

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE AT MONTANA • KICKOFF: NOON SATURDAY • STREAM: ESPN+ • THURSDAY, DEC. 4, 2025

GRIZZLY GAME DAY

Missoulian

JAKE'S JOURNEY

SENIOR JAKE OLSON
WON'T LET DREAM BE DENIED

BEN ALLAN SMITH, MISSOULIAN

Q&A WITH DT JAREB RAMOS, PAGE 3 • SPELTZ PICKS THE BIG SKY, PAGE 4 • ROSTERS, PAGE 5

Strength Within

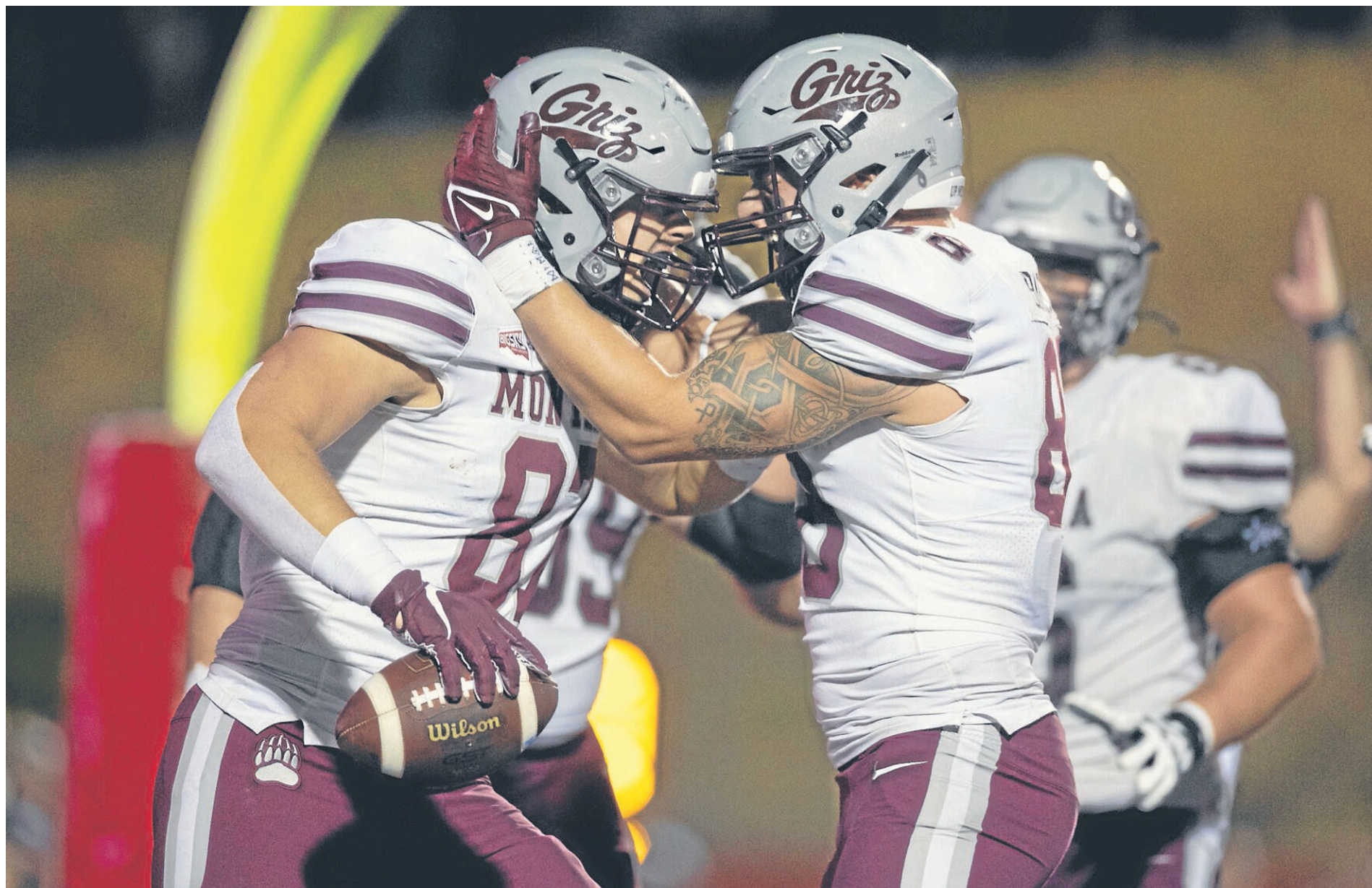
Wellness Throughout



Montana

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THE CENTER
of all we do



BEN ALLAN SMITH, MISSOULIAN

Montana tight end Jake Olson (87) celebrates with tight end Erik Barker (88) after Olson caught a pass in the end zone for a touchdown against Eastern Washington in 2024 at Roos Field in Cheney, Washington. That was the first career touchdown catch for the Butte native.

TUNNEL VISION

Butte's Olson shows grit, determination to rebound from injuries

FRANK GOGOLA
406 MT Sports

Jake Olson envisioned running out of the Topel Tunnel on senior day ahead of the 124th Brawl of the Wild at Washington-Grizzly Stadium.

In his mind, that was the last time he was guaranteed to play a football game in Missoula while wearing a Grizzlies uniform.

That he has even experienced a senior campaign required him to battle back from an offseason injury.

He'll get at least one more run out of that tunnel with the playoffs under way. This year, he's already played in six games, three of which were at home, after he missed the first six games before he returned to the field Oct. 18.

"When I was running out, I shed a couple tears," he said ahead of third-seeded Montana's second-round playoff game against 14th-seeded South Dakota State at noon Saturday in Washington-Grizzly Stadium.

Please see **OLSON**, Page 6

RAMOS BALANCES BUSINESS, FOOTBALL



SHANNA MADISON, MISSOULIAN

Montana running back Stevie Rocker Jr. (21) and defensive lineman Jareb Ramos (90) celebrate after a college football game against Idaho State on Oct. 4 at the ICCU Dome in Pocatello, Idaho. Ramos is in his first season as the Grizzlies' starting nose tackle.

Junior nose tackle producing more in first year starting

CARSON CASHION
406 MT Sports

In his first season starting at nose tackle, redshirt junior Jareb Ramos has begun to find himself on the stat sheet as Montana's season has progressed.

A native of Centennial, Colorado, Ramos logged his first career sack Nov. 8

against Eastern Washington, securing a pair of sacks that generated 12 lost yards. The following week, against Portland State, he recorded half a tackle for loss as well as three total tackles. In the Brawl of the Wild, Ramos managed two total tackles, including one solo tackle.

Ramos sat down with 406 MT Sports ahead of Montana's second-round playoff game against South Dakota State at noon Saturday in Washington-Grizzly Stadium. This interview has been edited for brevity and clarity.

Q: You got both of your first career sacks back on Nov. 8 against Eastern Washington, what was working so well for you that day?

A: It's just all about getting one percent better every day, and so I'm gonna make the plays that come my way. Other players are gonna do that, too, so I'm gonna give complete credit to the rest of the defense. If everyone's doing their job at once, someone's gonna make a huge play. That's always the goal every single day.

Q: Playing nose tackle in this defense, you're put in double-team situations at a higher rate and might not get the statistical accolades others would. Is it gratifying for you to get that sort of recognition through sacks?

A: Yeah, I mean, it's huge. A lot of the time, like you said, we're taking double teams, triple teams sometimes, so it might not show up on stats. But at the same time, if the coaches are happy with the job I'm

HOW WE SEE THE BIG SKY

BILL SPELTZ | 406 MT Sports

They're tough as nails and stubborn as a mule when it comes to conceding ground on the football field.

At least that's my impression of the South Dakota State Jackrabbits from my limited sample size this season.



**BILL
SPELTZ**

80-13



**CARSON
CASHION**

77-16



**FRANK
GOGOLA**

75-18



**VICTOR
FLORES**

73-20

South Dakota State will come to Missoula and expect to win. It's not like some of these early round playoff marshmallows Montana has hosted in the past that *hope* to win. Teams like Tennessee State (2024 Griz playoff victim), Delaware (2023), Southeast Missouri State (2022) and Eastern Washington (2021).

I watched them hold off Montana State in an epic double-overtime game in early September. The difference between those two programs on that night in Bozeman was about a yard.

When the bracket came out for the FCS playoffs on Nov. 23 and I saw Montana was on a potential collision course with SDSU for the third-straight season, I thought to myself, there's nothing easy about that task for the Grizzlies.

That feeling grew much stronger Saturday when I watched the Jackrabbits bury visiting New Hampshire in the snow, led by quarterback Chase Mason, who played for the first time since Oct. 18 (foot injury).

Like top-seeded North Dakota State, South Dakota State is fundamentally sound in ways you'll never see on a stat sheet. The Jackrabbits know how to tackle. The way they do it cuts down on the yards after catch and second-effort bursts from determined running backs.

South Dakota State also has an understandable level of confidence that teams seeded even ahead of it do not have. The Jackrabbits made it to the top of the mountain two years ago and reached the semifinals last year.

South Dakota State will



BEN ALLAN SMITH, MISSOULIAN

Montana wide receiver Drew Deck (2) celebrates a first down next to Montana State defensive back Bryant Meredith during a Nov. 22 game at Washington-Grizzly Stadium. The Grizzlies and Bobcats will host second-round playoff games this Saturday at noon.

South Dakota State took its lumps in Missouri Valley Conference play, finishing 4-4. But all those losses came without Mason. The Jackrabbits' defense was on the field a lot and the unit still managed to finish third in total defense behind No. 1 playoff seed North Dakota State and second-round qualifier North Dakota.

Bottom line, Montana is going to have its hands full. It has the feel of a toss-up game, much like the Brawl of the Wild two weeks ago. The Grizzlies may need all the help they can get from their loyal fan base, so hopefully the turnout will be better than last year when UM drew 12,479 for its home playoff opener.

No. 14 seed South Dakota State (9-4) at No. 3 seed Montana (11-1), noon TV: ESPN+. With Mason back at the controls for the Jackrabbits, they may be every bit as good as they were on Week 2 when they edged Montana State. In fact, they may be even better since some of the offensive glitches that dogged SDSU on that night have been worked out. Montana star running back Eli Gillman, the Big Sky Conference Offensive MVP, needs to have a big day. It's not enough for the Grizzlies to move the ball through the air. They need to keep the ball away from Mason and his offense. Expect a

close game. Like the Brawl, it may come down to a turnover, tipped pass or penalty. I have faith in Montana to win a close one because its coaching staff has had two weeks to prepare and the Grizzlies are well-rested coming off a bye week. **Speltz:** Grizzlies 31, Jackrabbits 30. **Cashion:** UM 31, SDSU 24. **Gogola:** Grizzlies 31, Jackrabbits 27. **Flores:** Griz 35, Jacks 31.

Yale (9-2) at No. 2 seed Montana State (12-2), noon TV: ESPN+. The Bulldogs are certainly capable of racking up points. They tallied 43 in a narrow playoff road win over Youngstown State last Saturday. Furthermore, Yale is not going to be afraid of playing in cold weather since the team hails from New Haven, Connecticut. But let's be real: Yale plays in a much weaker conference than the Bobcats. Back on Oct. 4, the Bulldogs were whipped by the one big dog on their schedule, Lehigh (31-13). Let's just say it's a nice way to ease into the playoffs for Montana State. A terrific reward for going to Missoula and winning the Brawl of the Wild. Look for MSU to shine on both sides of the ball in a blowout win. The forecast is calling for snow in Bozeman, so I'm expecting the Montana State running game to play a big role in the outcome. **Speltz:** Cats 48, Bulldogs 14.

Cashion: MSU 35, Yale 21. **Gogola:** Cats 42, Yale 21. **Flores:** Cats 52, Yale 13.

No. 9 seed Rhode Island (11-2) at No. 8 seed UC Davis (8-3), 1 p.m. TV: ESPN+. The one win that stands out on Rhody's resume is a 38-27 home triumph over playoff qualifier New Hampshire on Oct. 11. But that's not going to leave the Aggies shaking in their cleats, especially after New Hampshire laid an egg in its playoff opener at South Dakota State, losing 41-3. In their playoff opener last Saturday, the Rams jumped out to a big lead then held on to defeat Central Connecticut State, 27-19. Rhode Island led 24-7 at halftime. Davis is a darn good football team but it is not in the same league with Montana State or Montana. The home loss to Idaho State in early November proved the Aggies are vulnerable to the pass at times. But Rhode Island doesn't have enough firepower to win in sun-splashed Davis. **Speltz:** Aggies 32, Rams 20. **Cashion:** Davis 24, Rhode Island 14. **Gogola:** UC Davis 28, Rhode Island 24. **Flores:** Davis 34, Rhode Island 21.

Records: Speltz 80-13, Cashion 77-16, Gogola 75-18, Flores 73-20.

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

MONTANA GRIZZLIES

No.	Name	Year	Position	Height	Weight	Hometown	28	Hashim Jones	Fr.	RB	6-0	208	Hartford, Conn.	69	Cannon Panfiloff	R-Sr.	OL	6-6	294	Roy, Utah
0	Monte Gillman	R-Fr.	WR	5-8	162	Dassel, Minn.	29	Tanner Huff	R-Sr.	S	6-0	210	Butte, Mont.	70	Colin Amick	R-Fr.	OL	6-6	292	Sammamish, Wash.
0	Terahiti Wolfe	So.	S	5-11	173	Kahala'u, Hawaii	30	Kade Cutler	R-Jr.	S	6-0	200	Phillipsburg, Mont.	71	Quinlan Hyatt	Fr.	OL	6-7	285	Spokane, Wash.
2	Drew Deck	R-Sr.	WR	5-9	165	Kalispell, Mont.	30	Tommy Running Rabbit	R-Fr.	RB	6-1	195	Browning, Mont.	72	Cade Klimczak	Gr.	OL	6-1	285	Rockford, Mich.
2	Micah Harper	R-Sr.	S	5-10	194	Chandler, Ariz.	31	Geno Leonard	R-Sr.	LB	5-11	230	Missoula, Mont.	73	Trevor Steinbach	R-Fr.	OL	6-5	300	Sammamish, Wash.
3	Brooks Davis	R-Fr.	WR	6-0	174	Brentwood, Calif.	32	Peyton Wing	Jr.	LB	6-0	229	Sumner, Wash.	74	Tate Templeton	R-So.	OL	6-3	290	Missoula, Mont.
3	Jeilani Davis	R-Fr.	S	6-0	204	Inglewood, Calif.	33	Taylor Jones	Fr.	LB	6-1	205	Missoula, Mont.	75	Jose Balver-Mendoza	R-Fr.	OL	6-5	287	Athens, Ga.
4	Blake Bohannon	R-Sr.	WR	6-1	195	Woodstock, Ga.	34	Talen Reynolds	R-Fr.	RB	5-11	170	Missoula, Mont.	76	Patrick Matan	Gr.	OL	6-4	295	Chevy Chase, Md.
4	Dane Parker	R-Fr.	S	6-1	175	Puyallup, Wash.	35	Grady Walker	R-Fr.	LB	6-4	224	Missoula, Mont.	77	Carter Bowen	Jr.	OL	6-7	318	Dawson, Minn.
5	Ian Finch	R-Jr.	WR	6-3	209	Missoula, Mont.	36	Ty Morrison	Sr.	KP	6-3	220	Valencia, Calif.	78	Lucas Freitas	R-So.	OL	6-6	318	Snoqualmie, Wash.
5	Kyon Loud	So.	CB	6-2	175	San Mateo, Calif.	36	Garrett Speer	R-Fr.	DB	6-0	191	Sherwood, Ore.	79	Liam Brown	R-Sr.	OL	6-5	316	Beaverton, Ore.
6	Prince Ford	R-Sr.	CB	5-11	170	Concord, N.C.	37	Clay Oven	R-So.	LB	6-2	216	Billings, Mont.	80	Jammel Ward	Fr.	WR	6-4	170	Nacogdoches, Texas
6	Michael Wortham	R-Sr.	WR	5-9	190	North Highlands, Calif.	38	Caleb Moran	So.	LB	6-1	210	Milton, Ga.	81	Josh Gale	R-Sr.	TE	6-4	243	Gilbert, Ariz.
7	Malae Fonoti	R-Fr.	RB	5-11	207	Laie, Hawaii	39	Fynn Ridgeway	R-So	S	6-1	204	Whitefish, Mont.	84	Evan Shafer	Gr.	TE	6-5	270	Connersville, Ind.
7	Kash Goicoechea	R-Fr.	S	6-1	197	Kalispell, Mont.	40	Colton Lentz	Fr.	LB	6-3	213	Nooksack, Wash.	85	Bridger Smith	Fr.	WR	5-11	170	Kalispell, Mont.
8	Keali'i Ah Yat	R-So.	QB	6-1	200	Kaneohe, Hawaii	42	Giovanni Pifferini	Jr.	DL	6-4	230	Placerville, Calif.	86	Weston Adams	R-Jr.	WR	5-11	192	Shell, Wyo.
8	Kenzel Lawler	R-Sr.	CB	6-0	190	Corona, Calif.	43	Grayson Pibal	R-Sr.	LS	6-3	214	Clackamas, Ore.	87	Jake Olson	R-Sr.	TE	6-7	260	Butte, Mont.
9	Justus Breston	Sr.	CB	5-11	178	Atlanta, Ga.	44	Titus Rohrer	R-Jr.	TE	6-7	240	Bryan, Ohio	88	Malaki Davis	Fr.	TE	6-5	230	Tacoma, Wash.
9	Jordan Dever	R-So.	WR	6-0	174	Spokane, Wash.	45	Caleb Otlewski	R-So.	LB	6-4	241	Melissa, Texas	89	Danny Sirmon	R-Fr.	TE	6-6	255	Missoula, Mont.
10	Eli Gillman	R-Jr.	RB	6-0	213	Dassel, Minn.	46	Jo Silver	R-Jr.	KP	6-0	213	Fremont, Ohio	90	Jareb Ramos	R-Jr.	DL	6-4	287	Centennial, Colo.
10	TJ Rausch	R-Sr.	S	6-3	208	Missoula, Mont.	47	Kellen Detrick	R-Sr.	DE	6-3	240	Havre, Mont.	91	Cooper Buffington	Fr.	DL	6-4	252	Winfield, Iowa
11	Cameron Gurnsey	R-So.	WR	6-1	197	Butte, Mont.	48	Styles Goodman	Fr.	LB	6-2	234	Austin, Texas	92	Zekiel Seumalo	Jr.	DL	6-0	265	Kent, Wash.
11	Elijahwah Tolbert	R-Sr.	LB	6-1	232	Chicago, Ill.	49	Isaac Keim	R-Fr.	DL	6-4	265	Kalispell, Mont.	93	Cole Muilenburg	R-Fr.	DL	6-5	246	Gig Harbor, Wash.
12	Elijah Brady	R-So.	CB	6-1	172	Seattle, Wash.	50	Sam Merriman	Fr.	LB	6-0	225	Seattle, Wash.	94	Cole Harpole	Fr.	DL	6-3	221	Gunter, Texas
12	Gage Sliter	R-So.	QB	6-1	193	Kalispell, Mont.	51	Spencer Tripp	Fr.	DL	5-11	264	Missoula, Mont.	95	Derek Moreland	Sr.	DL	6-1	262	Fresno, Calif.
13	Brock Beaner	Fr.	S	6-0	193	Anacortes, Wash.	52	Cy Stevenson	R-So.	LB	6-2	220	Libby, Mont.	96	Logan Knaevelsrud	Fr.	DL	6-4	235	Snoqualmie, Wash.
13	Lekeldrick Bridges	R-Fr.	WR	5-11	170	Cedar Hill, Texas	54	Bridger Salvevold	Fr.	LB	6-2	207	Culbertson, Mont.	97	Hayden Schwartz	R-Jr.	DL	6-4	248	Jacksonville, Fla.
14	DeAnte Gentry	Fr.	DB	5-11	169	Fort Worth, Texas	55	Austin Buehler	R-So.	OL	6-5	285	Helena, Mont.	98	Matai Mata'a'afa	R-Sr.	DL	6-1	236	Lahaina, Hawaii
14	Korbin Hendrix	R-So.	WR	6-3	192	McKinney, Texas	56	Hunter Peck	R-Sr.	DE	6-2	252	Windsor, Colo.	99	Braydon Bailey	R-Jr.	DL	6-2	280	Kona, Hawaii
16	Jake Jensen	R-Sr.	QB	6-1	215	Pleasant Grove, Utah	57	Jake Mason	R-So.	DL	6-2	250	Ferndale, Wash.							
17	Kade Boyd	R-So.	S	6-0	197	Billings, Mont.	58	Solomon Tuliaupupu	Gr.	LB	6-3	242	Pomona, Calif.							
17	Luke Flowers	R-Fr.	QB	6-1	188	Rigby, Idaho	59	Hayden Opitz	R-So.	LB	6-2	230	Helena, Mont.							
18	Cody Schweikert	R-Fr.	QB	6-3	212	Columbia Falls, Mont.	60	Dillon Botner	Gr.	OL	6-6	280	Whitefish, Mont.							
19	Drew Price	Fr.	QB	5-10	171	Jacksonville, Fla.	61	Lincoln Hoefler	Fr.	OL	6-6	279	Everson, Wash.							
20	Sage Salopek	Fr.	CB	6-0	168	Seattle, Wash.	62	Everett Johnson	R-Sr.	OL	6-7	290	Turlock, Calif.							
21	Stevie Rocker Jr.	R-Sr.	RB	6-0	210	Tucson, Ariz.	63	Kaikoa Kanakaole	Fr.	OL	6-5	335	Kapa'a, Hawaii							
23	Rashid Mansour	Jr.	CB	6-0	163	Fresno, Calif.	64	Matt Hilden	R-Fr.	OL	6-6	309	Santa Rosa, Calif.							
24	Diesel Wilkinson	So.	S	6-0	193	Spokane, Wash.	65	Dylan Jemtegaard	R-Sr.	OL	6-4	281	Yelm, Wash.							
25	Brady Beaner	Fr.	S	6-0	187	Anacortes, Wash.	66	Ezra Meyer	Fr.	OL	6-5	290	Missoula, Mont.							
26	Chase Cook	Fr.	RB	5-11	198	Red Lodge, Mont.	68	Torin Jeske	R-Fr.	OL	6-6	271	Bozeman, Mont.							

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE JACKRABBITS

No.	Name	Year	Position	Height	Weight	Hometown	31	Carter York	Fr.	S	5-11	195	Sycamore, Ill.	66	Brock Osbahr	Fr.	OL	6-2	295	De Pere, Wis.
0	Landon Dulaney	Fr.	WR	6-2	200	Brandon, S.D.	32	James Basinger	Fr.	RB	5-10	200	Littleton, Colo.	67	Ian Mutchler	So.	OL	6-4	300	Morton, Ill.
0	Isaiah Johnson	Sr.	DB	6-0	185	Chicago Heights, Ill.	33	Bryce Johnson	Jr.	LB	6-3	220	Parker, Colo.	69	Quinten Christensen	Jr.	OL	6-5	300	Wessington Springs, S.D.
1	Lofton O'Groske	So.	WR	6-2	210	Coon Rapids, Minn.	33	Jalyn Thompson	So.	TE	6-2	255	West Des Moines, Iowa	70	Lincoln Semchenko	Fr.	OL	6-5	295	Brandon, S.D.
1	Jayden Oliver	Gr.	DB	6-4	185	Tampa, Fla.	34	Josiah Johnson	Fr.	RB	6-0	220	Milwaukee, Wis.	71	Reggie Kloehn	Fr.	DT	6-1	270	Fremont, Wis.
2	Isaiah Garcia-Castaneda	Gr.	WR	6-1	200	Twentynine Palms, Calif.	34	Jackson Powers	So.	DB	5-11	185	Maple Grove, Minn.	73	Nate Adams	Sr.	OL	6-7	330	Flower Mound, Texas
2	Myles Taylor	Sr.	CB	6-1	175	Gilbert, Ariz.	35	Finn Benz	Fr.	S	6-2	190	St. Paul, Minn.	74	JB Walters	Fr.	OL	6-4	280	Grand Forks, N.D.
3	Dontay Johnson	Jr.	S	6-2	205	Fort Collins, Colo.	35	Quinton Renfro	R-Fr.	RB	5-11	205	Joplin, Mo.	76	Sam Hagen	Sr.	OL	6-6	320	Fordville, N.D.
4	Andrew Price	Fr.	LB	6-1	205	West Des Moines, Iowa	36	Justin Kabera	Fr.	CB	5-11	170	Harrisburg, S.D.	77	William Paepke	So.	OL	6-5	315	Rapid City, S.D.
5	Jon Bell	Sr.	QB	6-3	205	Naperville, Ill.	37	Austin Bradley	Fr.	CB	6-0	165	Chandler, Ariz.	78	Micah Hach	Fr.	OL	6-4	295	Watertown, S.D.
5	Cullen McShane	Jr.	LB	6-2	230	Marquette, Iowa	37	Kaydon Olivia	Sr.	LS	5-11	215	Schertz, Texas	80	Zac Van Meeteren	Fr.	WR	6-6	215	Hayti, S.D.
6	Elijah Ervin	Sr.	WR	6-1	195	Phoenix, Ariz.	38	Max Stanard	R-Fr.	S	5-11	190	Manhattan, Kan.	81	Ryan Harrington	Fr.	K	6-3	175	Ankeny, Iowa
6	Jalen B. Lee	Jr.	S	6-0	200	Wentzville, Mo.	39	Beau Bakken	Fr.	LB	6-4	215	Garretson, S.D.	82	Coleman Kuntz	Sr.	TE	6-3	240	Beaumont, Calif.
7	Chase Mason	Sr.	QB	6-4	240	Hurley, S.D.	40	Kevin Carrigan Jr.	Jr.	K	6-1	200	Warrington, Pa.	83	John Pica	Jr.	TE	6-4	280	Dell Rapids, S.D.
8	Sammy Dresie	R-Fr.	WR	6-2	195	Maize, Kan.	40	Liam Shaw	Fr.	DE	6-3	250	Muskego, Wis.	84	Alex Bullock	Gr.	WR	6-2	205	Omaha, Neb.
8	Reis Kirschenman	So.	DE	6-4	265	Tea, S.D.	41	Max Pelham	Sr.	P	6-1	195	Ankeny, Iowa	85	Joe Roll	So.	WR	5-9	190	Gretna, Neb.
9	Matt Goehring	Jr.	LB	6-1	220	Sioux Falls, S.D.	41	Spencer Wientjes	Fr.	LB	6-0	215	Watertown, S.D.	87	Ben Brooks	Fr.	TE	6-8	235	Madison, S.D.
10	Brayden Delahoyde	R-Fr.	TE	6-5	245	Spearfish, S.D.	42	Brady Kurt	Fr.	LB	6-2	190	Independence, Iowa	88	Greyton Gannon	Jr.	TE	6-4	235	Eagle, Wis.
11	Joe Ollman	Jr.	LB	6-1	230	Mequon, Wis.	43	Cam Cribari	Fr.	S	6-0	175	West Des Moines, Iowa	89	Sebastyen Fries	Fr.	TE	6-2	225	Lakeville, Minn.
11	Luke Womack	Fr.	WR	6-4	205	Happy Valley, Ore.	43	Andrew Gustad	Jr.	TE	6-1	235	Volin, S.D.	90	Danny Bradley	Fr.	DE	6-4	260	Windermere, Fla.
12	Grahm Goering	Sr.	WR	6-2	210	Iowa City, Iowa	44	Casey Larson	Fr.	LB	6-2	205	Woodinville, Wash.	91	Jace Sifore	Jr.	DT	6-4	290	Howard, S.D.
12	Jason Thome	Jr.	S	6-0	190	Arvada, Colo.	44	Josh Myers	Fr.	RB	6-0	190	Sioux Falls, S.D.	92	Sam Watts	R-Fr.	DE	6-3	245	Cedar Rapids, Iowa
13	Aydan Dautermann	Sr.	CB	6-2	195	Hartford, Wis.	45	Boden Schiller	R-Fr.	LB	6-1	200	Volga, S.D.	93	Kevin Spelman	Sr.	DL	6-5	260	New Lenox, Ill.
13	Luke Marble	R-Fr.	QB	6-4	210	Smyrna, Ga.	46	Shane Henderson	Fr.	TE	6-6	235	Mobridge, S.D.	94	Kobe Clayborne	Sr.	DT	6-0	280	Sioux City, Iowa
14	Reese Osgood	Jr.	WR	5-11	185	Franklin, Wis.	46	Maverick LeBrun	Fr.	DE	6-5	235	Flandreau, S.D.	95	Mason Brosseau	Sr.	DT	6-3	310	Hanford, Calif.
15	Julius Loughridge	Sr.	RB	6-0	215	Houston, Texas	46	Evan McCarty	Fr.	TE	6-5	260	Hamel, Minn.	96	Rhett Schaefer	R-Fr.	DT	6-3	255	Walcott, Iowa
16	Jack Henry	R-Fr.	QB	6-2	215	Dell Rapids, S.D.	47	Kytan Fyfe	Jr.	LB	6-2	210	Grand Island, Neb.	97	Blake Leiferman	R-Fr.	DE	6-5	265	Kimball, S.D.
16	Noah St-Juste	So.	CB	5-10	175	Clearwater, Fla.	48	Krayton Bergstrom	Fr.	K	5-7	165	Winona, Minn.	98	Mac Muller	R-Fr.	DT	6-1	270	Osage, Iowa
17	Ernest Blackshire Jr.	Jr.	LB	6-2	215	Milwaukee, Wis.	48	Jack Nash	R-Fr.	LB	6-1	185	Palmer, Alaska	99	Anthony Erickson	So.	K	5-10	190	Sioux Falls, S.D.
17	Jack Thue	R-Fr.	QB	6-2	205	Brandon, S.D.	49	Luke Krempges	Fr.	DE	6-4	235	Sioux Falls, S.D.							
18	Ky Oday Jr.	Jr.	WR	5-11	170	Denver, Colo.	50	Jozef Reisz	Fr.	TE	6-3	235	Woodbine, Iowa							
19	Jack Smith	R-Fr.	WR	6-0	195	Sioux Falls, S.D.	50	Nick Wells	R-Fr.	DE	6-4	260	Sioux City, Iowa							
20	Graham Eben	R-Fr.	LB	6-1	200	Rock Rapids, Iowa	51	Logan Green	Jr.	DT	6-4	290	Northboro, Iowa							
21	Myles Green	Fr.	CB	6-0	180	Homewood, Ill.	52	Brody Targgart	Jr.	DL	6-2	295	Ankeny, Iowa							
22	Jamari Holliman	So.	CB	6-0	190	Miami, Fla.	53	Caden Hotz	R-Fr.	OL	6-2	290	Waverly, Iowa							
23	Joe Kolega	Fr.	WR	5-11	190	Omaha, Neb.	54	Shane Willenbring	R-Fr.	OL	6-4	305	La Crosse, Wis.							
24	Brenden Begeman	So.	RB	6-2	210	Selby, S.D.	55	Aaron Wolfcale-Holsten	Sr.	DT	6-2	285	Gilbert, Ariz.							
25	Koby Bretz	Sr.	S	6-2	210	Omaha, Neb.	57	Sam Christensen	Fr.	DT	6-2	250	Rock Rapids, Iowa							
26	Eli Stader	Gr.	K	6-0	225	Cedar Grove, Wis.	58	Jackson Kerstin	So.	OL	6-4	285	Naperville, Ill.							
27	Noah Thompson	Jr.	S	6-0	185	Brandon, S.D.	59	Carson Strothbeen	So.	LS	6-1	210	Sioux City, Iowa							
28	Chase Van Tol	So.	LB	6-1	200	Tea, S.D.	62	Kenyon BigBow	So.	OL	6-5	310	Anadarko, Okla.							
29	Corey Blair Jr.	Fr.	RB	6-3	210	Kernersville, N.C.	63	Kyan Rauk	R-Fr.	OL	6-8	300	Northfield, Minn.							
30	Cody Cotton	Jr.	CB	6-0	185	Pleasant Prairie, Wis.	64	Thomas Dwyer	Fr.	OL	6-6	285	Oconomowoc, Wis.							

Olson

From page 2

“Just the feeling of finally, I can play football again, it was one of the greatest feelings I’ve had in my life. Hearing the fans excited for a game and actually running onto the field, not initially thinking I could have a senior year, that feeling of gratitude and payoff from all my prayer and rehab was amazing.”

Olson has carried those feelings of energy, gratefulness and eagerness to play football when he runs out of that tunnel on game day. Yet, his fifth and final year in Missoula has been no layup for the multi-sport athlete from Butte.

He broke his foot during routine agility drills in offseason training, he said. The Jones fracture was a break of the fifth metatarsal bone, which is in the middle of the foot and leads to the pinky toe.

It wasn’t the first time he had to fight back from an injury that required surgery. He experienced a high ankle sprain late in his second year with the Griz, he said, and bounced back in time for offseason workouts.

“An injury at any time is just kind of crushing to your soul, but especially it being my senior year, really just threw me off kind of everything that I fought all summer for,” he said. “But it just really motivated me to fight even harder and get to what I was before my injury and even better now.”

Olson rode the bench during fall camp while his teammates got to work toward earning playing time. Having to watch on while they got to play football was the hardest part of the three-week camp for him.

He couldn’t risk coming back too soon before completely healing because he could then possibly miss the whole season. He continued with the rehab process of treatment multiple times per day as he healed up from surgery.

He tried to stay locked in on football too. He watched film and got in his version of practice by taking mental reps under the blazing sun of fall camp in August at Dornblaser Field before in-season practices at the River Bowl.

“I had basically all summer to kind of reflect on the people closest to me and God and my relationship with Him,” he said. “Just my relationship with God is really what kept me going the entire summer.”

“But also being so close with my tight ends, my coaches, being around them all summer, just wanting to get back as soon as I could and play with them, play for my family and play for God.”

Olson didn’t know much about the be-



BEN ALLAN SMITH, MISSOULIAN

Montana tight end Jake Olson (87) celebrates as the final minute winds off the clock during the 120th Brawl of the Wild against Montana State in 2021 at Washington-Grizzly Stadium in Missoula. The Butte native has appeared in 38 games and made four starts.

hemoth Griz football is until he got into high school. That’s when he first attended a game. By his junior year, he broke out for Butte High, thinking a gridiron future would be possible.

He grew up more enamored with UM basketball and went to numerous hardwood contests. It made sense because his father, Bob Olson, played center for the Griz in the late 1990s when they made an NCAA tournament.

He never felt any pressure from his father to pursue college basketball, he said. Plus, he thought he’d be an undersized center at 6-foot-7. With plans on pursuing football, he equated the Grizzlies with a winning culture.

“When I first committed here, I had no idea how special it would be,” he said. “When you first get here, you might take a couple things for granted. And there’s not a whole lot of want to at first, especially being a young kid as a freshman.”

“But as you get older, you just kind of find the purpose that you’ve always been looking for and family and love and excitement for the game of football. I didn’t quite expect to have such an amazing family and passion for football.”

Olson redshirted at UM in 2021 after a standout career at Butte High. He was a four-year letterman in football and bas-

ketball and earned a first-team all-state selection at tight end and an honorable-mention nod at defensive end.

He got to see the field in 2022, playing in three games without logging any stats. He didn’t accrue any stats again in 2023 but played in all 15 games and made three starts as UM won the Big Sky and finished as the FCS runner-up.

His breakout came in 2024 as he caught his first career touchdown while playing in all 14 games and making one start. This year, he’s appeared in six games on offense and special teams while still trying to collect another catch.

“I’ve learned that nothing’s given to you,” he said. “I’ve learned everything you do is precious, so you should do everything 100 percent to your ability. I’ve learned that I have a strong work ethic, but I would say that basically gets molded into you as your time goes through playing at the school.”

“You develop great work ethic. You develop brotherhood. You develop great characteristics of what it takes to be a man and be a charismatic person.”

Olson has already earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration for management and entrepreneurship last spring. He’s now working on a Master of Business Administration that he’s hoping to finish in the spring semester.

He’s considering a number of careers, like being a police officer after seeing former teammates do so and his father working in a similar field. He’s also thought about medical sales as his mother and fiancée work in healthcare.

For now, he has football to focus on as he tries to extend his playing career as long as possible. Running out of that tunnel has never gotten old for him, and he’s shown the injuries could never bench his spirits and love of football.

“It’s what I love most in life right now,” he said. “It’s what I wake up to do every single day. It’s meant the world to me. I can’t really put it any other way than that. I’ve cherished every single moment here.”

“Just looking at this field right now, it’s the most beautiful place in the world. Being a part of this team for as long as I have has been very special. Never take anything for granted because things eventually end no matter how long you end up doing them for.

“So, I’m just very, very proud to be where I’m at and happy to be doing what I’m doing.”

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Ramos

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putting in there at the moment, it means everything. If I can help the team get another win or other times where I commit the play, it's just, once again, it's a huge deal to be a part of this defense.

Q: Where do you think you've grown the most this year as a player?

A: I think I've definitely matured in the sense I've definitely just really focused on the small details, whether that's my footwork and hand placement, my get-off, it's huge. Just staying active in the pass rush, those are huge things. But the biggest thing, I would say, just learning this defense because it goes fast. There's a lot of new plays every single week, and we gotta make sure we're learning those.

Q: What was your recruitment process like and what were the visits to Montana like for you?

A: It was kind of a scramble. I was committed to CSU (Colorado State) and going around trying to find a new school. I was going to different schools, visiting them, kind of a time crunch, but coming here, it really just reminded me of Colorado, like home. All the boys here, we were here at the time, we all just mingled together. We really got along together. I fell in love with the facilities, fell in love with the coaches and just the winning culture here really struck me.

Q: In your redshirt season and the early years in the program, who did you lean on most for development?

A: I think a big part of it is the players, the guys who were there before you. They really set the tone, they set the tradition, all the small little things that are coming week to week. You really want to come in for them to be like one of those guys.

Q: Any players in particular?

A: We had Alex Gubner. He was a huge role model when I came in, a big-time player who is now actually my coach. It's just kind of a full-circle moment, just seeing Gub being that guy, and then now I'm the starting nose (tackle) and he's still here, sticking around, coaching me up, it's just a huge deal for me.

Q: Do you feel like Alex's demeanor has changed at all since transitioning from player to coach?

A: No, I think he's kind of still the same guy, I don't think anything's changed drastically.

Q: What was the adjustment period to Montana like for you?

A: Coming to Missoula my freshman year, it was hard. When I look back at my freshman year, I was homesick a lot of the



BEN ALLAN SMITH, MISSOULIAN

Montana defensive linemen Jareb Ramos (90) and Kellen Detrick (47) celebrate during the college football game against Eastern Washington on Nov. 8 at Washington-Grizzly Stadium in Missoula. Ramos logged his first career sack in that win.

time. I didn't know a lot of people here in the state of Montana, I didn't even think I was coming to Montana, to be honest. Just looking back at it now, it's grown on me so much. The culture, the fans, the environment of everyone all around, they just love the Griz, and it's a huge deal to be a part of them.

Q: What are some of your hobbies right now?

A: I would say right now, I actually own a business. And so that's a huge thing I've been working on is my business. Other than that, I love being active. If it's not football, I'm gonna either be lifting, going on hikes, hanging out with my friends, my family, anyone I can. I love being social. I'm a pretty social guy.

Q: Talk about your business and how that's been going.

A: I own a home-service remote agency model, and so we're doing a cleaning service. We got about 12 providers working for me right now, we send them all around Missoula, the surrounding areas, and it's going really well right now. We're looking to build a new location in the future, hopefully this summer. But, yeah, it's been a fun side to football.

Q: What got you into all of that?

A: I've always been entrepreneurial. Growing up, I was reselling shoes, I was always trying something online, trying to build a brand. I had a clothing line in high school. Always had that mindset. Now just being able to actually have something official is a huge deal for me.

Q: You said you've got one location now, where are you looking to expand?

A: So right now we're in Missoula. We travel about an hour into the surrounding

area, about 25 miles, but the ideal other locations are either Denver, Oregon or we're also looking at Boise, Idaho.

Q: What type of music do you listen to?

A: I love all music. Coming here, I wasn't

a big country fan, but it's definitely grown on me. But other music that I've been listening to is either rap, hip-hop, I love anything that just has a chill vibe.

Q: As the temperature drops as you get into playoff football, you've obviously got experience with the cold coming from Colorado. What type of difference do you think it makes for southern teams or for guys without experience playing in freezing conditions?

A: I remember in high school we had some cold games, for sure. Don't get me wrong, Missoula is a lot colder than Colorado. Sometimes it can even be hotter than Colorado at the same time, but it's kind of interesting just seeing some players from, you know, the east side, even Cal Poly, California, they came here for a huge snow bowl. They didn't even know what they were getting themselves into. But it's really funny just seeing those players come here and have to deal with that kind of weather. They're not used to it.

Carson Cashion is a sports writer for 406 MT Sports. Follow him on X @ CarsonCashion or contact him at carson.cashion@406mtsports.com.

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