



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 9-7 Overall / 3-2 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 *	W, 3-0
9/28	Alaska Anchorage *	W, 3-1
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

POUNDING THE PAVEMENT...

After a successful two game home stand, the Montana State Billings volleyball team hits the road again for a Thursday and Saturday matchup with two of the GNAC's best, Northwest Nazarene and Seattle Pacific. The match against Northwest Nazarene on Thursday evening will be the second meeting of the season as the Crusaders made the trip to Billings for the MSUB Volleyball Invitational (Sept. 11-12), winning 3-1. Saturday's match will put the Yellowjackets against the conference leaders at Royal Brougham Pavilion for their first meeting of the season.

A LOOK BACK...

Last week, the Yellowjackets returned from Alaska with a split and found itself in a hostile environment at Rocky Mountain College Tuesday evening. A poor first set led to a less than spectacular evening, as MSUB was swept by it' cross-town rival, 3-0.

Putting the Rocky game behind them, the Yellowjackets took on conference foe, Saint Martin's, at Alterowitz Gymnasium on Saturday evening. MSUB jumped on the Saints early and never let up as it swept the match, 25-16, 25-17, 25-19, earning the eighth victory of the season. The Yellowjackets outhit the Saints .198 to .062, coming up with 32 kills, 48 digs, five blocks and ten service aces in the match. Devon Crotteau led the team with her double-double, 10 kills and 12 digs, to go along with 12 digs from Jill Trabing.

Monday evening provided a re-match from ten days earlier as the Yellowjackets hosted the Seawolves of Alaska Anchorage. An exciting match throughout, MSUB jumped out to a 1-0 lead with a 25-23 victory in the first set. Having to battle back in the second, MSUB came up just short, losing the set, 25-19. After the break the momentum stayed with Anchorage, but a huge block from Melissa Porter energized the crowd and the Yellowjackets, as they fought back to take the set 26-24. With the edge, MSUB took total control in the fourth set, outhitting the Seawolves .333 to .026 in the set, routing Anchorage, 25-15, and taking the match 3-1. Crotteau and Jennifer Boe each had a double-double while Hannah Johnson and Porter both had four blocks.

AMONG THE NATIONS ELITE...

Devon Crotteau currently ranks fifth in the nation with 4.46 kills per set, the leader, Makenzie Snyder of Chico State, has 4.96. Crotteau's number currently ranks her first in the GNAC and is also tops in the conference for points per set (5.71) and is sixth in hitting percentage (.327).



2009 MSUB QUICK FACTS

UNIVERSITY

Name Montana State University Billings
 Location Billings, MT
 Founded 1927 (Formerly Eastern Montana College)
 Enrollment 5,226
 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 9-7
 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 Volleyball 1981
 All-Time Record 277-475

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 NNU (10-7, 3-2)

The Crusaders enter the week tied for third place, with MSUB, in the GNAC standings. At 3-2, NNU is coming off of a loss to one of the pre season favorites, Western Oregon, in four sets, 3-1. The loss was preceded by a 3-0 sweep of Saint Martin's on Sept. 24th. The win versus the Saints was headed Eki Punimata, who recorded 21 assists and seven service aces, while Lindsay Grant came up with 11 kills. In the Western match, Grant again led the Crusaders with 12 kills and 14 digs, while Cammy Dranginis and Becky Flores each had 10 kills. Grant leads the Crusaders on the year with 3.32 kills per set and is second in digs with 242. Punimata leads the team in assists with 342 of the teams 746 assists. As a team, NNU is hitting .207 while holding opponents to a .167 average. They're also averaging 1.48 blocks per set.

INSIDE THE SERIES...

Overall, NNU holds the series lead against MSUB, 7-3. The Crusaders are currently on a five game winning streak against the 'Jackets dating back to Sept. 6, 2007, including one victory earlier this season, going 0-3. MSUB has yet to earn a victory at the Johnson Sports Center. The last victory for the Yellowjackets against NNU came on Oct. 12, 2000, a 3-2 win at home.

ABOUT SEATTLE PACIFIC (9-6, 3-0)

The Falcons enter the week as the number one team in the conference standings. SPU is also on a four-match winning streak and have won eight of their last nine. Thus far, the Falcons have wins over NNU, Saint Martin's and Western Oregon. In the Western Oregon match, SPU fell behind 2-0, but climbed its way out of a hole to take the next two sets. In the fifth and final set, the Falcons took control and downed the Wolves 15-10 for a 3-2 victory

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



behind the hitting of Lindsey Wodrich and Sarah Risser. On the season, Risser leads the Falcons in kills with 163 total, while Wodrich has recorded 139. Wodrich also leads the team in digs with 126. As a team, the Falcons are hitting .213 and holding opponents to just .149. SPU has 110 blocks on the season, led by Amber Johnson, with 56. Before playing the Yellowjackets, the Falcons will take on second place, and rival, Western Washington Sept. 30 at home, starting at 7 p.m.

INSIDE THE SERIES...

The Yellowjackets have traditionally struggled against the Falcons, as SPU leads the overall series 18-5. In recent memory however, MSUB has a 3-1 record against the Falcons since joining the GNAC in 2007. Last year, the teams split the season series, both winning on its home court and in 3-0 sweeps. During the 2007 season, MSUB won at Royal Brougham for the first time since Nov. 14, 1997. This is the first meeting between the two teams this season.

LOOKING AHEAD

Upon the return from Seattle, the Yellowjackets will enjoy an extended stay at home. MSUB will not return to the court until Tuesday Oct. 13, as it wraps up non-conference play hosting Rocky Mountain College at 7 p.m. Two days later, Oct. 15, the Yellowjackets welcome Central Washington to Alterowitz for a 7 p.m. conference showdown. The home stand will conclude with a match against conference favorite, Western Washington, on Oct. 17 at 7 p.m. All MSUB home volleyball matches can be seen LIVE and FREE on the website.

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).

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 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.

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.

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GREAT NORTHWEST ATHLETIC CONFERENCE STANDINGS (Sept. 28, 2009)



	<u>Conference</u>	<u>Overall</u>
Seattle Pacific	3-0	9-6
Western Washington	3-1	10-5
Northwest Nazarene	3-2	10-7
Montana State Billings	3-2	9-7
Alaska Anchorage	2-2	10-7
Western Oregon	2-2	5-10
Alaska Fairbanks	1-2	7-7
Central Washington	1-3	9-6
Saint Martin's	0-4	1-10

This Week in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference

Wednesday – Western Washington at Seattle Pacific.

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

Saturday – Saint Martin's at Alaska Anchorage; Western Oregon at Alaska Fairbanks, 3 p.m.; Central Washington at Western Washington; **MSU Billings at Seattle Pacific.**

LAST WEEK:

TUESDAY – **MSU BILLINGS 0 AT ROCKY MOUNTAIN 3 (25-15, 25-18, 25-13).**

Thursday – Alaska Anchorage 3 at Western Washington 2 (25-20, 17-25, 25-17, 21-25, 15-11); Alaska Fairbanks 2 at Central Washington 3 (25-16, 25-19, 22-25, 23-25, 15-10); Northwest Nazarene 3 at Saint Martin's 0 (25-9, 25-16, 25-23); Western Oregon 2 at Seattle Pacific 3 (17-25, 19-25, 25-19, 25-19, 15-10).

Saturday – Alaska Anchorage 3 at Central Washington 2 (17-25, 25-23, 27-25, 19-25, 15-13); Alaska Fairbanks 0 at Western Washington 3 (25-18, 25-22, 25-21); Saint Martin's 0 at **MSU Billings 3 (25-16, 25-17, 25-19)**; Northwest Nazarene 1 at Western Oregon 3 (25-23, 18-25, 25-22, 25-19).

Sunday – Alaska Anchorage 1 at Rocky Mountain 3 (28-26, 12-25, 25-16, 25-17).



MSUB RECORD WHEN...

Play GNAC Opponent	3-2
Play Non-Conference	6-5
Play at home	4-2
Play on the road	3-4
Play at neutral site	2-1
Play during day	2-2
Play during night	7-5
Play at Top 25 opponent	0-0
Play at Top 10 opponent	0-0
Play at Top 5 opponent	0-0
Wear gold at home	2-1
Wear blue at home	2-1
In August	2-2
In September	7-5
In October	0-0
In November	0-0

Play On...

Monday	1-0
Tuesday	0-1
Wednesday	0-0
Thursday	1-1
Friday	3-2
Saturday	4-3
Sunday	0-0

NATIONAL POLL

AVCA Coaches Top 25 September 28

Rank	Team	Prev.	W-L
1.	Concordia-St.Paul (32)	1	17-0
2.	Cal St. San Bernardino	2	14-0
3.	UC San Diego	4	14-1
4.	Tampa	5	13-1
5.	Central Missouri	9	15-3
6.	Emporia State	3	14-1
7.	West Texas A&M	7	15-2
8.	Nebraska-Kerney	8	15-1
9.	Washburn	6	15-2
10.	Minnesota Duluth	10	12-3
11.	Minnesota State	11	15-2
12.	Indianapolis	12	17-1
13.	Lewis	13	14-3
14.	Southwest Minn. State	14	12-5
15.	Nebraska-Omaha	18	13-4
16.	Sonoma State	15	13-2
17.	Florida Southern	17	10-5
18.	Metro State	16	10-4
19.	Hawai'i-Hilo	22	13-0
20.	Truman	20	12-6
21.	Pittsburg State	21	12-5
22.	Wayne State (Neb.)	NR	16-2
23.	Saint Leo	NR	13-2
24.	West Florida	19	8-8
25.	Eckerd	24	7-5

Dropped Out: Chico State (23); Hillsdale (25)

WEST REGION POLL

Not Released at this time...

	MSUB	OPP
ATTACK		
Kills	699	740
Errors	323	364
Total Attacks	1952	2066
Attack Pct	.193	.182
Kills/Set	11.1	11.7
SET		
Assists	670	694
Assists/Set	10.6	11.0
SERVE		
Aces	115	83
Errors	98	114
Aces/Set	1.8	1.3
SERVE RECEPTIONS		
Errors	82	115
Errors/Set	1.3	1.8
DEFENSE		
Digs	791	802
Digs/Set	12.6	12.7
BLOCKING		
Block Solo	25	15
Block Assist	196	166
Total Blocks	123.0	98.0
Blocks/Set	2.0	1.6
Block Errors	13	10
Ball handling errors	19	18
ATTENDANCE		
Total	763	1403
Current win streak	2	-
Home win streak	4	-

2009 MSUB VOLLEYBALL STATISTICS

##	Player	ATTACK						SET		SERVE			
		SP	MP-MS	K	K/Set	E	TA	Pct	A	A/Set	SA	SA/Set	SE
7	Crotteau,Devon	63	16-	282	4.48	80	649	.311	24	0.38	29	0.46	15
8	Lutz,Jody	63	16-	58	0.92	20	148	.257	4	0.06	14	0.22	22
5	Trabing,Jill	35	11-	3	0.09	1	12	.167	6	0.17	5	0.14	5
14	Porter,Melissa	62	16-	76	1.23	43	203	.163	8	0.13	1	0.02	0
1	Boe,Jen	62	16-	174	2.81	100	547	.135	23	0.37	13	0.21	16
4	Moss,Morgan	63	16-	2	0.03	1	11	.091	5	0.08	27	0.43	12
13	Johnson,Hannah	62	16-	82	1.32	60	288	.076	11	0.18	11	0.18	11
2	Morrison,Hillary	63	16-	18	0.29	13	75	.067	579	9.19	12	0.19	10
3	Neumiller,Kayla	10	8-	3	0.30	3	13	.000	1	0.10	0	0.00	0
6	Micklesen,Whitney	33	9-	1	0.03	2	6	-.167	7	0.21	3	0.09	7
MSUB		63	16-	699	11.10	323	1952	.193	670	10.63	115	1.83	98
Opponents.....		63	16-	740	11.75	364	2066	.182	694	11.02	83	1.32	114
##	Player	DIG				BLOCKING							
		SP	RE	Dig	Dig/Set	BS	BA	Total	Blk/Set	BE	BHE		
7	Crotteau,Devon	63	14	166	2.63	3	16	19	0.30	1	2		
8	Lutz,Jody	63	1	25	0.40	4	59	63	1.00	1	1		
5	Trabing,Jill	35	15	108	3.09	0	0	0	0.00	0	1		
14	Porter,Melissa	62	1	8	0.13	8	38	46	0.74	2	0		
1	Boe,Jen	62	9	149	2.40	2	17	19	0.31	1	1		
4	Moss,Morgan	63	5	108	1.71	0	0	0	0.00	1	1		
13	Johnson,Hannah	62	0	17	0.27	6	40	46	0.74	2	2		
2	Morrison,Hillary	63	1	104	1.65	2	25	27	0.43	5	11		
3	Neumiller,Kayla	10	0	6	0.60	0	0	0	0.00	0	0		
6	Micklesen,Whitney	33	11	99	3.00	0	1	1	0.03	0	0		
TEAM				25									
MSUB		63	82	791	12.56	25	196	123.0	1.95	13	19		
Opponents.....		63	115	802	12.73	15	166	98.0	1.56	10	18		

