

MONTANA AT IDAHO STATE • KICKOFF: 6 P.M. SATURDAY • TV: MTN • THURSDAY, OCT. 2, 2025

GRIZZLY GAME DAY

Missoulian



FULL DECK

Growing up as coach's kid pays off for senior Drew Deck

BEN ALLAN SMITH, MISSOULIAN

Q&A WITH S KADE BOYD, PAGE 3 • SPELTZ PICKS THE BIG SKY, PAGE 4 • ROSTERS, PAGE 5

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**'ALWAYS
COMPETE'**

BEN ALLAN SMITH, MISSOULIAN

Montana wide receiver Drew Deck (2) runs the ball down the sideline during the college football game against Central Washington on Sept. 6 at Washington-Grizzly Stadium in Missoula. The Kalispell native scored his first career touchdown in the game.

Lessons from father help Kalispell's Deck deal on field as receiver

FRANK GOGOLA | 406 MT Sports

Drew Deck pointed his left hand toward the crowd after he crossed the goal line, ran from right to left across the end zone as teammates congratulated him and jumped around in joy as he neared the student section.

The senior from Kalispell had a lot to celebrate on Sept. 6 as he scored his first career touchdown playing for Mon-

tana. It was a long time coming as it took him until his sixth year and his 33rd game of college football.

Somewhere in the crowd of 26,000 fans were Deck's parents, who made the trip from Texas. His father, Arron Deck, was the one who played the dual role of father and coach, teaching Drew lessons that helped him reach this point.

"It was great to have them there because they've been such a big part of my life," he said ahead of Montana's

first road game of the season against Idaho State at 6 p.m. Saturday in Pocatello, Idaho. "It made it special."

Drew got to see his parents after the season-opening victory. He got a fist bump and smile from his father, who he could sense had missed being around football and was happy to be there.

See DECK, PAGE 6

Former walk-on Boyd making plays

Billings native sees increase in reps as sophomore safety

CARSON CASHION
406 MT Sports

Montana Grizzlies safety Kade Boyd entered this season with just three games on his collegiate resume.

A former walk-on, the Billings Central alum redshirted in 2023 and reached the field on just three occasions in 2024 (Weber State, Eastern Washington, Morehead State). He logged three total tackles.

Through one month of football in 2025, Boyd has logged at least one solo tackle in each of Montana's four wins. He hauled in his first career interception in the season opener against Central Washington, snagging a Kyon Loud-forced deflection out of the end zone and running up to the 25-yard line. He was credited for a QB hurry against North Dakota that led to a Peyton Wing interception.

Most recently, against Idaho, Boyd led his team with six total tackles and five solos. Midway through the fourth quarter, as Idaho looked to draw within one possession of the Griz, linebacker Solomon Tuliaupupu forced an Idaho fumble from Daveon Superales. Boyd recovered the fumble on Idaho's 40-yard line, setting up a field goal that all but iced the contest.

Boyd sat down with 406 MT Sports ahead of Montana's first road test against Idaho State at 6 p.m. Saturday. This interview has been edited for brevity and clarity.

Q: I'm sure your interception against Central Washington has to be one of the highlights of your career so far. What did you see on that play?

A: I was in the post there, and it just paid off hustling over to the ball. Props to Kyon, making a great play and being able to knock that ball up in the air for me to go and grab it. And then just using my legs, trying to get it to the other end zone, but I ended up getting caught up.

Q: It looked like Kyon was telling you to get down in the end zone, right?

A: Yeah. Situationally, (I should) probably go down next time. But the moment got the best of me.

Q: Had you ever heard a crowd pop like that for a play you made?

A: Not so much in the moment, it just kind of all blacked out. But afterwards, you could definitely hear it, for sure.

Q: And then you get involved in an-



SHANNA MADISON, MISSOULIAN

Montana safety Kade Boyd (17) warms up before a college football game against Idaho on Sept. 27 at Washington-Grizzly Stadium in Missoula. Boyd has had a hand in three turnovers the Grizzlies have gained this season.

other turnover against Indiana State, providing the QB hurry that allowed Peyton Wing to get the interception. Take me through that play.

A: That was pretty cool, one of the rare instances where I get to rush off the edge. Just being able to go up and make a play and get to the quarterback was really sweet. And then felt I hit the quarterback, so I didn't know where the ball went, looked back and Peyton had it. It was just immediate celebration. Being able to run down into the south end zone was super cool, something I always wanted to do.

Q: Going back to your days at Billings Central, you excelled as a safety

and running back. What went into the decision-making process to pursue defense at the next level?

A: I mean, I loved offense, but I knew — it was something me and my dad talked about — I probably had a better opportunity at the next level being able to play safety, size-wise and skill set-wise. So most of my time during summer camps, I spent doing both corner and safety work. So that prepared me a lot, but I still did love offense, too.

Q: You had scholarship offers from multiple NAIA schools in Montana and still chose to walk on at Montana. What made that decision for you?

A: Honestly, it was just the coaches really. I was already set in stone, about to go to (Montana) Tech and it was getting close to May, I'd say, and that's when a couple of coaches, coach Tim (Hauck), got in contact with me and just mentioned that I had the opportunity (to walk on). It's on the table, they think I could play here, they believed in me. It was always a dream to come here, obviously, and so I couldn't pass it up. I talked to my family, because leaving a school that I had a scholarship at, and instead being a walk-on here was a little bit of a risk, but it paid off in the end.

See BOYD, PAGE 7

HOW WE SEE THE BIG SKY

BILL SPELTZ | 406 MT Sports

Over the past 27 years, the Montana football team has played in some crazy games at Idaho State's cozy little dome in Pocatello.

The place is no longer called Holt Arena, by the way. In 2024, the oldest enclosed stadium on a college campus in the United States was renamed ICCU Dome, as in Idaho Central Credit Union.



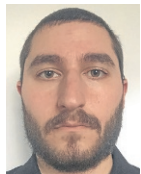
**BILL
SPELTZ**

46-4



**CARSON
CASHION**

45-5



**FRANK
GOGOLA**

44-6



**VICTOR
FLORES**

43-7

To say Montana and Idaho State have a rivalry would be mighty kind to the Bengals. ISU has lost 15 in a row to the Grizzlies, with its last win coming in the dome, 43-40, in double overtime in 2003.

Since then, the teams have had two memorable nail-biters in Pocatello.

Two games in which Montana came away with wins.

Start with the 2009 don-eybrook that finished with a score you'd expect from a park-rec softball game. Second-ranked Montana went into the contest with a perfect 8-0 record and Idaho State was 0-9.

You never would have guessed by the way it played out.

The Bengals' Kelvin Krosch caught a 21-yard touchdown pass from Russell Hill with 10:29 left to give his team a 10-9 lead.

It held up until the final play of the game when Brody McKnight nailed a 33-yard field goal to give the Grizzlies a 12-10 win.

Whew!

"My perspective on it is that John Zamberlin outcoached Bob Hauck," Bobby Hauck said of Idaho State's head coach at the time. "I need to do a better job.

"He had his team fired up. They played inspired

ball. They should be proud of their efforts. I'm proud of their guys. They're banged up. Coach Z was the best coach on the field today, and we're lucky to get out of here with a win."



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. The Grizzlies will play at Idaho State this week.

Ten years ago, the Bob Stitt-led Grizzlies needed overtime to dispatch the Bengals in Pocatello. You might say UM snatched victory from the jaws of defeat.

With Idaho State lined up for a potential game-winning 34-yard field goal in overtime, a few plays after Griz quarterback Makena Simis appeared to fumble away Montana's chances, the script flipped. ISU's snapper fired the ball over his holder's head and it bounced down the turf. Griz cornerback JR Nelson and the Idaho State holder raced for it and both fell on it. The ball bounced up, right to Montana's Eric Johnson, who went 40 yards for the game-ending touchdown. A crazy play that was a fitting end to a wild game.

"Unbelievable," Stitt said of his team, which improved to 5-4 with the win and kept its playoff hopes alive. "Finally something good happened to the good guys. What an awesome thing to happen to this team right now. We needed it."

Since then, the Grizzlies visited Pocatello twice and each time came away with an eight-point victory. The bottom line is that Idaho State, regardless of how bad its record has looked over the past 16 years, has consistently played the Grizzlies tough in the Gem State.

Expect them to do the same Saturday under third-year coach Cody Hawkins, who came to Pocatello from UC Davis, where he served as offensive coordinator for three years. The Bengals' record may not impress you, but they pushed two FBS teams (UNLV, New Mexico) on the

road earlier this season and they're coming off a win at Northern Colorado.

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

No. 4 Montana (1-0, 4-0) at Idaho State (1-0, 2-3), 6 p.m. TV: ESPN+. Interestingly, Idaho State's skipper (Hawkins) started his coaching career in 2011 as a player/coach for the Stockholm Mean Machines, Sweden's oldest and most successful football organization. Anyone over the age of 60 that loves football and an occasional movie will forever fondly remember Burt Reynolds as quarterback/coach Paul Crewe of the Mean Machine in the original 1974 movie "The Longest Yard." Believe it or not, it was actually shot at the Georgia State prison. Anyway, Idaho State has a losing record once again this season but is explosive on offense and will be sky-high to play Montana in Pocatello. I look for the feisty Bengals to stay with Montana for most of Saturday's game before fading in the second half. **Speltz:** Montana 38, Idaho State 30. **Cashion:** Montana 38, Idaho State 17. **Gogola:** Montana 52, Idaho State 23. **Flores:** Griz 38, ISU 24.

No. 5 Montana State (1-0, 3-2) at No. 13 Northern Arizona (1-0, 4-1), 2 p.m. TV: The Spot-MTN. This one could go either way, just like the game three years ago in Flagstaff that saw the Tommy Mellott-led Bobcats escape with a 41-38 win. You may recall Montana State raced to a 17-0 lead in that one before the Lumberjacks came roaring back. Maybe it had something to do with play-

ing at 7,000 feet. Maybe the Cats lost a little bit of focus with all the noise in the Walkup Skydome. One thing is certain: NAU is not going to be intimidated by the mighty Bobcats. The Jacks have won four in a row, including a 31-23 home triumph over then-ranked Incarnate Word two weeks ago. It's worth noting Montana State has played only one road game this season and it was quite forgettable — a 59-13 loss to Oregon, who is coming off a stunning win at Penn State. This time, the Cats will be much better on the road but they're going to need to put up big numbers to snap NAU's winning streak.

Speltz: Bobcats 35, Lumberjacks 32.

Cashion: Montana State 27, Northern Arizona 24. **Gogola:** Montana State 35, NAU 27. **Flores:** Cats 28, NAU 20.

Portland State (0-1, 0-5) at Eastern Washington (0-1, 1-4), 5 p.m.

TV: ESPN+. This is a matchup of teams that might just have new head coaches next season. I mean, really, the Vikes have lost 15 of their last 19 games under coach Bruce Barnum. They went 3-8 last season and they've been outscored this season, 215-40. The Eagles used to be the class of the Big Sky Conference when Beau Baldwin was head coach. He led them to a national championship 15 years ago. Now, Eastern is under the guidance of Aaron Best. His team had four wins last season and will have a hard time getting any more than that this season. Last week's 57-3 loss for the Eagles at Montana State was an embarrassment. They'll bounce back with a win this week because they're playing Portland State.

Speltz: Eagles 52, Vikes 40. **Cashion:** Eastern Washington 31, Portland State 21. **Gogola:** Eags 30, Vikes 21. **Flores:** EWU 31, PSU 21.

No. 7 UC Davis (1-0, 3-1) at Cal Poly (1-0, 3-2), 6 p.m. TV: ESPN+.

The Mustangs earned a surprising win at then-21st-ranked Sacramento State last weekend, 32-24. Cal Poly jumped to an 18-7 lead, then fell victim to a 14-0 run, then outscored the hosts 14-3 in the final 33 minutes. Davis has won its last two games and is 3-0 against FCS foes, but it's hard to tell how good the Aggies actually are this season. Their wins have come against Utah Tech, Southern Utah and Weber State. Davis will have a hard time winning in San Luis Obispo, but I'm giving them the nod. **Speltz:** Aggies 34, Mustangs 27. **Cashion:** UC Davis 28, Cal Poly 24. **Gogola:** UC Davis 38, Cal Poly 24. **Flores:** UC Davis 34, Cal Poly 17.

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	Kaikoa 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 Hietegaard	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	173	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	240	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 STATE BENGALS ROSTER

No.	Name	Year	Position	Height	Weight	Hometown														
0	Damien Morgan	R-Jr.	WR	5-10	181	Modesto, Calif.	21	Rylan Leathers	R-Fr.	S	6-0	188	Amarillo, Texas	54	Jorgen Miller	R-So.	OL	6-3	286	Hiram, Utah
0	Cam'ron Willis	Sr.	DL	6-0	218	Houston, Texas	22	Jacob Martin	Fr.	WR	6-1	182	Huntington Beach, Calif.	55	Gunnar Clark	R-So.	OL	6-2	292	Mountain Home, Idaho
1	Jordan Cooke	R-Jr.	QB	6-4	234	Santa Rosa, Calif.	22	Aiden Garcia	R-Jr.	WR	6-3	192	Queen Creek, Ariz.	56	Kanigh Snyder	R-Fr.	DL	6-2	266	Reno, Nev.
1	Gabe Tahir	R-So.	CB	6-1	190	Kennewick, Wash.	22	Mason Young	Sr.	S	5-10	199	Salt Lake City, Utah	57	Frank Kissick	R-Fr.	DL	6-2	243	Fall City, Wash.
2	Adonijah Richards	R-Jr.	CB	5-9	185	San Diego, Calif.	23	Robbie Mascheroni	So.	WR	6-4	209	Moraga, Calif.	57	Exander Miller	R-Fr.	OL	6-4	271	Hyrum, Utah
2	Brett Spencer	R-Fr.	QB	6-0	209	Weiser, Idaho	23	TreShawn Shorty	Fr.	CB	5-10	180	Gilbert, Ariz.	58	Lukas Jackson	Fr.	OL	6-2	276	Pleasant Grove, Utah
3	Janari Boone	Jr.	S	6-0	206	Vallejo, Calif.	24	Isaiah Cook	Fr.	S	5-10	182	Chula Vista, Calif.	59	Brady Phillips	So.	DL	6-2	270	Kelso, Wash.
3	Jonah Burton	R-Jr.	WR	5-11	201	Simi Valley, Calif.	24	Zack Homan	Fr.	RB	6-0	211	Santa Rosa, Calif.	60	Wyatt Orton	Fr.	OL	6-5	371	Kanab, Utah
4	Jackson Daniels	So.	CB	6-1	162	San Diego, Calif.	25	Jackson Riddle	R-Fr.	RB	5-11	197	Pocatello, Idaho	61	Zachary Shiroma	Sr.	OL	6-0	261	Mililani, Hawaii
5	Jayden Bell	R-Jr.	LB	6-2	230	Pocatello, Idaho	26	Mason Lindberg	R-Fr.	K	6-1	174	Mesa, Ariz.	62	Will Davis	R-So.	OL	6-3	318	Portland, Ore.
5	Robert Freeman IV	R-Jr.	RB	5-7	169	Richmond, Calif.	26	Sanborne Melson	R-So.	CB	6-0	185	Portland, Ore.	63	Logan Shearing	Fr.	OL	6-2	251	Meridian, Idaho
6	Carson Sudbury	R-Fr.	RB	5-11	195	South Jordan, Utah	27	Matt Mason	R-Jr.	RB	5-9	195	Logan, Utah	65	Jaxsen Tuia	So.	OL	6-2	267	Pocatello, Idaho
6	Troy Wilkey	Jr.	S	5-9	171	Meridian, Idaho	27	Jaylin Wilson	Fr.	CB	5-11	183	Lancaster, Calif.	66	Justin Frost	R-Fr.	OL	6-5	291	Summerville, Ore.
7	Javoni Gardere	R-Jr.	WR	5-11	191	Dublin, Calif.	28	Dason Brooks	R-Jr.	RB	5-11	228	Chandler, Ariz.	67	Broox McGiven	So.	OL	6-5	333	Morgan, Utah
7	Nathan Reynolds	Jr.	LB	6-3	245	Meridian, Idaho	28	Trey Jacobsen	Fr.	LB	6-1	208	Meridian, Idaho	70	Trevor Hammond	Fr.	OL	6-4	273	Pocatello, Idaho
8	Jackson Sharman	R-So.	QB	6-2	201	Torrance, Calif.	29	Aiden Brown	Fr.	RB	5-9	190	Kalama, Wash.	71	Messiah Johnson	R-Fr.	OL	6-3	317	Salinas, Calif.
8	Teilor Tuioti	Sr.	LB	6-1	227	Lincoln, Neb.	29	Elfred Segbe	Jr.	CB	5-7	162	Reistertown, Md.	72	David Green	Fr.	OL	6-2	298	Victorville, Calif.
9	Tsion Nunnally	R-Sr.	WR	6-4	231	Santa Rosa, Calif.	30	Mike Lindsay	R-Fr.	CB	6-1	181	Los Angeles, Calif.	75	Jake Hellmann	Sr.	OL	6-5	311	Pleasant View, Utah
9	Devin Rodriguez	R-Fr.	LB	6-1	222	Pocatello, Idaho	30	Hunter Roddy	R-Jr.	RB	5-11	221	Murietta, Calif.	76	Jaedon Garcia	R-Jr.	OL	6-3	304	Waianae, Hawaii
10	Logan Gonzalez	R-Jr.	QB	6-1	190	Orange, Calif.	31	Bryce McCray	Fr.	CB	6-3	177	Lakewood, Wash.	77	Osiel Moreno	Fr.	OL	6-3	300	Cathedral City, Calif.
10	Maka Tu'Akoi	Sr.	DL	6-6	236	Salt Lake City, Utah	31	Matthew Sebade	Sr.	K	6-0	196	Gainesville, Texas	79	Rex Salas	Jr.	OL	6-4	301	Rexburg, Idaho
11	Junior Damuni	Sr.	LB	6-0	230	Providence, Utah	32	Ty Beadle	Fr.	LB	6-2	228	Eastvale, Calif.	80	Julian Mason	R-Jr.	WR	5-10	185	Tacoma, Wash.
11	Ian Duarte	R-So.	WR	5-10	176	Santa Clarita, Calif.	34	Porter Lee	Fr.	LB	6-5	222	Basalt, Colo.	81	Braden Albrecht	So.	WR	6-1	194	Kahului, Hawaii
12	Davion Ross	Gr.	DB	5-11	195	Sacramento, Calif.	34	Gabe Russo	R-So.	P/K	6-0	232	Montgomery, Ala.	82	Tommy Poe	R-Fr.	WR	6-4	209	Penryn, Calif.
12	Domonick Ruiz	Fr.	WR	5-9	191	Tempe, Ariz.	35	Jonathan Watts	So.	S	6-3	182	Union City, Calif.	83	Gared Wood	Fr.	WR	5-9	176	Italy, Texas
13	Raiden Brown	R-So.	WR	5-11	175	Long Beach, Calif.	36	Trajan Sinatra	So.	K	5-11	193	San Jose, Calif.	84	Taylor Freeman	So.	WR	6-1	186	Rigby, Idaho
13	Dekker Haggler	R-Fr.	S	6-0	202	Middleton, Idaho	37	Luke Berry	R-So.	DE	6-2	236	San Juan Capistrano, Calif.	84	Jason Swigger	So.	WR	6-3	200	Carmel, Calif.
14	Michael Shulikov	Sr.	WR	6-6	226	Boise, Idaho	39	Jason Swigger	So.	LS	6-1	222	Lake Forest, Calif.	85	Simeon Brown	Fr.	WR	6-3	200	Carmel, Calif.
14	Leka Tu'Akoi	R-Fr.	DL	6-3	218	Salt Lake City, Utah	40	Parker Graham	Fr.	S	5-10	189	Rigby, Idaho	88	Kai Wheeler	Fr.	WR	6-2	207	Coeur d'Alene, Idaho
15	Noa Calaycay	R-So.	CB	6-1	173	Vienna, Austria	42	Easton Cook	Jr.	DL	6-2	231	Salem, Utah	89	Adam Watts	R-So.	WR	5-9	182	Vancouver, Wash.
15	Wyatt Horton	Fr.	QB	5-11	185	Scottsdale, Ariz.	43	Elijah Anderson	Fr.	S	6-2	194	Woodland, Wash.	90	Beau Jaques	R-So.	DL	6-2	255	Meridian, Idaho
16	Davis Harsin	R-Fr.	QB	6-1	194	Eagle, Idaho	44	Jacob Perez	So.	LB	6-3	229	Idaho Falls, Idaho	92	Zion To'oto'o	R-Jr.	DL	6-2	259	Kapolei, Hawaii
16	Amani Mazeke	So.	LB	5-10	205	Clovis, Calif.	45	Ryan Carter	R-So.	LS	5-10	210	Peoria, Ariz.	93	Jagger Childs	R-So.	DL	6-4	280	Kennewick, Wash.
17	Josh Ball	So.	WR	5-10	170	Carlsbad, Calif.	46	Ryder Holt	Fr.	LB	6-3	215	Lehi, Utah	94	Malik Richardson	R-So.	DL	6-2	280	Oakland, Calif.
17	Makeo Sneddon	So.	S	6-0	200	Eagle, Idaho	47	Maverick Harrington	R-So.	LS	6-4	225	Phoenix, Ariz.	95	Cade Clyde	Fr.	DL	6-3	284	Connell, Wash.
18	Elijah Beamon	Fr.	WR	5-11	180	Queen Creek, Ariz.	48	Jinhyun Kang	Jr.	P	6-2	207	Arlington, Texas	96	Bronson Childs					

Deck

Continued from page 2

Arron retired from coaching in 2022 after about 25 years at high schools across the state. He held true to that retirement as there was no critiquing of Drew's route running or punt returning.

Drew had already absorbed loads of knowledge from him over the years before college coaches kept molding him. But a slight reminder never hurt.

"My dad made sure to tell me that it's a long season, keep your head down, keep going and get back to work," Drew said.

He's a coach's kid at his core. He grew up knowing his father as a coach as far back as he can remember, first in Billings when Arron coached at Senior High and later in Kalispell coaching at Flathead High and then at Glacier High.

Even as a toddler, Drew tagged along to two-a-day football practices with his father. He got to be a ball boy during high school games and sometimes got to travel to road games.

Out there, he was around numerous coaches, like former Griz quarterback Grady Bennett, the head football coach at Flathead and then Glacier. Arron was the offensive coordinator under Bennett, including while Drew played.

"Just always compete, whatever it may be," Drew said of lessons he learned from his father. "He was great about teaching that at a young age. Whether it be sports, the classroom, just in life in general, always compete."

Growing up in the Deck household wired Drew to be a competitor, and not just because his father was a coach. He's the second oldest of four siblings, behind brother Brady and ahead of sisters Hannah and Emily.

Most of them are about two years apart in age, so things got competitive. All of them participated in sports growing up although Drew was the only one to go on to play in college.

Brady, Drew and Hannah all competed in track for Glacier, where Arron was the head coach before he retired in 2022 and moved to Texas. Drew learned the competition aspect from his father even before he was coached by him.

"Whatever we were doing, it was always a competition," he said. "Growing up in such a sports household with my dad being a coach forever, definitely kind of drilled that into us. Whether it was a board game or football in the backyard or whatever it might be, it was always highly competitive. It was a lot of fun."

Being in constant competition helped



BEN ALLAN SMITH, MISSOULIAN

Montana wide receiver Drew Deck (2) celebrates a touchdown during the college football game against Central Washington on Sept. 6 at Washington-Grizzly Stadium in Missoula. The Kalispell native scored his first career touchdown in the game.

prepare Drew for NCAA Division I college football. The Griz were his favorite childhood team and the one he dreamed of playing for while growing up about two hours north of Missoula.

He joined a receiver group in 2020 that included future professional players Samori Toure, Sammy Akem and Keelan White. By the time he could play after the canceled 2020 season, future pro Junior Bergen was added to the room that included another record-breaking returner in Malik Flowers.

The desire to work hard to earn something instead of thinking he simply deserved it has helped him put together his best season in his final year. He already has accrued single-season career highs in receptions and receiving yards in addition to that one touchdown catch, with his father in attendance.

"There's times where we butt heads, and then as soon as I was done playing for him, best buds," Drew said. "He's still my best bud, still my best friend. I talk to him a lot. I have since I've been here.

"But those lessons in football that he taught me were able to just transfer right over here to not only football but to just life in general. Those have stuck with me the whole way."

One thing he wasn't as prepared for was dealing with major injuries. Those were setbacks that he hadn't previously experienced in sports.

Just as he felt he was making forward progress, shoulder surgeries after the 2022 and 2023 seasons knocked him back. Missing offseason work while teammates got in reps hindered his growth trajectory.

He got reassurance from his father, who had coached players who had to fight back from injuries in the past. The players around him in Missoula also helped him overcome the mental hurdle of injuries.

"It's tough when you're not out there with the guys and they're putting in work all year round," he said. "But you got to do what you got to do to get back on the field as quick as you can or get back to practice.

"Having such a great friend group in the locker room, such a great group of guys,

they made all that stuff easier. They were great."

Drew had admired the impact he saw his father make on players' lives through coaching. He thought about going into coaching as he grew up, but whether he actually follows that path after playing is still up for debate.

He has already graduated from UM with a bachelor's degree in business management and entrepreneurship and is working on a certificate. He got engaged over the summer and will soon be getting married.

He met McKinlee Mihelish, a Helena native who also comes from a well-known coaching family, when she ran track and cross country for the Griz. As Drew prepares for the next chapters of life, he's glad he had the upbringing he did.

"Growing up with such great parents, such great siblings, very blessed to have such a great family growing up in Kalispell and being around such great people, such great coaches along the way," he said.

"I wouldn't change anything for the world."

Boyd

Continued from page 3

I wouldn't have done it any other way honestly.

Q: Have you since been put on scholarship at Montana?

A: Yeah, I earned a scholarship this past spring after spring ball.

Q: Where do you feel like the biggest points of growth for you came in your first two years as a Griz?

A: Just doing my one-

eleventh has really helped me progress a lot more. Being able to detail in on my assignment, not trying to do too much because that's what I got caught doing a couple times when I first got here in my redshirt freshman year.

Q: In a defensive unit with as many new faces as Montana has this year, has the process of feeling out your teammates' tendencies and growing some chemistry extended into the season?

A: Yeah, definitely. Live game speed is a whole dif-

ferent thing, so being able to know where the guys in front of me are going to be, how they like to play has been huge. The past three weeks have been super sweet to be out there with all those guys and learning how they all play.

Q: How was your adjustment to Missoula from Billings?

A: Overall, I knew a lot of the guys coming up that were in my class from Montana. You didn't have to really meet any new people, except for the out-of-state

guys. But all the in-state guys, I either played against growing up or just knew of from social media and whatnot. Town-wise, I love it up here. I feel like there's a lot more to do up here than there is in Billings outdoors-wise. There's nothing better than going and floating the river after a hot summer practice or summer lift.

Q: Is there anything you miss about Billings?

A: Mainly just family, I'd say, and then some of the food spots I miss. I miss my Dave's Hot Chicken, that was my go-to fast food meal back in Billings. Hopefully we get one opened up here.

Q: What are your food spots in Missoula now?

A: We love Desperado, the guys going over there, getting some wings. Tamarack is a great spot too, that never fails.

Q: What's your wing flavor at Desperado?

A: It's the Hawaiian one, for sure.

Q: The Maui-Wowie?

A: Yes, I'd say that one for sure. They have great deals, like the 10 wings and a burger. That's a steal. You can't pass that up.

Q: What are you doing in your free time here?

A: Lots of golfing this past summer. My buddies have just recently gotten me into fly fishing. Being able to do that was super fun this summer, great way to kill time, just being outside. Just hanging out with all my roommates, too. I live with six other dudes, so it's never really boring in our house. There's always something going on.

Q: Have you got any favorite golf courses in the area?

A: I love Canyon River. Canyon River is fun. The UM course is obviously great, cheap course to go

play a round that's super fun. Larchmont, I haven't got a chance to play out there too many times. I played there once, and it was pretty sweet when I went out there. But yeah, Canyon River, I'd say.

Q: Do you golf with your teammates at all?

A: Usually a couple of my roommates, there's a couple others that also go out a lot. That's how I got to know Micah Harper pretty well. We went golfing a couple times this summer, and he was usually my scramble partner, so that was pretty fun playing with him.

Q: Were the two of you winning most of those scrambles?

A: Usually. There's been a couple times where it hasn't gone our way, a couple of our off-days have hit, but we have won most of our matchups that we play against other teammates.



Montana safety Kade Boyd (17) tackles Eastern Washington wide receiver Efton Chism III on Sept. 28, 2024, at Roos Field in Cheney, Washington. Boyd has played in seven games in his career, including four this year.

BEN ALLAN SMITH, MISSOULIAN

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