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GRIZZLY GAME DAY

Missoulian

ELECTRIC ELI

GILLMAN GRATEFUL TO BE A GRIZZLY

SHANNA MADISON, MISSOULIAN

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'This place has been nothing but great'

Gillman closes in on Griz records as he enters Year 5

CARSON CASHION
406 MT Sports

Perhaps the biggest story of the Montana football team's off-season, after the departure of long-time head coach Bobby Hauck, was the return of star running back Eli Gillman.

Retaining the Minnesota native was one of the top priorities in the early stages of Bobby Kennedy's tenure as the Grizzlies' first-year head coach. With 3,677 career rushing yards to his name, as well as 49 rushing touchdowns and 561 career receiving yards, Gillman has served as an anchor for Montana's offense for three seasons.

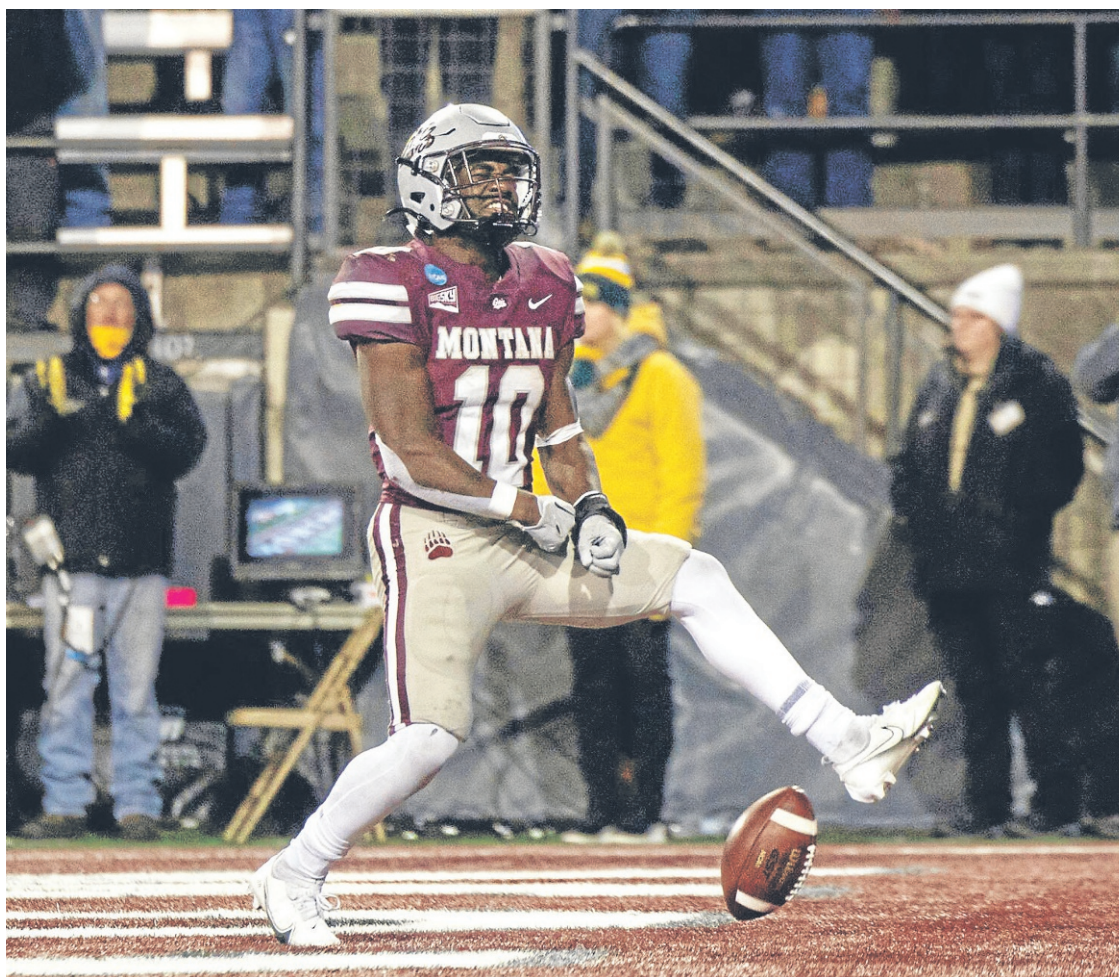
As the window for transfer-outs opened back up for 15 days following Hauck's departure, in accordance with NCAA rules, Montana fans anxiously waited to see whether Gillman would be returning to Missoula. In an age of the transfer portal where FCS football programs often find their stars poached by the FBS, the concerns were fair.

For Gillman, staying with the Grizzlies was not as hard of a decision as an outsider might have thought.

"I really just prayed about it," Gillman told 406 MT Sports during preseason camp. "I've always wanted to finish here since I walked in here for the very first time, like this place has been nothing but great to me."

As Montana begins its 2026 campaign Saturday at Washington-Grizzly Stadium against Southern Utah, Gillman will be embarking on his last go-round with the Griz. He's 393 yards shy of the all-time rushing record and three touchdowns shy of the rushing touchdown record. Surpassing those marks feels inevitable, assuming he has a healthy season.

Watching an all-time great in



BEN ALLAN SMITH, MISSOULIAN

Montana running back Eli Gillman (10) celebrates a touchdown during the FCS semifinal playoff game against North Dakota State on Dec. 16, 2023, at Washington-Grizzly Stadium in Missoula. Gillman was named the FCS freshman of the year in the 2023 season.

real time is a treasure for any fan, across any sport. It's a treat Griz fans shouldn't take for granted this football season. From Gillman's perspective, though, he's focused on staying in the moment.

All throughout fall camp, Gillman said he's felt happier and more grateful for the experience than in past seasons.

"I should have had that perspective the whole time, to be honest," he joked. "But knowing it's your last one, you kind of naturally look at it differently."

"So yeah, I've been way happier."

Much of the offensive staff

that Gillman played for as a true freshman in 2022 has departed UM; running backs coach Justin Green now coaches at Washington State, then-offensive coordinator Timm Rosenbach stepped away from calling plays in 2023 before ending up at Cal Poly and the offensive line has been led by a rotating cast of position coaches.

Still in Missoula four years later is offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach Brent Pease. At the time Gillman arrived, Pease was a positional coach, leading the wide receivers, which he said allowed him to speak more freely about Gillman to his fellow coaches. Even from

his redshirt season, from his first fall camp with the Grizzlies, Gillman's strength and speed were evident to Pease.

"He maybe didn't do it as polished as he does now after being around for a number of years," Pease said, "but when the ball was in his hands, you knew he was going to either get the yardage needed, take the openings, block or hit the openings on time and run somebody over."

The Grizzlies' 2022 roster featured a strong running back room led by Nick Ostmo and including Isiah Childs, Marcus Knight and Xavier Harris. That running back room, alongside the efforts

of quarterbacks Lucas Johnson and Daniel Britt, led Montana to over 2,000 rushing yards. Burning Gillman's redshirt as a true freshman was never a serious discussion, Pease said, but the true freshman still found opportunities to produce.

Gillman scored in his collegiate debut against Eastern Washington, running for 65 yards on eight carries across two appearances. By his redshirt freshman season in 2023, he was an 1,000-yard all-purpose player.

One of his first signature performances came in the memorable FCS semifinal win over North Dakota State on Dec. 16, 2023. Gillman opened and closed the scoring against the Bison, taking an early 7-3 lead thanks to a goal-line rush and then breaking free for a 13-yard run in overtime.

Pease said he's seen the most growth from Gillman in both his ability to find a second gear after breaking through gaps, allowing him to create enough space to score his home-run touchdowns that Griz fans have come to expect. He's also seen growth in his general knowledge of the game, finding ways to combat what defenses can do to minimize his impact.

"You can be creative with him and he's not a guy you need a lot of reps to do it with," Pease added. "He's like (former Griz wide receiver) Mike Wortham. Show him, make him take a rep, and he'll figure it out."

Gillman reached 1,000 rushing yards in a single season for the first time as a redshirt sophomore in 2024, repeating the mark in 2025. His average yards-per-attempt number has stayed north of six in both seasons, scoring 15 and 21 rushing touchdowns in 2024 and 2025, respectively. His 21-touchdown campaign in 2025 ranks third on the all-time single-season rushing touchdown leaderboard for Griz football, helping earn him Big Sky Conference Offensive MVP honors.

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Davis ready to be WR1

California native is back after Freshman All-America season

FRANK GOGOLA
406 MT Sports

Brooks Davis is bigger — and potentially even better — heading into his third year with the Montana football team.

He has noticeably bulked up to 180 pounds in his 6-foot frame this offseason as he prepares for his second season of suiting up in college games. He broke out last year at 174 pounds after he redshirted at 168 as a freshman in 2024.

Davis earned Freshman All-America recognition and an All-Big Sky honorable mention nod last season. He even set the UM freshman record for receiving yards with 698. It was just his third season of playing in games at any level because he was late to football, joining as a high school junior.

He'll look to take his play to another level following his physical growth and continued maturation as a player. He's trying to do that under new receivers coach Eric Price, who was on staff last year as an offensive analyst and was hired for his current role after Bobby Kennedy was elevated to head coach.

The season opener will be Davis' first time in a game since he left with an apparent left leg injury in the 2025 finale in December. He returned for spring camp, had an undisclosed injury in summer player-run practices, he said, but was back making highlight-reel catches during fall camp in August.

"He's gotten a little bit stronger," Price said. "He was kind of skinny last year. Well, now he's put on a little muscle. He's probably got some more endurance because he can run through some



BEN ALLAN SMITH, MISSOULIAN

Montana wide receiver Brooks Davis (3) makes a break down the sideline past Montana State linebacker Cole Taylor on Nov. 22 at Washington-Grizzly Stadium in Missoula. Davis was a Freshman All-America selection in 2025.

things and he can make the contested catch.

"Now that he's played so much, he knows what to do, so now he's trying to take that to the next level.

We can move him around different positions now, try to get him the ball and have him make some plays for us. But I think changing his body has helped him a lot and

that's going to keep him healthy."

Davis spoke with the media during fall camp prior to No. 2 Montana's season opener against Southern Utah at 7 p.m. Saturday

in Washington-Grizzly Stadium. This interview has been edited for clarity and brevity.

Please see **DAVIS**, Page 7

HOW WE SEE THE BIG SKY

BILL SPELTZ
406 MT Sports

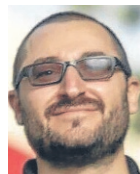
Unlike the Montana football team, Southern Utah didn't undergo a dramatic coaching transition in the offseason.

That's worth noting as the second-ranked, new-look Grizzlies make final preparations for their home debut against the unranked Thunderbirds Saturday night. Southern Utah won its last six games in 2025 and is most certainly not coming north simply to enjoy a Missoula sunset.



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The Thunderbirds are capable of ruining the Grizzlies' debut.

Southern Utah coach Coach DeLane Fitzgerald has four

seasons under his belt and you could argue he has a lot riding on this season. The Thunderbirds finished 7-5 in each of their past two campaigns and 6-5 in 2023. One has to wonder how long the powers that be at SUU will put up with barely over .500.

Like the Grizzlies, the Thunderbirds have a dynamic dual-threat at quarterback in Will Burns. The redshirt junior appeared in 11 games last season, rushing for 380 yards and four touchdowns while averaging nearly 7.8 yards per carry. The Griz will no doubt dare him to beat them through the air since he has limited passing experience, completing 22 of 31 attempts for 272 yards last season.

In the end, my guess is Southern Utah will have trouble keeping up with the Grizzlies, who boast a standout senior quarterback in Keali'i Ah Yat and stellar fifth-year running back Eli Gillman. Both teams will put up some points but Montana's crowd will be a disruptive factor as the Thunderbirds try to find a rhythm offensively.

Here's a look at this weekend's Big Sky Conference games:

SATURDAY

Southern Utah at No. 2 Montana, 7 p.m. TV: Scripps Sports. The new-look Grizzly defense has a lot to prove. Questions abound. Will it be better than the Montana defense that gave up 38 points at Idaho State last October and 48 at Montana State in December? Will it be far worse? Any longtime fan of college football knows weird stuff happens on opening day. College teams do not play exhibition games like NFL teams. They have to hit the ground running and sometimes there's some stumbling and falling down. Look for a close game through the first three quarters before Montana pulls away. The Griz may have an unproven offensive line, but Ah Yat and Gillman are special and they'll find a way to rack up a lot of points — with help from their friends. **Speltz:** Montana

38, Southern Utah 30. **Cashion:** Montana 38, Southern Utah 20. **Gogola:** Montana 42, Southern Utah 21. **Flores:** Griz 41, SUU 24.

No. 1 Montana State at Utah Tech, 8 p.m. TV: The Spot-MTN. Utah Tech had one player named to the Preseason All-Big Sky Conference team and he is, drumroll please, senior punter Ryan Marks. Not exactly the sort of impressive nugget that's going to make the Bobcats shake in their shoes. Better to have a punter that's anonymous and rarely seen. Montana State's punter may not make hardly any appearances in his team's road debut. Utah Tech is coming off a 2-10 season and managed just two touchdowns in its last three games (all losses). There was, however, one UTU home game last season that should serve as a warning for defending FCS champion Montana State. It came on opening night in St. George, Utah. The Trailblazers nearly knocked off then-seventh-ranked UC Davis, squandering a three-point lead in the final 13 minutes in a 31-24 loss. This year's opener for Utah Tech could also be close if Montana State shows up over-confident. But that's highly unlikely.

Speltz: Bobcats 41, Trailblazers 10. **Cashion:** Montana State 45, Utah Tech 10. **Gogola:** Montana State 49, Utah Tech 6. **Flores:** Cats 48, Utah Tech 7.

No. 6 UC Davis at Portland State, 1 p.m. TV: ESPN+. Portland State has a new coach this year in Chris Fisk, who posted a 48-22 record in seven seasons with Division II Central Washington. He has a tough hill to climb with his all-new staff. The Viks went 1-11 last season, with their only win coming in a shootout at Cal Poly. The Aggies are rock-solid across the field, featuring all-Big Sky and All-American players in all phases. Leading the way on offense is Walter Payton Preseason Watch List senior Samuel Gbatu, Jr. The 2025 Big Sky leader in receptions, receiving yards and receiving touchdowns is back for

his fifth season in Davis, California. **Speltz:** Aggies 44, Viks 13. **Cashion:** UC Davis 31, Portland State 10. **Gogola:** UC Davis 35, Portland State 9. **Flores:** Davis 38, PSU 10.

Eastern Washington at No. 25 Northern Arizona, 2 p.m. TV: ESPN+. Lumberjacks quarterback Ty Pennington received special recognition last week when he was included on the Panini Senior Bowl Top 300 list. He is one of 25 quarterbacks on the watch list for the preeminent college football all-star game and the only quarterback from the FCS. On top of that, he is one of only two FCS players at any position receiving the Senior Bowl salute. With Pennington at the controls, NAU is capable of big things this season — as long as he gets some blocking and the Jacks improve defensively. The Jacks allowed an average of 31.25 points per game last season. Eastern's defense also struggled last season, and offensively the Eagles averaged just 23.42 points per game. They'll need to kick it up a notch to stay with NAU in the Walkup Skydome. **Speltz:** Jacks 48, Eagles 27. **Cashion:** Northern Arizona 31, Eastern Washington 20. **Gogola:** Northern Arizona 34, Eastern Washington 24. **Flores:** NAU 31, EWU 21.

VMI at Idaho State, 4 p.m. TV: ESPN+. The Bengals are picked to finish fifth in the Big Sky and that reflects the league-wide respect coaches and media types have for ISU fourth-year skipper Cody Hawkins. Idaho State had the Montana Grizzlies in serious trouble in Pocatello last year before letting the Griz off the hook. Virginia Military Institute (VMI) was picked to finish last in the Southern Conference in the preseason coaches' poll. The Keydets were 1-11 last season, with their only win coming at home in September against the Division II Ferrum College Panthers. Look for ISU to steamroll. **Speltz:** Bengals 60, Keydets 16. **Cashion:** Idaho State 52, VMI 14. **Gogola:** Idaho

State 56, VMI 14. **Flores:** ISU 52, VMI 17.

FRIDAY

Weber State at Northern Colorado, 7 p.m. TV: ESPN+.

Both teams are picked to finish in the bottom half of the conference. The Bears appear to be a program on the rise under fourth-year head coach Ed Lamb. His team finished the 2025 season 4-8 overall and 2-6 in Big Sky play — the program's most conference wins since 2022 and the most overall wins since 2016. Lamb led Southern Utah for eight seasons, where he guided the Thunderbirds to a pair of conference championships. You could argue he's among the best head coaches in the league based on his resume. Weber State looked to the high school ranks to find its new coach last December. His name is Eric Kjar. **Speltz:** Bears 27, Wildcats 12. **Cashion:** Northern Colorado 28, Weber State 24. **Gogola:** Northern Colorado 31, Weber State 21. **Flores:** UNC 28, Weber 14.

Idaho at Cal Poly, 8 p.m. TV: ESPN. The Vandals are picked to finish seventh in the Big Sky and the Mustangs are picked to finish outside the top 10. Both teams ended up 2-6 in league play and 4-8 overall last season, which may surprise some folks. Cal Poly has a new head coach in Tim Skipper. You may recall he started the 2025 season at UCLA as special assistant to the head coach before being elevated to interim head coach following the Bruins' 0-3 start. Under his direction, the Bruins went 3-6 with wins over Penn State, Michigan State and Maryland. I'm going to show some faith in Skipper this week. **Speltz:** Mustangs 21, Vandals 20. **Cashion:** Cal Poly 31, Idaho 28. **Gogola:** Idaho 28, Cal Poly 17. **Flores:** Idaho 24, Cal Poly 20.

Bill Speltz is Missoulian sports editor. Contact him at bill.speltz@406mtsports.com or on Twitter @billspeltz

65	Jack Beardall	R-Fr.	OL	6-2	290	Sammamish, Wash.
66	Krush Sowers	R-So.	OL	6-3	300	Phoenix, Ariz.
67	Nesta Crowell	R-Fr.	OL	6-4	280	Honolulu, Hawaii
69	AJ Dutchover	R-Jr.	OL	6-3	295	Gilbert, Ariz.
70	Siale Uluave	R-Jr.	OL	6-5	390	Northridge, Calif.
72	Tanner Emery	Fr.	OL	6-4	265	Safford, Ariz.
73	Kauai Victorian	Jr.	OL	6-6	275	Los Angeles, Calif.
74	Elijah Harvey	R-Jr.	OL	6-5	320	Fresno, Calif.
75	Ethan Wagner	R-Fr.	OL	6-5	285	Apple Valley, Calif.
76	Brigham Rasmussen	Fr.	DT	6-5	290	Thatcher, Ariz.
77	Jalani Liva	R-Jr.	OL	6-3	300	Rancho Santa Margarita, Calif.
79	Josh Morin	Fr.	OL	6-5	245	Mesa, Ariz.
80	Antonio Walton	R-Fr.	WR	5-10	160	Los Angeles, Calif.
81	Exavier Williams	R-So.	WR	6-1	170	San Diego, Calif.
82	Logan Dunfield	Fr.	TE	6-5	240	Riverton, Utah
83	Bryson Bennett	R-Fr.	LS	5-11	220	Cedar City, Utah
83	Bryson Waterman	R-Jr.	WR	6-0	185	Bakersfield, Calif.
84	Khalil Rucker	Fr.	DT	6-4	250	Rancho Cucamonga, Calif.
85	Caden Lettis	R-Jr.	WR	6-3	205	Erie, Colo.
86	Gabe Ashworth	R-Fr.	TE	6-4	230	Spanish Fork, Utah
87	Chance Arbon	R-Sr.	WR	6-2	210	Moab, Utah
88	Hayden George	R-So.	TE	6-4	245	Lebanon, Ore.
89	Connor May	R-Jr.	TE	6-3	240	Glendora, Calif.
90	Zevon Shipman	Fr.	DT	6-1	280	Morgantown, W.Va.
93	Isaiah Blinkinsop	Fr.	DE	6-1	220	Sparks, Nev.
93	Jace Little	R-Fr.	DT	6-4	250	Paragonah, Utah
94	Spies Tia	Fr.	DE	6-4	250	Magna, Utah
95	Parker Kucifer	R-Jr.	K	6-3	215	Cedar City, Utah
96	Aiden Hall	Sr.	DE	6-4	250	Sparks, Nev.
97	Colten Swanson	Jr.	DE	6-3	250	Chandler, Ariz.
98	Jayden Wells	R-So.	DL	6-2	285	North Bend, Wash.

Gillman

From 2

The running back has accrued a catalogue of big-time runs. He scampered for 85 yards in the fourth quarter against UC Davis in 2023, a game-winning touchdown that still holds as the longest run of his career. With two minutes to go against Tennessee State in the fourth-quarter, he took a run outside to the left 59 yards to the house to ice the ballgame. Some of Pease's favorite runs from Gillman, though, aren't necessarily the longest.

"I've seen some of his toughest runs against Montana State when he made a gain of 3 or 4 yards," Pease said.

Much has changed for Gillman in the time it took to amass over 3,500 rushing yards, 53 all-purpose touchdowns, a Big Sky Freshman of the Year nod, multiple All-Big Sky selections and a Walter Camp FCS All-American pick.

What he thinks has changed the most, though, is his maturity.

"I feel like I'm naturally becoming like a leader," Gillman said. "You can see your people look at you for direction once you get older, and I feel like that's kind of starting to happen with me. I just feel like I've kind of gotten more mature as the years have gone on, with both football and life."

That maturity becomes evident in Gillman's perspective on his decision to stay at Montana for the 2026 season.

Five running backs were named to the Stats Perform All-American lists after the 2025 season, including Gillman. Aside from Yale's Josh Pitsenberger, who graduated and moved on to pro football, the remaining three besides Gillman all transferred to FBS schools. First-team selections Joshua Dye (Southern Utah) and Rodney Nelson (Monmouth) went to Ole Miss and Miami (OH), respectively, and fellow second-team selection alongside Gillman, L.J. Phillips Jr. (South Dakota), transferred to Iowa.

Gillman's decision is a unique one in today's world, Pease said, and it reminds him of a player



BEN ALLAN SMITH, MISSOULIAN

Montana running back Eli Gillman (10) runs the ball during the FCS quarterfinal football game against South Dakota on Dec. 13, 2025, at Washington-Grizzly Stadium in Missoula. Gillman has been inching closer to breaking multiple program records.

from his past in Ian Johnson. Johnson was a running back at Boise State while Pease served as the wide receivers coach in 2006, scoring the game-winning two-point conversion play for the Broncos over Oklahoma in the Fiesta Bowl.

Johnson stayed at Boise State and was named an All-American by Sports Illustrated. Gillman will leave the same kind of legacy to the Griz as Johnson did to the Broncos, Pease said.

"He (Johnson) understood what he became in his town, his community, and how they looked at him," Pease said.

"I've always told kids that coming to school here is not a four-year decision, it's a 40-year decision in your life. I think he understands what that 40-year decision is."

Gillman said that money was never going to be the primary motivator in leaving Missoula.

The parts of Zootown, and the University of Montana, that have made him fall in love with being a Grizzly would always outweigh potential financial gains from higher-level programs.

"Money comes and goes, there's opportunities (to make money) everywhere," Gillman said. "I knew if money was my main reason for trying to leave, then that I was doing something wrong."

Gillman said Kennedy quickly reached out to Gillman to begin talking about how the future of Grizzly football would look. The biggest point of emphasis, Gillman said, was reassurance that the brand and culture of Montana football he had come to know wasn't going anywhere.

By the end of the 15-day transfer portal window, Gillman, along with the rest of his team, was staying put. Zero players transferred out in the additional portal

window.

"He says 'The family you choose,' like he says that a lot, but you can actually feel it," Gillman said. "Not only just from him, but from the team as well."

Both Kennedy and first-year running backs coach Dominic Daste have complimented Gillman's work through fall camp. The running back is on a "pitch count," Daste said, in terms of his workload through practices, but his leadership has been a highlight.

"In terms of how he is as a leader in our meeting room, and how he does without the ball in his hands, and all those things where he's not necessarily in contact but how he leads by effort and everything else, he's doing a really good job," Daste said after a practice earlier this month. "In terms of intelligence and football I.Q., he's one of the highest guys on the team in that regard."

Kennedy emphasized combat-ing complacency with Gillman, as well as the rest of the team, as they work through fall camp and continue to strive for improvement.

"I've seen that (effort) out of Eli," Kennedy said after practice earlier this month. "To be quite frank, til' about mid-season last year, I didn't really know him that well, and I see some really positive things out of him. In terms of leadership, in terms of how he's working, how he's finishing runs, I really like where he is, but once again, if he thinks that's good enough, then he's not going to be as good as we know he can be."

Gillman trails Lex Hilliard (50) and Chase Reynolds (52) in the all-time rushing touchdowns record book. For rushing yards, he's behind Hilliard (4,018), Reynolds (4,067) and Yohance Humphrey (4,070).

Gillman downplays these records, saying that he obviously thinks about them as any human would but is instead focused on his team's success and letting those dominoes fall as they may. If there's one person that does care about those records, though, it's his play-caller.

By the time Gillman calls it a career, he should be the best runner to ever do it for the Grizzlies, Pease said.

"I got to do my job," Pease said. "I'm not afraid to put that thing in his hands, and I want him to achieve those, I really do."

The lone specific goal Gillman cited for the year speaks to his team-first and family-first mentality. His younger brother, Monte, has played for the Griz alongside Eli for two years now. The two have shared the field, Eli blocking for Monte on runs — "I'm always telling him he's making the wrong cut and stuff," Gillman joked — but he wants to find pay dirt alongside his brother.

"This year we're gonna get one," Gillman said. "We're gonna get in the end zone together for sure."

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Davis

From 3

Q: It's your third year here at Montana. How's everything going so far this camp?

A: It's been fantastic transitioning from spring. Kind of coming off an injury from PRPs (player-run practices) in the summer, finally getting out here in the heat and competing, it's been great.

Q: Coach has talked about some of your physical transformations you kind of went through this offseason. Can you speak to what your goals were and what you tried to do to change your body a little bit?

A: I'd just say get in the best condition as possible. Gaining weight, muscle so I can take some of those hits and just kind of build my game all around. So just getting bigger, faster and stronger every day.

Q: With the trio of you, Eli Gillman, Keali'i Ah Yat leading this offense, can you speak to being one of those guys leading this group as someone who was a big part of last year's offense and now you guys are bringing some new faces along, too?

A: It's an honor being looked at that way. That's kind of what I worked for. I'm very grateful and honored to be in this position. And bringing the young guys along because I was in that position coming in. So, yeah, it's an honor.

Q: Last year, you were kind of the breakout guy. This year, a lot of defensive coordinators are probably going to have your number circled on their game

plan. Knowing the expectations continue to rise in this offense for you, just how do you tackle a challenge like that?

A: Just take one play at a time. Perfecting the basics, never getting tired of the basics. Perfecting my craft. It's an honor. Coaches looking out for me, that's my goal. I always want to be the top of the depth chart. So just competing in every single rep.

Q: You got Landon Ransom on the opposite side of the field with you. What's that chemistry been like? How's the connection been building up early on this season? How excited are you to pair up with him this year?

A: It's been dope. He lives near me in the same apartments, so we've been hanging out, going over the plays, just kind of making each other better and competing off the field and just becoming good friends, so it's been really good.

Q: You've gotten to work with Jordan Dever, Korbin Hendrix, Lekeldrick Bridges for a couple years now. How have you seen those guys grow this year as they're trying to work their way into a potential starting spot?

A: I feel like everyone's doing great. Everyone's getting better. Learning from each other's mistakes. All just competing on the field, trying to push each other, become better every single play.

Q: With Eric Price taking over in the wide receiver room there, how have you seen him challenge or try to motivate your group of guys?

A: We had a really good

connection with him last year, so him bringing that with BK kind of having the same philosophy of going 100 percent, no wasted plays, just making each other better.

Q: That connection with Keali'i, how have you seen that grow from last year, offseason, this year? How have you guys maybe built that even more?

A: It's been growing from last season. I think all the work that we've been putting in over the summer, spring and last year, I think we're just getting better and better every day. So, it's going to be a great season.

Q: In terms of technical, like route running, timing, anything like that, where did you maybe want to hone in and focus on? Where can you see yourself improving the most?

A: I feel like I can get better at every aspect of my game. Every single day just trying to take one step forward. Perfecting the basics.

Q: Working with Michael Wortham last year, was there anything you took away from that season with him that you're going to carry over to try to help yourself improve?

A: The football experience. He was so smart on the field and especially off the field in the film room, weight room. Kind of just picking his brain. I'd say the biggest thing was him having the ball in his hands, like I'm trying to take stuff from his bag that he had last year.

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



SHANNA MADISON, MISSOULIAN

Montana wide receiver Brooks Davis (3) runs the ball during the college football game against Idaho on Sept. 27 at Washington-Grizzly Stadium in Missoula. Davis was an All-Big Sky honorable mention in 2025.

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