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Streak: Lost 1

THE REFRACTION

The unofficial gameday newsletter of The Spectrum

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Streak: Lost 4

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USU vs Montana-Western

ReSpectrum: 126-12

"Coordinating Chaos since last Friday"

The Hit List

#	Name	Ht	Pos	Yr
12	Layne Glaus	6-0	G	So.
14	Aaron Sims	6-6	F	Sr.
20	Gus McDonald	6-2	G	So.
22	Zach Pitts	6-0	G	Sr.
24	Chad Myers	6-2	G	Jr.
32	Garrett Fink	6-5	F	So.
34	Daniel Creech	6-6	F	So.
42	Bob Neiman	6-8	F/C	So.
50	Alex Head	6-9	F/C	So.
54	Dovydas Retkus	6-7	F	Jr.

Carroll to play with one hand tied behind his back

Montana-Western comes to the Spectrum on Monday evening in what can only be classified as a mistake. Originally this game was to be against Valparaiso as part of the in-season South Padre Island Invitational tournament, but Valpo somehow snuck their way out of coming to Logan, leaving Montana-Western to pick up their slack. MW, who is not even a D-1 school, agreed to fill the schedule slot under the condition that Utah State senior guard Jaycee Carroll play with one hand tied behind his back to help even the playing field. Coach Steve Morrill initially insisted that it be Carroll's left hand that be tied, while MW coach Steve Keller demanded it be the right hand. The two coaches decided to settle the matter in a best-of-7 showdown of Rock-Paper-Scissors, which Keller won 4-2. Asked about the match-up, coach Morrill frustratingly said, "There were two times where I threw paper when my gut was telling me to throw rock, and that ended up being the difference in the game. I know I played hard, but unfortunately I wasn't able to come through in crunch-time."

As a result, Carroll will play Monday night's game with his right hand restrained behind his back. Even though Carroll is right handed, he still feels that he can make a positive impact for the Aggies in the game against MW. "I think the key to my offense in this game will be to attack the basket more for some easy buckets, and not have to rely on my three-point shooting as much," Carroll said. "All I can do is try to keep competing at the same high level that I always do, and try my best to help our team win."

In All Honesty... (we should dominate)

Montana-Western is an NAIA team coming off of a poor season in which they went 8-20. The NAIA compared to NCAA Division 1 would be closely equivalent to comparing NCAA Division 3 to the NBA. Last season's two leading scorers have both moved on from their 8-20 team, which included two losses to Westminster College (yes, THAT Westminster). Their top returning scorers are seniors Aaron Sims and sophomore Gus McDonald. Sims has averaged 10.3 ppg so far this season while McDonald has averaged 9.1 ppg.

Thought for the day: "Chicken or the egg"

Which comes first... An Aggie scoring run to throw the crowd into a frenzy? Or the crowd in a frenzy to spark an Aggie scoring run? We say the latter... Let's make it happen!!!

Taking it one game at a time: (A road trip preview)

After tonight's thumping of the Montana-Western Bulldogs the Aggies hit the road to visit old Big West rivals in the Cal Poly Mustangs and UC-Irvine Anteaters. First, the Aggies will play Cal Poly (Thursday 8:05 tip), who was picked 2nd in the Big West preseason coach and media polls. Cal Poly will be an experienced squad, returning 11 lettermen from last years 19-11 team, including preseason All-Big West selection Dawin Whiten, a senior guard who averaged 12 points a game last year, which is almost three points less than what Jaycee Carroll averaged as a freshman in the Big West. Coach Morrill's USU teams are 12-1 against the Mustangs. On Saturday (8:05 tip) Utah State will take on UC Irvine. The Anteaters were picked to finish fourth and fifth in the league by the coaches and media respectively. USU is 9-4 against the Anteaters under Morrill and have won the last 5 meetings. Utah State returns home Nov. 20th against Austin-Peay.

A Refraction Salute to Nick Hammer

Shocking news was delivered earlier this week when it was announced that Nick Hammer would not be competing for the Aggies this season due to injuries taking their toll on the senior forward. One of the greatest injustices in all of sports is when players who play their games with more heart than nearly everyone else have their careers derailed by injuries. Sadly, this is the case this week at Utah State.

Some will remember Hammer for the time he pulled his truck up to the Spectrum doors to bring pizza to a handful of die-hard fans waiting to get into a game. Many will remember his four straight 3-pointers vs. Idaho last year. Very few will remember one time when he called his shot seconds before hitting a 3-pointer. Everyone should remember how Nick Hammer racked up countless hustle points last season, most of which came on the defensive end of the ball. The two most impressive and important defensive efforts, in the opinion of The Refraction, came last year against Nevada's Marcellus Kemp. While Kemp had high scoring games in each of USU's two victories vs Nevada last season, almost none of those points were scored while Nick Hammer was in the game. Each game was a 79-77 victory, meaning every little bit counted. Nick Hammer took care of that extra little bit.

The March 1st win against Nevada at the Spectrum will probably go down as the most exciting and memorable win most of us will ever witness at while USU, and without Nick Hammer, that night would never have been as epic and special as it was. That alone makes his Aggie career a successful one in our book.

So here's to the hustle rebounds, the diving efforts to pick up loose balls, the relentless defense on opposing teams, and for playing with the kind of heart every player should play with. For how hard Nick played, and the way his career was sadly cut short, Nick Hammer can truly say that he left everything he had out on the court. Today the first ever official Refraction Salute is dedicated to Nick Hammer.

The Petri Dish. - Digging dirt on no-names is no easy task.

EXTRA DISCLAIMER!!! - This issue's Petri Dish contains information gathered from both players and fellow students of players at Montana-Western. The allegations contained within are a mixture of information gathered from both students of MW, and traditional means of gathering dirt. Please keep in mind that these are their shortcomings, not ours. We are just exposing them.

#14 Aaron Sims: Text message signature reads "The King". Offered to NOT score 50 points against the Aggies in exchange for being introduced to some "Utah girls". Seems confident in himself. Might be able to play on the same level as some of the regulars at the Fieldhouse on any given weeknight.

#50 Alex Head: Has been arrested and charged as a minor in possession of alcohol.

#42 Bob Neiman: Alleged to have grown marijuana in his freshman dorm room and to have sold fake ID's as well. Also has been charged as a minor in possession of alcohol. Has only 12 friends on Myspace, and one of them is Tom.

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