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# BRAWL OF THE WILD

INSIDE

## FUMBLE GAME

Looking back at last year's epic finish

## GREGORAK Q&A

'It was not OK to lose'

Montana State's Jalen Cole tackles Montana's Jerry Louie-McGee in last year's Brawl of the Wild.

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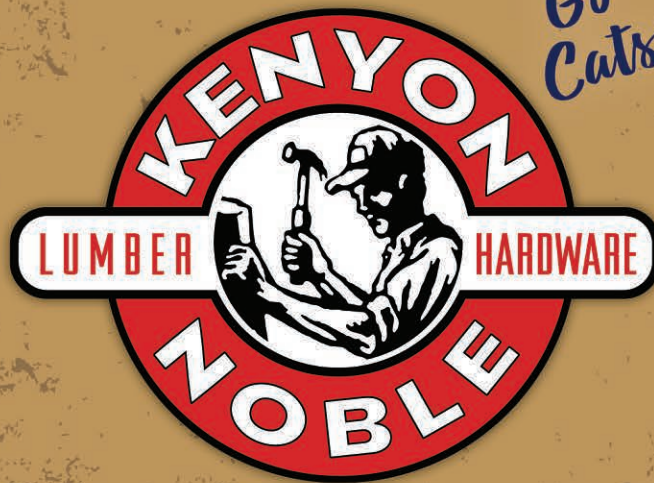


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## BRAWL OF THE WILD | 'THE FUMBLE'

# GREATEST BRAWL OF THEM ALL?

## Last year's thriller in Missoula will be tough to top

**GREG RACHAC**  
406mtsports.com

BOZEMAN — The looks on the two men's faces on that day last November could not have contrasted more. But they nevertheless expressed the same emotion: Disbelief.

Jeff Choate sat down not long after his Montana State football team capped a surprising come-from-behind victory against heated rival Montana — in the most stunning way possible — and wasn't quite sure what to say.

"Some of it seems like a little bit of a blur right now," a wide-eyed Choate told the gathered media following the Bobcats' 29-25 victory in Missoula. "Processing all this is probably not going to hit me for a while."

Understandably so.

Montana coach Bobby Hauck was similarly dazed. His Grizzlies were rolling over MSU earlier in the day, seemingly poised to blow the Bobcats right out of Washington-Grizzly Stadium. But that didn't happen.

"I've got a pretty sour taste," said Hauck after coaching in his first Brawl of the Wild game since returning to the Grizzlies as coach 11 months earlier. "There's a lot of ways to find a way not to win, and this one's particularly gut-wrenching."

There was no other way to describe it.

To summarize, it was the Bobcats' third consecutive victory over the Grizzlies, which hadn't occurred since the mid-1980s. And the sheer impossibility of the way it transpired made the game one of the true classics in the long history of the rivalry.

A recap:

After trailing 22-0 in the first half the Bobcats reeled off 29 unanswered points, including three short touchdown runs by quarterback Troy Andersen. MSU took the lead on a 13-yard TD run by running back Logan Jones with 2:19 remaining, leaving the 26,508 in attendance reeling.

But Montana's Malik Flowers returned the ensuing kickoff 47 yards to the 50-



**TOMMY MARTINO, MISSOULIAN**

Montana State tight end Ryan Davis, center, carries the Great Divide trophy with Walker Cozzie, left, and Grant Collins, right, after the Bobcats beat the Montana Grizzlies 29-25 last year in the 118th Brawl of the Wild at Washington-Grizzly Stadium. Montana has lost three straight to Montana State.

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## BRAWL OF THE WILD | 'THE FUMBLE'

## Thriller

From 4

yard line, setting the Grizzlies up with great field position and a chance to steal victory from defeat.

Quarterback Dalton Sneed quickly completed passes to running back Adam Eastwood, Jerry Louie-McGee and Keenan Curran as the Grizzlies moved inside MSU's 10-yard line. Sneed then rushed five yards to the 4, and Eastwood carried the ball for three more yards to the 1.

There were 14 seconds on the clock, and Montana, on the doorstep of a wild victory, called time out.

But that's when things got positively crazy.

From the 1-yard line, Sneed lined up in the shotgun with Eastwood at his side. The ball was snapped, Sneed handed it to Eastwood and he crossed the goal line with ease.

Touchdown. Game over. Right?

It would have been, but a split second before the play began Choate had called time out and the official's whistle negated the play. As he told it, Choate wanted to see what formation the Grizzlies would line up in before deciding what to do defensively.

Only his players weren't aware.

"The first play where they thought they scored, apparently (the coaches) knew we were going to take a timeout but they didn't tell any of us," MSU defensive lineman Tucker Yates said. "Choate didn't tell any of the defensive guys.

"We called a super, super base play that isn't normally a goal-line play so we were like, 'What the heck? We're calling this?' So we were all surprised."

As the teams lined up again, the Grizzlies showed the same formation. Though the Bobcats, on the contrary, were lined up in their heavy goal-line set.

The ball was snapped. Again. Same play.

This time, Eastwood was met hard at the line of scrimmage by Yates and linebacker Grant Collins. The ball popped out. Bobcats defensive lineman Derek Marks landed on it to snuff out Montana's scoring threat and cap the most consequential goal-line stand in rivalry history.

MSU's offense then ran out the final 10 seconds and the Bobcats had won. It was a victory that clinched their first postseason berth in four years.

The Grizzlies had lost, ending their season.



TOMMY MARTINO, MISSOULIAN

Montana center Cody Meyer reacts after running back Adam Eastwood fumbled the ball on the goal line to lose the Brawl of the Wild for Montana last year. The Grizzlies lost to the Bobcats 29-25 for the third time in a row in the 118th Brawl of the Wild Nov. 17, 2018, in Missoula.

Emotions ran deep in the immediate aftermath. The Grizzlies, of course, were crushed.

"It was tough," Eastwood, a sophomore on this year's Griz team, told 406mtsports.com. "I wish I could go back and change it. I can't. It happened."

"It was definitely tough on him," Sneed said. "No one wants to be in that position. It's (your) worst nightmare."

The Bobcats were naturally elated, and it showed on the field. Their defense made a play with their backs to the wall to preserve its third consecutive win over Montana.

Yates, a Colstrip product whose eligibility ended after last season, was officially credited with the forced fumble but those within the MSU football program said Collins, who was a senior out of Bozeman High at the time, helped dislodge the ball.

"I gave him a good pop and then Grant

came in and finished him off and the ball came out," Yates explained. "We're never going to forget that play. That's going to be special between me and Grant for a long time."

Whether it's the greatest Brawl of them all is up for debate. MSU fans will probably say it is. Griz fans would just as soon forget it.

Either way, it has to rank right up there with the 1997 game in Bozeman — in which a deep pass from UM quarterback Brian Ah Yat to Helena product Justin Olsen set up a 37-yard field goal by Kris Heppner as time expired to give the Griz a 27-25 victory and continue a winning streak that would eventually reach 16 in a row.

A year removed from what some described as a "miracle" in Missoula, the memories are still fresh.

Last year, a playoff berth was on the line. In the 119th Brawl of the Wild this

season at Bobcat Stadium in Bozeman, there could be similar spoils up for grabs.

By early November the Grizzlies were a game back of league-leading Weber State in the Big Sky standings, as the second year of Hauck's second stint as coach was producing more consistent performances — and more consistent winning.

The Bobcats were also chasing a playoff berth in Choate's fourth year at the helm, and were one game back of the Grizzlies in the league standings.




The only thing that's certain right now is that the Great Divide Trophy has taken up residence in the locker room at Montana State for the past three years — and that Montana desperately wants to take it back.

How will the drama unfold this time? Sit back, relax and enjoy.

Email Greg Rachac at Greg.Rachac@406mtsports.com or follow him on Twitter at @gregrachac



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BRAWL OF THE WILD | TY GREGORAK

# ‘IT WAS NOT OK TO LOSE’

Ex-UM, MSU coach  
Gregorak gives look  
inside Cat-Griz rivalry

**FRANK GOGOLA**  
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**T**y Gregorak knows one thing for sure come Nov. 23: He'll be warm while watching the Brawl of the Wild football game.

The former assistant coach and defensive coordinator at both Montana and Montana State will either be watching the game from the comfort of his home or calling it on TV in a broadcast booth at Bobcat Stadium.

Wherever Gregorak is that day, it'll be just the second time in 17 years that he won't be coaching in the heated in-state rivalry. That prospect started to hit him as the calendar turned to November and the games started meaning more in the race for the conference title and playoffs.

“The closer we get to the Brawl, it's going to be weird not being in a Brawl for the first time in a long time,” Gregorak said after a recent family dinner, which he didn't get to have too often while coaching college football. “It'll be interesting not being a part of a Brawl — that's for sure.”

Gregorak has a unique vantage point on the rivalry, coaching on both sides. He worked at Montana from 2003-09 and 2011-15, and at Montana State from 2016-18.

Adding to that unique standing is that Gregorak worked under the two coaches who are currently leading the Griz and the Cats, Bobby Hauck and Jeff Choate, respectively.

Whether he was at Montana or Montana State, Gregorak was a regular winner in the series. He went 12-3 overall and 6-1 as a defensive coordinator.

“There's nothing like winning this game,” Gregorak said. “People outside of our borders don't understand how great of a rivalry this really is.”



**TOM BAUER, MISSOULIAN**

Former Montana and Montana State defensive coordinator Ty Gregorak talks with former Grizzly cornerback Nate Harris in this photo taken during a playoff game at North Dakota State four years ago. When it comes to the Brawl of the Wild, Gregorak says his former boss, current Griz head coach Bobby Hauck, “genuinely taught us as coaches how to hate the opponent.”



## Rivalry

From 8

### 'Not OK to lose'

Gregorak was one of those people outside of the borders at first, growing up in Washington and playing at Colorado.

He came to Montana in 2003 to coach safeties under Hauck, who he worked for at Montana through 2009. Gregorak credits Hauck, a Griz assistant under Don Read in the 1980s, with instilling in him the mentality needed to win in the rivalry.

"Bobby genuinely taught us as coaches how to hate the opponent," Gregorak said. "This isn't an everyday thing, but on that Saturday every year, you have to hate the guy in front of you.

"One of my biggest takeaways, I'll never forget the feeling that it was not OK to lose. It's unacceptable to lose this game. For six days, that's what you're trying to pound into your kids' heads is throw the records out because this game's not OK to lose. It's unacceptable to lose this game because we get to say we won the Brawl for the next 364 days of the year."

Gregorak knows about big-time rivalries, playing in Colorado-Nebraska and coach-

ing as a graduate assistant in the Apple Cup between Washington and Washington State. As a football fan, he knows about The Game, the Iron Bowl and the Civil War.

He feels the Brawl of the Wild is on that same level as a natural rivalry, although just on a smaller scale.

"There's a different level of intensity with this game," Gregorak said before running through the history of the Brawl of the Wild. "For being a non-Montana guy — but I've basically spent my entire adult life in Montana — I took a lot of pride in the game.

"I won't lie — that pride and passion, I learned it from Bobby Hauck. All I did was bring it here to Bozeman with me. I tried to make it extremely clear in those three weeks over the last three years to the Montana State defense and to the Montana State linebackers that I coached that it was not OK to lose."

Gregorak took that mentality to Montana State, where he worked under Choate, who grew up in Idaho and played college football at Montana Western.

He noticed both Choate and Hauck are similar in placing emphasis on defense and special teams. Then there's their passion for football, although Hauck can speak in a reserved tone with coded language while

Choate will say exactly what he's thinking.

Both of them take the rivalry serious, Gregorak noted, which is why Hauck went 5-2 against the Cats in his first stint and why Choate has gone 3-0 so far.

"I think the ones that try to downplay the game are the ones that end up usually on the losing end," Gregorak said. "You try to go into it with the same focus. Nine out of 10 kids and coaches like a routine, so you don't want to steer too far from that routine.

"But it's not just another game. That's the thing. If there's ever been coaches or players that tried to look at it as just another game, they probably failed in the outcome because it's not another game. It is *the* game."

### 'You can't write it'

Gregorak was baptized into the rivalry quickly, losing his first game and two of his first three. After that he won 11 of 12, including six in the row, with three at each school.

"You almost remember the losses differently than the wins," Gregorak said. "I could tell you more about the three losses — in 2003, 2005 and 2012 — than I can probably tell you about the 12 wins."

The first loss is ingrained in Gregorak's memory, but not for why many would think.

Montana State plays a highlight video of the rivalry 24/7 on all the TVs in their football offices and locker room throughout the week of Cat-Griz. Gregorak, then a Griz coach, watched himself numerous times on the sideline after MSU's Corey Smith returned the opening kickoff 90 yards for a touchdown in the Cats' 2003 win.

"For the last three years, I'm watching this highlight reel, but I'm in different colors, I'm in maroon," Gregorak said. "I'm pretty sure I'm cussing on film. It's all silent. There's me at 24 years old on the sideline saying some expletives after we just scored on, and sure enough we lost. That's one of the three losses, and I'll never forget that day. They had the old grass. It was cold. It was so cold."

Gregorak still remembers the wins fondly, even though those losses stick with him.

One moment that stands out was 2008, when Montana warmed up in maroon and silver but came out of the tunnel in copper and gold. The Griz gave up an early field

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TOMMY MARTINO, MISSOULIAN

Former Montana defensive coordinator Ty Gregorak (right) works alongside former Montana defensive coordinator Jason Semore during a game in 2015. For the first time in a while, Gregorak will watch this year's Brawl of the Wild as a fan.

## Rivalry

From 8

goal but shut out the Cats the rest of the way in a 35-3 victory.

"We came out in those throwbacks, and the place just went absolutely nuts," Gregorak recalled. "I've seen some of the biggest game, the Appalachian States, the biggest crowds in history, and I'll just never forget that day."

Gregorak never lost to Montana as a Bobcat. He went 3-0 from 2016-18, pulling upsets along the way to help keep Montana out of the playoffs.

In that stretch was the 2018 game, widely considered one of the most memorable games in the series. Montana State made a goal-line stand by forcing and recover-

ing a fumble inside the 1-yard line in the closing second.

"Last year was about as crazy of a finish to a Brawl as there's ever been," Gregorak said. "I know the history about the rivalry, I know some of the great games that have happened, but last year was unbelievable."

"I'm just like, 'Wow, OK! It was just one of those games that you can't write it.'"

All three games against the Griz, including that one in particular, were emotional for Gregorak on a personal level. The 2018 game took place in Montana and came against Hauck, who had given him a coaching position as a youngster fresh out of college.

"To leave after 12 years and go to the rival, it was a much harder thing for me than I think a lot of people understand," Gregorak said. "I really loved Montana. I loved Mis-

soula. My children were born in Missoula. I loved the program. I loved the players. I really, really did love my time at Montana."

"But my time (in Bozeman) has been awesome."

### 'Never say never'

There could be more Cat-Griz games on the horizon for Gregorak as a coach.

He hasn't permanently stepped away from college coaching but is enjoying his time with his family. That includes coaching a flag football team on which his 4-year-old son played center with kindergartners and first graders.

"The first time he ever put in a mouthpiece, I taught him how to boil a mouthpiece, and when your little boy who's 4 looks up at you for the first time with his mouthpiece in, it's like, 'Wow, that's really

cool! It's been a lot of fun," Gregorak said.

Then there's also taking on the challenge of his new job as a sales representative for the Stryker Corporation. And he's even stayed around college football as he's got to call three games for ROOT Sports in a trial run this fall.

"As the games start meaning more and more each week — and I'm happy with where I am right now in my life, but people always ask me will I coach again, do I have that itch, and I'm really loving this new challenge in my life," Gregorak said.

"I've never said never. I've said that since last winter and spring. I'll never say never!"

Frank Gogola covers Griz football and prep sports for the Missoulian. Follow him on Twitter @FrankGogola or email him at frank.gogola@missoulian.com.

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## BRAWL OF THE WILD | UNIFORM WARS

# SURPRISE UNIFORM CHANGES ADDED SPICE TO RIVALRY

**BILL SPELTZ**

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*Editor's note: The following is a story written about the Brawl of the Wild back in November of 2012.*

Shrouded in secrecy, the Treasure State's football fashion wars commenced 11 years ago.

The first sortie was by far the most effective. Montana's memorable throwback uniform ambush on Cat-Griz day in 2008 seemed to ignite the home team in a 35-3 win at Washington-Grizzly Stadium.

"Everybody was so geared up to be in those uniforms," former UM defensive end Jace Palmer recalled of the day his team came out in copper and gold. "It was one of the louder times I've ever been in that stadium, sort of bringing people back to 1995 when we won the national championship in those colors."

Even former Montana State coach Rob Ash had to give credit to the Grizzlies on the idea.

"When they warmed up in one uniform and then came out in the retro uniforms," he said, "I just thought it was pretty cool. I didn't know the history of that (copper) color and it was unique to see."

"I remember when I played our uniform was exactly the same all the time, never changed. You had your home uniform and road uniform. That was it. And it was true across the board for everybody."

Since 2008 the Grizzlies and Bobcats have dabbled more in alternative dress for the Brawl of the Wild. The common denominator is the fun for each side using the element of surprise.

\*

Montana's trend-setting 2008 wasn't exactly spur-of-the-moment. To the contrary, the idea to wear throwbacks had been introduced by school boosters several years earlier, according to former athletic director Jim O'Day.

It suffered a quiet death then came back to life thanks to the Grizzly Scholarship Association and the UM vice president's office. But buying the copper and gold jerseys and white pants with a copper stripes was just



Montana's Chase Reynolds leaps over a Bobcat tackler in 2010. Despite the flashy new black uniforms, Montana lost the game 21-16.

MICHAEL GALLACHER, MISSOULIAN

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# BEST OF THE BRAWLS

The top 10 barnburners in the long history of the rivalry

**MISSOULIAN STAFF**

These aren't necessarily the closest or best-played of the 105 Brawls of the Wild, although this list features some barn-burners 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.

1

**2018: Bobcats win 29-25 in Missoula**

The Cats appeared to lose on an Adam Eastwood rushing touchdown with time running out. But wait! Montana State coach Jeff Choate called timeout before the play started. Montana was forced to do it all over again and opted for the same play with a disastrous result. Tucker Yates knocked the ball out of Eastwood's hands and the Griz were denied 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 Montana lost. The Grizzlies led 22-0 in the first half and 25-15 with under 8 minutes left before the Cats made an epic comeback.

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.

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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.

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 | UNIFORM WARS

## Uniforms

From 12

the start. It took a lot of planning and work behind the scenes.

A lot of the tactical stuff involved the helmets. The Griz ordered new ones early in the 2008 campaign. On the Thursday before their rivalry game they took the Griz logos off the helmets the players were using, put them on the new ones and had everyone fitted for the new headgear.

“The kids didn’t realize everything that was happening,” O’Day said. “They knew we were getting new helmets, but then we took the old ones and that’s when we were able to paint them and turn them back into the old colors.”

The players may not have known exactly what was going on but they had their suspicions.

“All the guys kept asking Stack, ‘Are we going throwback uniforms?’ ” Palmer said, referring to Rob Stack, an assistant to long-time Griz equipment manager Steve Hackney at the time. “They always told us, ‘Why would we spend thousands of dollars on that? We’re not Oregon!’ But it was on the backburner that whole (rivalry) week and we thought maybe they were just having fun with us.”

Palmer and his teammates discovered the truth the morning of the annual Brawl of the Wild.

“I remember coming into the locker room and you could see through the lockers the gold helmets and everyone got fired up,” he said. “It was neat to see the progression as everyone came in.”

The Grizzly players got in on the deception when they took the field for warmups in their usual maroon and silver. By that time there was a rumor the team was up to something. Seeing them in their usual attire was no doubt disappointing to some.

Only the most perceptive saw through the smokescreen.

“My dad saw us come out for warm-ups and noticed right away nobody had any pads in their pants,” Palmer said. “Plus nobody had tape on. That’s how he figured it out.”

“When we went back in to change it was a mad dash. Those things are made to be tight for a reason. We had about 15 or 20 minutes maybe, and a lot of times that stuff takes from 8 a.m. to game time to get done.”

\*

Neither team bothered with uniform tweaks in 2009. Then the war escalated in 2010. Call it a learning experience for both squads.



TOM BAUER, MISSOULIAN

Wide receiver Taylor Walcott, right, goes up for a pass while being defended by cornerback Nate Harris during a Montana football practice in 2013 at Washington-Grizzly Stadium. The Griz sported maroon helmets that season with a matte finish.

The Grizzlies learned that changing attire doesn’t necessarily translate into a home victory. Their decision to go with black jerseys and pants and orange numbers – a Halloween look, if you will – produced a scary result. The Cats beat the Griz in Missoula, 21-16.

Ash learned you’ve got to make arrangements well in advance if you plan to switch your attire in a road game.

“I can’t remember exactly how it started but we got this wild idea to do the gold jerseys,” he said. “We did not know Montana was already planning to do a black jersey.”

“When you choose to wear something other than white on the road you have to get permission from the (Big Sky) conference to make sure the jerseys are contrasting colors. Then you have to get permission from the home team. We got permission from the conference because our gold jersey would

contrast with the dark maroon jersey they always wear at home. Then we asked Montana and, gosh, it took them like four days to decide what to do. They had committee meetings and everything else, I think.”

Montana ended up shooting down the Cats’ idea. But Montana State had the last laugh.

“I was surprised they decided to do that, but they did,” Ash said of Montana. “We brought the jerseys with us and after the game I let the guys put them on.”

“We talked about how gold stands for first place. We won the conference so we put them on as a trophy type thing. Not to make a big statement about anything, but since we ordered them we decided to use them.”

Ash still remembers the big “Black Saturday” banner headline on the Missoulian sports page the day after the game.

“All coaches are looking for a motivational edge, but I think it can work both ways,” he offered. “I mean, sometimes wearing a new jersey can probably get you fired up. But in this case I think it was kind of a motivator that we were not allowed to wear those gold jerseys because we thought it was a reasonable request.”

“Honestly though, in the final analysis, it probably doesn’t matter what you’re wearing.”

\*

November of 2011 brought uniform surprises for both teams in Bozeman. Montana took the easier route – white facemasks and new logos on the helmets – and steamrolled the Cats on a snowy Saturday, 36-10.

Like Montana in 2008, Montana State went the extra mile for Cat-Griz 2011 by donning different helmets. Instead of the usual gold with a blue M, they went blue

**BRAWL OF THE WILD | UNIFORM WARS**

with a gold Bobcat logo.

Although his team lost, Ash still looks back with happy memories of the days leading up to the game.

“We ordered the helmets and stored them over in the blockhouse,” he recalled. “We didn’t let the guys walk from here over to there.”

Former Montana State wideout Tanner Bleskin said he and his teammates suspected something might be in the works since Montana had changed uniforms two of the three preceding years. But it was all just speculation.

“We kind of figured it out the week of,” he said. “Until that point we didn’t really have much clue what it was going to be.”

Once the players knew, it was a matter of keeping everyone quiet. That’s no easy task, according to Bleskin, because “it’s really hard not to tell family.”

“The whole mystery and suspense of keeping it secret was really kind of fun for everybody,” Ash said. “We wore our old helmets to warm up and then when we came out of the blockhouse it was all great, until we played the game.

“I don’t think we’ll wear them again any time soon. But they looked kind of cool, re-



TOM BAUER/MISSOULIAN

Wearing a throwback jersey, Montana receiver Marc Mariani catches a 37-yard touchdown pass as Montana State’s Cory Nicol defends in Montana’s 35-3 victory in 2008 at Washington-Grizzly Stadium.

ally. We ended up selling them and it was a good fundraiser. We didn’t lose any money!”

Exactly how much impact a uniform change has on a program – before, during and months after – is hard to calculate. Bleskin is not convinced it’s harmless.

“It’s cool to be in something different, a one-time deal,” he said. “But it also has the



PHOTO BY TOM BAUER/MISSOULIAN

Montana football player Brent Russum celebrates in the final seconds of the Grizzlies’ 35-3 victory over Montana State in 2008 at Washington-Grizzly Stadium.

potential to be a huge distraction because at the end of the day it’s just about football.

“The whole key is to get over it quick. Let the fans be in awe of the uniforms but when game time comes you have to be focused on your assignments.”

If you don’t think uniforms are significant, try tagging along with Ash or former Griz head coach Mick Delaney on a recruiting visit. Inside every young man is a little boy who loves to don something different.

“It’s not the uniform that wins football games, but it’s important to them,” Delaney said. “It’s one of those things I think is good.

“You know Oregon, they change every single week. Everybody looks every week to see what the heck they’re doing. That probably justifies the purpose of doing it because it calls attention to your program in a positive way, even though there’s likes or dislikes as far as the color schemes or the throwbacks or whatever it may be. It brings more attention from the general public.”

With tough economic times taking their toll on athletic programs, it’s hard to say when the Cats and/or Griz will bust out new uniforms again. But the idea they might adds intrigue to a storied rivalry.

“It makes it a little more exciting,” O’Day said, “because you never know when somebody is going to do something or if they’re not going to do it. There’s always going to be talk centered around what might happen.”

Bill Speltz is in his 13th year as Missoulian Sports Columnist. He also guides the sports dept., scheduling day-to-day coverage. Do you have a story idea? Email Bill at bill.speltz@missoulian.com.

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# YEAR-BY-YEAR

Since 1897, the Cat-Griz rivalry has captivated the state

**Montana 18, Montana State 6**  
Game No. 1 - 1897, Missoula.

**Montana 6, Montana State 0**  
Game No. 2 - 1898, Bozeman.

**Montana 16, Montana State 0**  
Game No. 3 - 1898, Missoula.

**Montana State 6, Montana 0**  
Game No. 4 - 1899, Missoula.

**Montana State 38, Montana 0**  
Game No. 5 - 1899, Bozeman.

**Montana State 12, Montana 11**  
Game No. 6 - 1900, Missoula.

**Montana State 31, Montana 0**  
Game No. 7 - 1901, Bozeman.

**Montana State 38, Montana 0**  
Game No. 8 - 1902, Missoula.

**Montana State 13, Montana 6**  
Game No. 9 - 1903, Bozeman.

**Montana 79, Montana State 0**  
Game No. 10 - 1904, Missoula.

**Montana 0, Montana State 0**  
Game No. 11 - 1908, Missoula.

**Montana State 5, Montana 0**  
Game No. 12 - 1908, Bozeman.

**Montana 3, Montana State 0**  
Game No. 13 - 1909, Bozeman.

**Montana 15, Montana State 5**  
Game No. 14 - 1909, Missoula.

**Montana 0, Montana State 0**  
Game No. 15 - 1910, Bozeman.

**Montana 10, Montana State 0**  
Game No. 16 - 1910, Missoula.

**Montana 7, Montana State 0**  
Game No. 17 - 1912, Bozeman.

**Montana 39, Montana State 3**  
Game No. 18 - 1912, Missoula.

**Montana 7, Montana State 0**  
Game No. 19 - 1913, Bozeman.

**Montana 20, Montana State 0**  
Game No. 20 - 1913, Missoula.

**Montana 26, Montana State 9**  
Game No. 21 - 1914, in Missoula.

**Montana 6, Montana State 6**  
Game No. 22 - 1916, in Bozeman.

**Montana 9, Montana State 7**  
Game No. 23 - 1917, Missoula.

**Montana 6, Montana State 6**  
Game No. 24 - 1919, Bozeman.

**Montana 28, Montana State 0**  
Game No. 25 - 1920, Missoula.

**Montana 14, Montana State 7**  
Game No. 26 - 1921, Bozeman.

**Montana 7, Montana State 6**  
Game No. 27 - 1922, Missoula.

**Montana 24, Montana State 13**  
Game No. 28 - 1923, Bozeman.

**Montana 29, Montana State 7**  
Game No. 29 - 1925, Missoula.

**Montana 27, Montana State 0**  
Game No. 30 - 1926, Butte.

**Montana 6, Montana State 0**  
Game No. 31 - 1927, Butte.

**Montana 0, Montana State 0**  
Game No. 32 - 1928, Butte.

**Montana State 14, Montana 12**  
Game No. 33 - 1929, Butte.

**Montana 13, Montana State 6**  
Game No. 34 - 1930, Butte.

**Montana 37, Montana State 6**  
Game No. 35 - 1931, Butte.

**Montana State 19, Montana 7**  
Game No. 36 - 1932, Butte.

**Montana 32, Montana State 0**  
Game No. 37 - 1933, Butte.

**Montana 25, Montana State 0**  
Game No. 38 - 1934, Butte.

**Montana 20, Montana State 0**  
Game No. 39 - 1935, Butte.

**Montana 27, Montana State 0**  
Game No. 40 - 1936, Butte.

**Montana 19, Montana State 0**  
Game No. 41 - 1937, Butte.

**Montana 13, Montana State 0**  
Game No. 42 - 1938, Butte.

**Montana 6, Montana State 0**  
Game No. 43 - 1939, Butte.

**Montana 6, Montana State 0**  
Game No. 44 - 1940, Butte.

**Montana 23, Montana State 13**  
Game No. 45 - 1941, Butte.

**Montana 20, Montana State 7**  
Game No. 46 - 1946, Butte.

**Montana State 13, Montana 12**  
Game No. 47 - 1947, Butte.

**Montana 14, Montana State 0**  
Game No. 48 - 1948, Butte.

**Montana 34, Montana State 12**  
Game No. 49 - 1949, Butte.

**Montana 33, Montana State 0**  
Game No. 50 - 1950, Butte.

**Montana 38, Montana State 0**  
Game No. 51 - 1951, Bozeman.

**Montana 35, Montana State 12**  
Game No. 52 - 1952, Missoula.

**Montana 32, Montana State 13**  
Game No. 53 - 1953, Bozeman.

**Montana 25, Montana State 21**  
Game No. 54 - 1954, Missoula.

**Montana 19, Montana State 0**  
Game No. 55 - 1955, Bozeman.

**Montana State 33, Montana 14**  
Game No. 56 - 1956, Missoula.

**Montana State 22, Montana 13**  
Game No. 57 - 1957, Bozeman.

**Montana State 20, Montana 6**  
Game No. 58 - 1958, Missoula.

**Montana State 40, Montana 6**  
Game No. 59 - 1959, Bozeman.

**Montana 10, Montana State 6**  
Game No. 60 - 1960, Missoula.

**Montana State 10, Montana 9**  
Game No. 61 - 1961, Bozeman.

**Montana 36, Montana State 19**  
Game No. 62 - 1962, Missoula.

**Montana State 18, Montana 3**  
Game No. 63 - 1963, Bozeman.

**Montana State 30, Montana 6**  
Game No. 64 - 1964, Missoula.

**Montana State 24, Montana 7**  
Game No. 65 - 1965, Bozeman.

**Montana State 38, Montana 0**  
Game No. 66 - 1966, Missoula.

**Montana State 14, Montana 8**  
Game No. 67 - 1967, Bozeman.

**Montana State 29, Montana 24**  
Game No. 68 - 1968, Missoula.

**Montana 7, Montana State 6**  
Game No. 69 - 1969, Bozeman.

**Montana 35, Montana State 0**  
Game No. 70 - 1970, Missoula.

**Montana 30, Montana State 0**  
Game No. 71 - 1971, Bozeman.

**Montana State 21, Montana 3**  
Game No. 72 - 1972, Missoula.

**Montana State 33, Montana 7**  
Game No. 73 - 1973, Bozeman.

**Montana State 43, Montana 29**  
Game No. 74 - 1974, Missoula.

**Montana State 20, Montana 3**  
Game No. 75 - 1975, Bozeman.

**Montana State 21, Montana 12**  
Game No. 76 - 1976, Missoula.

**Montana State 24, Montana 19**  
Game No. 77 - 1977, Bozeman.

**Montana 24, Montana State 8**  
Game No. 78 - 1978, Missoula.

**Montana State 38, Montana 21**  
Game No. 79 - 1979, Bozeman.

## 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.

## Brawl

From 20

### 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 aeri-als.

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

Please see **BRAWL**, Page 22

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## Brawl

From 21

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.

### 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.

“Pooor 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. Dutton’s Nate Odden promptly intercepts.

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

## BRAWL OF THE WILD

### Brawl

From 22

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 Yohanse 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.

### 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.



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## Brawl

From 23

### 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 Humphery 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 Humphery, 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 Humphery 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 Humphery 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 Humphery'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

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## Brawl

From 24

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 edned 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."

## 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



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## Brawl

From 26

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 deflected 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 Schreiber 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 Reynolds 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. Da-

vis 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 Schreiber (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 Krui-

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 Schreiber, 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.

## 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

Please see **BRAWL**, Page 30



TOM BAUER, MISSOULIAN

A Griz player tries to avoid an MSU defender in the 2008 Brawl of the Wild. The Griz won the game 35-3.

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## Brawl

From 28

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 at 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 again. 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 score 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 build 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 force a three-and-out, lose a fumble but force another three-and-out. They start at their own 12-yard line with 2:08 left, advance to the Montana State 28-yard line but through four incomplete passes and turn the ball over on downs with four seconds remaining. It's Bob Stitt's last game coaching Montana.

## Montana State 29, Montana 25

Game No. 118 - 2018, Missoula.

Both teams entered at 6-4 with identical postseason aspirations. Both teams were riding two-game win streaks. The Cats appeared to lose on an Adam Eastwood rushing touchdown with time running out. But wait! Montana State coach Jeff Choate called timeout before the play started. Montana was forced to do it all over again and opted for the same play with a disastrous result. Tucker Yates knocked the ball out of Eastwood's hands and the Griz were denied 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 goat. The Grizzlies led 22-0 in the first half and a 25-15 lead with under 8 minutes left but couldn't hold on.

The Pride of Dillon, quarterback Troy Andersen, was the MVP for the Bobcats. He rushed for 107 net yards and three touchdowns. His passing wasn't too shabby either as he completed 15 of 24 passes for 158 yards with no interceptions.

Montana quarterback Dalton Sneed had a good day passing the ball, completing 22 of 34 attempts for 354 yards and two touchdowns. But Montana managed just 100 net rushing yards to Montana State's 229.

# WE'RE READY FOR THE BRAWL!

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