

SPORTS

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PREP ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

Time to vote for top preps

MISSOULIAN STAFF

Even with a concentrated pool of athletes to choose from this week, four newcomers as of this winter season made both the boys' and girls' lists of prep athlete of the week nominees.

Each week, we nominate an equal number of boys and girls for our "Prep Athletes of the Week." Readers will be able to vote for one boy and one girl in polls that appear by noon Monday at Missoulian.com. Voting will be open through 6 p.m. on Wednesday.

The winners will be published in the Missoulian's Prep Extra section each Thursday.

Here are this week's nominees:

Boys

Missoula Big Sky's **Alex Simmons** scored an even 30 points for the Eagles on Thursday. The senior guard had more than half of his team's points in a close 59-53 Western AA boys' basketball loss to Helena. He connected on three 3-pointers and added to his game-high total by driving the lane. He was 7 for 8 at the free-throw line as well. Simmons added eight more points and another bucket from behind the arc in Big Sky's game against Helena Capital on Tuesday.

Clark Fork's **Bryan Mask** needed just one game to earn a nomination this week. His 28-point performance in the Mountain Cats' 55-50 boys' basketball win against Victor on Friday was not just the game-high scoring total, he led all of western Montana on Friday in scoring production. Mask was 7 for 10 on free throws in the fourth quarter to help spring the comeback win. Mask wasn't able to get an encore performance due to inclement weather. Clark Fork's matchup against Two Eagle River that was canceled on Saturday is expected to be made up this week.

Missoula Sentinel's **Bryar Newbary** heads into this weekend's state wrestling tournament as the top-ranked wrestler from the West at 205 pounds in Class AA. Newbary fought off two Kalispell Flathead wrestlers and one from Helena Capital at the Western AA Divisional wrestling tournament on Saturday in Helena. Newbary pinned Flathead's Daniel Long in 1 minute, 10 seconds in a quarterfinal matchup and won by major decision in the semis. In the 205 title match, Newbary earned a 12-6 decision against Kalispell Flathead's Matt Gash-Gilder.

Polson's **Parker Adler** pinned his way to victory at the Western A Divisional wrestling tournament in Dillon on Friday and Saturday. The 138-pound Pirate flattened his Frenchtown opponent in the finals at 3 minutes, 35 seconds. Adler's semifinal pin took 4:13 and his quarterfinal

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■ **Vote online:** Go online to [Missoulian.com](http://missoulian.com) to vote for this week's top prep performers.

MONTANA WOMEN'S TENNIS

Grizzlies swept on road by unbeaten Iowa Hawkeyes

MONTANA SPORTS INFORMATION

IOWA CITY, Iowa — Iowa improved to 5-0 with a 7-0 victory over the Montana women's tennis team on Sunday evening at the Hawkeye Tennis and Recreation Complex at Iowa City.

The Grizzlies (1-3), who opened their road trip with a 7-0 loss to Iowa State on Saturday afternoon, began the match with a tight loss in doubles.

Nathalie Joannanne and Stanzi Stuijt were leading 5-4 at



TENNIS

No. 3, but their

match went unfinished after Montana lost 6-4 at No. 1 and 6-3 at No. 2.

"The team stepped up in doubles and gave Iowa a run," said UM coach Steve Ascher.

Iowa, which has dropped just two points through its first five matches, won all six singles

matches in straight sets.

Hannah Sulz pushed Zoe Douglas at No. 1, falling 7-6 (7-0), 6-2, and Catherine Orfanos, at No. 3, and Milica Panic, at No. 6, both lost 6-2, 6-4 decisions.

In four of the six singles matches, the Grizzlies had better results in the second set than they did in the first.

"We were on the court two

hours longer than we were in our

match against Iowa State," said Ascher. "We are continuing to

find ways to raise our level and push these teams further each time out."

Montana will play its first Big Sky Conference match of the season when the Grizzlies play at North Dakota on Friday, Feb. 17. Montana will play neutral-site matches against Northern Iowa and South Dakota State in Grand Forks on Saturday, Feb. 18.

Iowa 7, Montana 0

at Iowa City, Iowa

Hawkeye Tennis and Recreation Complex

Singles

1. DOUGLAS, Zoe (IOWA) def. SULZ, Hannah (UM) 7-6 (7-0), 6-2

2. REIMCHEN, Anastasia (IOWA) def. DUKIC, Lidia (UM) 6-1, 6-2

3. THOMS, Kristen (IOWA) def. ORFANOS, Catherine (UM) 6-2, 6-4

4. HUCKLEBY, Adorabol (IOWA) def. JOANLANNE, Nathalie (UM) 6-1, 6-2

5. CRAWFORD, Montana (IOWA) def. STUIJT, Stanzi (UM) 6-2, 6-0

6. LOONEY, Natalie (IOWA) def. PANIC, Milica (UM) 6-2, 6-4

Doubles

1. DOUGLAS, Zoe/LOONEY, Natalie (IOWA) def. ORFANOS, Catherine/SULZ, Hannah (UM) 6-4

2. HUCKLEBY, Adorabol/THOMS, Kristen (IOWA) def. DUKIC, Lidia/PANIC, Milica (UM) 6-3

3. CRAWFORD, Montana/RUNEFELT, Carin (IOWA) vs. JOANLANNE, Nathalie/STUIJT, Stanzi (UM) 4-5, unfinished

NEW ENGLAND 34, ATLANTA 28 (OT)

Patriots' day



ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOS

New England Patriots' James White celebrates after scoring the game-winning touchdown during overtime of Super Bowl 51 against the Atlanta Falcons on Sunday in Houston.

Brady leads historic overtime Super Bowl comeback

BARRY WILNER
AP Pro Football Writer

HOUSTON — Tom Brady led one of the greatest comebacks in sports history highlighted by an unbelievable Julian Edelman catch that helped lift New England from a 25-point hole against the Atlanta Falcons to the Patriots' fifth Super Bowl victory, the first ever in overtime.

The Patriots scored 19 points in the final quarter, including a pair of 2-point conversions, then marched relentlessly to James White's 2-yard touchdown run in overtime to beat the Atlanta Falcons 34-28 Sunday night.

Brady, the first quarterback with five Super Bowl rings, guided the Patriots (17-2) through a tiring Atlanta defense for fourth-quarter touchdowns on a 6-yard pass to Danny Amendola and a 1-yard run by White, which came with 57 seconds remaining in regulation. White ran for the first 2-pointer and Amendola did the deed with a reception on the second.

Brady, winning Super Bowl MVP for a record fourth-time, finished 43 for 62, the most attempts in Super Bowl history, for 466 yards, also a record, and two touchdowns.

"You know, we all brought each other back," Brady said. "We never felt out of it. It was a tough battle. They have a great team. I give them a lot of credit. We just made a few more plays than them."

Before the stunning rally — New England already held the biggest comeback in the final period when it turned around a 10-point deficit to beat Seattle two years ago — the Falcons (13-6) appeared poised to take their first NFL championship in 51 seasons. Having never been in such a pressurized environment, their previously staunch pass rush dis-



New England Patriots' Tom Brady raises his arms after scoring a touchdown during overtime of the NFL Super Bowl 51 football game against the Atlanta Falcons, Sunday in Houston. The Patriots defeated the Falcons 34-28.

appeared, they stumbled on offense and Brady tore them apart.

"Deflategate" far behind them, Brady and coach Bill Belichick won their 25th postseason game, by far a record. The Falcons added to Atlanta's long history of pro sports frustration.

Belichick became the first coach with five Super Bowl crowns.

The Patriots won the coin toss for overtime and it was no contest. Brady completed six passes against an overmatched Falcons secondary. A pass interference call took the ball to the 2, and White scooted to his right and barely over the goal line.

His teammates streamed off the sideline to engulf White as confetti streamed down from the NRG Stadium rafters.

It was almost an impossible dream for the Patriots a bit earlier. But helped by Matt Ryan's fumble on a sack, a Edelman's catch off of a defender's shoe, and Brady's passing, they never stopped coming.

White scored three touchdowns and had 14 receptions for 110 yards, but Brady hit seven different receivers.

Until the Patriots took charge with their late surge, league MVP Ryan was outplaying Brady. It didn't last.

Atlanta's string of touchdowns on its opening drive ended at eight, though Devonta Freeman sprinted for 37 yards on the Falcons' first offensive play. The drive was stunted when Ryan was sacked by Trey Flowers, New England's leader in that category.

Then it was Atlanta's D that went sacks-happy, getting two on the Patriots' next drive in what would be a scoreless opening quarter. Who expected that? Well, New England has not scored a point in the first 15 minutes in Brady's seven Super Bowls.

It sure looked as if the Patriots would get on the board immediately in the second period as Brady and Edelman connected twice for 40 yards. But Blount's fumble turned the momentum to the Falcons, who then took their biggest lead in a Super Bowl — yeah, we know, they have been here only twice — on Freeman's 5-yard run to cap a quick 71-yard drive on which Jones came alive.

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