



Media Relations Office Montana State Billings
 1500 University Drive Billings, MT 59101-0298
 Phone: 406-896-5917 Fax: 406-657-2919
Volleyball Contact: Justin Kesterson

2009 MSUB VOLLEYBALL

2009 MSUB Schedule/Results 7-7 Overall / 1-2 GNAC

MSUB VOLLEYBALL 2009 Game Notes

Date	Opponent	Time/Result
8/27	at Hawaii Pacific !	W, 3-2
8/28	at BYU-Hawaii !	L, 3-1
8/29	vs. Hawaii Hilo !	L, 3-0
	at Chaminade !	W, 3-2
9/4	vs. Mont. St. Northern \$	W, 3-2
9/5	vs. Minot State \$	W, 3-0
	at University of Mary \$	L, 3-2
9/11	Northwest Nazarene *?	L, 3-1
	Northern State ?	L, 3-2
9/12	University of Mary ?	W, 3-0
	Dickinson State ?	W, 3-0
9/17	at Alaska Fairbanks *	L, 3-2
9/18	at Alaska Anchorage *	W, 3-0
9/22	at Rocky Mountain College	L, 3-0
9/26	Saint Martin's *	7:00 p.m.
9/28	Alaska Anchorage *	7:00 p.m.
10/1	at Northwest Nazarene *	7:00 p.m.
10/3	at Seattle Pacific *	7:00 p.m.
10/13	Rocky Mountain College	7:00 p.m.
10/15	Central Washington *	7:00 p.m.
10/17	Western Washington *	7:00 p.m.
10/22	at Saint Martin's *	7:00 p.m.
10/24	at Western Oregon *	7:00 p.m.
10/29	Seattle Pacific *	7:00 p.m.
11/5	Western Oregon *	7:00 p.m.
11/7	Alaska Fairbanks *	7:00 p.m.
11/12	at Central Washington *	7:00 p.m.
11/14	at Western Washington *	7:00 p.m.

! - AQUA Hotel Invitational (Oahu, Hawaii)

\$ - Expressway Inn and Suites Invitational (Bismark, N.D.)

? - Montana State Billings Tournament

* - Great Northwest Athletic Conference game

All times local to site

WELCOME HOME...

After a long trip but a short stay in Alaska, Montana State Billings returns home for a pair of conference matches against Saint Martin's on Sept. 22, and a familiar foe, Alaska Anchorage, on Sept. 28. Both games start at 7 p.m. at Alterowitz Gymnasium. This is the first match between Saint Martin's and the Yellowjackets, but the second and final meeting between the Seawolves as MSUB defeated Anchorage 3-0 last weekend at UAA.

A LOOK BACK

Traveling over 4,000 miles for a two day, two match trip can wear a team down. The Yellowjackets were determined not to let that happen as they traveled to Fairbanks and Anchorage for a quick pair of conference clashes last week.

Thursday's match against Fairbanks got off to a hot start as MSUB jumped out to a 2-0 lead behind a solid team effort in hitting and defense. Devon Crotteau led the team with 31 kills which also was a season-best in the conference

The lead wouldn't stand though as the Nanooks fought their way back in the match with tight wins in sets three and four. With the final set seemingly in hand for the Yellowjackets, a 5-1 run by UAF gave them the lead and two attacking errors finished the night for the Yellowjackets.

Unable to think about the previous match, MSUB returned to the floor the next night after traveling some 200 miles to Anchorage. The Yellowjackets dominated the Seawolves throughout the match and earned a three set sweep. (27-25, 28-18, 25-18).

The victory pushed the 'Jackets back to one game over .500 on the season and tied the win total from a season ago.

CROTTEAU EARNS POW

Senior outside hitter, Devon Crotteau, was named Great Northwest Athletic Conference Player of the Week this past week. It is her first weekly conference honor of the season. The Casper, Wyo. native recorded 48 kills and 23 digs and hit for a .349 percentage as the Yellowjackets went 1-1 on their recent trip to Alaska. Her 31 kills at Fairbanks are a season-best for the conference and she now has four of the top eight kill totals in the conference this season. Crotteau leads the GNAC in kills (4.55) and points (5.20) and ranks 14th in career kills (1,114).



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

ABOUT SAINT MARTIN'S (1-8, 0-2)

Saint Martin's enters this week with a 1-8 record overall and are 0-2 in the GNAC Conference. Last week the Saints fell to Western Washington (3-0) and Seattle Pacific (3-1) in its conference openers. The Saints started the season 0-6 before capturing its first win at home against Evergreen St. on Sept. 19. Saint Martin's is led by Katy Ferguson and Teilissa Tua, who are hitting .207 and .161 respectively. The Saints are being out hit by their opponents .205 to .084 on the season. Before making the trip to Billings, the Saints will head to Nampa, Idaho for a match against Northwest Nazarene, winners of the MSUB Volleyball Invite.

INSIDE THE SERIES...

In the brief series between the two schools, MSUB holds a slight 4-2 lead and are a perfect 3-0 at home, gaining the other victory on a neutral site court. Last season the series was split when both teams were victorious on their home courts. The Yellowjackets are on a one game win streak against the Saints as they defeated SMU 3-0 in the season finale last season.

ABOUT ALASKA ANCHORAGE (8-5, 0-1)

The Seawolves enter the week with an 8-5 record overall and are 0-1 in the conference after its loss to the 'Jackets. Alaska Anchorage came away from its Hawaii trip with a 3-1 record. The Seawolves dropped their first match of the tournament to PacWest favorite, Hawaii-Hilo, but fought back to win the next three. Anchorage defeated BYU-Hawaii in five and then defeated Chaminade and Hawaii Pacific in four sets each. Stacie Meisner was named GNAC co-player of the week last week for her 86 dig effort in four matches in Hawaii. As a team, Anchorage has been near the top of the conference in numerous statistical

2008 MONTANA STATE BILLINGS NUMERICAL ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.	Hometown/Previous School
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)

Head Coach: Steve Smith (First Year)
 Assistant Coach: Catherine Losett
 Assistant Coach: Filip Alimpic
 Student Manager: Djeneba Toure



categories. The Seawolves enter a stretch of road games where they play four matches in five days, Western Washington (Sept. 24), Central Washington (Sept. 26), Rocky Mountain (Sept. 27) and MSUB.

INSIDE THE SERIES...

The Yellowjackets have traditionally struggled against the Seawolves. In 38 matches the Yellowjackets have won just nine times. Recently, the 'Jackets have fared much better against Anchorage, taking four of five since entering the GNAC. Last season the two teams split the series, each squad winning on its home floor. This season, MSUB is already 1-0 against the Seawolves and will look to win its third straight home match against Anchorage.

LOOKING AHEAD

After the quick trip to Alaska, the Yellowjackets return to Billings to finish off its road trip with a match against Rocky Mountain College Tuesday, Sept. 22 at 7 p.m.

The focus then will again shift to conference play as MSUB hosts Saint Martin's and Alaska Anchorage on Sept. 26 and 28 at 7 p.m. in Alterowitz Gymnasium.

NATIONAL AND LEAGUE LEADERS

MSUB had four players that ranked in the top-10 in numerous individual statistical categories and one that was tops in the nation.

Devon Crotteau was seventh in the nation in kills per set with 4.29 during the week of Sept. 14. She also led the GNAC in points and kills with 223.5 points and 193 kills, well ahead of second place in both. Crotteau also was top-10 in hitting percentage (5th) and service aces (4th).

Freshman Jody Lutz ranked third in blocks with a 0.98 average per set. She had 44 total blocks which led the league. Hillary Morrison was fifth in assists with 8.84 per set, while freshman Morgan Moss was eighth in service aces with a 0.36 average.

CROTTEAU EARNS ALL-TOURNAMENT

Devon Crotteau earned all-tournament honors for her 66 kills and .327 hitting percentage over the weekend. She also earned 42 digs, seven blocks and six aces during the tournament.

A GRAND MILESTONE

Four Players in MSUB volleyball history have eclipsed 1,000 kills in their career. This season, Devon Crotteau made it five.

Crotteau entered the 2009 season just 127 kills shy of the mark. With 19 kills in the final match against University of Mary (Sept. 5), Crotteau had exactly 1,000 kills.

With her performance at the MSUB Invite., Crotteau is now fourth on the all-time kills list at MSUB, passing Brandee Sayles (1994-97) with 1,043 kills. Crotteau also

became the 22nd player in GNAC history to record 1,000 career kills.

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 10th 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 Trabing (5-8, Sr., Buffalo, WY).

Boe averaged 2.51 kills and 2.75 digs. Morrison was credited with 7.36 assists and Trabing 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 Trabing, Melissa Porter, and Whitney Mickelson.

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.



Head Coach Steve Smith



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.

.....



GREAT NORTHWEST ATHLETIC CONFERENCE STANDINGS (Sept. 21, 2009)



	<u>Conference</u>	<u>Overall</u>
Western Washington	2-0	9-4
Seattle Pacific	2-0	8-6
Alaska Fairbanks	1-0	7-5
Northwest Nazarene	2-1	9-5
Western Oregon	1-1	4-9
Montana State Billings	1-2	7-7
Alaska Anchorage	0-1	8-5
Central Washington	0-2	8-5
Saint Martin's	0-2	1-8

This Week in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference

Tuesday – MSU Billings at Rocky Mountain.

Thursday – Alaska Anchorage at Western Washington; Alaska Fairbanks at Central Washington; Northwest Nazarene at Saint Martin's; Western Oregon at Seattle Pacific.

Saturday – Alaska Anchorage at Central Washington; Alaska Fairbanks at Western Washington; **Saint Martin's at MSU Billings**; Northwest Nazarene at Western Oregon.

Sunday – Alaska Anchorage at Rocky Mountain.

Monday (Sept. 28) – Alaska Anchorage at MSU Billings.

Tuesday (Sept. 29) – College of Idaho at Northwest Nazarene.

Wednesday (Sept. 30) – Western Washington at Seattle Pacific.



