



August 27, 2012

2012 BIG SKY CONFERENCE FOOTBALL STANDINGS

	BIG SKY GAMES					ALL GAMES					
	W	L	PCT.	PF	PA	W	L	PCT.	PF	PA	STREAK
Cal Poly	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	Won 1
Eastern Washington	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	Won 2
Idaho State	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	Lost 8
Montana	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	Lost 1
Montana State	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	Lost 1
North Dakota	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	Won 4
Northern Arizona	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	Lost 2
Northern Colorado	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	Lost 11
Portland State	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	Lost 1
Sacramento State	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	Lost 1
Southern Utah	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	Won 1
UC Davis	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	Won 1
Weber State	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	Lost 2

THIS WEEK'S SKY HIGHLIGHTS

The new-look Big Sky Conference opens the 2012 season on Thursday with eight games, and five more on Saturday. This will be the first time in league history the schedule has featured 13 games. On July 1, Southern Utah and North Dakota joined the Big Sky as full members. UC Davis and Cal Poly joined for football...Seven of this week's 13 games feature matchups against FBS squads. Nine of the 13 games will be televised...Northern Colorado opens its second season under Earnest Collins Jr. is at Utah of the Pac-12, Sacramento State travels to New Mexico State of the WAC, while Southern Utah is at Utah State of the WAC. Eastern Washington travels to Moscow to face Idaho of the WAC, while Northern Arizona meets Pac-12 Arizona State. On Saturday, Idaho State travels to Air Force, and Weber State is at Fresno State...Montana State, which has shared the Big Sky championship each of the past two seasons, opens at home under the lights at Bobcat Stadium against Division II Chadron State...North Dakota is also at home on Thursday, facing South Dakota Mines, a Division II school...North Dakota closed 2011 with four consecutive wins...Portland State opens the third year of the Nigel Burton era at home against NAIA powerhouse Carroll College of Helena, Mont...Cal Poly welcomes San Diego to San Luis Obispo on Saturday... Montana begins at home against South Dakota and its new coach Joe Glenn. Glenn guided Montana from 2000-02, leading the Grizzlies to the 2001 FCS National Championship...The six games in Big Sky venues will be available for free on the Internet through America One on Big Sky TV.

This Week's Sky Schedule

Thursday, Aug. 30 **Time**
 Northern Colorado at Utah5:15
 TV: Pac-12 Network.

Sacramento State at New Mexico State..... 6:05
 TV: Altitude

Southern Utah at Utah State 6:05
 TV: KMYU (Utah)

\$Azusa Pacific at UC Davis 6:05

Eastern Washington at Idaho 6:05
 TV: ESPN3

\$Chadron State at Montana State 7:05
 TV: Max Media Montana

\$South Dakota Mines at North Dakota 7:05
 TV: MidCon Sports Network

Northern Arizona at Arizona State7:35
 TV: Pac-12 Network

Saturday, Sept. 1..... **Time**
 Idaho State at Air Force12:05

\$South Dakota at Montana1:35
 TV: Max Media Montana

\$San Diego at Cal Poly4:05

\$Carroll College at Portland State 5:05
 TV: Comcast Sports Net Northwest

Weber State at Fresno State 7:05

\$Game available on the Internet at www.bigskytv.org
 Times Local to Site/Subject to Change

BIG SKY FOOTBALL - AUGUST 27, 2012



GENERAL INFORMATION



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Big Sky Weekly Release

The Big Sky Conference will produce a weekly football release every Monday during the 2012 season. Media can receive the releases as a PDF document via email by contacting Jon Kasper at 801.392.1978 ext. 16 or by email at jkasper@bigskyconference.org.

Internet

The official website of the Big Sky Conference can be accessed by visiting www.bigskyconf.com. Weekly game notes, news releases, statistics and standings are updated on the website. Football statistics are updated on Sunday mornings following Saturday games on the website.

Players of the Week

Each week of the 2012 season the Big Sky selects an offensive, defensive and special teams player of the week. Nominations are made by each institution's SIDs.

SOCIAL MEDIA



FACEBOOK.COM/BIGSKYCONF



TWITTER.COM/BIGSKYCONF

ROOT

2012 Big Sky Conference Football on ROOT SPORTS *The Big Sky's Official TV Partner*

Sept. 22

Northern Arizona @ Montana 1:30

Sept. 29

Montana State @ Southern Utah 1:30
Montana @ Eastern Washington 5:00

Oct. 6

Montana @ Northern Colorado 1:30
Montana State @ Cal Davis 5:00

Oct. 13

E. Washington @ Montana State 1:30

Oct. 20

Montana @ North Dakota 1:30

Oct. 27

Idaho State @ Montana 1:30

Nov. 3

Montana @ Weber State 1:30
Montana State @ Sac State 5:00

Nov. 10

Portland State @ Montana State 1:30

Nov. 17

Montana State @ Montana 1:30

Game times listed are MST

Sattellite Channels

DirecTV Dish

ROOT SPORTS NORTHWEST	687	426
ROOT SPORTS ROCKY MOUNTAIN	683	414

ROOT SPORTS is also available through most cable providers. Big Sky games will also be shown live on DirecTV's Audience Network, channel 101.

WEDNESDAY COACHES' CONFERENCE CALL

Each Wednesday during the 2012 football season, the Big Sky Conference will hold a conference call with the 13 league coaches. All media is encouraged to take advantage of having a set time to speak with the coaches each week. The call will begin at 10 a.m. Mountain, 9 a.m. Pacific. Each coach will be available for eight minutes. To take part in the call, please contact Jon Kasper at 801.392.1978 x-16 or by e-mail at jkasper@bigskyconference.org. Kasper will provide you with the call-in number and password.

Schedule

- 10:00 a.m. MNT (9:00 PCT) - Rob Ash, Montana State
- 10:08 a.m. MNT (9:08 PCT) - Chris Mussman, North Dakota
- 10:16 a.m. MNT (9:16 PCT) - Ed Lamb, Southern Utah
- 10:24 a.m. MNT (9:24 PCT) - Jody Sears, Weber State
- 10:32 a.m. MNT (9:32 PCT) - Mike Kramer, Idaho State
- 10:40 a.m. MNT (9:40 PCT) - Mick Delaney, Montana
- 10:48 a.m. MTN (9:48 PCT) - Earnest Collins Jr., No. Colorado
- 10:56 a.m. MTN (9:56 PCT) - Jerome Souers, No. Arizona
- 11:04 a.m. MTN (10:04 PCT) - Nigel Burton, Portland State
- 11:12 a.m. MTN (10:12 PCT) - Marshall Sperbeck, Sac State
- 11:20 a.m. MTN (10:20 PCT) - Beau Baldwin, E. Washington
- 11:28 a.m. MTN (10:28 PCT) - Tim Walsh, Cal Poly
- 11:36 a.m. MTN (10:36 PCT) - Bob Biggs, UC Davis



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2012 TV SCHEDULE

ROOT SPORTS

Sept. 22	
*Northern Arizona at Montana.....	1:35 p.m.
Sept. 29	
*Montana State at Southern Utah.....	1:35 p.m.
*Montana at Eastern Washington.....	4:05 p.m.
Oct. 6	
*Montana at Northern Colorado.....	1:35 p.m.
*Montana State at UC Davis.....	4:05 p.m.
Oct. 13	
*Eastern Washington at Montana State.....	1:35 p.m.
Oct. 20	
*Montana at North Dakota.....	2:35 p.m.
Oct. 27	
*Idaho State at Montana.....	1:35 p.m.
Nov. 3	
*Montana at Weber State.....	1:35 p.m.
*Montana State at Sacramento State.....	4:05 p.m.
Nov. 10	
*Portland State at Montana State.....	1:35 p.m.
Nov. 17	
*Montana State at Montana.....	1:35 p.m.

Max Media

Aug. 30	
Chadron State at Montana State.....	7:05 p.m.
Sept. 1	
South Dakota at Montana.....	1:35 p.m.
Sept. 15	
Stephen F. Austin at Montana State.....	1:35 p.m.
Sept. 22	
*Northern Colorado at Montana State.....	2:05 p.m.
Oct. 13	
*Southern Utah at Montana.....	1:35 p.m.
Oct. 27	
*North Dakota at Montana State.....	2:05 p.m.

NAU-TV/Fox Arizona Plus

Sept. 15	
Fort Lewis at Northern Arizona.....	4:05 p.m.
Sept. 29	
*Portland State at Northern Arizona.....	2:05 p.m.
Oct. 20	
*UC Davis at Northern Arizona.....	4:05 p.m.
Nov. 10	
*Southern Utah at Northern Arizona.....	2:05 p.m.
Nov. 17	
*Cal Poly at Northern Arizona.....	4:05 p.m.

KSBY (San Luis Obispo)

Sept. 22	
*UC Davis at Cal Poly.....	6:05 p.m.
Oct. 13	
*Northern Colorado at Cal Poly.....	6:05 p.m.
Oct. 20	
*Portland State at Cal Poly.....	6:05 p.m.
Nov. 10	
*Idaho State at Cal Poly.....	6:05 p.m.

MidCo Sports Network

Aug. 30	
South Dakota Mines at North Dakota.....	7:05 p.m.
Sept. 8	
Portland State at North Dakota (NC).....	6:05 p.m.
Sept. 29	
*Cal Poly at North Dakota.....	6:05 p.m.
Oct. 13	
*Northern Arizona at North Dakota.....	3:05 p.m.
Nov. 3	
*Southern Utah at North Dakota.....	1:05 p.m.

SWX

Oct. 6	
*North Dakota at Eastern Washington.....	5:05 p.m.
Oct. 20	
*Sacramento State at Eastern Washington.....	4:05 p.m.
Nov. 3	
Cal Poly at Eastern Washington (NC).....	1:35 p.m.
Nov. 10	
*UC Davis at Eastern Washington.....	1:35 p.m.

Pac-12 Network

Aug. 30	
Northern Colorado at Utah.....	5:15 p.m.
Northern Arizona at Arizona State.....	7:35 p.m.
Sept. 8	
Eastern Washington at Washington State.....	12:05 p.m.
Southern Utah at Cal`.....	12:05 p.m.
Sacramento State at Colorado.....	1:05 p.m.

BYU TV

Sept. 8	
Weber State at Brigham Young.....	1:05 p.m.

ESPN3

Aug. 30	
Eastern Washington at Idaho.....	6:05 p.m.
Sacramento State at New Mexico State.....	6:05 p.m.
Sept. 8	
Montana at Appalachian State.....	6:35 p.m.

FX

Sept. 15	
Portland State at Washington.....	1:05

Comcast California

Nov. 17	
*Sacramento State at UC Davis.....	3:05 p.m.

TBA

Sept. 22	
Idaho State at Nebraska.....	TBA

Comcast Sports Net Northwest

Sept. 1	
Carroll College at Portland State.....	5:05 p.m.
Sept. 22	
*Southern Utah at Portland State.....	5:05 p.m.
Oct. 6	
*Idaho State at Portland State.....	5:05 p.m.
Nov. 17	
*Eastern Washington at Portland State.....	1:05 p.m.

Altitude Sports & Entertainment

Aug. 30	
Sacramento State at New Mexico State.....	6:05 p.m.
Sept. 8	
Colorado Mesa at Northern Colorado.....	1:35 p.m.
Sept. 15	
Liberty at Montana.....	1:35 p.m.

KMYU (Utah)

Aug. 30	
Southern Utah at Utah State.....	6:05 p.m.

GAME TIMES LOCAL TO SITE/SUBJECT TO CHANGE



ROOT

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

- SEPT. 3**
OFFENSE
DEFENSE
SP. TEAMS
- SEPT. 10**
OFFENSE
DEFENSE
SP. TEAMS
- SEPT. 17**
OFFENSE
DEFENSE
SP. TEAMS
- SEPT. 24**
OFFENSE
DEFENSE
SP. TEAMS

SKY IN THE SAGARIN RATINGS

Here is a look at where the Big Sky teams rank in this week's Jeff Sagarin Ratings. On the left is their overall rank. On the right is their rank amongst FCS Teams: (Aug. 25)

Conference	
12. Colonial	1
14. Southern	2
15. Missouri Valley	3
16. Big Sky	4
17. Southland	5
18. Ohio Valley	6
19. Patriot	7
20. Ivy	8
21. Big South	9
22. Northeast	10
Team	
77. Montana	1
101. Eastern Washington	9
112. Montana State	11
122. Cal Poly	16
128. Southern Utah	20
130. Weber State	22
135. Northern Arizona	27
145. Sacramento State	31
150. North Dakota	35
152. UC Davis	36
157. Portland State	41
199. Northern Colorado	77
212. Idaho State	90

MONTANA STATE TOPS PRESEASON POLLS

Two-time defending Big Sky Conference football co-champion Montana State has been selected first by the media and the coaches in the 2012 preseason polls.

The polls were released Tuesday at the Summer Kickoff in Park City, Utah. Rob Ash's Montana State squad, which has gone 7-1 in conference each of the past two seasons and advanced to the playoffs, earned seven first-place votes in the coaches' poll and a total of 136 points. In the media poll, the Bobcats received 30 of 40 first-place votes and 502 total points.

Eastern Washington, the 2010 Division I National Champion, was selected second in both polls, while perennial Football Championship Subdivision power Montana was tabbed third. Portland State was selected fourth, while league newcomer Cal Poly was selected fifth.

Eastern Washington garnered four first-place votes and 131 total points in the coaches' poll. In the media poll, the Eagles earned three first-place votes and 453 total points.

Montana, under the direction of interim coach Mick Delaney, received five first-place media votes and 442 total points. In the coaches' poll, Montana garnered 126 total points and one first-place vote.

The polls featured 13 teams for the first time. Southern Utah and North Dakota joined the league as full members on July 1. Cal Poly and UC Davis joined as football affiliate members. All four teams played in the Great West Conference in 2011.

North Dakota was selected sixth by the media and 10th by coaches, while Weber State was tabbed sixth by the coaches and seventh by the media. Jerome Souers' Northern Arizona Lumberjacks were selected seventh by the coaches and ninth by the media. Southern Utah was eighth in both.

Sacramento State was voted ninth by the coaches and 10th by the media. Idaho State was selected 11th by the coaches and 12th by the media. UC Davis was tabbed 11th by the media and 12th by the coaches. Northern Colorado rounded out both polls.

Montana State is slated to return seven starters on offense and nine on defense. The Bobcat offense will be led by junior quarterback DeNarius McGhee, the 2010 Big Sky Offensive MVP, and junior running back Cody Kirk. MSU's defense features returning All-American linebacker Jody Owens and All-American senior defensive tackle Zach Minter.

Montana State is gunning for a third straight trip to the postseason. The Bobcats beat New Hampshire in a second-round game last season before falling to Sam Houston State in the quarterfinals.

Eastern Washington is led by All-American wide receiver Nicholas Edwards. The Eagles should be bolstered by SMU transfer quarterback Kyle Padron. EWU's defense, which returns seven starters, is led by All-Conference cornerback T.J. Lee III and senior linebacker Zach Johnson.

Montana shared the conference title with Montana State in 2011, the Grizzlies' 16th conference title in the last 19 seasons. Montana finished 11-3, falling to Sam Houston State in the semifinals.

2012 Preseason Football Polls

Media Poll		Coaches' Poll	
1. Montana State (30)	502	1. Montana State (7)	136
2. Eastern Washington (3)	453	2. Eastern Washington (4)	131
3. Montana (5)	442	3. Montana (1)	126
4. Portland State	334	4. Portland State	90
5. Cal Poly (1)	323	5. Cal Poly	86
6. North Dakota	295	6. Weber State	81
7. Weber State (1)	284	7. Northern Arizona	75
8. Southern Utah	258	8. Southern Utah (1)	74
9. Northern Arizona	242	9. Sacramento State	71
10. Sacramento State	191	10. North Dakota	68
11. UC Davis	135	11. Idaho State	31
12. Idaho State	115	12. UC Davis	30
13. Northern Colorado	63	13. Northern Colorado	14



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THE SPORTS NETWORK TOP 25 (2012 PRESEASON)

RK	SCHOOL	REC.	PTS
1.	SAM HOUSTON STATE (79)	0-0	3,708
2.	NORTH DAKOTA STATE (59)	0-0	2,625
3.	GEORGIA SOUTHERN (6)	0-0	3,249
4.	MONTANA STATE (3)	0-0	3,217
5.	JAMES MADISON (3)	0-0	2,812
6.	APPALACHIAN STATE (1)	0-0	2,800
7.	TOWSON	0-0	2,674
8.	OLD DOMINION	0-0	2,484
9.	NORTHERN IOWA	0-0	2,168
10.	WOFFORD	0-0	2,080
11.	MONTANA	0-0	2,018
12.	EASTERN WASHINGTON	0-0	1,897
13.	YOUNGSTOWN STATE (1)	0-0	1,860
14.	NEW HAMPSHIRE	0-0	1,857
15.	DELAWARE	0-0	1,810
16.	LEHIGH	0-0	1,514
17.	STONY BROOK	0-0	1,339
18.	EASTERN KENTUCKY	0-0	1,055
19.	ILLINOIS STATE	0-0	1,052
20.	STEPHEN F. AUSTIN	0-0	863
21.	MAINE	0-0	721
22.	JACKSONVILLE STATE	0-0	625
23.	INDIANA STATE	0-0	522
24.	CENTRAL ARKANSAS	0-0	508
25.	HARVARD	0-0	477

FCS COACHES POLL (2012 PRESEASON)

RK	SCHOOL	REC.	PTS
1.	NORTH DAKOTA STATE (19)	0-0	640
2.	SAM HOUSTON STATE (6)	0-0	623
3.	GEORGIA SOUTHERN (1)	0-0	592
4.	MONTANA STATE	0-0	540
5.	APPALACHIAN STATE	0-0	504
6.	OLD DOMINION	0-0	470
7.	NORTHERN IOWA	0-0	466
8.	JAMES MADISON	0-0	456
9.	TOWSON	0-0	454
10.	MONTANA	0-0	425
11.	LEHIGH	0-0	371
12.	NEW HAMPSHIRE	0-0	337
13.	WOFFORD	0-0	322
14.	DELAWARE	0-0	294
15.	EASTERN WASHINGTON	0-0	248
16.	MAINE	0-0	232
17.	STONY BROOK	0-0	228
18.	YOUNGSTOWN STATE	0-0	184
19.	CENTRAL ARKANSAS	0-0	157
20.	ILLINOIS STATE	0-0	148
21.	EASTERN KENTUCKY	0-0	127
22.	HARVARD	0-0	113
23.	NORFOLK STATE	0-0	72
24.	STEPHEN F. AUSTIN	0-0	69
25.	INDIANA STATE	0-0	66

BIG SKY TEAMS IN THE SPORTS NETWORK TOP 25

Team	Pre.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Final
MSU	4													
UM	11													
EWU	12													

BIG SKY TEAMS IN THE COACHES' POLL

Team	Pre.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Final
MSU	4													
UM	10													
EWU	15													

2011 BIG SKY CONFERENCE FOOTBALL STANDINGS

	BIG SKY GAMES			ALL GAMES		
	W	L	PCT.	W	L	PCT.
*Montana	7	1	.875	11	3	.786
@Montana State	7	1	.875	10	3	.769
Portland State	5	3	.625	7	4	.636
Eastern Washington	5	3	.625	6	5	.545
Weber State	5	3	.625	5	6	.455
Northern Arizona	3	5	.375	4	7	.364
Sacramento State	3	5	.375	4	7	.364
Idaho State	1	7	.125	2	9	.182
Northern Colorado	0	8	.000	0	11	.000

*Big Sky Champ Automatic Playoff bid. @Earned at-large playoff bid

BIG SKY COACHING RECORDS

Name, School	Years	Big Sky Games			Overall Games*		
		W	L	Pct.	W	L	Pct.
Jody Sears Weber State	1	0	0	.000	0	0	.000
Beau Baldwin, Eastern Washington ⁴	5	23	9	.719	33	16	.673
Rob Ash, Montana State ¹	6	28	12	.799	39	20	.661
Tim Walsh, Cal Poly ²	11	42	41	.506	65	57	.533
Mike Kramer, Idaho State ⁵	15	54	50	.519	79	84	.485
Jerome Souers, Northern Arizona	15	49	57	.462	76	82	.481
Marshall Sperbeck, Sacramento State ³	6	18	22	.450	24	32	.429
Nigel Burton, Portland State	3	6	10	.375	9	13	.409
Earnest Collins, Northern Colorado ⁶	2	0	8	.000	0	11	.000
Bob Biggs, UC Davis ⁷	1	0	0	.000	0	0	.000
Mick Delaney, Montana ¹⁰	1	0	0	.000	0	0	.000
Chris Mussman, North Dakota ⁸	1	0	0	.000	0	0	.000
Ed Lamb, Southern Utah ⁹	1	0	0	.000	0	0	.000

*Overall Games as a member of the Big Sky

¹ Ash compiled a 176-99-5 record in 27 seasons as a head coach (18 at Drake, 9 at Juniata).

² Walsh coached 11 seasons at Portland State in the Big Sky. He has an overall coaching record of 134-98, including a 17-16 record at Cal Poly.

³ Sperbeck was 109-53 in 15 seasons at Foothill College.

⁴ Baldwin went 10-3 in 1 season at Central Washington.

⁵ Kramer has previous coached in the Big Sky at EWU and MSU. This is his second season at ISU.

⁶ Collins went 8-12 in two seasons at Alcorn State.

⁷ Biggs went 140-78-1 his first 19 years at UCD.

⁸ Mussman went 23-20 his first four years at UND.

⁹ Lamb went 21-23 his first four seasons at SUU.

¹⁰ - Delaney went 7-9-1 in two seasons at UM-Western.

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CAREER SINGLE-GAME

SUPERLATIVES

300-YARD PASSING GAMES

NAME, SCHOOL	No.	HIGH
BRAD SORENSEN, SUU	8	434
KYLE PADRON, EWU	7	460
DeNARIUS MCGHEE, MSU	5	402
KEVIN YOST, ISU	3	508
GARY GROSSART, NAU	3	355
SETH LOBATO, NC	2	430
MIKE HOKE, WSU	1	314

100-YARD RUSHING GAMES

NAME, SCHOOL	No.	HIGH
ZACH BAUMAN, NAU	13	246
CODY KIRK, MSU	6	202
DEONTE WILLIAMS, CP	5	194
ORENZO DAVIS, MSU	5	160
JAKE MILLER, UND	4	181
MITCH SUTTON, UND	3	190
C.J. TUCKETT, WSU	2	246
TRAY ROBINSON, MSU	2	154
PETER NGUYEN, UM	2	149
JOSH BOOKER, WSU	2	121
JORDAN TALLEY, EWU	2	114
MARIO BROWN, EWU	2	104
JORDAN CANDADA, UM	1	159
DAN MOORE, UM	1	116
GARRETT SAFRON, SAC	1	100

100-YARD RECEIVING GAMES

NAME, SCHOOL	No.	HIGH
BRANDON KAUFMAN, EWU	8	140
RODRICK RUMBLE, ISU	7	210
NICHOLAS EDWARDS, EWU	7	192
GREG HARDIN, UND	4	177
JACE DAVIS, NC	3	207
GREG HERD, EWU	3	196
SHAYDON KEHANO, WSU	2	157
JUSTIN MONAHAN, PSU	2	154
EVERETT GILBERT, MSU	2	124
TANNER BLESKIN, MSU	1	158
LUKE AUSTIN, ISU	1	146
NEVIN LEWIS, PSU	1	143
ANTHONY BOYLES, ISU	1	141
CORY MITCHELL, EWU	1	132
ZACH BAUMAN, NAU	1	126
SAM GRATTON, UM	1	124
MORRIS NORRISSE, SAC	1	122
XAVIAN JOHNSON, WSU	1	118
DEREK GRAVES, ISU	1	114
DOMINIC GUNN, NC	1	103
CHRIS MORRIS, NC	1	102

AROUND THE BIG SKY

NEW-LOOK LEAGUE: The 50th season of Big Sky Conference football opens on Thursday with a very different look. The league now consists of 13 football-playing members, up from nine in 2011. Southern Utah and North Dakota joined on July 1 as full members. Cal Poly and UC Davis joined as football-affiliate members. All four programs played the 2011 season in the Great West Conference. Cal Poly and North Dakota shared the 2011 Great West Championship. North Dakota finished 8-3, closing the season with four consecutive victories. Montana and Weber State both start the season with new coaches. Mick Delaney enters his first season at Montana. He was named the interim coach in the spring after Robin Pflugrad was dismissed after two seasons. Weber State's Jody Sears is an interim coach. He replaced John L. Smith, who never coached a game for the Wildcats. Smith is now the head coach at Arkansas. The Big Sky also welcomes Tim Walsh back to the league. The Cal Poly head coach guided Portland State from 1993-2006, the final 11 as a member of the Big Sky. Only the SEC with 14 members has more football schools at the Division I level than the Big Sky. The MAC also has 13 football members.

PLAYING UP: Big Sky Conference teams will play Football Championship Subdivision teams 17 times this season, with eight of the matchups on the opening weekend. Montana and Montana State are the lone Sky teams not playing FBS teams this year. Eastern Washington, Idaho State, Northern Arizona, Sacramento State, Southern Utah, and Weber State will each play up twice. The Sky will have six matchups against Pac-12 teams, five against the Mountain West, four against the WAC, and one each against the Big Ten and an independent (BYU). Last season, the Big Sky amassed a 1-10 record against FBS teams. Sacramento State stunned Oregon State 29-28 on the opening weekend of the season. Southern Utah, which joined the Big Sky on July 1, also earned an FBS team, drubbing UNLV 41-16 in Las Vegas. Idaho State plays at Nebraska on Sept. 22. The Cornhuskers are currently the only ranked team a Sky team will face. Nebraska is ranked 17th in the AP poll, and 16th in the USA Today Poll. Washington, Utah and BYU - all Big Sky opponents - are receiving votes in both polls.

THREE RANKED: Three Big Sky Conference teams begin the 2012 season ranked in the Sports Network top 25. Montana State, which has shared the regular-season championship each of the past two seasons, begins the season ranked fourth. The Bobcats closed the 2011 campaign ranked seventh. Montana, which shared the 2011 regular-season title with Montana State and advanced to the semifinals, is ranked 11th. UM closed the 2011 season ranked third. Eastern Washington, the 2010 national champion, opens this season ranked 12th. In the Coaches' Poll, MSU is fourth, UM is 10th, and EWU is 15th.

Extra points: Portland State senior kicker Zach Brown enters the season with 60 made field goals, tops among active FCS kickers. He needs 16 to become the Big Sky's all-time leader...Northern Colorado and Cal Poly are the only two teams that will play home games on natural grass this season. Southern Utah installed new turf during the offseason, as did North Dakota, which plays in a dome...SUU QB Brad Sorensen, MSU QB DeNarius McGhee, NAU RB Zach Bauman and ISU WR Rodrick Rumble are all on the initial Walter Payton Award Watch List...NC LB Clarence Bumpas and MSU DT Zach Minter are both on the Buck Buchanan Award Watch list...ISU head coach Mike Kramer ranks fourth in Big Sky history with 79 wins. He needs one more to tie former UM coach Bobby Hauck for third. NAU's Jerome Souers is fifth with 76 wins. Cal Poly's Tim Walsh is sixth with 65. Kramer, Souers and Walsh also rank in the top six in conference wins. Kramer has 54 conference wins, which is tied for second with UM's Don Read. Souers is fourth with 48 wins. Walsh, who won 42 conference games at Portland State, is sixth... Montana State and Montana each added lights to their stadiums. Northern Colorado is the lone team in the Big Sky without lights...Kramer, Souers and Walsh have combined to coach 41 years in the league. The other 10 coaches have a combined 17 years experience as head coaches in the Big Sky...Montana is first amongst FCS teams in the pre-season Sagarin Ratings. The Grizzlies are 77th overall. The Big Sky has six teams ranked in the top 25, and 11 in the top 41. The Sky is rated fourth amongst FCS conferences.



BIG SKY FOOTBALL - AUGUST 27, 2012

RETURNING STATISTICAL LEADERS

RUSHING	Team	Cl	G	Att	Yds	Avg	TD	Long	Yds/G
Zach Bauman	NAU	JR	11	271	1435	5.3	15	64	130.5
Cody Kirk	MSU	JR	13	241	1351	5.6	14	72	103.9
Josh Booker	WSU	JR	11	118	701	5.9	5	42	63.7
C.J. Tuckett	WSU	SR	11	84	662	7.9	10	53	60.2
Peter Nguyen	UM	SR	14	151	835	5.5	3	37	59.6

INTERCEPTIONS	Team	Cl	G	Int	Yds	TD	Long	Int/G
Donovan Henley	ISU	SR	11	4	28	0	23	0.36
Devin Pugh	WSU	SO	10	3	35	0	33	0.30
Joel Sisler	PSU	SR	10	3	23	1	23	0.30
Cameron Friend	NC	SR	10	3	22	0	15	0.30
Matt Hermanson	UM	SO	13	3	45	0	24	0.23
Na'a Moeakiola	MSU	SO	13	3	15	0	12	0.23

PASSING AVG/GAME	Team	Cl	G	Att	Cmp	Int	Pct.	Yds	TD	Avg/G
Kevin Yost	ISU	SR	11	493	300	12	60.9	2973	15	270.3
Cary Grossart	NAU	SR	11	299	197	7	65.9	2745	16	249.5
Seth Lobato	NC	JR	10	365	199	10	54.5	2448	17	244.8
Denarius McGhee	MSU	JR	13	332	203	14	61.1	2799	24	215.3
Mike Hoke	WSU	SR	10	262	164	4	62.6	2080	19	208.0
Jordan Johnson	UM	JR	13	343	205	9	59.8	2400	21	184.6

PASS EFFICIENCY	Team	Cl	G	Att	Cmp	Int	Pct.	Yds	TD	Eff.
Cary Grossart	NAU	SR	11	299	197	7	65.9	2745	16	156.0
Mike Hoke	WSU	SR	10	262	164	4	62.6	2080	19	150.2
Denarius McGhee	MSU	JR	13	332	203	14	61.1	2799	24	147.4
Jordan Johnson	UM	JR	13	343	205	9	59.8	2400	21	133.5
Seth Lobato	NC	JR	10	365	199	10	54.5	2448	17	120.7
Kevin Yost	ISU	SR	11	493	300	12	60.9	2973	15	116.7

TOTAL OFFENSE	Team	Cl	G	Rush	Pass	Plays	Total	Yds/G
Kevin Yost	ISU	SR	11	-68	2973	610	2905	264.1
Cary Grossart	NAU	SR	11	64	2745	378	2809	255.4
Seth Lobato	NC	JR	10	57	2448	454	2505	250.5
Denarius McGhee	MSU	JR	13	340	2799	422	3139	241.5
Jordan Johnson	UM	JR	13	506	2400	432	2906	223.5
Mike Hoke	WSU	SR	10	136	2080	339	2216	221.6

PUNT RETURN AVG	Team	Cl	G	Ret	Yds	TD	Long	Avg
T. Malenfant	NAU	SR	11	19	172	0	40	9.1
Kela Marciel	WSU	JR	10	12	86	0	30	7.2
Shawn Johnson	MSU	SO	13	18	125	0	26	6.9
Dominic Gunn	NC	SR	11	12	52	0	15	4.3

RECEPTIONS/GAME	Team	Cl	G	Rec	Yds	TD	Long	Avg/C	Rec/G
Rodrick Rumble	ISU	SR	11	112	1348	9	65	12.0	10.18
N. Edwards	EWU	SR	11	95	1250	19	59	13.2	8.64
Greg Herd	EWU	SR	11	67	1022	7	96	15.3	6.09
Justin Monahan	PSU	SR	11	52	707	6	57	13.6	4.73
Chris Morris	NC	SR	11	51	502	3	30	9.8	4.64
Ify Umodu	NAU	JR	11	50	667	4	58	13.3	4.55

KICK RETURN AVG	Team	Cl	G	Ret	Yds	TD	Long	Avg
Dominic Gunn	NC	SR	11	28	724	1	94	25.9
Nevin Lewis	PSU	SR	9	29	686	0	58	23.7
Everett Gilbert	MSU	SR	13	22	490	0	50	22.3
Kris Parham	WSU	SR	9	25	533	0	40	21.3

RECEIVE YDS/GAME	Team	Cl	G	Rec	Yds	TD	Long	Avg/C	Yds/G
Rodrick Rumble	ISU	SR	11	112	1348	9	65	12.0	122.5
N. Edwards	EWU	SR	11	95	1250	19	59	13.2	113.6
Greg Herd	EWU	SR	11	67	1022	7	96	15.3	92.9
Shaydon Kehano	WSU	JR	11	43	883	8	83	20.5	80.3

PUNTING	Team	Cl	G	Punt	Yds	Long	Avg
Jake Miller	EWU	SO	11	39	1726	59	44.3
Rory Perez	MSU	JR	12	45	1839	64	40.9
Thomas Duyndam	PSU	SR	11	43	1679	60	39.0

ALL PURPOSE	Team	Cl	G	Rush	Rcv	PR	KR	Yds	Avg/G
Zach Bauman	NAU	JR	11	1435	352	0	0	1787	162.5
Cody Kirk	MSU	JR	13	1351	271	0	0	1622	124.8
Rodrick Rumble	ISU	SR	11	0	1348	0	0	1348	122.5
Nevin Lewis	PSU	SR	9	7	337	22	686	1052	116.9
Greg Herd	EWU	SR	11	35	1022	0	227	1284	116.7
N. Edwards	EWU	SR	11	0	1250	0	0	1250	113.6

SCORING	Team	Cl	G	TD	XPT	FG	2XP	Pts	Pts/G
N. Edwards	EWU	SR	11	19	0	0	2	116	10.5
Zach Brown	PSU	SR	11	0	27	24	2	101	9.2
Zach Bauman	NAU	JR	11	16	0	0	0	96	8.7
Cody Kirk	MSU	JR	13	14	0	0	0	84	6.5
Shaun McClain	WSU	JR	10	0	33	9	0	60	6.0

SCORING (TDs)	Team	Cl	G	TD	Rush	Pass	Ret	PAT	Pts	Pts/G
N. Edwards	EWU	SR	11	19	0	19	0	1	116	10.5
Zach Bauman	NAU	JR	11	16	15	1	0	0	96	8.7
Cody Kirk	MSU	JR	13	14	14	0	0	0	84	6.5
C.J. Tuckett	WSU	SR	11	10	10	0	0	0	60	5.5
Rodrick Rumble	ISU	SR	11	9	0	9	0	0	54	4.9

FIELD GOALS	Team	Cl	G	FG	FGA	Pct.	FG/G
Zach Brown	PSU	SR	11	24	27	88.9	2.18
Shaun McClain	WSU	JR	10	9	17	52.9	0.90
Brendon Garcia	ISU	JR	11	9	11	81.8	0.82
Dave Eden	NC	JR	11	9	14	64.3	0.82

SCORING (KICK)	Team	Cl	G	PATs	FGs	Pts	Pts/G
Zach Brown	PSU	JR	11	27-29	24-27	99	9.0
Shaun McClain	WSU	SO	10	33-34	9-17	60	6.0
Dave Eden	NC	SO	11	22-23	9-14	49	4.5
Brendon Garcia	ISU	SO	11	16-20	9-11	43	3.9
Jason Diniz	SAC	FR	11	26-28	3-8	35	3.2
Josh Kealamakia	WSU	SO	11	7-8	0-0	7	0.6

FIELD GOAL PCT	Team	Cl	G	FG	FGA	Long	Pct.
Zach Brown	PSU	SR	11	24	27	53	88.9
Brendon Garcia	ISU	JR	11	9	11	46	81.8
Dave Eden	NC	JR	11	9	14	42	64.3
Shaun McClain	WSU	JR	10	9	17	45	52.9

PAT KICKING PCT	Team	Cl	G	Made	Att	Pct.
Shaun McClain	WSU	JR	10	33	34	97.1
Dave Eden	NC	JR	11	22	23	95.7
Zach Brown	PSU	SR	11	27	29	93.1
Jason Diniz	SAC	SO	11	26	28	92.9

TACKLES (All positions)	Player	Team	Cl	G	Pos	Solo	Ast	Total	Avg/G	Sack
Clarence Bumpas	NC	JR	11	LB	56	89	145	13.2	1.0	
Anthony Morales	WSU	JR	11	LB	36	79	115	10.5	2.0	
Cameron Friend	NC	SR	10	LB	39	54	93	9.3	1.0	
Todd Davis	SAC	JR	11	LB	47	49	96	8.7	1.0	
Marcel Gibbons	NC	SR	11	DE	47	43	90	8.2	3.0	
Jody Owens	MSU	SR	13	LB	58	47	105	8.1	5.0	
Ryan McMahan	SAC	SR	11	DB	47	39	86	7.8	1.0	

SACKS	Team	Cl	G	Pos	Solo	Ast	Yds	Total	Avg/G
Brad Daly	MSU	JR	12	DE	10	5	113	12.5	1.04
Zach Minter	MSU	SR	13	DT	6	3	45	7.5	0.58
C. Schreiber	MSU	SR	13	DE	4	6	40	7.0	0.54
Trevor Pletcher	WSU	SR	11	DE	5	3	32	6.5	0.59
Jerry Ceja	EWU	SR	10	DL	5	1	48	5.5	0.55

TACKLES/LOSS	Team	Cl	G	Pos	Solo	Ast	Yds	Total	Avg/G
Jody Owens	MSU	SR	13	LB	14	6	63	17.0	1.31
Ian Sluss	PSU	SR	10	LB	12	3	47	13.5	1.35
Brad Daly	MSU	JR	12	DE	10	6	113	13.0	1.08
Marcel Gibbons	NC	SR	11	DE	12	0	42	12.0	1.09

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GAME PREVIEWS



NORTHERN COLORADO AT UTAH

Thursday, Aug, 30, 5:15 p.m.
Salt Lake City, Utah
Rice-Eccles Stadium
(45,027 Fieldturf)
TV: Pac-12 Network

Series History: First Meeting.

Coaches: Northern Colorado's Earnest Collins Jr. is 0-11 entering his second season at his alma mater. Collins Jr. is 8-23 entering his fourth season as a head coach... Utah's Kyle Wittingham is 66-25 in his eighth season

Notes: This is Northern Colorado's first game against a Pac-12 member...Utah is entering its second season in the Pac-12. The Utes finished the 2011 season 8-5 and won the Sun Bowl...Northern Colorado is seeking its first win since topping Portland State 35-30 to close out the 2010 season...Northern Colorado returns junior linebacker Clarence Bumpas, who led the Big Sky with 145 total tackles in 2011... QB Seth Lobato also returns. He threw for 2,448 yards last season... Since joining the Big Sky in 2006, Northern Colorado is 0-5 against FBS teams, losing to Hawai'i, Purdue, Kansas, Michigan State and Colorado State...Wittingham is 3-0 against Big Sky teams. The Utes beat Northern Arizona in 2006, Weber State in 2008 and Montana State in 2011...Utah is rated 29th in the Sagarin Ratings. Northern Colorado is 199.



SACRAMENTO STATE AT NEW MEXICO STATE

Thursday, Aug, 30, 6:05 p.m.
Las Cruces, New Mexico
Aggie Memorial Stadium
(30,343 Hybrid Bremuda)
TV: Altitude
Internet: ESPN3

Series History: First Meeting

Coaches: Sacramento State's Marshall Sperbeck is 24-32 entering his sixth season... New Mexico State's DeWayne Walker is 9-29 entering his fourth season. He went 0-1 in as the interim coach at UCLA in 2007, losing the Las Vegas Bowl.

Notes: Sacramento State opened the 2010 season with a shocking 29-28 victory at Oregon State of the Pac-12...It was Sacramento State's first victory over an FBS team...New Mexico State finished the 2011 season 4-9, but lost its final three games...Sacramento State takes on Colorado of the Pac-12 next week, marking the first time since 2007 that the Hornets have played two FBS teams in the same season...New Mexico State went 2-4 at home last season. Sacramento State went 2-4 on the road last season....Sacramento State is 2-3 in openers under Sperbeck...The game will be televised live on Altitude, and also available on ESPN3...New Mexico State was picked to finish eighth in the nine-team WAC by the media and coaches...Sacramento State is rated 145 in the Sagarin. New Mexico State is 151.



BIG SKY FOOTBALL - AUGUST 27, 2012

GAME PREVIEWS



SOUTHERN UTAH AT UTAH STATE

Thursday, Aug. 30, 6:05 p.m.
Logan, Utah
Romney Stadium
25,513 Sprinturf
TV: KMYU (Utah)

Series History: Utah State leads 2-0.

Last Meeting: Utah State beat Southern Utah 53-34 in 2009.

Coaches: Southern Utah's Ed Lamb is 21-23 entering his fifth season with the Thunderbirds... Utah State's Gary Anderson is 15-22 entering his fourth season with the Aggies. Anderson was Southern Utah's head coach in 2003, finishing with a 4-7 overall record. Anderson was an assistant coach at Southern Utah from 1997-2003. He also served as an assistant at Idaho State and Northern Arizona in the Big Sky.

Notes: Southern Utah officially joined the Big Sky Conference on July 1. The Thunderbirds are coming off back-to-back 6-5 seasons. Southern Utah's 2011 campaign included a 41-16 victory over UNLV of the Mountain West Conference...Utah State is coming off a 7-6 season in which it advanced to a bowl game for the first time since 1997...Southern Utah QB Brad Sorensen has completed 549 passes for 6,306 yards with 38 touchdown passes the past two seasons. He is a candidate for the Walter Payton Award, and was named the Big Sky preseason Offensive MVP...SUU has a Sagarin rating of 128. Utah State is 94.



AZUSA PACIFIC AT UC DAVIS

Thursday, Aug, 30, 6:05 p.m.
Davis, Calif.
Aggie Stadium
(10,849, Sportexe Turf)
Big Sky TV

Series History: First Meeting.

The Coaches: Bob Biggs of UC Davis is entering his 20th and final season as the head coach. He has compiled a 140-78-1 record. This is his 35th season on the Aggies' staff. He has announced this will be his final season...Victor Santa Cruz of Azusa Pacific is 29-25 entering his seventh season.

Notes: UC Davis joined the Big Sky as an affiliate football member on July 1...The Aggies finished 4-7 last season, just the third losing season under Biggs. Azusa Pacific is in its first season of transitioning from NAIA to Division II. Azusa Pacific finished 9-3 in 2011, falling in the quarterfinals of the NAIA playoffs to Carroll College of Helena, Mont...UC Davis QB Randy Wright threw for 2,250 yards with 14 touchdowns and six interceptions in 2011...Opponents outscored the Aggies 90-31 in the first quarter of games in 2011...Azusa Pacific QB John van den Raadt rushed for 1,200 yards and 16 touchdowns, and threw for 1,875 and 19 touchdowns in 2011. Azusa Pacific averaged 45.6 points per game in 2011.



WALTER PAYTON AWARD

WATCH LIST

Zach Bauman, RB, Northern Arizona
Shakir Bell, RB, Indiana State
Eric Breitenstein, FB, Wofford
Casey Brockman, QB, Murray State
Jordan Brown, RB, Bryant
Jamaine Cook, RB, Youngstown State
Matt Denham, Eastern Kentucky
Timothy Flanders, RB, Sam Houston State
Taylor Heineke, QB, Old Dominion
Kurt Hess, QB, Youngstown State
Jeff Mathews, QB, Cornell
Miguel Maysomet, RB, Stony Brook
DeNarius McGhee, QB, Montana State
Aaron Mellette, WR, Elon
Andrew Pierce, RB, Delaware
Rodrick Rumble, WR, Idaho State
Richard Sincere, AP, Sam Houston State
Brad Sorensen, QB, Southern Utah
Ryan Spadola, WR, Lehigh
Terrance West, RB, Towson

BUCK BUCHANAN AWARD

WATCH LIST

Malcolm Bronson, S, McNeese State
Clarence Bumpas, LB, Northern Colorado
Wes Dothard, LB, Chattanooga
Matt Evans, LB, New Hampshire
Willie Jefferson, DE, Stephen F. Austin
Jeremy Kimbrough, LB, Appalachian State
Joseph LeBeau, DE, Jackson State
Demetrius McCray, CB, Appalachian State
Zach Minter, DT, Montana State
Ben Obaseki, DE, Indiana State
Blake Oliaro, DE, San Diego
Blake Peiffer, LB, Southeast Missouri State
Keith Pough, LB, Howard
Kejuan Riley, S, Alabama State
Derek Rose, LB, Northwestern State
Brent Russell, NT, Georgia Southern
Tyler Starr, LB, South Dakota
Darnell Taylor, S, Sam Houston State
B.W. Webb, CB, William & Mary
Marcus Williams, CB, North Dakota State

GAME PREVIEWS



#12 EASTERN WASHINGTON AT IDAHO

*Thursday, Aug. 30, 6:05 p.m.
Moscow, Idaho
Kibbie Dome
(16,000 Real Grass Pro)
Internet: ESPN3*

Series History: Idaho Leads 15-5.

Last Meeting: Eastern Washington beat the Vandals 8-5 in 2003.

The Coaches: Eastern Washington's Beau Baldwin is 33-16 entering his fifth season. He is 43-19 entering his sixth season as a head coach...Idaho's Robb Akey is 19-43 entering his sixth season. Akey played at Weber State, and was an assistant at Weber State and Northern Arizona in the Big Sky.

Notes: Since Idaho left the Big Sky in 1996, EWU and Idaho have met five teams with the Vandals winning three. EWU beat Idaho 24-21 in 1997 in Spokane...Idaho is coming off a 2-10 season...EWU's wide receiving trio of Nicholas Edwards, Brandon Kaufman and Greg Herd have combined for 404 catches for 5,451 yards with 56 touchdowns in their careers...EWU will start SMU transfer Kyle Padron at QB. Padron threw for 5,902 yards during his career at SMU...EWU closed the 2011 season by winning six of its last seven after opening with four straight losses...EWU is ranked 101 in the Sagarin, ninth in the FCS...Idaho has a Sagarin Rating of 121.



CHADRON STATE AT #4 MONTANA STATE

*Thursday, Aug. 30, 7:05 p.m.
Bozeman, Mont.
Bobcat Stadium
(17,777 FieldTurf)
TV: Max Media Montana
Internet: Big Sky TV*

Series History: Montana State leads 2-1.

Last Meeting: Current New England Patriot Danny Woodhead rushed for 215 yards and two touchdowns to lead Chadron State to a 35-24 upset of Montana State in 2006 in Bozeman.

The Coaches: Montana State's Rob Ash is 39-20 entering his sixth season with the Bobcats. He is 215-119-5 entering his 33rd season as a head coach...Chadron State's Jay Long is entering his first season at his alma mater. Long went 15-15 in three seasons as the head coach at Black Hills State in Spearfish, S.D.

Notes: This will be the first night game in Bobcat Stadium history. Lights were installed late last season...Montana State has been picked by the coaches and media to win the Big Sky regular-season title...Division II Chadron State was picked to finish third in the preseason Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference. Chadron State is located in Chadron, Neb...Montana State is 2-3 in openers under Ash. All three losses have come on the road to FBS teams...MSU junior QB DeNarius McGhee has thrown for 5,962 yards with 47 touchdown passes and 20 interceptions.



SOUTH DAKOTA MINES AT NORTH DAKOTA

*Thursday, Aug. 30, 7:05 p.m.
Grand Forks, N.D.
Alerus Center
(12,283 AstroTurf Magic Carpet)
TV: MidCo Sports Network
Internet: Big Sky TV*

Series History: First Meeting

The Coaches: North Dakota's Chris Mussman is 23-20 in his fourth season...Stacy Collins is in his first season as the head coach at South Dakota Mines. Collins served as Portland State's assistant head coach and special teams coordinator in 2011.

Notes: North Dakota officially joined the Big Sky Conference on July 1. North Dakota closed the 2011 season with four straight victories en route to an 8-3 campaign...North Dakota went 5-1 at home last season...South Dakota Mines is a Division II Independent school located in Rapid City...UND is slated to return nine offensive starters and five defensive starters from last season...South Dakota Mines allowed an averaged of 40.3 points per game in 2011. The Hardrockers finished last season 1-10, including an 0-6 mark away from home.



BIG SKY FOOTBALL - AUGUST 27, 2012

GAME PREVIEWS



NORTHERN ARIZONA AT ARIZONA STATE

Thursday, Aug. 30, 7:35 p.m.
Tempe, Ariz.
Sun Devil Stadium
(72,955, Natural Grass)
TV: Pac-12 Network

Series History: Arizona State leads 20-14-4.

Last Meeting: Arizona State beat Northern Arizona 41-20 in 2010. Zach Bauman rushed for 56 yards and a touchdown in the loss.

The Coaches: Northern Arizona's Jerome Souers is 76-82 entering his 15th season with the Lumberjacks...Todd Graham is in his first season at Arizona State. He has a combined coaching record of 49-29 in six seasons at Rice (2006), Tulsa (2007-10), and Pittsburgh (2011).

Notes: Northern Arizona closed 2011 with losses to Weber State and Southern Utah...Arizona State finished the 2011 season 6-7, falling to Boise State in the Maaco Bowl in Las Vegas...Northern Arizona junior running back Zach Bauman enters this season with 2,494 career rushing yards....The game will be televised on the Pac-12 Network...Arizona State was picked by the media to finish second behind UCS in the Pac-12 South Division...The teams first played in 1915...Arizona State has a Sagarin Rating of 32. Northern Arizona's is 135.



IDAHO STATE AT AIR FORCE

Saturday, Sept. 1, 12:05 p.m.
Colorado Springs, Colo.
Falcon Stadium
(52,480, FieldTurf)

The Series: Idaho State leads 13-7.

Last Meeting: Idaho State beat Air Force 13-7 in 1956.

The Coaches: Idaho State's Mike Kramer is 2-9 entering his second season with the Bengals. He is 79-84 entering his 15th season as a head coach in the Big Sky Conference...Air Force's Troy Calhoun 41-24 entering his sixth season with the Falcons.

Notes: Idaho State enters the 2012 season looking to snap a 33-game road losing streak. The Bengals haven't won on the road since the 2006 season...Air Force was picked by the media to finish sixth in the 10-team Mountain West Conference...Air Force finished the 2011 season 7-6, falling to Toledo in the Military Bowl...Air Force finished third in the FBS in rushing offense in 2011, averaging 314.77 yards per game...Idaho State was last in the Big Sky in rush defense, allowing 249.3 yards per game in 2011...Idaho State returns senior All-American wide receiver Rodrick Rumble, who caught a single-season league record 112 passes for 1,348 yards and nine touchdowns as a junior...Air Force has a Sagarin Rating of 54. Idaho State is at 212.



SOUTH DAKOTA AT #11 MONTANA

Saturday, Sept. 1, 1:35 p.m.
Missoula, Mont.
Washington-Grizzly Stadium
(25,217 SprinTurf)
TV: Max Media Montana
Internet: Big Sky TV

The Series: Montana leads 9-6.

Last Meeting: Montana beat South Dakota 45-13 to open the 1999 season in Missoula.

The Coaches: Montana's Mick Delaney is in his first season. He compiled a 7-9-1 record in two seasons as the head coach at UM-Western from 1991-92...Joe Glenn, who recorded a 39-6 record as the head coach at Montana from 2000-02, is in his first season at South Dakota...Glenn has an overall coaching record of 188-100-1. He went 98-35 with two Division II national titles at Northern Colorado. He was 30-41 from 2003-08 at Wyoming.

Notes: Montana enters the 2011 season with an overall record of 171-21 at Washington-Grizzly Stadium since it opened in 1986...Joe Glenn won 24 of 26 games at WGS when he coached Montana...Delaney was named the permanent coach of the Grizzlies in July. He replaced Robin Pflugrad as the interim coach in March...South Dakota went 6-5 in 2011, including a 30-17 win over then-No. 1 Eastern Washington...Montana hasn't had a losing season since 1985...UM has a Sagarin rating of 77. South Dakota's Sagarin is 154...Glenn was also an assistant at UM in the early 80s.

GAME PREVIEWS



SAN DIEGO AT CAL POLY

*Saturday, Sept. 1, 4:05 p.m.
San Luis Obispo, Calif.
Alex G. Spanos Stadium
(11,075 Natural Grass)
Big Sky TV*

Series History: Cal Poly leads 1-0.

Last Meeting: Cal Poly beat San Diego 36-14 in 1959.

The Coaches: Cal Poly's Tim Walsh is 17-16 entering his fourth season with the Mustangs. He is 134-98 in 21 seasons as a head coach...San Diego's Ron Caragher is 36-19 entering his sixth season.

Notes: Cal Poly joined the Big Sky as an affiliate-football member on July 1. The Mustangs have enjoyed back-to-back winning seasons, including a 6-5 mark in 2011...The Mustangs return starting QB Andre Broadous, who rushed for 646 yards and 18 touchdowns, and threw for 1,235 yards with nine touchdowns and one interception last season...San Diego went 9-2 in 2011, losing to UC Davis and Campbell...San Diego QB Mason Mills threw for 2,370 yards and 22 touchdowns last season, completing 61.7 percent of his passes...Cal Poly finished seventh in the nation in rushing offense in 2011, averaging 255.09 yards per game...Cal Poly has a Sagarin Rating of 122. San Diego has a Sagarin Rating of 193. San Diego is an FCS team which plays in the Pioneer League. The Pioneer league champion will receive an automatic bid to the playoffs for the first time in 2013.



CARROLL COLLEGE AT PORTLAND STATE

*Saturday, Sept. 1
Portland, Ore.
JELD-WEN Field
(18,627, FieldTurf)
TV: Comcast Sports Net NW
Internet: Big Sky TV*

Series History: First Meeting

The Coaches: Portland State's Nigel Burton is 9-13 entering his third season...Mike Van Diest of Carroll College is 158-22 in his 14th season with Carroll College. He has guided the Saints to 12 consecutive NAIA playoff appearances, six national championships, and two runner-up appearances.

Notes: Portland State went from 2-9 in Burton's first season to 7-4 last year...The Vikings have led the Big Sky in rushing each of the past two seasons...Portland State returns All-American kicker Zach Brown...The Vikings won their opener in 2011 52-0 over Southern Oregon...Carroll College is an NAIA school from Helena, Mont. The Saints compete in the Frontier Conference...Carroll went 13-2 in 2011, losing in the national championship game...Van Diest has guided Carroll to national titles from 2002-05, 2007 and 2010...Carroll College opened its season last Friday with a 31-6 win over Frontier Conference rival MSU-Northern. Carroll College RB Chance Demarais is the reigning NAIA Player of the Year.



WEBER STATE AT FRESNO STATE

*Saturday, Sept. 1, 7:05 p.m.
Fresno, Calif.
Bulldog Stadium
(41,031, FieldTurf)*

Series History: Fresno State leads 3-0.

Last Meeting: Fresno State beat Weber State 55-17 in 2005 in Fresno.

The Coaches: Jody Sears is in his first season as the head coach. He was named the interim coach in April after John L. Smith left to take the head job at Arkansas...Fresno State's Tim DeRuyter is entering his first season.

Notes: Weber State begins its 51st season of football as a four-year institution...WSU running back C.J. Tuckett rushed for 465 yards and eight touchdowns in his final two games of the 2011 season...Fresno State was picked to finish third by the coaches and media in the nine-team WAC...Fresno State finished 4-9 in 2011...Fresno State and Weber State first played in 1978, a 55-14 Bulldog win. The teams also met in 1982 in Fresno, a 25-9 Bulldog win...Weber State has a Sagarin Rating of 130. Fresno's is 83...Weber State returns QB Mike Hoke, who threw 19 touchdowns and four interceptions in 2011.



BIG SKY FOOTBALL - AUGUST 27, 2012

TEAM-BY-TEAM SCHEDULES

UC Davis (0-0, 0-0)



Date	Team	Time
8/30	Azusa Pacific	6:05
9/8	at San Jose State	5:05
9/15	at South Dakota State	2:05
9/22	*at Cal Poly	6:05
9/29	*Weber State	6:05
10/6	*Montana State	4:05
10/13	*at Idaho State	4:05
10/20	*at Northern Arizona	4:05
10/27	*Portland State	2:05
11/10	*at Eastern Washington	1:35
11/17	*Sacramento State	3:05

Cal Poly (0-0, 0-0)



Date	Team	Time
9/1	San Diego	4:05
9/15	at Wyoming	4:05
9/22	*UC Davis	6:05
9/29	*at North Dakota	6:05
10/5	*at Weber State	6:05
10/13	*Northern Colorado	6:05
10/20	*Portland State	6:05
10/27	*at Sacramento State	6:05
11/3	at E. Washington (NC)	1:35
11/10	*Idaho State	6:05
11/17	*at Northern Arizona	4:05

Eastern Washington (0-0, 0-0)



Date	Team	Time
9/1	at Idaho	6:05
9/8	at Washington State	12:05
9/22	*at Weber State	6:05
9/29	*Montana	4:05
10/6	*North Dakota	5:05
10/13	*at Montana State	1:35
10/20	*Sacramento State	4:05
10/27	*at Southern Utah	1:05
11/3	Cal Poly (NC)	1:35
11/10	*UC Davis	1:35
11/17	*at Portland State	1:05

Idaho State (0-0, 0-0)



Date	Team	Time
9/1	at Air Force	12:05
9/8	Black Hills State	4:05
9/22	Nebraska	TBA
9/29	*Sacramento State	1:35
10/6	*at Portland State	5:05
10/13	*UC Davis	4:05
10/20	*at Northern Colorado	1:35
10/27	*at Montana	1:35
11/3	*Northern Arizona	4:05
11/10	*at Cal Poly	6:05
11/17	*Weber State	4:05

Montana (0-0, 0-0)



Date	Team	Time
9/1	South Dakota	1:35
9/8	at Appalachian State	6:35
9/15	Liberty	1:35
9/22	*Northern Arizona	1:35
9/29	*at Eastern Washington	4:05
10/6	*at Northern Colorado	1:35
10/13	*Southern Utah	1:35
10/20	*at North Dakota	2:35
10/27	*Idaho State	1:35
11/3	*at Weber State	1:35
11/17	*Montana State	1:35

Montana State (0-0, 0-0)



Date	Team	Time
8/30	Chadron State	7:05
9/8	at Drake	6:05
9/15	Stephen F. Austin	1:35
9/22	*Northern Colorado	2:05
9/29	*at Southern Utah	1:35
10/6	*at UC Davis	4:05
10/13	*Eastern Washington	1:35
10/27	*North Dakota	2:05
11/3	*at Sacramento State	4:05
11/10	*Portland State	1:35
11/17	*at Montana	1:35

North Dakota (0-0, 0-0)



Date	Team	Time
8/30	South Dakota Mines	7:05
9/8	Portland State (NC)	6:05
9/15	at San Diego State	5:05
9/22	*at Sacramento State	6:05
9/29	*Cal Poly	6:05
10/6	*at Eastern Washington	5:05
10/13	*Northern Arizona	3:05
10/20	*Montana	2:35
10/27	*at Montana State	2:05
11/3	*Southern Utah	1:05
11/17	*at Northern Colorado	12:05

TEAM-BY-TEAM SCHEDULES

Northern Arizona (0-0, 0-0)



Date	Team	Time
8/30	at Arizona State	7:35
9/8	at UNLV	7:05
9/15	Fort Lewis	4:05
9/22	*at Montana	1:35
9/29	*Portland State	2:05
10/13	*at North Dakota	3:05
10/20	*UC Davis	4:05
10/27	*at Northern Colorado	1:35
11/3	*at Idaho State	4:05
11/10	*Southern Utah	2:05
11/17	*Cal Poly	4:05

Northern Colorado (0-0, 0-0)



Date	Team	Time
8/30	at Utah	5:15
9/8	Colorado, Mesa	1:35
9/15	at Sacramento State (NC)	2:05
9/22	*at Montana State	2:05
10/6	Montana	1:35
10/13	*at Cal Poly	6:05
10/20	*Idaho State	1:35
10/27	*Northern Arizona	1:35
11/3	*at Portland State	1:05
11/10	*at Weber State	1:35
11/17	*North Dakota	12:05

Portland State (0-0, 0-0)



Date	Team	Time
9/1	Carroll College	5:05
9/8	at North Dakota (NC)	6:05
9/15	at Washington	1:05
9/22	*Southern Utah	5:05
9/29	*at Northern Arizona	2:05
10/6	*Idaho State	5:05
10/20	*at Cal Poly	6:05
10/27	*at UC Davis	2:05
11/3	*Northern Colorado	1:05
11/10	*at Montana State	1:35
11/17	*Eastern Washington	1:05

Sacramento State (0-0, 0-0)



Date	Team	Time
8/30	at New Mexico State	6:05
9/8	at Colorado	1:05
9/15	Northern Colorado (NC)	2:05
9/22	*North Dakota	6:05
9/29	*at Idaho State	1:35
10/6	*at Southern Utah	1:05
10/13	*Weber State	6:05
10/20	*at Eastern Washington	4:05
10/27	*Cal Poly	6:05
11/3	*Montana State	4:05
11/17	*at UC Davis	3:05

Southern Utah (0-0, 0-0)



Date	Team	Time
8/30	at Utah State	6:05
9/8	at Cal	12:05
9/15	New Mexico Highlands	6:05
9/22	*at Portland State	5:05
9/29	*Montana State	1:35
10/6	*Sacramento State	1:05
10/13	*at Montana	1:35
10/20	*Weber State	1:05
10/27	*Eastern Washington	1:05
11/3	*at North Dakota	1:05
11/10	*at Northern Arizona	2:05

Weber State (0-0, 0-0)



Date	Team	Time
9/1	at Fresno State	7:05
9/8	at Brigham Young	1:05
9/15	McNeese State	6:05
9/22	*Eastern Washington	6:05
9/29	*at UC Davis	6:05
10/5	*Cal Poly	6:05
10/13	*at Sacramento State	6:05
10/20	*at Southern Utah	1:05
11/3	*Montana	1:35
11/10	*Northern Colorado	1:35
11/17	*at Idaho State	4:05

*Big Sky Conference Game
All Times are Local to Site/Subject to Change



BIG SKY FOOTBALL - AUGUST 27, 2012

2012 COMPOSITE SCHEDULE

Thursday, Aug. 30

Northern Colorado at Utah	5:15
Sacramento State at New Mexico State	6:05
Southern Utah at Utah State	6:05
Azusa Pacific at UC Davis.....	6:05
Eastern Washington at Idaho.....	6:05
Chadron State at Montana State.....	7:05
South Dakota Mines at North Dakota	7:05
Northern Arizona at Arizona State	7:35

Saturday, Sept. 1

Idaho State at Air Force	12:05
South Dakota at Montana	1:35
San Diego at Cal Poly.....	4:05
Carroll College at Portland State	5:05
Weber State at Fresno State	7:05

Saturday, Sept. 8

Eastern Washington at Washington State	12:05
Southern Utah at Cal	12:05
Sacramento State at Colorado	1:05
Weber State at Brigham Young.....	1:05
Colorado Mesa at Northern Colorado.....	1:35
Black Hills State at Idaho State	4:05
UC Davis at San Jose State	5:05
Montana State at Drake.....	6:05
Portland State at North Dakota (NC).....	6:05
Montana at Appalachian State	6:35
Northern Arizona at UNLV	7:35

Saturday, Sept. 15

Portland State at Washington.....	1:05
Stephen F. Austin at Montana State	1:35
Liberty at Montana	1:35
UC Davis at South Dakota State	2:05
Northern Colorado at Sacramento State (NC).....	2:05
Fort Lewis at Northern Arizona.....	4:05
Cal Poly at Wyoming.....	4:05
North Dakota at San Diego State	5:05
McNeese State at Weber State.....	6:05
New Mexico Highlands at Southern Utah	6:05

Saturday, Sept. 22

*Northern Arizona at Montana.....	1:35
*Northern Colorado at Montana State.....	2:05
*Southern Utah at Portland State.....	5:05
*UC Davis at Cal Poly	6:05
*North Dakota at Sacramento State	6:05
*Eastern Washington at Weber State	6:05
Idaho State at Nebraska	TBA

Saturday, Sept. 29

*Sacramento State at Idaho State	1:35
*Montana State at Southern Utah.....	2:05
*Portland State at Northern Arizona	2:05
*Montana at Eastern Washington.....	4:05
*Cal Poly at North Dakota	6:05
*Weber State at UC Davis.....	6:05

Friday, Oct. 5

*Cal Poly at Weber State	6:05
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Saturday, Oct. 6

*Montana at Northern Colorado	1:35
*Montana State at UC Davis.....	4:05
*Idaho State at Portland State	5:05
*North Dakota at Eastern Washington	5:05
*Sacramento State at Southern Utah.....	6:05

Saturday, Oct. 13

*Eastern Washington at Montana State	1:35
*Southern Utah at Montana	1:35
*Northern Arizona at North Dakota.....	3:05
*UC Davis at Idaho State.....	4:05
*Weber State at Sacramento State.....	6:05
*Northern Colorado at Cal Poly.....	6:05

Saturday, Oct. 20

*Weber State at Southern Utah.....	1:05
*Idaho State at Northern Colorado.....	1:35
*Montana at North Dakota	2:35
*UC Davis at Northern Arizona.....	4:05
*Sacramento State at Eastern Washington.....	4:05
*Portland State at Cal Poly.....	6:05

Saturday, Oct. 27

*Eastern Washington at Southern Utah	1:05
*Northern Arizona at Northern Colorado	1:35
*Idaho State at Montana	1:35
*North Dakota at Montana State.....	2:05
*Portland State at UC Davis.....	2:05
*Cal Poly at Sacramento State.....	6:05

Saturday, Nov. 3

*Northern Colorado at Portland State	1:05
*Southern Utah at North Dakota.....	1:05
*Montana at Weber State	1:35
Cal Poly at Eastern Washington (NC).....	1:35
*Montana State at Sacramento State.....	4:05
*Northern Arizona at Idaho State.....	4:05

Saturday, Nov. 10

*UC Davis at Eastern Washington	1:35
*Portland State at Montana State.....	1:35
*Northern Colorado at Weber State	1:35
*Southern Utah at Northern Arizona.....	2:05
*Idaho State at Cal Poly.....	6:05

Saturday, Nov. 17

*North Dakota at Northern Colorado.....	12:05
*Eastern Washington at Portland State.....	1:05
*Montana State at Montana	1:35
*Cal Poly at Northern Arizona.....	4:05
*Weber State at Idaho State	4:05
*Sacramento State at UC Davis.....	3:05

Division I Playoffs

Nov. 24	First Round
Dec. 1.....	Second Round
Dec. 8.....	Quarterfinals
Dec. 14/15.....	Semifinals
Jan. 5, 2013.....	Championship - At Frisco, Texas