:30 p.m.
12/20/2017	Vanguard University (Calif.)	Costa Mesa, Calif.	7 p.m.
12/21/2017	Westcliff Universty	Irvine, Calif.	8 p.m.
12/28/2017	University of Calgary	Helena, Mont.	7:30 p.m.
12/29/2017	University of Calgary	Helena, Mont.	7:30 p.m.
1/4/2018	University of Montana Western	Helena, Mont.	7:30 p.m.
1/6/2018	Lewis-Clark State College (Idaho)	Helena, Mont.	7:30 p.m.
1/9/2018	Rocky Mountain College (Mont.)	Helena, Mont.	7:30 p.m.
1/11/2018	Montana Tech	Butte, Mont.	7:30 p.m.
1/18/2018	University of Montana Western	Dillon, Mont.	7:30 p.m.
1/20/2018	Lewis-Clark State College (Idaho)	Lewiston, Idaho	7:30 p.m.
1/25/2018	Montana Tech	Butte, Mont.	7:30 p.m.
1/27/2018	Rocky Mountain College (Mont.)	Helena, Mont.	7:30 p.m.
2/1/2018	University of Providence (Mont.)	Helena, Mont.	7:30 p.m.
2/3/2018	Montana State University-Northern	Helena, Mont.	7:30 p.m.
2/7/2018	Montana Tech	Helena, Mont.	7:30 p.m.
2/9/2018	Rocky Mountain College (Mont.)	Billings, Mont.	7:30 p.m.
2/16/2018	Montana State University-Northern	Havre, Mont.	8 p.m.
2/17/2018	University of Providence (Mont.)	Great Falls, Mont.	7:30 p.m.
2/22/2018	Lewis-Clark State College (Idaho)	Helena, Mont.	7:30 p.m.
2/24/2018	University of Montana Western	Helena, Mont.	7:30 p.m.

MEN’S ROSTER

No.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	YR.	HOMETOWN / HIGH SCHOOL
2	Dane Warp	G	6-4	190	So.	Havre, MT / Havre HS
3	Emilio Mancol	PG	5-9	160	Fr.	Renton, WA / John F. Kennedy Catholic
10	Chase Burnham	G	6-3	200	Fr.	Spangle, WA / Liberty HS
12	Match Burnham	F	6-8	210	Jr.	Spangle, WA / Liberty HS
13	Kyle Nickol	G	6-0	165	Jr.	Helena, Mont. / Capital HS
20	Patrick Colberg	F	6-8	215	Sr.	Missoula, Mont. / Hellgate HS
21	Brad King	F	6-8	210	Fr.	Dromana, Australia / Padua
22	Lorel Johnson	G	6-1	165	Sr.	Downey, Calif. / Cathedral HS
23	Ryan Imhoff	G	6-6	220	Sr.	Napa, Calif. / Napa HS
24	Matt Wyman	G	6-7	180	Jr.	Great Falls, Mont. / Great Falls HS
31	Ife Kalejaiye	G	6-2	168	Jr.	Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif. / Cathedral HS
32	Alejandro Santos Piqueras	F	6-8	195	R-Jr.	Madrid, Spain / Club: Estudiantes
43	Oliver Carr	F	6-6	205	Sr.	Bozeman, Mont. / Bozeman HS

Coaching Staff

**Dr. Carson Cunningham:** Head Coach

**Jesse Repay:** Lead Assistant Coach

**Scott Menzies:** Assistant Coach

**Hasani Simmons:** Assistant Coach

California road trip preps Saints for NAIA tournament

ERIK ANDERSEN  
406mtsports.com

While nothing can simulate the NAIA tournament exactly, the Carroll College men’s basketball team is hoping to find the next best thing.

The No. 4 Saints travel to California for a string of three games in three days, facing stiff competition while other Frontier teams have scheduled lighter tests during in nonconference play.

Carroll will be in the Los Angeles Area, playing Bethesda College, Vanguard University and Westcliff University on three consecutive nights.

“Fly in Monday, leave Friday,” Saints assistant coach Scott Menzies said. “All business.”

Vanguard should be the toughest test, currently ranked at No. 22 with a 4-2 record.

“Bethesda is a bit up and down,” Saints coach Carson Cunningham said. “We play a true road game at Vanguard. That will be a mighty challenge. And then we finish with a game against Westcliffe.”

It’s a tournament simulation before some downtime at Christmas. The NAIA tournament in March requires many teams to play consecutive games if they win and advance.

“The bottom line, if you get to that national tournament, you’re going to be playing a lot of basketball in a short amount of time if you manage some wins,” Cunningham said. “I don’t think it could hurt to get ready for that.”

A season ago, the Saints took a similar California trip and came back 0-2. The losses caused the Saints to plummet in the rankings. While there’s a risk involved, Cunningham said even with that trip in the rear view mirror it beneficial to his team’s improvement.

“We dropped pretty far in the rankings, but it was ultimately good for us,” Cunningham said. “It was very difficult to lose like that and to lose two in a row, but



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Carroll College’s Lorel Johnson will get a chance to play before friends and family during a three-game road trip in California.

we got better from it.

“I like the idea of playing three in a row. There’s a chance, if you’re lucky enough to make the tournament, and you’re able to get a couple wins, you may play three in a row. We shouldn’t look at it as anything other than a chance to get better and a chance to prepare.”

It’s also a chance for a chunk of the roster to get back to its home state. Seniors Lorel Johnson and Ryan Imhoff and junior Ife Kalejaiye all played high school basketball in California. The players will have a chance to play in front

of family in friends.

While it’s not particularly close to Imhoff’s home of Napa, he knows his support will be on hand.

“It’s California,” he said, “My mom will be there. I’m excited. It’s around Christmastime, so I’m excited.”

Imhoff is embracing the stretch of games as a tournament precursor, too.

“It’s good prep,” he said. “We don’t get that with conference or anything like that. It’s tough to simulate that in season, so it’s good for us.”





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Carroll coach Rachelle Sayers is taking her team to Hawaii for competition and fun.

# Hawaii trip poses strong early-season challenge for Saints

ERIK ANDERSEN  
[406mtsports.com](http://406mtsports.com)

It's aloha Hawaii for the Carroll College women's basketball team.

The No. 21-ranked Saints are headed to Waikiki, Hawaii, to play in the Hoop N Surf Classic on Dec. 19 and 20. The tournament brings in some of the best teams in the NAIA for a pre-Christmas tournament.

"It's something I've been working on for a couple of years," coach Rachelle Sayers said. "I wanted to have a chance to take a team maybe once every four years on a nice trip like this just as a reward for all they do. All they do in the community and how hard they work on the floor and in the classroom."

The Saints have games against Menlo College and Saint Xavier, which both were undefeated at the time of this writing.

Carroll's philosophy to challenge itself in

nonconference is firmly in tact with the Hawaii trip, albeit with a little fun on the side. Even with the idyllic setting, Sayers has a business-like approach still.

"I think it's something that's definitely a recruiting tool," she said. "It's something the kids look forward to and are excited. It's two great games. There's eight NAIA teams playing. (No .3-ranked) Campbellsville is over there playing. There's a lot of ranked teams over there playing. We're going to face two teams that are undefeated."

The Saints go to Hawaii before a few days off for Christmas. After the holiday, the Saints are back in Helena for games against University of Calgary and University of Lethbridge before Frontier Conference play resumes on Jan. 4.

Carroll tips off against Menlo at 3 p.m. on Dec. 19 at 3 p.m. and faces Saint Xavier 2 p.m. on Dec. 20.

## WOMEN'S SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME/RESULT
10/30/2017	University of Montana (Exhib.)	Missoula, Mont.	L 48-55
11/2/2017	University of Utah (Exhib.)	Salt Lake City, Utah	L 46-70
11/4/2017	The College of Idaho	Caldwell, Idaho	W 48-37
11/5/2017	Boise State (Exhib.)	Boise, Idaho	W 62-61
11/8/2017	Saint Thomas University	Helena, Mont.	W 67-53
11/9/2017	Northwest University	Helena, Mont.	W 74-33
11/18/2017	Westmont College (Calif.)	Santa Barbara, Calif.	W 39-34
11/20/2017	The Master's College (Calif.)	Santa Clarita, Calif.	L 64-74
12/2/2017	Montana State University-Northern	Havre, Mont.	L 42-53
12/3/2017	University of Providence (Mont.)	Great Falls, Mont.	W 78-65
12/8/2017	Whitman College	Spokane, Wash.	L 55-59
12/9/2017	Whitworth University	Spokane, Wash.	W 78-56
12/19/2017	Menlo College	Waikiki, Hawaii	3:00 pm
12/20/2017	Saint Xavier University (Ill.)	Waikiki, Hawaii	2:00 pm
12/29/2017	University of Calgary	Helena, Mont.	5:30 p.m.
12/30/2017	University of Lethbridge	Helena, Mont.	7:00 pm
1/4/2018	University of Montana Western	Helena, Mont.	5:30 p.m.
1/6/2018	Lewis-Clark State College (Idaho)	Helena, Mont.	5:30 p.m.
1/9/2018	Rocky Mountain College (Mont.)	Helena, Mont.	5:30 p.m.
1/11/2018	Montana Tech	Butte, Mont.	5:30 p.m.
1/18/2018	University of Montana Western	Dillon, Mont.	5:30 p.m.
1/20/2018	Lewis-Clark State College (Idaho)	Lewiston, Idaho	5:30 p.m.
1/25/2018	Montana Tech	Butte, Mont.	5:30 p.m.
1/27/2018	Rocky Mountain College (Mont.)	Helena, Mont.	5:30 p.m.
2/1/2018	University of Providence (Mont.)	Helena, Mont.	5:30 p.m.
2/3/2018	Montana State University-Northern	Helena, Mont.	5:30 p.m.
2/7/2018	Montana Tech	Helena, Mont.	5:30 p.m.
2/9/2018	Rocky Mountain College (Mont.)	Billings, Mont.	5:30 p.m.
2/16/2018	Montana State University-Northern	Havre, Mont.	6:00 p.m.
2/17/2018	University of Providence (Mont.)	Great Falls, Mont.	5:30 p.m.
2/22/2018	Lewis-Clark State College (Idaho)	Helena, Mont.	5:30 p.m.
2/24/2018	Montana Western	Helena, Mont.	5:30 p.m.

## WOMEN'S ROSTER

No.	NAME	POS.	HT.	YR.	HOMETOWN / HIGHSCHOOL
1	Bailey Pasta	PG	5-6	Sr.	Nampa, Idaho / Skyview HS
3	Jaidyn Lyman	PG	5-3	Fr.	Spokane, Wash. / Mount Spokane HS
4	Danielle Wagner	G	5-9	R-Fr.	Havre, Mont. / Havre HS
5	Michaela Dowdy	C	6-1	Sr.	Helena, Mont. / Capital HS
10	Christine Denny	PG	5-9	Fr.	Fairfield, Wash. / Liberty HS
11	Sara Chalich	G	5-6	Jr.	Coeur d'Alene, Idaho / Coeur d'Alene HS
12	Taylor Salonen	F	6-1	So.	Kalispell, Mont. / Glacier HS
20	Mikaela Olson	G	5-8	Jr.	Lewistown, Mont. / Fergus HS
21	Cassidy Hashley	F	6-2	Sr.	Kalispell, Mont. / Glacier HS
24	Hannah Dean	C	6-1	Jr.	Gardiner, Mont. / Gardiner HS
25	Brittney Johnson	SG	5-7	Jr.	Spokane, Wash. / Ferris HS
30	Nikki Krueger	C	6-1	Fr.	Kalispell, Mont. / Glacier HS
33	Oona Harrington	F	5-11	So.	Spokane, Wash. / Gonzaga Prep HS
35	Molly McDermott	SG/F	6-2	Fr.	Spokane, Wash. / Gonzaga Prep HS
42	Mikaela Robinson	SG	5-9	Jr.	Billings, Mont. / Billings West HS

### Coaching Staff

**Rachelle Sayers:** Head Coach

**Gary Turcott:** Assistant Coach

**J.D. Solomon:** Assistant Coach

**Joey O'Neill:** Assistant Coach



## MEN'S POWER RANKINGS

ERIK ANDERSEN  
406mtsports.com

*Here's a look at how the Frontier Conference teams are doing each week:*

### 1. No. 4 Carroll College Saints

The Saints powering up in the NAIA Top 25 poll, gives them the obvious top nod in our first ranking. Carroll built the strongest nonconference schedule and made good on it. At 8-0 while hosting opponents such as Our Lady of the Lake and Southwestern Christian, which both came from the top conferences in the nation and narrowly missed the NAIA tournament a season ago, gave the schedule credibility. And further to the Saints' credit, they went on the road and won games in difficult environments early. Carroll won in Portland against a traditionally strong Warner Pacific team and defeated Saint Francis in Joliet, Illinois. Unless they slip, they're the team to beat.

### 2. No. 11 Lewis-Clark State College Warriors

While to some it seemed like the Frontier Conference would certainly be a three-way battle between Carroll, Montana Western and Lewis-Clark State College, it was the Warriors who received the least faith out of the preseason voters. LCSC debuted in the Frontier poll as the third-place team, their finishing slot last season en route to a national tournament berth. The Warriors certainly played a softer schedule than Carroll, but a 10-1 start, including a home win over Montana Western (the preseason favorite) vault them into the No. 2 ranking. While the Bulldogs could certainly get even in Dillon, the fact right now is LCSC is

2-0 in conference and own a win over UMW. The Warriors have reloaded with transfers after the graduation of four seniors, and are once again a squad to be reckoned with in the Frontier.

### 3. No. 17 Montana Western Bulldogs

The preseason favorite is stumbling in our opening power rankings. The Bulldogs did everything they were supposed to through seven games. They handled weaker teams (mostly with ease). Western looked like it would be No. 1 in the Frontier as teams went back into nonconference play. Then, the Bulldogs traveled to Lewiston. The Bulldogs opened up Frontier play with a win over

Montana Tech in Dillon, but a date two nights later with the Warriors on the road left Western with a 91-82 loss to reconsider. Now, it's early and LCSC and Western were both considered top teams in the Frontier going in. For now, with two conference games as our guide, the Bulldogs are No. 3.

### 4. Montana State-Northern Lights

This was a toss up. The Lights and the University of Providence Argonauts both defeated Rocky Mountain College at home (Providence by 7, MSU-N by 6) and both lost to Carroll. Due to the nature of its loss, Northern gets the bump. The Lights took Carroll to

overtime before falling 99-90. While it's hard to call a loss "good," the Lights played Carroll on a back-to-back and fought hard for the upset attempt. Though replay later showed a desperation heave from Adam Huse should not have counted, the Lights still played the Saints tightly and led a majority of the game, forcing the Saints to scramble and scrap to get back in the contest.

### 5. Providence Argonauts

See above.

### 6. Rocky Mountain College Battlin' Bears

RMC played a stronger schedule its last five games, but a pair of road losses to open conference leave the Bears reeling this week. Rocky went to Dickinson State, a team Western barely managed, and won convincingly 90-71. A few games later, the Battlin' Bears got a crack at the No. 3 team in the nation, William Penn, and lost by seven. The Battlin' Bears have once again scored a University of Montana transfer in Jared Samuelson who is leading the team in points per game and blocks. Bill Dreikosen is the only coach in the Frontier to have won a national championship, and something tells us that, despite the two road losses to open the conference season, he'll have RMC fighting again.

### 7. Montana Tech Orediggers

The Orediggers, now in Year 2 under Adam Hiatt, are taking some lumps to start the season. Tech has wins over smaller colleges, but hasn't notched a signature win yet. It will probably take some Frontier wins in January or some major slip ups by other conference foes before the Orediggers make any headway from the No. 7 slot.



## AROUND THE CONFERENCE

ERIK ANDERSEN  
406mtsports.com

While Carroll College men's basketball team embraces the challenge of three games in three days in California, here's what the rest of the conference has scheduled.

### Lewis-Clark State College Warriors

The Warriors host Salish Kootenai College on Dec. 17 and 18. The Warriors should be headed into Christmas with a 12-1 record and unblemished home record.

### Montana State-Northern Lights

The Lights ease into their nonconference slate with just one game against Nueta Hidatsa College for the week. It's the lone contest for the Lights before Christmas.

### Montana Tech Orediggers

One visit to Pablo, Montana, dots the Orediggers schedule this week. MTT travels to Salish Kootenai College with a likely chance of moving above .500.

### Montana Western Bulldogs

The Bulldogs get Benedictine-Mesa in a neutral

site game.

The Bulldogs shouldn't have much trouble maintaining their strong record ahead of a Jan. 4 date in Helena with Carroll College.

### University of Providence Argonauts

No games scheduled.

### Rocky Mountain College Battlin' Bears

The Battlin' Bears have three neutral site games in three days. On Dec. 18 RMC faces Menlo, followed by Ottawa (Arizona) the next day and then Benedictine of Kansas to cap things off.



## WOMEN'S POWER RANKINGS

ERIK ANDERSEN  
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*Here's a look at how the Frontier Conference teams are doing each week:*

### 1. No. 6 Lewis-Clark State College Warriors

The Warriors may have some chinks in their armor, but they're still the indisputable No. 1 team in the Frontier — at least for now. The Warriors have already equaled their loss total (two) from last season during a 35-2 season that culminated in a championship loss. The Warriors started off 9-2, but have dropped two games to Eastern Oregon.

That same Mountaineers team dropped games to Montana Tech and Montana Western, perhaps suggesting the Warriors may be vulnerable this season. Or maybe the Mountaineers just matched up particularly well with the Warriors. Whatever the case may be, the Warriors debunked any theories in the opening week of conference with a win at home over Western and a road win over Montana Tech.

### 2. No. 12 Montana Western Bulldogs

The rest of the rankings get a bit more difficult. Six teams are 1-1 and only Montana Tech is 0-2. Due to Western's five-point loss at Lewis-Clark State College, the Bulldogs earn the second spot this week. Western has compiled a 7-2 record with losses to MSU-Billings and LCSC. The Bulldogs played a decent nonconference schedule and don't have any bad losses.

### 3. No. 21 Carroll College Saints

Carroll entered the Frontier slate with arguably the most nonconference hype. Carroll defeated Boise State in

an exhibition and looked on their way to a strong opening week. Then, a loss at Havre to begin conference put the Saints in a 24-hour funk. The Saints recalibrated, shifting their starting lineup, and found success at Providence. The 1-1 start on the road is good for No. 3 this week.

### 4. Rocky Mountain College Battlin' Bears

The Battlin' Bears have started the season as road warriors, playing six of their first seven on the road and compiling a 6-1 record. The wins may not be over the most difficult opponents, but RMC still has learned how to win

on the road. The Battlin' Bears opened up conference play with road tests, too, and split 1-1, winning convincingly in Havre, and then falling to Providence in Great Falls on the second night of a back-to-back. Rocky's win in Havre gives it the No. 4 slot this week.

### 5. University of Providence Argonauts

With a home slate to open up conference, the Argonauts get the nod here due mostly to their win over Rocky Mountain College (our No. 4 team this week). Providence's 10-2 record is impressive with quality wins over opponents, but a 13-point loss to Carroll in Great Falls doesn't help do the Argonauts any favors this week.

### 6. No. 22 Montana State-Northern Skylights

Northern gets credit for defeating Carroll, but drops to the fifth slot for splitting its opening conference schedule at home. The Skylights had nearly a week to prepare for Rocky and instead took a 15-point loss to the Battlin' Bears. To their credit, they did bounce back a night later to defeat Carroll by 11, but splitting at home doesn't look as good.

### 7. Montana Tech Orediggers

A consolation of last place on the power rankings is what the Orediggers receive for going 0-2 to open Frontier Conference play. The Orediggers arguably had the most difficult schedule to open up the Frontier, battling both Western and Lewis-Clark State College. MTT fell by eight in Dillon and then lost by just three at home against the Warriors. Though the losses were close, they are still losses at the end of the day.



## AROUND THE FRONTIER CONFERENCE

ERIK ANDERSEN  
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Aside from the Saints' trip to Hawaii, here's a look at what the rest of the Frontier Conference is up to from Dec. 14-21.

### Lewis-Clark State Warriors

The Warrior stay light with their nonconference bridge.

LCSC plays Salish Kootenai in consecutive nights and then takes a long holiday break before conference play resumes on Jan. 4.

### MSU-Northern Skylights

MSU-N's schedule resembles LCSC with a pair of games against a Native American school. The Skylights host Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish on Dec. 15 and Dec 16

this week.

### Rocky Mountain College Battlin' Bears

The Bears' put together an Arizona road trip that will continue their massive road swing to open the season. Rocky visits Ottawa (Arizona) on Dec. 15, follows that up with a neutral site game against Benedictine—Mesa

and then closes out the trip with a visit to Arizona. When it's all said and done, the Battlin' Bears will have played 9 of 10 games on the road to open up the season. Somebody tell coach Wes Keller it's OK to play basketball in Billings.

### Montana Tech Orediggers

Do not play.

### Montana Western Bulldogs

The Bulldogs take a trip to California to battle a down La Sierra program and a tough Westmont squad in consecutive nights. The pair of road games will be a first for the Bulldogs this season.

### University of Providence Argonauts

Do not play.



# Imhoff

From 2

history from Purdue, values education. Unlike many NCAA D-I schools who make a mockery of the term student-athlete, to Cunningham the work in the classroom is equally, if not more, important than the on-court product.

Yet, in Imhoff's case – and Cunningham will dutifully remind you – Imhoff is a chemist on and off the court. The 6-foot-6 big man breaks molecules down with ease, and perhaps breaks down opposing defenses even easier.

It's tough to picture now, but Imhoff had few suitors after his senior year of high school. Former top Saints assistant Carlito Labarda jr., who now is the head coach of Eastern Oregon, found Imhoff and helped the kid from California realize a dream: earning a scholarship to play college basketball.

When you speak with Labarda, who is developing a culture in his first year at EOU, it's very clear of his continued investment in Carroll College. He follows the Saints. He feels slighted when CC players and coaches aren't recognized. And he, perhaps better than anyone, knows Imhoff's value.

"Imhoff is a beast," Labarda said over the phone recently. "He may be national player of the year. It's a shame he wasn't preseason pick of the year for Frontier."

That sentiment is shared largely around Carroll.

Dom Robinson, the electric scoring guard from Western, received the preseason player of the year acknowledgement. Most people around Carroll feel



**PLEASE SEE IMHOFF**, Page 10

Ryan Imhoff isn't not upset he was not named the preseason player of the year for the Frontier Conference. The postseason honor is more important to him.

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## Getting to know...

# Matt Wyman

**Hometown:** Great Falls**Height:** 6-foot-7**Year:** Junior**Major:** Biology**Favorite food:** Ice cream**Favorite music:** Country**Favorite show:** The Office**Favorite sport besides basketball:** Tennis**Favorite game:** Cribbage (with grandpa)**Basketball player:** Giannis Antetokounmpo**Favorite place to go in Helena:** Hauser Lake**Favorite outdoor activity:** Golf**Something people don't know about him:** Taking a piano class**Random talent you have that not many people know about:** "I have extra large hands."**If you didn't play basketball how would you spend your time:** Traveling**Hardest thing you've ever done:** Organic chemistry final

## Getting to know...

# Hannah Dean

**Hometown:** Gardiner**Height:** 6-foot-1**Year:** Junior**Major:** Accounting and sports management (double major)**Favorite food:** Chocolate chip pancakes**Favorite music:** Country**Favorite show:** This Is Us**Favorite sport besides basketball:** Volleyball**Favorite game:** Uno**Favorite basketball:** Giannis Antetokounmpo**Favorite place in Helena:** Capitol**Favorite outdoor activity:** paddle boarding**If you didn't play basketball how would you spend your time:** Studying ("I'm kind of a nerd.")

Ryan Imhoff is averaging 19.9 points a game through nine games this season. He also averages 5.9 rebounds and 4.6 assists.

## Imhoff

### From 8

Robinson is definitely one of the best players in the conference, but, as if they'd feel any other way, the Saints believe Imhoff is the best.

"I think Ryan deserved pre-season player of the year," Saints forward Matt Wyman said. "Dom Robinson is a great player, too, and we saw that last year."

To be clear, this is not a battle of between Imhoff and Robinson. There is mutual respect. It's more of a subtle reminder that not everybody believes the undefeated No. 4 Saints and Imhoff are as good as their production suggests.

"I don't think Ryan cares about that stuff," Cunningham said. "What I do think our guys are aware of is that our senior class, ever since they got here, largely has been maybe a little overlooked."

Cunningham will remind his players, too. A season after winning the conference and making the deepest run in the 2017 NAIA tournament of any Frontier team, the Saints were picked to finish second in conference. Imhoff, after being one of the most productive and efficient players in the Frontier, also was not picked as the favorite to win player of the year.

"Carson brings things up like that every once in a while," Imhoff said. "It fuels the fire here and there."

Whether people believe in the Saints, at least this much is clear: Imhoff has a chance to be the best player in the NAIA this season. And he's doing that while pursuing one of the most challenging majors Carroll offers.

"I just think it's fun to be able to coach him and to try to help facilitate his ability to perform in the classroom and on the court," Cunningham said. "What he's doing is really neat and really rare."





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