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# 2009 MSUB VOLLEYBALL

## 2009 MSUB Schedule/Results O-O Overall / O-O GNAC

Date	Opponent	Time/Result
8/27	at Hawaii Pacific !	7:00 p.m.
8/28	at BYU-Hawaii !	7:30 p.m.
8/29	vs. Hawaii Hilo !	1:30 p.m.
	at Chaminade !	7:00 p.m.
9/4	vs. Mont. St. Northern \$	5:00 p.m.
9/5	vs. Minot State \$	9:00 a.m.
	at University of Mary \$	5:00 p.m.
<b>9/11</b>	<b>Northwest Nazarene *?</b>	<b>1:00 p.m.</b>
	<b>Northern State ?</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>
<b>9/12</b>	<b>University of Mary ?</b>	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>
	<b>Dickinson State ?</b>	<b>5:00 p.m.</b>
9/17	at Alaska Fairbanks *	7:00 p.m.
9/19	at Alaska Anchorage *	7:00 p.m.
9/22	at Rocky Mountain College	7:00 p.m.
<b>9/26</b>	<b>Saint Martin's *</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>
<b>9/28</b>	<b>Alaska Anchorage *</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>
10/1	at Northwest Nazarene *	7:00 p.m.
10/3	at Seattle Pacific *	7:00 p.m.
<b>10/13</b>	<b>Rocky Mountain College</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>
<b>10/15</b>	<b>Central Washington *</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>
<b>10/17</b>	<b>Western Washington *</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>
10/22	at Saint Martin's *	7:00 p.m.
10/24	at Western Oregon *	7:00 p.m.
<b>10/29</b>	<b>Seattle Pacific *</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>
<b>11/5</b>	<b>Western Oregon *</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>
<b>11/7</b>	<b>Alaska Fairbanks *</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>
11/12	at Central Washington *	7:00 p.m.
11/14	at Western Washington *	7:00 p.m.

! - AQUA Hotel Invitational (Oahu, Hawaii)

\$ - University of Mary Tournament (Bismark, N.D.)

? - Montana State Billings Tournament

\* - Great Northwest Athletic Conference game

All times local to site

## MSUB VOLLEYBALL 2009 Game Notes

### FUN IN THE SUN

The 2009 regular season starts off in Oahu, Hawaii, at the AQUA Hotels Invitational, Aug. 27-29. The Yellowjackets will square off against four PacWest schools, Hawaii Pacific, BYU-Hawaii, Hawaii Hilo and Chaminade, during the event.

### WHAT TO EXPECT IN 2009

Former Fort Hays State coach Steve Smith (44-82, 4 years) takes over at Montana State Billings and has six letter winners available off last year's team, which looks to improve on last season and build a new winning tradition.

Among the six is outside hitter Devon Crotteau (6-0, Sr., Casper, WY – Northern Colorado), who was one of the top kill producers in the GNAC, averaging 3.89 to rank second in the conference.

Crotteau also ranked 10 th in kill percentage (.246), netted 3.19 digs per contest and contributed 29 aces and 36 blocks.

Also back are outside hitter Jennifer Boe (5-8, Jr., Casper, WY – Kelly Walsh), setter Hillary Morrison (5-10, Sr., Casper, WY – Chadron State) and libero Jill Trabling (5-8, Sr., Buffalo, WY).

Boe averaged 2.51 kills and 2.75 digs. Morrison was credited with 7.36 assists and Trabling had 3.52 digs.

Smith's first MSUB team will include only two other letter winners – middle blocker Melissa Porter (6-3, So., Redmond, UT – North Sevier) and defensive specialist Whitney Mickelsen (5-4, So., Aurora, UT – North Sevier) – along with five freshmen.

### YELLOWJACKETS TABBED EIGHTH

The Montana State Billings volleyball team was selected eighth in the annual Great Northwest Athletic Conference preseason poll. The Yellowjackets received 15 points behind conference favorite Western Washington with 60 points.

Returning for MSUB is one of the league's top kill producers in Devon Crotteau. Last season she ranked second in kills per game, averaging 3.89. Joining Crotteau as returning letter winners will be Jennifer Boe, Hillary Morrison, Jill Trabling, Melissa Porter, and Whitney Mickelson.

### ABOUT HAWAII PACIFIC

The Sea Warriors come into the 2009 season hoping their end of the year success in 2008, winning 10 of the last 13 games, will carry



## 2009 MSUB QUICK FACTS

### UNIVERSITY

Name ..... Montana State University Billings  
 Location ..... Billings, MT  
 Founded ..... 1927 (Formerly Eastern Montana College)  
 Enrollment ..... 4,725  
 Nickname ..... Yellowjackets  
 Colors ..... Navy Blue & Gold  
 Conference ..... Great Northwest Athletic Conference  
 Chancellor ..... Dr. Ronald Sexton  
 Director of Athletics ..... Dr. Gary Gray  
 Facility ..... Alterowitz Gymnasium  
 Seating Capacity ..... 3,500

### COACHING STAFF

Head Coach ..... Steve Smith  
 Alma Mater ..... Western Oregon  
 Record at MSUB ..... First Year  
 Overall Record ..... 44-82 (4 yrs)  
 Assistant Coaches ..... Catherine Losett & Filip Alimpic  
 Volleyball Office Phone ..... 406-657-2603  
 Athletic Department Fax ..... 406-657-2919

### VOLLEYBALL HISTORY

First Year of Soccer ..... 1984  
 All-Time Record ..... 260-461

### TEAM INFORMATION

2008 Record ..... 7-23  
 GNAC Record/Finish ..... 4-12/8th  
 Letterwinners Returning/Lost ..... 7/6  
 Starters Returning/Lost ..... 3/3  
 Newcomers ..... 5

over into the beginning of the new season. That winning stretch helped propell Hawaii Pacific into a third place finish in the Pacific West Conference. The Sea Warriors are predicted to finish fourth in this year's Pacific West standings according to the preseason coaches poll. Hawaii Pacific returns 10 players from last year's team including three all-conference selections, Kelly Balanay, Tricia Yoshimura and Julia Gruszecka. Balanay was selected to the PacWest preseason all-conference team, recording 257 kills, 98 blocks and 316 points last season. She also is a two-time All-PacWest First-Team selection, earning the honor in 2007 and 2008.

MSUB will look to score its first victory in school history over the Sea Warriors this week. Prior to this match, the Yellowjackets are 0-15 all-time against Hawaii Pacific. The two teams last met Oct. 14, 2004, an 0-3 loss for the Yellowjackets.

### ABOUT BYU-HAWAII

BYU-Hawaii comes into the 2009 season as the defending Pacific West Conference champions. Last season the Seasideers finished the year 16-9 with a trip to the NCAA West Regional Tournament before losing to Cal State San Bernardino. Despite losing their last four matches of the season, BYU-Hawaii rode a 13 game winning streak throughout the middle of the season. Head coach, Wilfred Navalta, looks to regain that mid-season magic and return to the NCAA Division II tournament. The Seasideers will look to get a lot of their support from outside hitter and preseason all-PacWest selection, Losaline Faka'osi. Last season Faka'osi was honored as the PacWest Freshman of the Year, recording 304.5 points through 280 kills and 250 digs during the season. BYU-Hawaii was picked to finish second in this year's PacWest standings.

## 2008 MONTANA STATE BILLINGS NUMERICAL ROSTER

<u>No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Ht.</u>	<u>Yr.</u>	<u>Hometown/Previous School</u>
1	Jennifer Boe	OH	5-8	Jr.	Casper, WY (Kelly Walsh HS)
2	Hillary Morrison	S	5-10	Sr.	Evansville, WY (Chadron State)
3	Kayla Neumiller	OH	5-8	Fr.	Colstrip, MT (Colstrip HS)
4	Morgan Moss	S	5-5	Fr.	Fowler, CO (Fowler HS)
5	Jill Trabing	DS	5-8	Sr.	Buffalo, WY (Buffalo HS)
6	Whitney Mickelsen	DS	5-4	So.	Aurora, UT (North Sevier HS)
7	Devon Crotteau	OH	6-0	Sr.	Casper, WY (Northern Colorado)
8	Jody Lutz	MB/RS	6-1	R-Fr.	Dugald, Manitoba (MBCI Mennonite)
12	Alyson Cookes	MB	6-1	Fr.	Aurora, CO (Eaglecrest HS)
13	Hannah Johnson	MB	6-2	Fr.	San Diego, CA (La Costa Canyon HS)
14	Melissa Porter	MB	6-3	So.	Redmond, UT (North Sevier HS)



MSUB comes into their match with the Seasideers winning three out of the 14 matches in which the two schools have faced off against one another. Though BYU-Hawaii took the last meeting, Oct. 9, 2004, MSUB has won two of the last three and will look to change it's fortune against the Seasideers.

### ABOUT HAWAII-HILO

The third match of the weekend for the Yellowjackets will be against the Pacific West Conference favorites, Hawaii-Hilo. The Vulcans have been tabbed as this season's favorites and look to dethrone BYU-Hawaii as the conference champions. Last season Hilo finished as the runner-up in a competitive Pacific West. They will look to take over with a very experienced and talented group of returners. The Vulcans have back their All-America middle hitter, Fabiane Seben, and preseason PacWest Player of the Year, Josimara Pinheiro. Both were named to the preseason all-PacWest first-team. The Vulcan duo provided over half of the team kills, 75 percent of the blocks and 40 percent of the service aces. Pinheiro led the squad with 402 kills while Seben tallied a team-high 132 blocks. Coach Bruce Atkinson is very optimistic about the upcoming season, and in addition to his returners, is very excited about the talent of his young freshmen.

Out of all of the Hawaii schools MSUB faces this weekend, they have found the most success against the Vulcans. Coming into this match-up, MSUB holds an 11-15 record all-time versus Hawaii-Hilo. The Yellowjackets have taken three of the last four against the Vulcans.

### ABOUT CHAMINADE

The final match of the weekend will pit MSUB against the Silverswords of Chaminade. Chaminade comes into this season predicted to finish seventh among the PacWest Conference. Last season the Silverswords went 10-15 overall and 5-9 in the conference. The Silverswords return six players from last year's team and welcome in three freshmen and one transfer.

In the all time match-ups against Chaminade, MSUB is 6-18 overall. The Yellowjackets did win the last meeting between the two schools on Oct. 26, 2004 in Billings. The last victory for MSUB in Hawaii against the Silverswords came in a 3-0 sweep Sept. 23, 1998.

### Yellowjackets Ink Two-Sport Product

Kayla Neumiller signed with the Yellowjackets for the 2009-2010 season. Neumiller plans on competing in both volleyball and track & field. Neumiller lettered all four years in high school in volleyball and was an all-state selection as a junior and senior. She was a first team all-conference selection for three years and earned state all-tournament honors as a senior. Neumiller recorded 330 kills, 48 blocks, 83 aces and 406 digs during her senior year and amassed over 1,000 kills (1,026), 211 aces and 161 blocks in her high school career.

## GREAT NORTHWEST ATHLETIC CONFERENCE STANDINGS (Preseason)



	<u>Conference</u>	<u>Overall</u>
Western Washington	0-0	0-0
Western Oregon	0-0	0-0
Northwest Nazarene	0-0	0-0
Seattle Pacific	0-0	0-0
Central Washington	0-0	0-0
Alaska Fairbanks	0-0	0-0
Alaska Anchorage	0-0	0-0
Montana State Billings	0-0	0-0
Saint Martin's	0-0	0-0

### This Week in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference

27 – Southern Cal Classic (Alaska Fairbanks at Cal Poly Pomona, 7 p.m.; Seattle Pacific at CSU Dominguez Hills); HPU Aqua Hotel Invitational (MSU Billings vs. Hawaii Pacific, 7 p.m.).

28 – UAA Extended Stay Invitational (Alaska Anchorage vs. Kentucky Wesleyan, 11 a.m.; 5 p.m.; Alaska Anchorage vs. Academy of Art, 7 p.m.); Southern Cal Classic (Western Washington at CSU Dominguez Hills, 1 p.m.; Alaska Fairbanks at CSLA, 1 p.m.; Seattle Pacific at CSLA, 7 p.m.; Western Washington vs. CSU San Bernardino at CSUDH, 7 p.m.); Sonoma State Invitational (Central Washington vs. San Francisco State, 9 a.m.; Cal State Stanislaus vs. Northwest Nazarene, 11:30 a.m.; Central Washington vs. Humboldt State, 2 p.m.; Western Oregon vs. Chico State, 2 p.m.; San Francisco State vs. Northwest Nazarene, 4:30 p.m.; Western Oregon vs. Sonoma State, 7 p.m.); HPU Aqua Hotel Invitational (MSU Billings vs. BYU-Hawaii, 7:30 p.m.).

29 – UAA Extended Stay Invitational (Alaska Anchorage vs. Mary, 11 a.m.; Southern Cal Classic (Western Washington vs. Ashland at CSLA, noon; Seattle Pacific at Cal Poly Pomona, 1 p.m.; Alaska Fairbanks vs. CSU San Bernardino at CSUDH, 1 p.m.; Ashland vs. Seattle Pacific at CPP, 6 p.m.; Alaska Fairbanks at CSU Dominguez Hills, 7 p.m.; Western Washington at Cal State L.A., 7 p.m.); Sonoma State Invitational (Northwest Nazarene vs. Chico State, 9 a.m.; Central Washington vs. Cal State Stanislaus, 11:30 a.m.; Western Oregon vs. San Francisco State, 2 p.m.; Northwest Nazarene vs. Humboldt State, 2 p.m.; Western Oregon vs. Humboldt State, 7 p.m.; Central Washington vs. Sonoma State, 7 p.m.); HPU Aqua Hotel Invitational (MSU Billings vs. Hawaii Hilo, 1:30 p.m.; MSU Billings vs. Chaminade, 7 p.m.). **All times local to site**





Steve Smith begins his first season as the head coach at Montana State University Billings. He comes to the Yellowjackets after four seasons at

Fort Hays State University where he guided the Lady Tigers to a 16-15 record in 2005 and a berth in the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference tournament. Smith led FHSU to double-digit wins in two of his four seasons and just missed his third this past year.

Prior to his tenure at FHSU, Smith served as the assistant coach at Western Oregon University for nine seasons under Judy Lovre, the program's leader in career victories. During his time at WOU, Smith helped guide the Wolves to a 170-122 record, including four-straight appearances in the NAIA National Championship tournament from 1996-99.

Smith also coached various club and high school teams, including the No Dinx Volleyball Club from 2003-05 in Corvallis, Ore., and the Salem (Ore.) Volleyball Club from 2001-03. Smith also served as a club coach for six years (1995-2001) for the Emerald City Volleyball Club in Eugene, Ore., and was the head coach at Stayton High School in Stayton, Ore., from 1993-96.

A native of Salem, Ore., Smith received his bachelor's degree and master's degrees in physical education from Western Oregon University.

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## NATIONAL POLL

AVCA Coaches Top 25  
Preseason (8/20)

Rank	Team	Prev.	W-L
1.	Concordia-St.Paul (32)	1	37-1
2.	Cal St. San Bernardino	2	30-4
3.	Emporia State	5	34-4
4.	Grand Valley State	3	33-4
5.	West Texas A&M	7	34-5
6.	Nebraska-Kerney	6	32-4
7.	Minnesota Duluth	9	26-9
8.	Southwest Minn. State	8	27-6
9.	Truman	4	33-8
10.	Tampa	10	27-5
11.	Washburn	13	30-6
12.	Central Missouri	11	29-10
13.	UC San Diego	17	21-7
14.	California (Pa.)	12	41-2
15.	West Florida	15	25-7
16.	Florida Southern	19	25-9
17.	Pittsburg State	16	28-8
18.	Cal Poly Pomona	14	20-8
19.	Nova Southeastern	20	24-12
20.	Cal State L.A.	18	21-8
21.	Lewis	NR	31-8
22.	Augustana (S.D.)	22	23-11
23.	Western Washington	21	21-3
24.	Western Oregon	23	22-3
25.	Wayne State (Neb.)	25	23-10

## WEST REGION POLL

Not Released at this time...

## MSUB RECORD WHEN...

Play at home	0-0
Play on the road	0-0
Play at neutral site	0-0
Play at Top 25 opponent	0-0
Play at Top 10 opponent	0-0
Play at Top 5 opponent	0-0
Wear white	0-0
Wear blue	0-0
In August	0-0
In September	0-0
In October	0-0
In November	0-0

## Play On...

Monday	0-0
Tuesday	0-0
Wednesday	0-0
Thursday	0-0
Friday	0-0
Saturday	0-0
Sunday	0-0

