

BASKETBALL

Selvig home alone: Griz basketball's only Montana-bred player

AJ Mazzolini
Montana Kaimin

In 2007, when coach Wayne Tinkle recruited a pair of Montana-born players for the Grizzly men's basketball team, the young men joined a team featuring four Montana natives. Four years later, after graduations, transfers and other departures, there is only one Montanan playing basketball at Montana: junior Derek Selvig.

"Yeah that's interesting, it's kind of crazy actually," said Selvig, who's from Glendive. "And unique. There's always been a few on the team."

Over the last decade, the Montana men's program has never played with a roster featuring any less than three Montanans. During the late 1980s, when coach Tinkle was in his playing days with the team, there were often even more than that.

Historically, Grizzly basketball was built around home-grown talent with transplants from other states in the region. A quick scan through this season's roster proves the team is now solely composed of a diverse array of players from nearby states.

Four from Washington. Three from California. One each from places like Wyoming, Utah, Arizona, North Dakota and Oregon. And again, just the one from Montana.

"The last couple of recruiting classes in Montana, we just didn't feel had enough quality," Tinkle said. "We love having those Montana guys; we just can't make them

appear. It's a down cycle in our state right now."

The issue is something Montana State's basketball program is dealing with, too. In 2010-11, the Bobcats suited a single Treasure Stater, senior Bobby Howard from Great Falls. Redshirt freshman Blake Brumwell (Big Sandy) and freshman Steven Davis (Billings) are also on the roster, but only Davis has logged any minutes. The forward has seen four minutes of action and scored no points.

"It's a priority for us to look at guys that can contribute to the program. We're under a crunch to get guys in that can contribute now," said Bobcat coach Brad Huse on his team's similar lack of in-state recruits.

Another possible contributing factor to why Selvig and Howard have little to no Montana teammates, Tinkle said, is the change in available scholarships for men's basketball. At the Division I level, where the Grizzlies compete in the Big Sky Conference, 15 scholarships used to be the norm. That number was pushed back to 13 in the early 1990s, making it more difficult for the program to "take chances" on recruits. The coaching staff has less room for error.

Fewer scholarships have also made it less likely for young players to walk-on with the team hoping to win over coaches and scholarship dollars as upper classmen.

"There used to be kids that would cut off their left arm for

that opportunity," Tinkle said.

On the women's side of things, coach Robin Selvig (Derek's uncle) has made his living off of in-state pickups. This season the team boasted eight Montanans – six that have seen game time.

That disparity proves how deep the girls' basketball talent pool is at the high school level in the state, Tinkle said. You can't even compare the two, he added, especially considering the Lady Griz have 15 scholarships to hand out.

So could there be a future when each Montana Grizzly is an import from outside of Montana?

"It could be possible," said Tinkle with a shrug. "It'd be unfortunate for the tradition and the state pride."

For now Derek Selvig has to be the only man to carry on the tradition. He can do it, Tinkle said, because Selvig embodies Montana basketball. He is Montana and his family has more ties to the program than a Macy's on Father's Day. His uncle is in his 32nd year as the women's head coach. Both of his parents suited up for the Griz in the 80s, as did an aunt. Now his sister Carly is a freshman for the Lady Griz.

Coming from Dawson County High School in Glendive, the 7-foot Selvig has been living the Montana lifestyle since he was born. The shooter said he loves the open outdoors — which there's plenty of in rural eastern Montana — and still tries to get



Greg Lindstrom/Montana Kaimin

Junior forward Derek Selvig is currently the only Montana native playing on the men's basketball team.

out to hunt deer and pheasant every fall with fellow Grizzly Brian Qvale.

Back on the court, a little pressure comes with being Montanan's lone Montanan, but it's a badge Selvig said he wears proudly.

"I kind of take some pride in

that," Selvig said of living up to the program and his family's histories. "It's important we have Montana kids in this program. The community attaches to those guys. Hopefully the coaches can find more of that talent."

anthony.mazzolini@umontana.edu



Earn your Master's Degree
in the growing field of
informatics!

Online Courses
Full or Part Time Study
Certification Available

CiPCT
Clinical Informatics &
Patient-Centered Technologies

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

Health care organizations need health professionals who understand the technologies being used in the clinical setting today, including:

- Electronic Medical Records (EMRs)
- Computerized Provider Order Entry (CPOE) Systems
- Telehealth

The University of Washington offers a Master of Science in **Clinical Informatics & Patient-Centered Technologies (CiPCT)**. A graduate degree in Clinical Informatics would position you to be at the forefront of these important transitions.

We teach health professionals to understand, design, develop, and evaluate Information Technology (IT), and to manage the use of informatics applications in advanced patient care.

For More Information:
www.UWClinicalInformatics.com
(Toll-Free) 866.931.1687
uwcipect@uw.edu



NEW 2011 xB
YOUR SCION
NO HAGGLE, NO HASSLE.



PURE LEASE

DOWNLOAD THE STICKYBITS APP
+ SCAN THE CODE
AVAILABLE ON iPhone® AND Android™

LEASE A 2011 xB WITH AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION
\$199 /MO + 36 MOS
\$849 DUE AT LEASE SIGNING*
EXCLUDES OFFICIAL FEES, TAXES AND DEALER CHARGES. NO SECURITY DEPOSIT REQUIRED.

3943 BROOKS STREET MISSOULA, MT
MONDAY - SATURDAY : 8:30am - 6:00pm
(888) 713-6155 (406) 251-2525

WWW.BITTERROOTMOTORS.COM

*Available on approved credit to well qualified customers through Toyota Financial Services and participating Scion dealers on new 2011 xBs with automatic transmission. Not all customers will qualify. Offer based on MSRP of \$17,670, including delivery, processing and handling and 12,000 miles/year limit. Monthly payment may vary depending on final price of vehicle & your qualifications. At vehicle turn in a disposition fee will be charged on leases executed on and after January 4, 2011. See your local Scion dealer for lease program details. Offer not available in HI. Lease contract must be signed by April 4, 2011. stickybits® is a registered trademark of stickybits, Inc. iPhone® is a trademark of Apple, Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries. Android™ is a trademark of Google Inc. Use of this trademark is subject to Google Permissions. ©2011 Scion, a marque of Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc. All rights reserved. Scion, the Scion logo, and xB are trademarks of Toyota Motor Corporation. Toyota Financial Services is a service mark of Toyota Motor Credit Corporation. \$17 00 doc fee due at delivery.

