



MSUB Sports Information
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www.msubillings.edu/athletics

GAME DAY INFORMATION

THE SERIES

Overall Record	1-7
in Billings	0-3
in Spokane	1-4
at Neutral Sites	0-0
Pfeifer vs. Gonzaga	0-3

BROADCAST

KHQ TV in Spokane

GONZAGA AT A GLANCE

Head Coach: Mark Few

Record at GU: 236-60 (9)

Assistants: Leon Rice, Tommy Lloyd, Ray Giacoletti

Nickname: Bulldogs

Conference: West Coast Conference

Location: Spokane, Wash.

YELLOWJACKET SCOREBOARD (0-0, 0-0 GNAC)

Nov. 11	Dickinson State (Exhib.)	7:30 p.m.
Nov. 15	at Gonzaga	4 p.m.
Nov. 22	Montana-Western	7 p.m.
Nov. 26	University of Mary	7 p.m.
Nov. 29	at Chadron State	2 p.m.
Dec. 1	at University of Mary	7 p.m.
Dec. 5	Colorado Christian	7 p.m.
Dec. 6	Colorado Christian	4 p.m.
Dec. 11	Montana Tech	7 p.m.
Dec. 20	Augustana	2 p.m.
Dec. 31	Great Falls	5:30 p.m.
Jan. 2	Chadron State	7 p.m.
Jan. 8	at Western Washington*	7 p.m.
Jan. 10	at Seattle Pacific*	2 p.m.
Jan. 15	Western Oregon*	7 p.m.
Jan. 17	Alaska Fairbanks*	7 p.m.
Jan. 21	Central Washington*	7 p.m.
Jan. 24	Northwest Nazarene*	7 p.m.
Jan. 28	Alaska Anchorage*	7 p.m.
Feb. 5	at Western Oregon*	7 p.m.
Feb. 7	at Saint Martin's*	7 p.m.
Feb. 12	at Alaska Anchorage*	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 14	at Alaska Fairbanks*	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 21	Saint Martin's*	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 25	Seattle Pacific*	7 p.m.
Feb. 28	Western Washington*	7 p.m.
Mar. 5	at Central Washington*	7 p.m.
Mar. 7	Northwest Nazarene*	7:30 p.m.

* Great Northwest Athletic Conference game
 All game times local to site



Montana State Billings (0-0)
 at
#11 Gonzaga (0-0)



Game 1 Saturday, November 15, 2008 • 4 p.m.
 McCarthy Athletic Center (6,000) • Spokane, Wash.

Yellowjackets Open George Pfeifer Era at No. 11 Gonzaga

The Montana State Billings men's basketball team begins the George Pfeifer era at No. 11 Gonzaga Saturday at 4 p.m. in the McCarthy Athletic Center on the campus of Gonzaga University.

The Yellowjackets are coming off a 1-28 year overall and a 1-17 record in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference. Gonzaga enters after finishing the 2007-08 season 25-8 and 13-1 in the West Coast Conference. The Bulldogs had a first round exit in the NCAA Tournament last season with an 82-76 loss to Davidson.

MSUB returns six players from a year ago and have nine new faces, including two Division I transfers in Mike Hall and Travis Bunker. Hall comes to MSUB from Idaho where he played for Pfeifer last season. Bunker transfers to the Yellowjackets after one year at Wyoming. Along with Hall and Bunker, Pfeifer added junior college players Derrick Wright and Mario Burns from Western Oklahoma State College as well as two transfers from Grays Harbor Community College in Lance Anderson and Brad Hodge.

Leading the returners are Brett Taylor, Kirk Blaine and Troy Ruff. Taylor leads the returners averaging 8.2 points per game. He had a team-high 62 made 3-pointers as a freshman last season. Blaine averaged 7.0 points and pulled down 3.9 rebounds per game and is second among returners with 113 rebounds from a year ago behind Tyler Hentzen who had 139 boards.

MSUB is 50-102 all-time against current Division I opponents. MSUB last played a Division I opponent during the 2004-05 season at BYU, Jan. 11, 2005. The Yellowjackets last beat a Division I opponent as they upset Oregon State in Corvallis, 79-75, Jan. 3, 1996.

The Yellowjackets last were on television when they faced BYU in a 110-70 loss on Jan. 11, 2005.

Gonzaga returns three starters and 10 letterwinners from a year ago. Among the returners are Jeremy Pargo, Josh Heytvelt, and Matt Bouldin. Pargo is the reigning WCC Player of the Year, while Bouldin and Heytvelt have all-conference potential.



MEDIA RELATIONS STAFF

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MEDIA SERVICES**GEORGE PFEIFER INTERVIEWS**

Media members wishing to arrange an interview with head coach George Pfeifer are asked to contact Kit Strief in the MSUB Sports Information Office.

PLAYER INTERVIEWS

Media members wishing to interview a MSUB player **MUST coordinate this through the MSUB Sports Information Office**. It is asked that at least three hours prior notice is given in order to arrange the interview and it must occur in a fashion that does not interfere with the student-athlete's academic schedule.

POST GAME INTERVIEWS

Post game interviews are to be conducted following the NCAA's recommended 10-minute cooling off period after the conclusion of the contest. Please alert a member of the MSUB Sports Information staff in advance about which players members of the media would like to interview. Coach Pfeifer will be made available as well.

LAST TIME OUT

The Yellowjackets opened the George Pfeifer with an exhibition victory over Dickinson State this past Tuesday. MSUB downed the Blue Hawks, 96-91 while shooting over 50 percent in both halves. The Jackets were led by 32 points from Idaho transfer Mike Hall on 13 of 23 from the field and 6 of 14 from beyond the arc. The Yellowjacket defense stymied DSU in the first half, holding the Blue Hawks to just 37 percent, while MSUB shot a blistering 57 percent in the opening half. In addition to Hall, Derrick Wright had 19 points of 7 of 8 from the field, while Mario Burns chipped in 14 points and five assists and Travis Bunker had a double-double with 12 points and 10 rebounds.

GETTIN' TO THE LINE

The Yellowjackets got to the charity stripe 45 times against DSU earlier this week. MSUB went 28 of 45 from the line for 62.2 percent. MSUB was just two free throws off of tying its made field goals for the game.

SENIOR LEADERSHIP

Last season, the Yellowjackets didn't have a senior on the team, in fact, MSUB had probably one of the youngest teams in the country with six freshmen and four sophomores. This season, two senior transfers and six junior transfers highlight the team.

**2008-09 GNAC
Preseason Coaches Poll**

No.	Team	Pts.
1.	Central Washington (7)	86
2.	Western Washington (2)	61
3.	Alaska Anchorage	58
4.	Seattle Pacific	53
5.	Northwest Nazarene	50
6.	Saint Martin's	40
7.	Western Oregon	29
8.	Montana State Billings	22
9.	Alaska Fairbanks	19

FRESH FACES

As the 2007-08 roster featured six freshmen, the 2008-09 roster features nine new players, including two Division I senior transfers, six transfer juniors and one freshman.

JUCO INFUSION

MSUB has a number of junior college transfers this season. In fact, five of the nine new players all came from junior college. Derrick Wright and Mario Burns came from Western Oklahoma State College, while Lance Anderson and Brad Hodge transferred from Grays Harbor College and Adam Weisz came to MSUB from Dawson County Community College.

JACKETS PICKED EIGHTH

The Yellowjackets were picked preseason eighth by the conference coaches. The Jackets tallied 22 points, three ahead of ninth-place Alaska Fairbanks.

MONTANA STATE BILLINGS NUMERICAL ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.	Exp.	Hometown
1	Kyle Palmer	G	5-9	So.	1L	Baton Rouge, La./Scotlandville HS
2	Brett Taylor	G	5-8	So.	1L	Billings, Mont./West HS
3	Travis Bunker	F	6-6	Sr.	TR	Beaver, Utah/Wyoming
4	Derrick Wright	F	6-7	Jr.	TR	Brooklyn, NY/W. Okla. State
5	Adam Weisz	G	6-1	Jr.	TR	Melstone, Mont./Dawson CC
10	Mario Burns	G	6-0	Jr.	TR	Las Vegas, Nev./W. Okla. State
21	Kirk Blaine	F	6-6	So.	1L	Gillette, Wyo./Campbell County HS
22	Michael Hall	G	6-2	Sr.	TR	Dayton, Ohio/Idaho
23	Troy Ruff	F	6-5	Jr.	2L	Custer, Mont./Custer HS
25	Marty Birky	F	6-4	So.	TR	Chinook, Mont./Dakota Wesleyan
32	Mike Barton	C	6-8	Jr.	2L	Havre, Mont./Havre HS
33	Tyler Hentzen	F	6-6	Jr.	1L	Brea, Calif./Orange Coast College
34	Brad Hodge	F	6-8	Jr.	TR	Hillsboro, Ore./Grays Harbor College
42	Ryan Meehan	G	6-2	Fr.	HS	Beaverton, Ore./Beaverton HS
44	Lance Anderson	F	6-6	Jr.	TR	Menlo, Wash./Grays Harbor College

Head Coach: George Pfeifer (1st season)

Assistant Coaches: Josh McGee (1st season), Justin Wetzel (1st season)

Student Manager: Maria Finken (1st season)

QUICK FACTS

Location: Billings, Montana

Enrollment: 4,799

Founded: 1927

Colors: Navy and Gold

Nickname: Yellowjackets

Conference: Great Northwest Athletic

Arena: Alterowitz Gym (3,500)

ADMINISTRATION

Chancellor: Dr. Ronald Sexton

Director of Athletics: Dr. Gary Gray

Faculty Athletic Rep.: Dr. Scott Harris

Assoc. AD/Compliance: Krista Montague

Asst. AD/Media Relations: Kit Strief

MEN'S BASKETBALL STAFF

Head Coach: George Pfeifer

Asst. Coaches: Josh McGee, Justin Wetzel

Student Assistant: Maria Finken

Athletic Trainer: Pat Hughes

MBB Contact: Kit Strief



'JACKETS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

The Building Process

Head men's basketball coach George Pfeifer begins his first year at the helm of the Montana State University Yellowjackets for 2008-09. Pfeifer's inaugural season at MSUB follows a challenging and trying 2007-08 season in which the very young team finished 1-28 in their first campaign in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference. After serious recruiting and dedicated team building, a solid core of six returnees and nine newcomers represent the reconstructed foundation that Pfeifer is assembling at MSUB.

Entering his 30th year of coaching, Pfeifer comes to MSUB as no stranger to the majority of teams in the GNAC. Some of his previous coaching positions include the University of Idaho, Lewis-Clark State College and Rocky Mountain College in Billings. In his third year at LCSC, Pfeifer led the Warriors to capture the school's first basketball championship and first national tournament appearance. His 16-year legacy as head coach at LCSC includes six NAIA national tournament appearances.

Pfeifer is enthusiastic about the job ahead for the Yellowjackets.

"We have our work cut out for us," said Pfeifer. "I know in time people will hear me say repeatedly that this is one of the premier NCAA Division II conferences in the country. In basketball, we are definitely playing the 'varsity league.' I have coached against and am very familiar with the majority of coaches in the GNAC and I know first hand the quality of my peers and how high they set the bar."

The Focus

"First, let me say that these are good young men who want to achieve," said Pfeifer. "We have been working toward learning how to play consistently with a fundamental tough-minded approach. We want the team to play the game together both defensively and offensively in a global team style of play."

Pfeifer believes that the road to success will require the returning players to elevate their performance from a year ago, while the new players must get in there and impact the program immediately. As the team strives to build a cohesive unit, Pfeifer favors the old saying 'First you form your habits and then your habits form you.'

The Yellowjackets

The returning veterans of the team include junior forwards Tyler Hentzen, Troy Ruff and Mike Barton, as well as sophomore guards Kyle Palmer and Brett Taylor and forward Kirk Blaine. These athletes are tasked with focusing their efforts on Pfeifer's skill sets and game plans, as well as transitioning into the reconstructed Yellowjacket brand.

Hentzen, who tied for the team lead in offensive rebounds last

season (52), brings a strong work ethic, 6-6 size and willingness to adjust as he focuses on playing with "efficient aggressiveness." Pfeifer also sees great potential in Ruff's ability to contribute, focusing on his athletic ability to be a "fly around" player with a "mixture of football and hockey attitude sprinkled into his game."

Barton, who was named to the GNAC Academic All-Conference team last season, is working to put his 6-8 size into "gladiator mode" at center, while Taylor brings the ability to play either guard spot, make open shots and throw his high basketball IQ into the equation.

At 6-6, Blaine combines a high degree of mental and physical effort with the spark and energy of reckless abandon in the Jackets' forward lineup, while Palmer's athletic ability, speed and strength is merging into the skill sets of Pfeifer's team game.

"I know we were young last year, however . . . it is the work and preparation you take inside that year that affects improvement," said Pfeifer.



Two seniors recruited by Pfeifer for the 2008-09 lineup include 6-0 Mike Hall and 6-6 Travis Bunker. Both are NCAA Division I transfers and both were huge impact players coming out of Junior College. Hall, an NJCAA All-American from Lon Morris College in Jacksonville, Texas, holds three-point shooting records at the University of Idaho with a 9 of 10 shooting game vs. San Jose State. Bunker, a transfer from the University of Wyoming, was the captain of the College of Southern Idaho team that captured third place at the NJCAA tournament.

Two junior transfers from Western Oklahoma State include 6-1 Mario Burns and 6-7 Derek Wright. Burns, who possesses both speed and exceptional open court awareness, should provide an athletic presence at the point guard position. Wright brings the combination of crafty, versatile play which will generate some inside presence at forward.

Brad Hodge and Lance Anderson are two junior recruits who hail from Grays Harbor Community College in Washington. At 6-8, Hodge is a "bouncy, long athlete" who will be counted on at forward to utilize his mobility next to the rim, create a presence on defense and to be a factor at rebound. At 6-6, Anderson has the ability to give the 'Jackets a forward in

the "bulky, front line player" tradition.

Three additional newcomers who are adding depth to the lineup include junior Adam Weisz, sophomore Marty Birky and freshman Ryan Meehan. Coming to MSUB from Dawson County Community College, Weisz (6-1) brings potential as a defensive stopper, while Birky brings talent as what Pfeifer refers to as a "tweener" with ability at both guard and forward. Meehan is making the transition from high school to college ball and is showing promise as an excellent catch and shoot player.



Official Basketball Box Score -- GAME TOTALS -- FINAL STATISTICS
Dickinson State vs Montana State Billings
11/11/08 7:00 PM at Billings, MT

VISITORS: Dickinson State 2-3

##	Player Name		TOT-FG	3-PT	REBOUNDS										S	MIN
			FG-FGA	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	OF	DE	TOT	PF	TP	A	TO	BLK			
02	Yazeed, Saajid.....	*	4-11	1-1	1-2	1	2	3	5	10	6	5	0	2	30	
10	Lebsock, Nathan.....	*	8-17	3-7	9-10	0	0	0	4	28	3	1	0	1	36	
23	Walker, Joshua.....	*	2-2	0-0	2-2	1	1	2	4	6	0	2	0	0	13	
30	Hawkins, Tomaul.....	*	8-12	2-4	2-2	1	2	3	5	20	0	1	0	0	29	
50	Scheltinga, Fred....	*	0-0	0-0	1-4	0	2	2	4	1	0	1	0	0	10	
12	Burnham, Sean.....		3-5	0-1	0-0	1	2	3	4	6	5	2	0	1	26	
20	Ernst, Ryan.....		3-5	2-4	2-2	0	0	0	1	10	1	1	0	1	15	
24	Lebsock, Brian.....		0-2	0-2	2-2	0	1	1	2	2	1	0	0	0	6	
34	Versen, Mark A.....		2-2	2-2	0-0	0	1	1	0	6	0	0	0	0	6	
40	Thomas, Brandon.....		1-6	0-0	0-0	3	1	4	3	2	1	1	0	1	20	
44	Neff, Alois Anton...		0-1	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	3	0	1	1	0	0	10	
	Team.....					1	1	2								
	Totals.....		31-63	10-21	19-24	8	14	22	35	91	18	15	0	6	200	

TOTAL FG% 1st Half: 10-27 37.0% 2nd Half: 21-36 58.3% Game: 49.2% DEADB
3-Pt. FG% 1st Half: 3-8 37.5% 2nd Half: 7-13 53.8% Game: 47.6% REBS
F Throw % 1st Half: 12-12 100 % 2nd Half: 7-12 58.3% Game: 79.2% 2

HOME TEAM: Montana State Billings 0-0

			TOT-FG	3-PT	REBOUNDS										
##	Player Name		FG-FGA	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	OF	DE	TOT	PF	TP	A	TO	BLK	S	MIN
03	Bunker, Travis.....	*	1-2	1-2	9-10	2	8	10	4	12	3	3	0	1	33
04	Wright, Derrick.....	*	7-8	0-0	5-7	3	5	8	4	19	0	7	1	0	26
10	Burns, Mario.....	*	3-8	1-1	7-12	0	3	3	3	14	5	5	0	1	30
21	Blaine, Kirk.....	*	2-2	0-0	2-3	1	3	4	4	6	0	2	0	1	23
22	Hall, Michael.....	*	13-23	6-14	0-3	0	2	2	3	32	4	3	0	3	36
02	Taylor, Brett.....		0-1	0-1	4-4	0	3	3	4	4	2	0	0	1	16
05	Weisz, Adam.....		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
23	Ruff, Troy.....		0-1	0-0	0-0	2	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	1
33	Hentzen, Tyler.....		3-4	0-0	1-4	5	1	6	2	7	0	2	0	0	20
34	Hodge, Brad.....		1-3	0-0	0-2	3	1	4	3	2	0	2	0	0	11
42	Meehan, Ryan.....		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Team.....						1	1								
Totals.....			30-52	8-18	28-45	16	27	43	28	96	14	25	1	7	200

TOTAL FG% 1st Half: 16-28 57.1% 2nd Half: 14-24 58.3% Game: 57.7% DEADB
3-Pt. FG% 1st Half: 5-11 45.5% 2nd Half: 3-7 42.9% Game: 44.4% REBS
F Throw % 1st Half: 2-7 28.6% 2nd Half: 26-38 68.4% Game: 62.2% 9

Officials: Mike England, Greg Morstein, Shaylain Shaffer

Technical fouls: Dickinson State-None. Montana State Billings-None.

Attendance: 1101

Score by Periods	1st	2nd	Total
Dickinson State.....	35	56	- 91
Montana State Billings.....	39	57	- 96

EXHIBITION

