

IDAHO AT MONTANA • KICKOFF: 8:15 P.M. SATURDAY • TV: ESPN2 • THURSDAY, SEPT. 25, 2025

GRIZZLY GAME DAY

Missoulian

CANNON'S

Metal music,
football fuel senior
Cannon Panfiloff

BLAST

ANTONIO IBARRA OLIVARES, MISSOULIAN

Q&A WITH WR BROOKS DAVIS, PAGE 3 • SPELTZ PICKS THE BIG SKY, PAGE 4 • ROSTERS, PAGE 5

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PANFILOFF PUTS THE PEDAL TO THE METAL

ANTONIO IBARRA OLIVARES, MISSOULIAN

Montana offensive lineman Cannon Panfiloff (69) celebrates with teammates after the Grizzlies scored against Furman during the FCS playoff quarterfinals on Dec. 8, 2023, at Washington-Grizzly Stadium in Missoula. Panfiloff has made 18 starts in a Griz uniform, the third most on the roster.

Utah native stars as rock at left tackle on offensive line for Griz

FRANK GOGOLA
406 MT Sports

Cannon Panfiloff loves Metallica's music.

The Montana offensive lineman looks like he'd fit right in on stage with a metal band as he rocks long, flowing, shoulder-length hair.

Even with the trademark look, he often gets asked a different question first because he stands at 6-foot-6 and 294 pounds: What sport do you play?

He plays football and is now in his senior season of college holding down the left tackle position for the Grizzlies. For him, metal music and offensive line play share some hardwired tendencies that he has enjoyed while successfully riding the lightning wherever he has roamed in a winding journey. "That's kind of what the O-line

is, just the tough, gritty ferociousness," he said ahead of No. 5 Montana's Big Sky Conference opener against No. 8 Idaho at 8:15 p.m. Saturday in Washington-Grizzly Stadium.

"You got to have that to play O-line. I feel like that heavy metal just kind of helps bring it out in me. There's certain positions and probably even some certain people that might not play better that way. I know I do."

If not for athletics, Panfiloff would've pursued a career in

music. After years of putting it off, he learned to play guitar while taking an elective music class as a high school senior. He got down the intros to Metallica's "Seek and Destroy," "Enter Sandman" and "For Whom The Bell Tolls."

Guitar would be his instrument of choice if he were to join a band. He might have to start that band because he'd also want to be the lead singer even though he isn't sure if he'd have the best voice for it. A good or bad singing

voice can be subjective, though, as the beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

He did bring his guitar with him when he transferred to UM before the 2023 season, told himself he'd get back to playing but has been too consumed with football. He has hit the right notes on the football stage to star as a rock for the Griz while blocking the quarterback's blindside once again this year.

See PANFILOFF, PAGE 6



BEN ALLAN SMITH, MISSOULIAN

Montana wide receiver Brooks Davis (3) catches a pass in the end zone to tie the game in the fourth quarter against North Dakota on Sept. 13 at Washington-Grizzly Stadium in Missoula. The redshirt freshman scored the first two touchdowns of his career in the 24-23 win.

Davis makes early impact

CARSON CASHION | 406 MT Sports

Most players don't become household names overnight. Especially at the college level, it takes time for newcomers to find their footing, lose the initial nerves and gain the necessary confidence to perform at a high level.

In receiver Brooks Davis' second collegiate game, he became a household name.

California native flashing potential as freshman WR

A two-reception, 8-yard game against Central Washington in the season opener preceded his breakout against North Dakota: five catches, 98 yards and two scores. Quarterback Keali'i Ah Yat found Davis

for a 24-yard strike in the third quarter, drawing the Griz within two after trailing 16-7 at halftime. But the second score, a 28-yard toss with 95 seconds remaining in the game, tied the game before an ensuing

PAT gave the Griz a one-point lead.

Davis saw a quieter matchup against Indiana State, catching just one ball for 1 yard. So far, though, history would suggest Davis shows up for the big ones. With a top-10 matchup on deck in Wa-Griz, Davis could be primed for another big game.

See Davis, PAGE 7

HOW WE SEE THE BIG SKY

BILL SPELTZ
406 MT Sports

They've been close the past three years, but the Idaho Vandals have never been able to get over the hump and earn royalty status in the Big Sky Conference since returning to the league in 2018.



**BILL
SPELTZ**

42-2



**CARSON
CASHION**

40-4



**FRANK
GOGOLA**

39-5



**VICTOR
FLORES**

39-5

front. If Montana does get an early lead, it's chances of winning spike considerably.

Here's a look at Saturday's Big Sky Conference games:

It must be a thorn in their side after earning a bowl bid in 2016, just two years prior to dropping back down to the FCS level. They played Colorado State in the Famous Idaho Potato Bowl on Dec. 22, 2016, and won a memorable shootout that was aired on ESPN, 61-50.

After that, the Vandals suffered through five losing seasons before breaking through in 2022 with a 6-2 record in Big Sky play. They went 6-2 again in 2023 and 2024 in conference action, but have gone 2-3 in the playoffs over the past three seasons.

Enter coach Thomas Ford Jr., who played running back at NCAA Division III Linfield College in Oregon and has worked his way up the Division I coaching ladder. The first-year skipper knows what it's like to be part of a champion after winning a National Indoor Football League ring as a player with the Tri-Cities Fever in 2005.

Ford Jr. is trying to return Idaho to its winning playoff ways of 1993 when it reached the I-AA national semifinals. His team has been good running the football but not as good passing this season.

Look for the Vandals to try to beat Montana with a ball control offense. The game could be a real test for the Grizzlies' defensive



BEN ALLAN SMITH, MISSOULIAN

Montana running back Tommy Running Rabbit (30) scores a touchdown during the FCS football game between Montana and Indiana State on Saturday at Washington-Grizzly Stadium in Missoula. The Grizzlies will host Idaho this weekend.

No. 8 Idaho (2-2) at No. 5 Montana (3-0), 8:15 p.m. TV: ESPN2. You get the feeling this is going to be a close one. Not just because both teams have lofty rankings but because the Vandals have played FBS teams tough on the road. They lost 13-10 at nearby Washington State in their opener and last Saturday lost 31-28 at San Jose State. It may be a nail-biter like Montana's home thriller against North Dakota and the home crowd will, as usual, help the Grizzlies. I'll give Montana the nod simply because it is enjoying the comforts of home once again, for the fourth week in a row, while Idaho is coming off a long road trip. **Speltz:** Grizzlies 30, Vandals 28. **Cashion:** Montana 31, Idaho 27. **Gogola:** Montana 27, Idaho 21. **Flores:** Griz 30, Vandals 24.

Eastern Washington (1-3) at No. 4 Montana State (2-2), 2 p.m. TV: The Spot-MTN. A lot of folks, including me, were surprised with how tough Mercyhurst played the Cats in Bozeman before dropping a 17-0 decision last Saturday. But college football players are human just like the rest of us and every once in a while they'll overlook an opponent. It happens to pretty much every team at least

once a season and if you can escape with a win, all is well. MSU moved the ball effectively but too often came away with no points. Look for quarterback Justin Lamson to clean things up this week. Montana State's defense will also take a step forward after allowing Mercyhurst to pile up yards. The Cats are the favorites to win the Big Sky and they'll show why this week against an Eastern Washington team that steamrolled Western Illinois in Cheney last week, 51-31, but has struggled on the road with an 0-3 record. **Speltz:** Bobcats 42, Eagles 17. **Cashion:** Montana State 42, Eastern Washington 21. **Gogola:** Montana State 31, Eastern Washington 13. **Flores:** Cats 27, Eagles 10.

Idaho State (1-3) at Northern Colorado (2-2), 1 p.m. TV: ESPN+. This is a tough one to pick because both are coming off wins and both had surprisingly good performances against FBS teams earlier this month on the road. The Bengals pushed New Mexico before dropping a 32-22 decision and that came two weeks after ISU put a scare into UNLV before losing, 38-31. The Bears' close call at Colorado State on Sept. 6 was even more stunning as the Rams escaped with a 21-17 win. I'm

going with my gut on this one and picking the Bears to win at home under the guidance of coach Ed Lamb, who is doing a terrific job this season. **Speltz:** Bears 27, Bengals 24. **Cashion:** Idaho State 28, Northern Colorado 27. **Gogola:** Idaho State 34, Northern Colorado 24. **Flores:** UNC 31, ISU 28.

No. 15 Northern Arizona (3-1) at Portland State (0-4), 3 p.m. TV: ESPN+. This is one of the easiest games to pick this week. The Lumberjacks are coming off a thrilling 31-23 home win over then-19th-ranked Incarnate Word. The Vikings have been outscored 184-23 and they've been battered and bruised by a brutal schedule. Northern Arizona has a good one in quarterback Ty Pennington, who has completed 80 of 128 passes for 1,085 yards and eight touchdowns. **Speltz:** Jacks 40, Viks 20. **Cashion:** Northern Arizona 35, Portland State 14. **Gogola:** Northern Arizona 49, Portland State 10. **Flores:** NAU 38, PSU 14.

Cal Poly (2-2) at No. 21 Sacramento State (2-2), 7 p.m. TV: ESPN+. The Hornets and Mustangs have identical records, but not all 2-2 marks are equal. Sac State has beaten a feisty Mercyhurst team and Central Arkansas. Plus the Hornets played South Dakota State and Nevada tough on the road in their first two games. Cal Poly has wins over non-scholarship San Diego and Division II Western Oregon. Certainly the Mustangs have shown improvement this season. But they're not going to beat Sac State on the road. **Speltz:** Hornets 38, Mustangs 24. **Cashion:** Sacramento State 41, Cal Poly 20. **Gogola:** Sacramento State 45, Cal Poly 17. **Flores:** Sac 35, Cal Poly 21.

Weber State (2-2) at No. 9 UC Davis (2-1), 8 p.m. TV: ESPN+. Beating Southern Utah 50-34 last week was an impressive result for the Aggies. It's still hard to tell how good they are and this week might provide a clue. Weber State will take a two-game win streak to California but may have trouble stopping Davis after surrendering a total of 158 points in four games. **Speltz:** Aggies 44, Wildcats 34. **Cashion:** UC Davis 45, Weber State 24. **Gogola:** UC Davis 42, Weber State 28. **Flores:** Davis 34, Weber 17.

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

MONTANA GRIZZLIES ROSTER

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

IDAHO VANDALS ROSTER

No.	Name	Year	Position	Height	Weight	Hometown														
0	Jhamell Blenman	R-Sr.	DB	5-9	190	Compton, Calif.	22	Caleb Ricks	Fr.	DB	6-1	195	Gonzales, La.	55	Ma'ake Apo	Fr.	DL	6-4	340	Orem, Utah
0	Marquawn McCraney	R-Fr.	WR	6-0	208	SeaTac, Wash.	23	Wiley Donnerberg	R-Fr.	LB	6-3	215	West Linn, Ore.	55	Austin Leykam	Sr.	OL	6-2	285	Lake Oswego, Ore.
1	Michael Graves	R-Sr.	WR	6-3	212	Sacramento, Calif.	23	Art Williams	R-So.	RB	5-11	205	Meridian, Idaho	57	Xander Echols	R-Sr.	LS	5-11	220	Chelsea, Alaska
1	Hayden John	So.	S	6-1	198	Anacortes, Wash.	24	Markhi McKinnon	R-Fr.	RB	5-11	210	Detroit, Mich.	58	Caden Siegner	Fr.	DL	6-2	225	Star, Idaho
2	Lonyatta Alexander Jr.	R-Jr.	WR	6-3	210	Auburn, Wash.	24	Jayden Rice-Claiborne	Fr.	DB	6-0	180	Tacoma, Wash.	62	Cameron Glenn	Fr.	OL	6-4	274	Springfield, Ore.
2	Donovan Parham	Gr.	DE	6-3	230	Lakeland, Fla.	25	Braxton Lawrence	R-Fr.	DL	6-4	212	Madison, Tenn.	63	Ryan Holmes	Fr.	OL	6-1	266	West Linn, Ore.
3	Hysan Dalton	R-So.	DB	6-2	190	Athens, Ga.	25	Carlos Matheny	R-So.	RB	5-10	212	Olympia, Wash.	65	Garrison Hickle	Fr.	OL	6-4	310	Kewanna, Ind.
3	Joshua Wood	R-So.	QB	6-3	215	Graham, Wash.	26	Tsiyown Lowery	Fr.	DB	6-1	196	Maple Valley, Wash.	66	Ryan Kawalek	R-Fr.	OL	6-3	292	La Center, Wash.
4	Tony Harste	So.	WR	5-11	175	Puyallup, Wash.	27	Brody Michael	Fr.	S	6-0	205	Queen Creek, Ariz.	67	Tyler Skinner	R-So.	OL	6-4	306	Moscow, Idaho
4	Isiah King	R-Sr.	LB	6-3	215	San Diego, Calif.	28	Matt Irwin	So.	S	5-11	180	Meridian, Idaho	68	Charlie Vliem	R-Jr.	OL	6-8	295	Duvall, Wash.
5	Holden Bea	R-Fr.	QB	6-2	215	Washougal, Wash.	28	Nate Thomas	R-Sr.	RB	5-8	210	South Holland, Ill.	70	Zach Penner	R-So.	OL	6-4	298	Eagle, Idaho
5	Maurice Heims	Gr.	DL	6-5	263	Hamburg, Germany	29	Owen Adams	So.	K/P	6-0	200	Laurel, Mont.	71	Howard Stedford	R-So.	OL	6-4	285	Meriden, Conn.
6	Trais Higgins	R-Jr.	WR	5-11	200	Nampa, Idaho	30	Taeshawn Reese	Fr.	RB	5-10	200	Meridian, Idaho	72	Gabe Staszak	R-Fr.	OL	6-6	280	Medford, Ore.
6	Zakhari Spears	R-Sr.	DB	6-2	197	Los Angeles, Calif.	31	Martin Rhyne	Fr.	LB	6-1	215	Fort Lauderdale, Fla.	73	Nathan Pritchard	R-So.	OL	6-5	317	Auburn, Wash.
7	Emmerson Cortez-Menjivar	R-So.	WR	6-1	192	Salinas, Calif.	33	Jake Cox	R-Sr.	TE	6-3	245	Manhattan, Kan.	74	Nate Azzopardi	R-Sr.	OL	6-3	296	Pacifica, Calif.
7	Aaron Kinsey	R-Fr.	DB	5-11	180	Spokane, Wash.	33	Julian Lee	R-So.	DL	6-6	292	Lacey, Wash.	75	LeRonn Nelson	Fr.	OL	6-5	300	Sacramento, Calif.
8	Joshua Barnes	R-Fr.	DB	5-10	185	Los Angeles, Calif.	34	Jona Turagavou	R-So.	DL	6-3	245	Spanish Fork, Utah	77	Kaden Haeckel	R-Fr.	OL	6-5	310	Peoria, Ariz.
8	Nick Josifek	R-So.	QB	6-0	200	Walla Walla, Wash.	35	Isiah Bivins	R-Fr.	DB	6-1	200	Monterey, Calif.	78	James Cobb IV	R-Fr.	OL	6-4	280	Phoenix, Ariz.
10	Will Cornelson	R-Jr.	LB	6-2	230	Cedar Park, Texas	36	Calvin Macy	R-Fr.	LB	6-2	215	Lake Oswego, Ore.	81	Noah West-Baranco	R-Fr.	WR	6-4	210	Nampa, Idaho
10	Jack Wagner	R-So.	QB	6-4	190	Tualatin, Ore.	37	Hayden Kincheloe	R-Jr.	RB	5-10	235	Homedale, Idaho	82	Trenton Swanson	R-Fr.	WR	6-1	195	Camas, Wash.
11	Nolan McWilliams	Fr.	WR	5-10	180	Auburn, Wash.	38	Nikko Speer	Fr.	LB	6-2	225	Camas, Wash.	83	Sawyer Hewett	Fr.	WR	6-0	170	Juliaetta, Idaho
11	Khaled Rawls	Jr.	DB	5-10	185	Walls, Miss.	39	Jacob Skobis	R-Jr.	DB	5-8	174	Downey, Calif.	84	Joseph Vinup	Fr.	WR	5-11	175	Oceanside, Calif.
12	Kamari Baker	R-Sr.	S	6-0	210	Sacramento, Calif.	40	Harrison Dshazer	Fr.	DL	6-5	230	Washougal, Wash.	85	Mason Culmer	Fr.	TE	6-4	240	Chandler, Ariz.
12	Kage Repenn	R-Fr.	WR	6-1	205	Ravensdale, Wash.	41	Mason Krah	Fr.	DL	6-2	220	Nampa, Idaho	87	Gabe Hoffmann	R-So.	TE	6-6	250	Bellevue, Wash.
13	Chance Bogan	R-Jr.	TE	6-3	235	Tacoma, Wash.	42	Ryder Bordner	R-So.	LB	6-1	210	Boise, Idaho	88	Gus Donnerberg	R-Fr.	TE	6-3	225	West Linn, Ore.
13	Wayne Queen	R-So.	LB	6-4	212	Coeur d'Alene, Idaho	43	Trenton Fisher	R-Fr.	S	5-11	195	Homedale, Idaho	89	Ryan Jezioro	R-Fr.	WR	6-3	202	Peoria, Ariz.
14	Kai Richardson	R-Fr.	DE	6-4	255	Puyallup, Wash.	44	Cruz Hepburn	R-Jr.	LB	6-1	218	Lewiston, Idaho	89	Matyus McLain	R-So.	DE	6-4	255	Priest River, Idaho
14	Sawyer Teeney	Fr.	QB	5-11	192	Silverton, Ore.	45	Mitchel Jaskowiak	R-Jr.	DL	6-3	265	Glencoe, Minn.	90	Divine Ibe	R-Fr.	DE	6-2	240	South Salem, Ore.
15	Daveon Superales	Fr.	WR	6-1	190	Graham, Wash.	46	Dylan Fischer	R-Jr.	LS	6-1	220	Burnsville, Minn.	91	Cameron Pope	R-Jr.	K	5-10	175	East Wenatchee, Wash.
15	Zach Wusstig	R-So.	S	6-1	195	Jefferson, Ore.	47	LJ Harm	Sr.	K	6-0	185	Spokane, Wash.	91	Malakai Ralton-Stewart	R-So.	DL	6-4	270	Brisbane, Australia
16	Rocco Koch	R-Fr.	QB	6-0	220	University Place, Wash.	48	Owen Forsman	R-Fr.	K	6-0	200	Rathdrum, Idaho	92	Austin Flaherty	Fr.	DL	6-3	240	Boise, Idaho
18	Davis Fry	R-So.	WR	6-1	190	College Place, Wash.	49	Brody Thomas	Fr.	LB	6-2	205	Eugene, Ore.	93	Sam Brown	R-Sr.	DL	6-3	260	Spokane, Wash.
18	Tim Jackson	Jr.	S	6-5	200	Van Nuys, Calif.	50	Dylin McIntyre	R-Fr.	LB	6-1	235	Kennewick, Wash.	94	Payton Gunter	R-So.	DL	6-5	285	Nampa, Idaho
19	Brayden Rice	So.	S	6-0	195	Lewiston, Idaho	50	Layton Vining	Jr.	OL	6-2	285	Meridian, Idaho	95	Brody Borrevik	Fr.	DL	6-2	255	Eugene, Ore.
20	Elisha Cummings	R-Sr.	RB	5-8	188	Waco, Texas	51	Leon Evans	R-Fr.	OL	6-4	270	Eagle, Idaho	96	Zach Krotzer	R-Sr.	DL	6-2	270	Spokane, Wash.
20	Jahman McNeil	Sr.	LB	6-2	225	Plainfield, N.J.	51	Shepard Fish	Fr.	DL	6-4	2								

PANFILOFF

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Perhaps it's no surprise his pre-game playlist is full of songs from Metallica, Mötley Crüe, Limp Bizkit and Megadeth. It's the type of fuel he needs to load up his battery for a concert-length rendition of seeking and destroying defenders who'd try to put the spotlight on him for the wrong reasons.

"Some of it's aggressive," he said of the music. "It gets me fired up for football games and especially lifting weights. Any game, football, basketball, all that, it gets you juiced up, it gets you ready to go.

"I love the guitars. There's nothing better than a sick guitar solo or a riff. And then some of those guys' voices are just insane. I like it all put together. I feel like rock and roll is just so hard to do."

It's similar to getting five offensive linemen to play in concert with one another. He got into football around the same time as metal music early in grade school. His entry point into both was his father, Greg Panfiloff.

He can still picture the two of them banging on the truck dashboard listening to Ratt's "You're in Love." That was one of the rock and metal bands he was first introduced to along with Mötley Crüe, Scorpions and others.

Drives to games also included blasting songs including "Rock You Like a Hurricane," "Kickstart My Heart" and "Looks That Kill." Even now, he gets fired up running out to "Welcome To The Jungle" for pregame warmups at Montana.

He found an early role model in his father, who played football at Weber State and baseball at then-Dixie State. He's the youngest of six siblings, but they are all much older than him, so he said it was like growing up as an only child.

He didn't see them play sports but watched as Greg played in the Utah Adult Amateur Baseball League. He followed his father in both baseball — also as a pitcher — and football before focusing on the latter because he felt he was better suited for it as a big kid who plowed ahead as a nose tackle and center.

"I wouldn't be the man I am without him," Cannon said of his father. "It's that simple. My attitude

Montana offensive lineman Cannon Panfiloff (69) looks on during the football game against Indiana State on Saturday at Washington-Grizzly Stadium in Missoula. Panfiloff is in his second season as the Grizzlies' starting left tackle.

**BEN ALLAN SMITH,
MISSOULIAN**



toward things, how I look at life, simple things like common sense, he taught me that.

"And sports especially, I would not be the athlete I am without him. He taught me everything I know, from how to throw a baseball to how to shoot a basketball to how to block someone to every sport I ever played."

Panfiloff began growing out his hair during eighth grade after years of rocking a mohawk, which became too time-consuming to take care of with gel and hairspray to spike it up. He started to don a mullet in ninth grade, grew his hair out even longer after that and has only trimmed it since then.

When it got long enough, he was gifted the nickname "Thor" as a senior. It stemmed from the long hair as well as his physique. He was a lot leaner with his muscles more visible in his 6-foot-4 frame back then, he said, before he morphed into some kind of monster in a beefier lineman's body in college.

The hair has remained part of his

identity since he was 15 years old as he overcame the hesitation to commit to it. Even now, it protrudes out from under his football helmet, sometimes covering the nameplate on the back of his jersey. The inspiration for the hairstyle can again be traced to his father.

"Growing up, my dad, we'd sit there and just watch all these '80s music videos," he said. "My dad, I always saw pictures of him, he was like Randy Johnson with his mullet and he was a pitcher too. I always saw the mullets and was like, 'God, I need hair!'"

"And then just the music, I'm like, 'I need long hair, I need to be able to head bang and rock out.' Once I grew it out, I never looked back and I don't plan on cutting it ever."

A bigger life-altering move for Panfiloff came when he made a literal move within Utah while in high school. As a junior, he went from Layton High School to Roy High School as he moved in with his father after living with his mother,

Kari Goff, whose support has meant the world to him, he said.

The friends he made at his new school helped him dive deeper into the Metallica catalogue. They made a bigger impact on the field. His teammates and coaches helped reload his love for the sport after he had a sad but true situation where he lost that love at his previous school and considered quitting.

He wasn't heavily recruited as a senior but was dealt a whiplash when he got a full-ride offer late. That came from Dixie State, which is now Utah Tech and will join the Big Sky next year. After three years, it was feeling reminiscent of his time at his first high school, so he decided to enter the transfer portal.

He landed at Montana, where he was a Swiss Army knife playing all across the line on the run to the FCS national championship game in 2023. He earned the starting gig at left tackle last year and has made 18 career starts in a Griz uniform, the third most among all players on the roster.

From running out of the Topel Tunnel the first time to beating North Dakota State in the 2023 semifinals to defeating Montana State to win the Big Sky title that year, the memories remain. He still has one season to complete before his college career fades to black in Missoula, which has been a welcome home, the one he needed.

"Coming here was almost like going to Roy," he said. "My first college and high school, I made some good friends but there was some questionable coaching."

"Coming here, playing for Montana was everything I envisioned college football to be. It really brought the love of the game back. Having the coaches and players we do here, I love this game so much, especially being here."

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Davis

Continued from page 3

Davis sat down with 406 MT Sports prior to No. 5 Montana's Big Sky opener against No. 8 Idaho on Saturday in Washington-Grizzly Stadium. This interview has been edited for brevity and clarity.

Q: What do you think was the biggest crowd you had ever played in front of before coming to Missoula?

A: I'd probably say one to two thousand.

Q: I ask that because I'm sure there is an adjustment period in your first few collegiate games to the added atmosphere and intensity, especially in a place like Wa-Griz. Has anything about the crowd and the energy surprised you, and what has been the biggest change for you?

A: I would probably say the excitement that it brings. Running out of that tunnel is insane, there's really nothing like it, even compared to high school. I think it helps with the adrenaline, momentum, it kind of gives you something to play for. I feel like, in front of these diehard fans, it gives you something to play for. And it kind of just pushes me a little bit more.

Q: Has the noise been something you've needed to adjust to at all?

A: No, it honestly wasn't as bad as I thought. I kind of zoned it out right once we got on the field, I didn't really hear it.

Q: Those touchdown catches against North Dakota, what's going through your mind at the time?

A: Well, at first, it was just running my assignment, executing and then scoring. It was nothing I've really experienced before, it was crazy. That's when I really heard the crowd. Once I scored, yeah, I really heard the crowd roars.

Q: Is there any way to describe that feeling of hearing the crowd after such an important score for anyone who hasn't played D-I football?

A: I really think there's nothing really like it. You kind of have to be there to experience it. I feel like I can't really describe it, it's so unreal.

Q: You got into football a lot later than most other D-I players. Was there any moment or game in the early stages of your playing career where your attention shifted from baseball and you really began to see a future with football?

A: Once I really picked it up, you know, got pretty fundamentally sound, I started beating kids and learning how to actually play the game the right way, instead of going out there and using my speed and running. That's when I started to kind of

fall in love with it and actually learning the game of football.

Q: What do you think you learned the most from your redshirt season at Montana?

A: Just learning the game of football even more, going up against our starting defense, listening to (Montana offensive coordinator Brent) Pease. Sitting in meetings, just writing everything down that he has to say, you know, talking to him after talking with the older guys, watching film with Keelan White — great guy. He taught me a lot. I feel like just following in their footsteps.

Q: You scored a 69-yard touchdown in Montana's spring game earlier this year, do you think that helped boost your confidence at all?

A: I mean, I always kind of felt like that coming into it, that I could be a contributor on this team. But I feel like that touchdown kind of felt like the hard work was paying off a little bit.

Q: Where do you feel like you grew the most as a player this summer?

A: Learning the concepts, not just knowing I'm just going to run this route but kind of why I'm running this route to get another guy open. Knowing what everyone else is running, just learning more and more.

Q: What's been your adjustment to Missoula coming from California?

A: Definitely the weather. I'd probably say it being super cold, that was probably the biggest challenge, especially playing with it. Having to walk from the dorms to lift at 5 a.m. when it's like zero degrees, my hair freezing, that was the biggest thing.

Q: What do you do in your free time?

A: Back home, I really like surfing and skateboarding. I kind of grew up surfing, skateboarding, snowboarding, so a lot of outdoor stuff. Here, it's kind of more football-based. A lot of recovery, you know, just chilling at home. During the winter last season, I did snowboard a lot, especially during away games when I wasn't traveling with the team. But I'd probably just say hanging out with friends and recovery.

Q: Do you have any favorite ski slopes in the area?

A: I was at Lookout Mountain. That was really the only one I went to since the season pass was so cheap. I know Snowbowl is pretty close, but the pass was pretty expensive.

Q: What type of music do you listen to?

A: I really like reggae. I like R&B, rap. I kind of listen to it all. I've adopted country. I told myself I'd never really listen to country music until I got here, and now it's actually pretty good.



Montana wide receiver Brooks Davis (3) runs the ball against Central Washington defensive back Jalen Webber (32) on Sept. 6 at Washington-Grizzly Stadium in Missoula. The redshirt freshman had his first career catch in the 42-17 win.

BEN ALLAN SMITH,
MISSOULIAN

Q: Was there someone on the team that put you on to the country music?

A: I would probably say Luke Flowers. He was my roommate in the dorm, so he was playing a lot of country. Torin Jeske, those two guys I hung out with a lot, and they played a lot of country music.

Q: Do you have a game this season you're most excited for?

A: Obviously against the Cats, not too much to say there, but also Sac State. It's kind of my hometown. I think that will be a big game. I got a lot of people going to that game.

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