

MONTANA AT PORTLAND STATE • KICKOFF: 3 P.M. MT SATURDAY • TV: MTN • THURSDAY, NOV. 13, 2025

GRIZZLY GAME DAY

Missoulian

MIGHTY MICAH

Senior Micah Harper
marches on through
adversities

BEN ALLAN SMITH, MISSOULIAN

Q&A WITH DE HAYDEN SCHWARTZ, PAGE 3 • SPELTZ PICKS THE BIG SKY, PAGE 4 • ROSTERS, PAGE 5

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Wellness Throughout



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POWERING FORWARD

Harper overcomes losses on, off field to shine at safety

FRANK GOGOLA | 406 MT Sports

Montana safety Micah Harper retains photos of two special people on the lock screen and home screen wallpaper of his cell phone.

One photo is his childhood best friend, who was playing college football before he died three years ago this month. The other photo is his grandfather, who was one of his big supporters until he died two years ago in December.

Those photos hung on Harper's bedroom wall during his time at BYU, where he was a Freshman All-American in between two ACL injuries during his five years there. Through tough times on and off the field, the senior has kept his head up and continued fighting.

"I feel like I'm mentally strong for sure," he said ahead of Montana's game at Portland State at 3 p.m. MT Saturday at Providence Park in Portland, Oregon.

"I know that I've been through the highest of highs and I've gotten down to the lowest of lows and I'm still doing it, I'm still thriving at the end of the day, I'm still playing football, I still feel like I'm me, I'm still playing at a high level. I'm just proud of myself about that."

His hopeful mindset and ability to power on has followed Harper in

his first year playing for the Grizzlies. He has been working to put together a more positive ending to his college career and has started every game so far.

See HARPER, PAGE 6

Montana safety Micah Harper tackles North Dakota QB Jerry Kaminski on Sept. 13. The Hawaii native is in his first season playing for the Grizzlies after he transferred from BYU.

BEN ALLAN SMITH, MISSOULIAN





Montana's Hayden Schwartz faces Eastern Washington's Aidan Corning on Nov. 8 in Missoula. Schwartz is in his first season with the Grizzlies after he transferred from Minnesota.

BEN ALLAN SMITH, MISSOULIAN

Minnesota transfer making plays at DE as weekly contributor

SCHWARTZ SETTLING IN

CARSON CASHION | 406 MT Sports

Montana redshirt junior Hayden Schwartz secured one of the Grizzlies' most consequential plays Saturday against Eastern Washington.

A 6-foot-4, 248-pound defensive lineman, Schwartz caught his first career interception off a pass breakup from linebacker Clay Oven. The play came inside Montana's 15-yard line as the Eagles looked to draw within one score in the fourth quarter at Washington-Grizzly Stadium.

Montana's eventual margin of victory was four points after Eastern Washington scored with 1:01 remaining on the clock. If Schwartz hadn't caught his interception and EWU kicked a field goal, the Eags could've iced the game with a field goal after recovering their onside kick.

In his first year of week-to-week playing time, Schwartz has recorded at least three total tackles in four games. The son of former Jacksonville Jaguars linebacker Bryan Schwartz and a Jacksonville native, he logged his first solo sack against Sac-

ramento State and then another against Weber State.

Schwartz sat down with 406 MT Sports ahead of Montana's road contest against Portland State at 3 p.m. MT Saturday. This interview has been edited for brevity and clarity.

Q: What's been working for you in Montana's pass rush here recently?

A: Probably, I'd say my motor. You can throw some moves and stuff, or work on a lot of technique, but especially in game-time situations, I think for me, it's just mo-

tor and not giving up on getting to the QB.

Q: What have been the biggest points of growth in the pass rush as a team?

A: I think just what we've been doing in practice. A lot of extra work, working with one another, especially (D-line) coach (Mike) Linehan. He's just been working more technique stuff with us, aiming points, all that. I think it's really added up for all of us.

See SCHWARTZ, PAGE 7

HOW WE SEE THE BIG SKY

BILL SPELTZ | 406 MT Sports

Brawl of the Wild week doesn't start until Sunday, but the mental battle is already underway.

Second-ranked Montana and third-ranked Montana State both have potential trap games Saturday. That is, tests they're expected to pass that could result in catastrophe if they zone out ahead of the much anticipated Cat-Griz showdown a week from Saturday at Washington-Grizzly Stadium.



**BILL
SPELTZ**

71-10



**CARSON
CASHION**

69-12



**FRANK
GOGOLA**

65-15



**VICTOR
FLORES**

65-16

In the end, Montana will probably win comfortably in Portland, Oregon. But if ever there was a year where the Grizzlies seemed to have a textbook setup for a trap game ahead of the Brawl, this is it.

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

The Bobcats have the much tougher test at home against ninth-ranked UC Davis. The advantage in that scenario for MSU is the Aggies are good enough to command the Cats' undivided attention. Plus, the game will air on national television (ESPN2).

Montana's foe this week, Portland State, has had such a tough season that it may be hard for the Grizzlies to be fully invested emotionally. Even if they're only half invested they'll likely win, but their motivational challenge is worth noting since the Vikings have stumbled and bumbled their way to a 1-9 record and three weeks ago were blown out at Idaho, 45-6.

Montana's coaching staff will impress upon its players Portland State's potential, which was on full display in a 40-35 win at Cal Poly two weeks ago. Still, the Grizzlies are human, just like the rest of us, and each game carries with it a different level of anxiety and urgency.



BEN ALLAN SMITH, MISSOULIAN

Montana cornerback Prince Ford (6) celebrates during the college football game against Eastern Washington on Nov. 8 at Washington-Grizzly Stadium in Missoula.

No. 2 Montana (6-0, 10-0) at Portland State (1-5, 1-9), 3 p.m. TV: Scripps Sports.

No Big Sky Conference coach is better at motivating his team for games against inferior foes than Montana's Bobby Hauck. That doesn't mean the Grizzlies are going to win every single time they're favored, especially on the road, but Hauck's teams usually win the games they're supposed to win. Period. Hauck and his staff may have to work extra hard this week to motivate their troops for this mismatch. Perhaps the Grizzlies will be bolstered by a crowd that may actually have more Montana backers than Viking fans. The biggest potential problem for the Grizzlies in this one is that sometimes they play to the level of their opponent. Last week, for example, they failed to grind Eastern Washington into the turf after building a big lead. Let an underdog stick around long enough, sooner or later you're going to get bit. There's a possibility that could happen to the Grizzlies early in the playoffs, but it won't happen Saturday. **Speltz:** Grizzlies 55, Vikings 17. **Cashion:** Montana 35, Portland State 14. **Gogola:** Griz 49, Viks 13. **Flores:** Griz 45, PSU 20.

No. 9 UC Davis (5-1, 7-2) at No. 3 Montana State (6-0, 8-2), 8:15 p.m. TV: ESPN2.

This is most certainly the marquee game of the week in the Big Sky. It would have been even bigger had the Aggies not lost at home to Idaho State two weeks ago. My hunch is Davis is going to have trouble piling up points against the best defense in the Big Sky. The Cats have won eight games in a row and they've allowed only 64 points combined in six league wins. On top of that, Davis will have to deal with cold temperatures they're not used to experiencing on Saturday in Bozeman. It's not going to be freezing, mind you, but the Aggies are used to 60s and 70s, not 40s. Getting hit hurts more in cold weather. **Speltz:** Bobcats 35, Aggies 20. **Cashion:** Montana State 42, UC Davis 24. **Gogola:** MSU 34, Davis 17. **Flores:** Cats 35, Davis 17.

Northern Colorado (1-5, 3-7) at Eastern Washington (3-3, 4-6), 2 p.m. TV: ESPN+.

This is the toughest Big Sky game to pick this week. The Eagles could have an emotional letdown after coming so close to beating Montana at Washington-Grizzly Stadium last Saturday. Plus, Eastern hasn't been a

juggernaut at home lately. Two weeks ago, the Eagles dropped a 35-13 decision to Sacramento State in Cheney. I'm going to give Eastern the benefit of the doubt simply because its offense looked good after the first quarter on Saturday in Missoula. Plus, the Bears have averaged just 11 points per game in their last three contests. **Speltz:** Eagles 24, Bears 17. **Cashion:** Eastern Washington 31, Northern Colorado 17. **Gogola:** Eags 35, Bears 24. **Flores:** EWU 38, UNC 24.

Cal Poly (1-5, 3-7) at No. 24 Northern Arizona (3-3, 6-4), 2 p.m. TV: ESPN+.

The Mustangs have lost five in a row since their win at Sacramento State. Their home loss to Portland State earlier this month was definitely a low point. The Lumberjacks kept their playoff hopes alive with a blowout home win over Northern Colorado last week. They'll keep the momentum going Saturday in their final regular-season home game. **Speltz:** Jacks 40, Mustangs 20. **Cashion:** Northern Arizona 38, Cal Poly 21. **Gogola:** Jacks 38, Poly 24. **Flores:** NAU 31, Cal Poly 14.

Weber State (1-5, 3-7) at Idaho State (3-3, 4-6), 4 p.m. TV: ESPN+.

This rivalry game could be interesting if the Wildcats come to play. Granted, they've lost three in a row. But they did push visiting Eastern Washington back on Oct. 25 before dropping a 23-20 decision. Idaho State gives up a lot of points but also scores a lot of points. Considering Saturday marks the Bengals' final home game and they're riding a two-game win streak, I'm going with them for the win. **Speltz:** Bengals 34, Wildcats 21. **Cashion:** Idaho State 28, Weber State 10. **Gogola:** Bengals 45, Weber 20. **Flores:** ISU 42, Weber 21.

Idaho (2-4, 4-6) at Sacramento State (4-2, 6-4), 7 p.m. TV: ESPN+.

Kudos to Hornets head coach Brennan Marion for getting his team right back on the horse after an emotional home loss to Montana three weeks ago. Sac State has won two in a row and boasts one of the best offenses in the Big Sky, averaging almost 36 points per game in league competition. Idaho has played better lately, winning at Northern Arizona two weeks ago and giving Davis a good game last week. But I'm going with the Hornets to win their final home game. **Speltz:** Hornets 37, Vandals 35. **Cashion:** Sacramento State 42, Idaho 24. **Gogola:** Hornets 31, Vandals 28. **Flores:** Sac 34, Idaho 28.

MONTANA GRIZZLIES

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

PORTLAND STATE VIKINGS

No.	Name	Year	Position	Height	Weight	Hometown	24	Delon Thompson	So.	RB	5-9	200	Newbury Park, Calif.	64	Tristan Lewis	So.	OL	6-5	305	Eatonville, Wash.
0	Jaylen Lynch	Jr.	WR	6-2	185	Murrieta, Calif.	25	Kayin Booker	Fr.	LB	6-2	225	Oxnard, Calif.	65	Ben Kapelka	So.	OL	6-4	260	Vancouver, Wash.
2	Branden Alvarez	Sr.	WR	5-11	180	Norco, Calif.	26	Jerome Roberts	Fr.	S	5-10	210	San Diego, Calif.	66	Ethan Johnson	So.	OL	6-3	285	Portland, Ore.
2	Dionte Thornton	So.	CB	6-3	205	Carson, Calif.	27	Avirey Durdahl	Fr.	QB	6-0	190	Happy Valley, Ore.	68	Semisi Latu	Jr.	OL	6-2	305	San Mateo, Calif.
3	Terence Loville	Jr.	WR	6-0	185	San Mateo, Calif.	28	Jordan Herron	Fr.	RB	5-10	160	Aurora, Colo.	69	Kapeliele Hausia	Jr.	OL	6-4	305	Moreno Valley, Calif.
3	Pierce Walker	Fr.	DB	5-10	180	Keizer, Ore.	28	Dionte West	Fr.	DB	6-1	195	Perris, Calif.	70	Shaun Torgeson	Fr.	OL	6-4	290	Ventura, Calif.
4	Micah Avery	Fr.	RB	5-10	185	Antioch, Calif.	29	Derrick Blanche Jr.	Fr.	RB	5-8	165	Concord, Calif.	71	Braylon Cornell	Jr.	OL	6-6	285	West Linn, Ore.
4	Isaiah Green	So.	DB	6-1	180	Oxnard, Calif.	30	Lono Solomon	Fr.	DB	5-11	170	Waianae, Hawaii	72	Pryce Roberts	So.	OL	6-5	300	Woodinville, Wash.
5	Jordan Allen	Jr.	LB	6-1	225	San Diego, Calif.	32	John Amone	Fr.	LB	6-1	195	Salt Lake City, Utah	73	Gobi Goodson	Fr.	OL	6-3	300	Seattle, Wash.
5	Gabe Downing	So.	QB	6-0	185	Olympia, Wash.	33	Tupulea "Bam" Afalava	So.	DL	6-3	260	Puyallup, Wash.	74	Pule Leatigaga	Fr.	OL	6-4	335	Seattle, Wash.
6	Jaxton Helmstetler	Jr.	LB	6-2	220	Seattle, Wash.	34	Tony Johnson	Sr.	P	6-5	180	Valparaiso, Ind.	75	Mylan Sockwell	Fr.	OL	6-2	310	Pasadena, Calif.
6	Cru Newman	Fr.	QB	6-0	185	Portland, Ore.	35	Samuel Etienne	Fr.	CB	6-2	175	Mukilteo, Wash.	76	Pedro Timoteo	Sr.	OL	6-3	320	Anchorage, Alaska
7	CJ Jordan	Sr.	QB	6-2	220	Portland, Ore.	36	Solomon McDaniel	Jr.	LB	5-11	225	Milwaukie, Ore.	77	Jakob Belton	Sr.	OL	6-7	320	Long Beach, Calif.
7	Bryson Ross	So.	S	6-3	185	Sammamish, Wash.	37	Kayce Tinner	Fr.	LB	6-4	215	Lake Oswego, Ore.	79	Angelo Saroukos	Fr.	OL	6-4	315	Northridge, Calif.
8	Daulton Beard	Fr.	WR	6-5	200	Santa Ynez, Calif.	38	Deon Cavitt	Jr.	S	6-1	200	Rancho Cucamonga, Calif.	80	Jayden Brannan	Sr.	DE	6-3	225	Portland, Ore.
8	Diontaye Moorman	Fr.	DB	6-0	185	Everett, Wash.	39	Henry Amposta	Jr.	LB	6-2	225	Mission Viejo, Calif.	81	Chance Miller	Sr.	WR	6-0	185	Canby, Ore.
9	Davin Beason	Jr.	LB	6-1	235	Bellingham, Wash.	40	Lonnie Burt	So.	LB	6-0	220	Portland, Ore.	82	Tini Tinitali	So.	WR	6-0	180	Salem, Ore.
9	John-Keawe Sagapolutele	So.	QB	6-1	205	Ewa Beach, Hawaii	43	Tuaao Tauili'iili	So.	DT	6-3	330	Tacoma, Wash.	83	Landon Bailey	Fr.	TE	6-6	235	Prosser, Wash.
10	Tanner Beaman	Jr.	TE	6-4	235	Vancouver, Wash.	44	Charlie White	Jr.	TE	6-2	245	Banks, Ore.	84	Marcus Angiuli	Fr.	WR	6-3	215	Sammamish, Wash.
10	Keegan Stancato	Sr.	LB	6-4	210	Tacoma, Wash.	45	Brock Fleming	Fr.	LS	6-1	180	Bothell, Wash.	85	Kristian Ingman	So.	TE	6-5	235	Reno, Nev.
12	Andre Miller	Fr.	WR	6-0	180	Happy Valley, Ore.	46	Aedan Seiuli	Sr.	LB	6-3	225	Spanish Fork, Utah	86	Hudson Waples	Fr.	WR	5-11	170	Silverton, Ore.
13	Eddy Schultz	So.	WR	6-1	195	Montclair, Calif.	47	Jonah Henry	Jr.	S	6-2	200	Kapahulu, Hawaii	87	Seth Lyon	Jr.	TE	6-3	245	Laguna Niguel, Calif.
14	Tyrese Smith	Fr.	QB	6-2	225	Henderson, Nev.	49	Dylan Stevens	Fr.	K/P	6-0	180	Tumwater, Wash.	88	Ben Stevens	Fr.	WR	6-4	220	Gig Harbor, Wash.
14	Theo Thompson	Fr.	DB	6-0	195	Upland, Calif.	50	Austin Goetz	Fr.	DE	6-2	245	Tigard, Ore.	90	Herbert Ware	Fr.	DL	6-4	290	Henderson, Nev.
16	Brooks Ferguson	Jr.	TE	6-5	240	Monmouth, Ore.	51	Donte Hookfin	So.	DL	6-3	250	North Las Vegas, Nev.	91	Trey Kennedy-Coleman	Fr.	DL	6-2	280	Medford, Ore.
17	Zachary Dodson-Greene	Jr.	WR	6-2	190	Salem, Ore.	52	James Minot	Jr.	OL	6-2	290	Sacramento, Calif.	93	Oliver Macy	Fr.	DE	6-3	230	Lake Oswego, Ore.
19	Zyon Floyd	Fr.	DB	5-10	175	Lake Oswego, Ore.	55	Daniel Matagi	Jr.	DT	6-0	285	Chehalis, Wash.	95	J'Querian Ladson	5th	DT	6-3	300	Northridge, Calif.
20	Jacques Badolato-Birdsell	Sr.	RB	5-10	205	Camas, Wash.	56	Spencer Elliott	Jr.	DL	6-3	245	Bend, Ore.	96	Slade Shufelt	Sr.	DL	6-3	255	Hillsboro, Ore.
20	Carsten Mamaril	Jr.	DB	5-9	180	Temecula, Calif.	58	Elias Sanders	Jr.	DL	6-2	265	Spanaway, Wash.	97	Rob Silva	Jr.	DL	6-0	300	Lodi, Calif.
21	Kenen Elder	Fr.	DB	6-0	175	Tualatin, Ore.	59	Hezeephaniah Po Ching	Jr.	OL	6-2	310	Vancouver, Wash.	97	Mathias Uribe	Sr.	K	5-9	210	San Dimas, Calif.
22	DaMari Washington	Fr.	DB	6-1	185	Las Vegas, Nev.	60	Anthony Tena	Jr.	OL	6-4	290	Santa Ana, Calif.	98	Michael MacNeill	Jr.	DL	6-1	275	Salinas, Calif.
23	DeMarcus Houston	So.	DB	6-2	185	Albany, Ore.	62	Juan Pasillas-Stanton	Fr.	OL	6-3	315	Vancouver, Wash.	99	Elijah Eason	Jr.	DL	6-5	250	Fresno, Calif.
24	Tre Taylor	Jr.	S	6-0	190	Majuro, Marshall Islands	63	Jayden Sandusky	Jr.	DL	6-1	265	Medford, Ore.	99	Fyodor Henrichs-Tarasenkov	Jr.	K	6-4	205	Vancouver, Wash.

HARPER

Continued from page 2

While at BYU, the whiteboard that contained those meaningful photos also housed his handwritten goals. It included specific stats he wanted, becoming an All-American and being a first-round NFL draft pick, among other honors.

This year, his goals are different than in the past, although he's still trying to earn his first championship ring. The list is also shorter than in previous years, and he prefaced sharing it by noting, "it might be a little crazy."

"It was more so like just have fun this year, live life with no regrets," he said. "Just because the fact that I've been through so much adversity and you don't know what's next. My goal this year was live this football season like your last, live every day like it's your last and have fun."

"Don't go through the season and have any regrets at the end of the year. It'd been two years where I haven't played football basically and that wasn't fun. I just wanted an opportunity to have fun again, that feeling of making plays."

Harper is making those plays, like forcing and recovering a fumble at Weber State and intercepting a pass against Central Washington. He just had never envisioned playing at the FCS level as a highly recruited high school prospect.

He had about 25 NCAA Division I offers, including ACC team Syracuse when Griz cornerbacks coach Kim McCloud was there. He again considered FBS offers in the transfer portal this past off-season but joined McCloud this time.

McCloud had started at cornerback opposite Harper's father, Kenny Harper, at Hawaii in 1990. Kenny, who coached Micah through high school, was one of his sources of inspiration while battling through the ups and downs in college.

"It's really been my mom and my dad and then my grandfather," he said. "They've been helping me along the line of just motivating me to just keep going. I have really great parents at the end of the day that's in my life and a part of my life and they just want the best for me."

The best for Harper came as a redshirt freshman in 2022 at BYU. He moved from cornerback to safety and was a Freshman All-America honorable mention after an ACL tear in his right knee forced him to miss the entire 2021 season.

He felt primed for a big year in 2023 but again got knocked down. He tore the



BEN ALLAN SMITH, MISSOULIAN

Montana safety Micah Harper (2) tackles Indiana State wide receiver Larry Stephens III (3) during the college football game on Sept. 20 at Washington-Grizzly Stadium in Missoula. The Hawaii native got his first career interception earlier this season.

ACL as well as the meniscus in his left knee during fall camp. He was expected to be a starter again, but the injury left him sidelined for the full season again.

While he was working his way back that second time, his grandfather, An-

thony Iwamoto, died in December 2023. His grandfather had been a daily part of his life growing up in Oahu, Hawaii, and coached him in baseball, he noted.

"That was a big part of my why too is just the fact that me playing football was

part of his reason for living as well," he said. "So that was like a big motivation for me. Every day, he fought cancer so that on Saturdays he can turn on TV and watch me play football because he lived in Hawaii."

Harper had been planning to declare for the NFL draft after the 2023 season before his injury. His parents persuaded him to stick with football when that second injury left him feeling like he was ready to be done playing, he said.

He is again planning to chase the NFL, which is a dream he and childhood best friend Devin Chandler had in Hawaii. They stayed connected even after Harper moved to Arizona in high school to be closer to his sick grandmother, he said.

Chandler was one of three University of Virginia football players killed in a school shooting on Nov. 13, 2022. All three were recognized later that spring at the 2023 NFL draft, being selected by teams as honorary draft picks.

"He has his own like made-it-to-the-NFL moment," Harper said. "He was called up on the stage, his family received a jersey for him. So, he already lived his dream, he got drafted. I'm trying to make it for him as well. I'm trying to meet him there. I think he'd be proud."

A printed-out screenshot of their last text message thread — talking about the NFL draft — also hung on Harper's wall at BYU. He had returned in 2024 but lingering knee problems led him to dropping down the depth chart, he said.

He saw the writing on the wall and felt good about leaving as he had already earned his business degree. He thought about declaring for the NFL draft, but his parents convinced him to play one more year, he said, so he transferred.

At Montana, he's having his second-best year statistically, behind only 2022. Last week, he surpassed his 2020 output when he started during the COVID season as a true freshman, after which he's overcome nearly non-stop battles.

"I've thought about it at like the end of the seasons or maybe right when adversity had hit," he said about his journey. "But in the grand scheme of things, I don't like to look at it too much because at the end of the day, life's still moving on. I just kind of look at life as half full instead of half empty."

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

SCHWARTZ

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Q: When you entered the transfer portal, what stood out about Montana?

A: If I'm being honest, ever since I got in the portal, I kind of just like the idea. I've just seen pictures and the environment, and then just the tradition. Whenever they reached out to me when I was still in the portal, I was just already interested, I was already drawn to it.

Q: What were those first couple of games at Wa-Griz like?

A: It was crazy, I'm not gonna lie. I'm not used to that. I'm coming from Minnesota, and yeah, larger stadium just number-wise, but the fans and the noise, the atmosphere here is just insane.

Q: Growing up in Jacksonville, were you a Jaguars fan?

A: Oh yeah, die-hard. I'd go with my dad a lot and my family, my brothers, all that. It's been a big part of my childhood.

Q: Did you ever get into those pools they've got in the stadium?

A: No, everybody's always in those but I've never been. I just think it's a little grimy, just sweating and watching a game and then getting in a tub with strangers.



BEN ALLAN SMITH PHOTOS, MISSOULIAN

Montana defensive lineman Hayden Schwartz (97) celebrates after intercepting a deflected pass during the college football game against Eastern Washington on Nov. 8 at Washington-Grizzly Stadium in Missoula. The native of Jacksonville, Florida, is in his first season with the Grizzlies.

Q: What type of impact did your dad have on your football career?

A: He had a huge impact growing up. He didn't force football on me, which, you know, some parents do, some parents don't. He really let me decide. He's just been like a mentor through it all, hasn't forced me or made it a goal of mine. He's just been pushing me and encouraging me, and he has some good insights. He played in the league, so he's helped me a lot with the mental side I'd say the most because at the next levels, it's all mental. It really is. That's the difference in what sets good players apart.

Q: What are the biggest differences between Missoula and Duval County?

A: Oh my gosh, probably just the beach, the lack of beach. It's just a bigger city in Jacksonville. I like it here because it's just a lot more community-based, but I'd say the lack of the beach.

Q: Is the beach what you miss most about home?

A: Probably, yeah, because usually when I'm home, I don't wear any shoes. I just wear a tank top and board shorts, bro, I'm just at the beach. But I like this switch-up, you know, starting to learn the mountain lifestyle.

Q: What are your favorite parts of Montana you might not have had back in Florida?

A: We did the river for fall camp. All the guys, we tubed down it, and then I went up to Flathead Lake, so that was a pretty cool experience. I'm a big nature guy too, so there's a lot of stuff that I can sit down and just look at things and kind of draw stuff. It's been cool in that aspect.

Q: What are your hobbies?

A: I journal, read the Bible and then probably just sit outside when it's not super cold.

Q: What do you think you get out of journaling?

A: I kind of just get my thoughts on a page, you know, because I'm really an internal processor. There's not always somebody that can listen to me say what I need to say. So when I journal, I can really put my thoughts on the page and kind of get it all out there, and then almost reset the day, kind of reset my mind.

Q: Are you excited for your first Montana winter?

A: Yeah, man, I'm excited. I had to buy some more snow gear because I sold it all when I left Minnesota for some reason. But yeah, I'm excited.

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



BEN ALLAN SMITH, MISSOULIAN

Montana defensive linemen Hayden Schwartz (97) and Zekiel Seumalo (92) sack Sacred Heart quarterback Jack Snyder (14) during the college football game on Oct. 18 at Washington-Grizzly Stadium in Missoula. Schwartz is in his first season with the Grizzlies after he transferred from Minnesota.

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