

MONTANA'S ROAD TO CHATTANOOGA

MONTANA 30, CAL POLY 28

SEPT. 6, SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIF.

After stunning San Diego State in the season opener with a game-winning field goal, Cal Poly's Andrew Gardner missed a 27-yard attempt wide left with 38 seconds remaining. Montana was led by the senior tandem of quarterback Cole Bergquist and running back Andrew Schmidt. Bergquist threw for 163 yards and two touchdowns, while Schmidt rushed 26 times for 145 yards and a score.

MONTANA 46, SOUTHERN UTAH 10

SEPT. 13, MISSOULA, MONT.

A record crowd of 25,056 at Washington-Grizzly Stadium was on hand as Montana rolled in its home opener. Junior wide receiver Marc Mariani tied a school record with four touchdown receptions, with two coming from Bergquist and two from backup quarterback Andrew Selle. Selle replaced a banged-up Bergquist and threw for four touchdowns, and the six aerial scores by the Grizzlies tied a school record.

MONTANA 29, UC DAVIS 24

SEPT. 20, MISSOULA, MONT.

Bergquist's 9-yard touchdown pass to Mariani with 3:36 remaining turned back the Aggies after they had rallied from a 23-10 deficit at the start of the fourth quarter to take a 24-23 lead. Mariani finished with seven catches for 98 yards and a touchdown, while Mike Ferriter added four for 83 and a score. The game was played before another record-setting crowd of 25,209.

MONTANA 38, CENTRAL WASHINGTON 35

SEPT. 27, MISSOULA, MONT.

Redshirt freshman kicker Brody McKnight made a 42-yard field goal with :01 remaining as the Grizzlies outlasted the Division II Wildcats. A third straight record crowd of 25,326 watched as Bergquist threw for a career-high 377 yards and three touchdowns, and Ferriter had a career-best 133 yards on eight receptions.

WEBER STATE 45, MONTANA 28

OCT. 4, OGDEN, UTAH

Montana's 25 consecutive regular-season wins and 16 straight Big Sky wins were halted as the Grizzlies turned the ball over four times against the opportunistic Wildcats. Bergquist's 4-yard touchdown pass to Ferriter with 10:31 remaining pulled the Grizzlies within 38-28, but Weber State answered only three plays later when Cameron Higgins threw a 28-yard score to Bryant Eteuati to seal the upset.

MONTANA 19, EASTERN WASHINGTON 3

OCT. 11, CHENEY, WASH.

The Grizzlies bounced back from their lone defeat by stifling the Eagles, limiting them to a field goal in the second quarter. Montana led 10-3 entering the fourth quarter and broke the game open at the 10-minute mark when Schmidt blocked a punt and Bergquist threw an 8-yard touchdown to Mariani on the ensuing play.

MONTANA 43, SACRAMENTO STATE 7

OCT. 18, MISSOULA, MONT.

Bergquist completed 17 of 19 passes for 290 yards and four touchdowns, two each to Mariani and Ferriter, as the Grizzlies rolled before yet another record crowd of 25,486. Mariani and Ferriter combined to catch 250 of Bergquist's 290 yards.

MONTANA 41, NORTHERN COLORADO 20

OCT. 25, GREELEY, COLO.

Sophomore halfback Chase Reynolds rushed for a career-best 137 yards and two touchdowns as Montana clinched its 23rd consecutive winning season. Bergquist completed 14 of 18 passes for 243 yards for the Grizzlies, who outscored UNC 38-3 in the middle quarters.

MONTANA 45, NORTHERN ARIZONA 10

NOV. 1, MISSOULA, MONT.

Reynolds set another career best with 157 yards and three touchdowns as the sixth-ranked Grizzlies coasted past the 19th-ranked Lumberjacks after building a 31-0 halftime lead. Montana rushed for a season-high 223 yards against the stingiest defense (allowing 18.8 rushing yards a game) in the championship subdivision and clinched the 60th victory for Griz coach Bobby Hauck.

MONTANA 29, PORTLAND STATE 12

NOV. 8, PORTLAND, ORE.

It was another week and another career best for Reynolds, who rushed for 160 yards and three touchdowns on a whopping 35 carries. Bergquist added 91 yards on 16 carries, and the Griz defense held the Vikings to 210 total yards.

MONTANA 29, IDAHO STATE 10

NOV. 15, MISSOULA, MONT.

Reynolds rushed for 153 yards and a touchdown as Montana clinched its third consecutive 10-win season at the expense of the 0-11 Bengals. Idaho State took a 7-2 lead with 13:48 before halftime on a 43-yard touchdown pass from Kyle Blum to Eddie Thompson, but the Grizzlies reeled off 20 straight points. Mariani ignited the surge with a 94-yard punt return.

MONTANA 35, MONTANA STATE 3

NOV. 22, MISSOULA, MONT.

The fifth-ranked Grizzlies routed their state rival and earned a share of their 11th straight Big Sky title when Weber State was upset by Eastern Washington. Reynolds rushed for 115 yards before another record crowd of 25,629 at Washington-Grizzly Stadium, leaving him 5 yards shy of a 1,000-yard season.

MONTANA 31, TEXAS STATE 13

NOV. 29, MISSOULA, MONT.

Montana spotted the Bobcats a 10-0 lead before turning around the first-round matchup behind Reynolds, who rushed for a career-best 233 yards on a career-high 38 carries. Reynolds had a 4-yard touchdown run to give the Griz a 21-10 lead in the third quarter, and his 1-yard score with 12:50 left to play made it 28-13.

MONTANA 24, WEBER STATE 13

DEC. 6, MISSOULA, MONT.

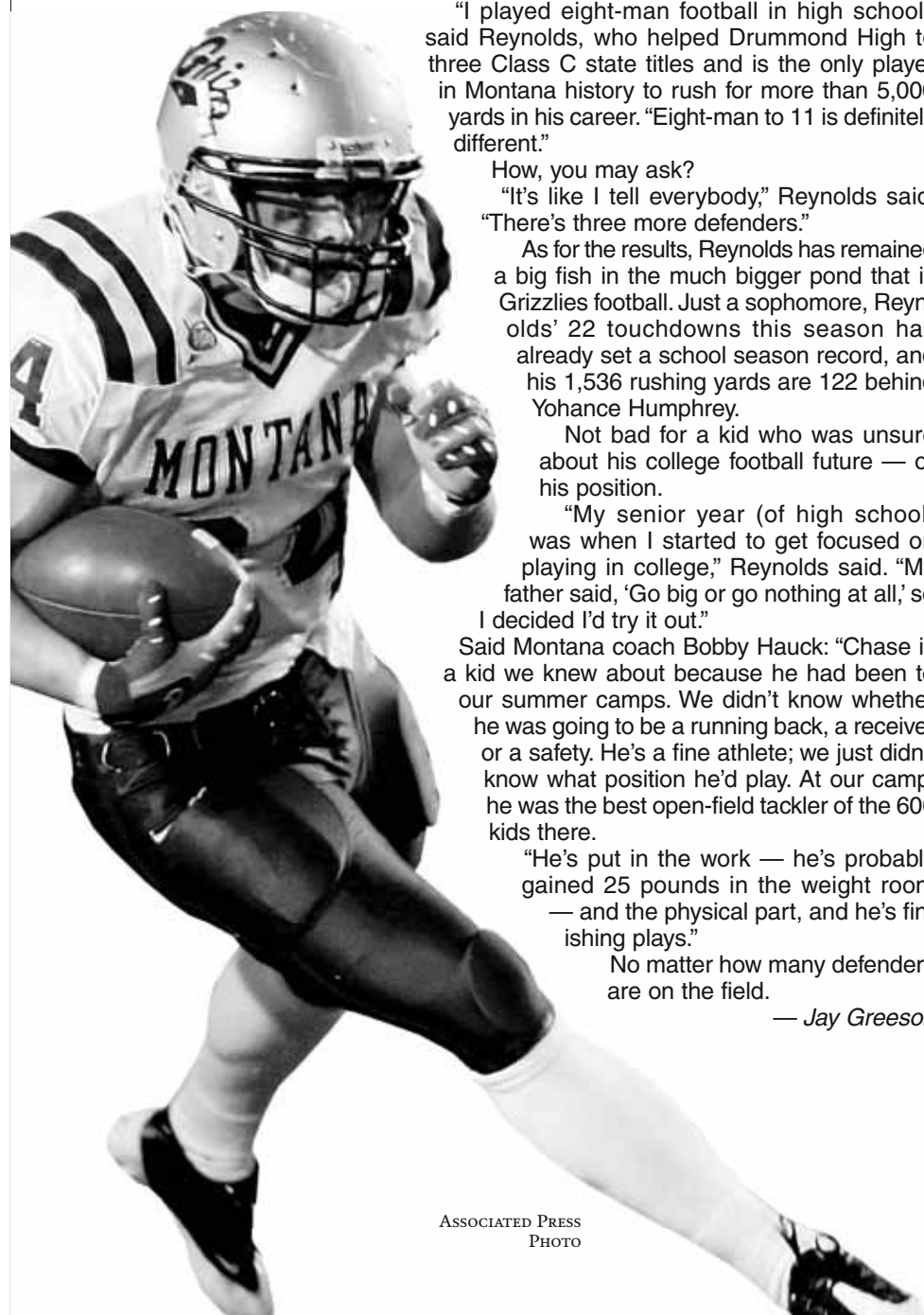
Reynolds rushed for 185 yards and two touchdowns as the Grizzlies avenged their only regular-season setback. Montana took a 14-0 lead after the first quarter, benefiting from a pair of Weber State turnovers, and capped the scoring with 4:02 to play when Reynolds scored from 12 yards out.

MONTANA 35, JAMES MADISON 27

DEC. 12, HARRISONBURG, VA.

Bergquist threw for 142 yards and three touchdowns and Reynolds ran for 123 yards on 26 carries as the Grizzlies stunned the top-ranked Dukes. James Madison had hoped to prevail behind the play of standout quarterback Rodney Landers, but he had to leave the game with an ankle injury in the second quarter and the Dukes trailing 14-10. Montana's defense forced four JMU turnovers and turned back a late threat after the Grizzlies had built a 35-17 lead.

— David Paschall



CHASE REYNOLDS

RUNNING BACK

Chase Reynolds went from the smallest high school in Montana to the renowned home-state school football powerhouse. And it wasn't his biggest adjustment.

"I played eight-man football in high school," said Reynolds, who helped Drummond High to three Class C state titles and is the only player in Montana history to rush for more than 5,000 yards in his career. "Eight-man to 11 is definitely different."

How, you may ask?

"It's like I tell everybody," Reynolds said. "There's three more defenders."

As for the results, Reynolds has remained a big fish in the much bigger pond that is Grizzlies football. Just a sophomore, Reynolds' 22 touchdowns this season has already set a school season record, and his 1,536 rushing yards are 122 behind Yohance Humphrey.

Not bad for a kid who was unsure about his college football future — or his position.

"My senior year (of high school) was when I started to get focused on playing in college," Reynolds said. "My father said, 'Go big or go nothing at all,' so I decided I'd try it out."

Said Montana coach Bobby Hauck: "Chase is a kid we knew about because he had been to our summer camps. We didn't know whether he was going to be a running back, a receiver or a safety. He's a fine athlete; we just didn't know what position he'd play. At our camp, he was the best open-field tackler of the 600 kids there.

"He's put in the work — he's probably gained 25 pounds in the weight room — and the physical part, and he's finishing plays."

No matter how many defenders are on the field.

— Jay Greeson

MARC MARIANI

WIDE RECEIVER/KICK RETURNER

Marc Mariani has always loved to have the ball in his hands.

He hated, however, to get hit.

"I've always been little," the 6-foot, 185-pound junior said. "I didn't like getting hit, so I've had to run away.

"It's worked out for me so far."

Mariani has more than 2,000 total yards this season, including 1,136 yards and 15 touchdowns on 62 receptions.

A self-made playmaker, Mariani had to make himself a place in the Montana program.

"He came in the door No. 106 as a walk-on kid," Montana coach Bobby Hauck said.

"He's really become a big-time

player for us. He's got speed and ability."

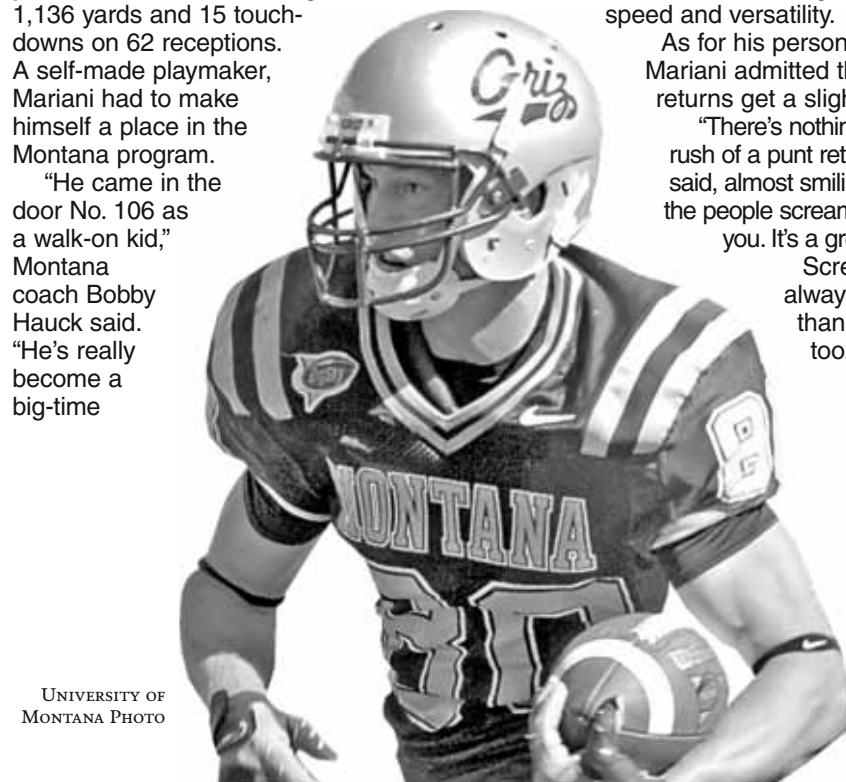
Mariani went relatively unnoticed as a high school senior in the small Montana town of Havre — "spelled like (Brett) Favre, but pronounced kind of like Harvard," he said — but has made the most of his chance. He's even listed on a couple of NFL draft Web sites for the 2010 class, due in large part to his speed and versatility.

As for his personal favorite, Mariani admitted that punt returns get a slight edge.

"There's nothing like the rush of a punt return," he said, almost smiling. "With the people screaming by you. It's a great feeling."

Screaming is always better than hitting, too.

— Jay Greeson



MONTANA SEASON STATS

	MONTANA	OPP					
SCORING	502	260					
Points Per Game	33.5	17.3					
FIRST DOWNS	314	260					
Rushing	161	106					
Passing	134	132					
Penalty	19	22					
RUSHING YARDS	2763	1960					
Rushing Attempts	633	477					
Average Per Rush	4.4	4.1					
Average Per Game	184.2	130.7					
TDs Rushing	32	12					
PASSING YARDS	3223	3006					
Att-Comp-Int	378-230-9	469-253-19					
Average Per Pass	8.5	6.4					
Average Per Catch	14.0	11.9					
Average Per Game	214.9	200.4					
TDs Passing	32	16					
TOTAL OFFENSE	5986	4966					
Total Plays	1011	946					
Average Per Play	5.9	5.2					
Average Per Game	399.1	331.1					
KICK RETURNS (No.-Yards)	59-1219	86-1633					
PUNT RETURNS (No.-Yards)	30-439	23-169					
INT RETURNS (No.-Yards)	19-314	9-51					
KICK-RETURN AVERAGE	20.7	19.0					
PUNT-RETURN AVERAGE	14.6	7.3					
INT-RETURN AVERAGE	16.5	5.7					
FUMBLES-LOST	16-9	24-17					
PENALTIES (No.-Yards)	90-887	111-927					
Average Per Game	59.1	61.8					
PUNTS (No.-Yards)	57-2360	64-2172					
Average Per Punt	41.4	33.9					
Net punt average	36.3	26.1					
TIME OF POSSESSION	32:06	27:49					
3RD-DOWN Conversions	92/203	66/192					
3rd-Down Pct	45%	34%					
4TH-DOWN Conversions	17/28	11/30					
4th-Down Pct	61%	37%					
SACKS BY-Yards	31-203	48-303					
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	67	29					
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	11-19	17-23					
ON-SIDE KICKS	0-0	1-1					
RED-ZONE SCORES	50-67 (75%)	34-47 (72%)					
RED-ZONE TOUCHDOWNS	42-67 (63%)	20-47 (43%)					

COLT ANDERSON

SAFETY

One of just three returning defensive starters at the beginning of the season, Colt Anderson knew his role. He had to make tackles, and he had to be a leader.

Check and check.

Anderson, a Walter Camp and an Associated Press All-America pick earlier this week, leads Montana with 121 total tackles, and the long-haired, head-hunting senior carries the quiet confidence that resonates throughout the Grizzlies program.

"The best thing about this team is they are willing to prepare and they are willing to prove," Montana coach Bobby Hauck said. "I don't think we've ever lacked for confidence."

Anderson redshirted in 2004 the last time Montana advanced to Chattanooga for the championship game.

"I thought it would be an every year thing," Anderson said, "but it hasn't worked out that way. It's pushed everybody to get back here."

Montana's deep tradition — the Grizzlies have two national titles and have made a Football Championship Subdivision-record 19 playoff trips, including 16 in a row — and recent success are more than enough reason to believe. Especially Anderson, who has started 42 consecutive games.

"We have a lot of confidence," Anderson said of the Grizzlies, who are 38-4 during his three years as a starter. "Every game, we think we should win."

— Jay Greeson

JESSE CARLSON

DEFENSIVE TACKLE

The Carlson family reunion easily could be mistaken for a Montana tailgate party.

In fact, the two have often been one and the same.

"I can remember in grade school, my dad coming to get us out of school early on Fridays and taking us to Missoula for a Griz game the next day," Jesse Carlson said.

Montana football is a family affair for most of the state — but the Carlsons take it to the extreme. Jesse's dad Bruce and his uncle Jeff played for the Grizzlies in the late 1970s. They played for their father, Gene Carlson, who was the head coach at Montana from 1976 to '79. Jesse's older brother Brian and his cousins, Torrey and Tyler Thomas, also played for the Grizzlies.

Jesse's younger brother Chris is a defensive back at Harvard.

"Yeah, he's the black sheep," Jesse said with a smile. "But that Harvard degree is worth a lot of money."

There's no price on the family legacy the Carlsons have at Montana. Asked whether he would have attended Southern California if the Trojans had offered, Jesse Carlson debated the thought before getting right with the family tree.

"You know USC would be a great offer, and I would have had to consider that," Jesse said. "But this is the best fit for me."

Montana head coach Bobby Hauck knows about the family feel of Montana football. Hauck played for the Grizz, as did his brother, Terry, who is one of Bobby's assistants. When asked whether the Carlsons were the first family of Montana football, Hauck calmly said, "They're right up there. First or second, anyway."

According to Bobby Hauck, the Carlson tree almost split right down the middle, though. After an injury-plagued senior season at Billings West High, Jesse was set to branch out from the Carlson path.

"He had committed to go to our rival," Hauck said, referring to but almost refusing on principle to say Montana State, "and his family got him all kinds of their stuff for Christmas. Jesse looked at it and said he didn't want any of it, and we got back in there."

The rest is history — family history, that is.

— Jay Greeson

SHERMAN LOGAN

DEFENSIVE END

Four games into last year's Richmond football season, Spiders senior defensive end Sherman Logan was sure his career was over. He had just broken his foot against New Hampshire. Having already redshirted his freshman season, he was apparently out of eligibility.

"But our compliance department came by to see me the next week," he said. "They said that they would apply to the NCAA for a medical hardship, which would give me a sixth season."

The NCAA typically grants five years to complete four. But Logan had also lost all of his redshirt freshman season when he bruised his spine and neck during preseason drills in August 2004. Where two seasons have been lost due to injury, the NCAA strongly considers a sixth year of eligibility.

"They weren't sure I'd ever play football again when I hurt my neck," Logan said. "Then I broke my foot my senior year. I kept thinking, 'What a bad way to end my career.'"

But last December, just before the Spiders lost a heartbreaking FCS semifinal game to Appalachian State, Logan received an e-mail from Richmond's compliance representative. The NCAA was granting him a sixth season.

"I called my mother (Lisa Kelly) right away," said the Virginia Beach native. "I was so excited."

That excitement would soon spread to new Spiders coach Mike London.

"Having Sherman on that defense has meant a lot," London said. "You can't get that kind of experience and leadership without a sixth season. Now he's in the national championship game. You couldn't write the script any better than this."

But what if the script had been written differently? What if the sixth season had been denied?

"I'd probably be getting my master's in education," Logan said. "I want to teach history."

Now he can teach about the power of second chances.

— Mark Wiedmer

PARKER MILES

DEFENSIVE TACKLE

As the fourth quarter began in last Saturday's FCS semifinal between Richmond and Northern Iowa, 9-year-old Baylie Miles turned to her father Paul inside their Soddy-Daisy home and asked if the Spiders could win.

Her interest was understandable. Her cousin Parker Miles is the starting noseguard for Richmond. The family hit the road a year ago to watch the Spiders beat Wofford and lose to Appalachian State in the playoffs.

But they had remained home this year, so the only chance Baylie or her 12-year-old sister Kaitlyn would have to see their cousin was for Richmond to win and reach tonight's title game at Finley Stadium.

Yet knowing the improbability of the Spiders overcoming a 20-7 deficit, Paul told his daughter, "We can win, but I don't see it happening. We've got to score 14 points, and Parker and the defense have to stop them."

Less than an hour later, however, Paul and Kelly's living room was erupting as he phoned his nephew to help celebrate the Spiders' memorable 21-20 victory.

"He text messaged me right after the game," Parker said. "I was still dressed in my jersey. I've already got him some tickets."

A chiropractor at Total Health Chiropractic in Hixson, Paul said Parker was sold on Richmond the moment he walked on campus.

"Parker was recruited by Florida Atlantic and some smaller (BCS) schools," Paul Miles said. "When he went to Richmond for a visit, (then-coach) Dave Clawson said he didn't want to rush Parker's decision, but he'd like to know something in a couple of days. Parker told him, 'I can't do that.'"

According Paul, a puzzled look crossed Clawson's face and he asked why.

"Because," Parker said, "I'm telling you right now that I want to come to Richmond."

And nobody's happier about that today than his cousins in Soddy-Daisy.

— Mark Wiedmer



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Richmond coach Mike London was a police officer before coming back to football.

MIKE LONDON

HEAD COACH

Richmond coach Mike London still takes shots at work. Only now, the shots are shouted from the stands instead of fired from a weapon on the street.

London, the first-year Spiders coach, is a former Richmond police officer who served as a detective in the street-crimes unit in the 1980s. He owns a degree in law enforcement from the Richmond Police Academy, not the typical note you'll find on a coach's resume.

"I had always wanted to be a U.S. Secret Service agent or an FBI agent," said London, who was signed by the Dallas Cowboys in 1983 and turned to law enforcement after the NFL team released him. "In order to get law enforcement experience, I had to become a police officer first. You can't just enter into the federal government.

"I spent about six months as a police officer and, shortly after that, was introduced to a new unit called the street-crimes unit and targeted repeat, career criminal offenders. I got to kick down doors and run down back alleys and fall down steps and all that stuff."

London said some of the skills he gained as a detective translate to his new job as a head football coach. Communication and

treating people with dignity, he said, are critical in avoiding conflict, and his players claim London fit well with the team almost immediately.

He doesn't kick down doors to meetings or search his players. But the Spiders said sometimes, only slightly, they can detect the law enforcement influence in London.

"The only way you ever see it is how much he cares for his family (London is married with seven children) and our team because he said every day he went to work, you never knew, especially being in downtown Richmond in not the greatest areas," tight end Joe Stewart said. "He tells us all the time, 'Tell your parents, your family and your friends you love them and you care about them, because you never know what can happen.'"

Talk about a good career move.

"I decided if I was going to get shot at, I would rather take shots from the stands verbally than the ones I was taking on the streets," London said.

Of course, with Richmond in the title game, he's no longer taking shots from anyone.

— Darren Epps

ERIC WARD

QUARTERBACK

No one can quite agree on what Eric Ward told his Richmond offense in the fourth quarter at Northern Iowa last Saturday, trailing 20-7 in a small, noisy dome.

"He looked us in the eye and he said, 'We're going to win this game. Believe me,'" tight end Joe Stewart said.

Said coach Mike London: "Basically, in the huddle, he told the guys, 'Follow me.'"

And Ward: "I told everybody we had been here before."

Another variation includes, "I'm not scared." Ward likely said it all. The Spiders can at least agree on the result: The speech worked, and Ward's calm demeanor is one reason why Richmond will play for a title tonight.

Ward, the Southwest DeKalb High School graduate who acknowledges his Atlanta roots by wearing "404" on his eye black, does not change expressions very often on the field. Not even with the

UNI Dome ready to erupt and Richmond needing 62 yards with no timeouts and 1:44 left on the clock. The Spiders' star receiver, Kevin Grayson, remained on the sideline with a groin injury.

Ward did not panic and try to make the heroic throw. He completed six of eight passes on the drive, the longest going for 13 yards for the touchdown.

"I wasn't really nervous," he said.

What makes him nervous? "I don't know," he said. "Nothing I can think of right now."

Only after the touchdown pass with 14 seconds remaining did Ward finally express some emotion.

"I saw the 'SportsCenter' highlights and they zoomed in on him after the touchdown and he probably showed the most emotion ever," Stewart said. "I think he was pumping his fist and maybe did a leg kick."

— Darren Epps

RICHMOND'S ROAD TO CHATTANOOGA

RICHMOND 28, ELON 10

AUG. 30, ELON, N.C.

The defense was as good as advertised and the offense struck for big plays as No. 4 Richmond opened the Mike London-era with a win over No. 15 Elon. Eric Ward had a career day, while the defense held a high-scoring Phoenix team to 235 yards of total offense and 22 yards on the ground. The Spiders opened a 14-0 lead in the first half, and the defense blanked the Phoenix in the second half in front of the second-largest crowd ever at Elon's Rhodes Stadium.

VIRGINIA 16, RICHMOND 0

SEPT. 6, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA.

Virginia's Chase Minnifield stopped a late Richmond threat with an interception, and Vic Hall returned an interception 60 yards for a touchdown to seal the Cavaliers' victory. Richmond kept it close until Mikell Simpson's 1-yard touchdown run midway through the fourth quarter finally gave Virginia (1-1) a little breathing room at 10-0 and the defense did the rest. Until late, it was a frustrating afternoon for the Cavaliers, coming off a 52-7 season-opening loss to top-ranked Southern California.

RICHMOND 45, TOWSON 14

SEPT. 13, RICHMOND, VA.

Senior fullback John Crone scored twice and the Spiders racked up five interceptions, including two returned for touchdowns, as fourth-ranked Richmond rolled over Towson in the CAA opener for both teams. The Richmond defense picked apart the Towson passing game and limited the visitors to 55 yards rushing. Sophomore cornerback Justin Rogers and junior free safety Derek Hatcher each collected two interceptions and each brought one back for a touchdown.

RICHMOND 44, MAINE 17

SEPT. 20, RICHMOND, VA.

Jordan Mitchell had a career day receiving, Ward had a career day passing and No. 2 Richmond won its eighth consecutive home game. Mitchell reeled in two of Ward's three touchdown throws and finished with four catches for a career-best 139 yards, including a dazzling 87-yard score that put Richmond up 7-3 early on. Ward completed 16 of 25 passes for a career-high 273 yards and three scores.

VILLANOVA 26, RICHMOND 20

SEPT. 27, VILLANOVA, PA.

Ward was 23-of-32 passing for 236 yards and a touchdown, but the top-ranked Spiders fell on the road at No. 19 Villanova. Josh Vaughan's 7-yard touchdown run with 1:13 left on the clock made it a one-score game, but Villanova recovered the Spiders' onside kick attempt to seal the Wildcats' win over the first-ever No. 1-ranked opponent to visit Villanova Stadium.

RICHMOND 56, VMI 16

OCT. 4, LEXINGTON, VA.

The Spiders jumped on VMI early and never looked back. Richmond executed in all facets of the game, getting eight touchdowns from six players, scoring six offensive touchdowns, returning a pair of fumbles for scores, and limiting the Keydets' rushing attack to 267 yards on 59 attempts. Vaughan tied his career high with two rushing scores and racked up 123 yards on 16 carries.

JAMES MADISON 38, RICHMOND 31

OCT. 11, RICHMOND, VA.

Scotty McGee scored on a 69-yard punt return with 1 second remaining to lift the top-ranked Dukes over Richmond. McGee took Brian Radford's punt on the 31-yard line and ran down the Dukes' sideline for the game-winner. The Dukes tied the game at 31 with 59 seconds remaining on an 8-yard run by Eugene Holloman and Rodney Landers' conversion pass to Griff Yancey. There were five lead changes in the game.

RICHMOND 30, MASSACHUSETTS

OCT. 18, AMHERST, MASS.

Vaughan carried the ball for a career-high 156 yards and two touchdowns in the win. Vaughan's effort and a big day by the defense helped snap the Minutemen's 16-game home-winning streak. The Spiders limited the nation's ninth-leading rusher Tony Nelson to just 61 yards on 23 carries.

RICHMOND 40, GEORGETOWN 0

OCT. 25, RICHMOND, VA.

Behind another career day rushing from senior tailback Vaughan, No. 9 Richmond rolled up 427 yards of total offense and held Georgetown to 88 yards on homecoming. Vaughan carried 24 times for 157 yards and two touchdowns.

RICHMOND 34, HOFSTRA 14

NOV. 8, HEMPSTEAD, N.Y.

It was all Vaughan, as he continued the remarkable second half of his season with a career-high 240 yards and two scores. Vaughan averaged 9.2 yards on his 26 carries to post the fifth-best single-game rushing performance in school history.

RICHMOND 31, DELAWARE 14

NOV. 15, RICHMOND, VA.

Thanks to a record-breaking day on defense and another impressive day from Vaughan, No. 7 Richmond rolled on senior day at UR Stadium. The Blue Hens managed just 53 yards of total offense. Vaughan rushed for 156 yards on a career-best 40 carries. He scored once, snapping his streak of five consecutive games with at least two rushing touchdowns.

RICHMOND 23, WILLIAM & MARY 20, OT

NOV. 22, WILLIAMSBURG, VA.

Andrew Howard drilled a 37-yard field goal in overtime in the 118th meeting between longtime rivals. The win capped an impressive defensive performance by the Spiders that featured seven takeaways, six interceptions and a blocked field goal in overtime. The Spiders had to withstand a second-half rally in which the Tribe scored 20 consecutive points to erase their 20-0 deficit at the half.

RICHMOND 38, EASTERN KENTUCKY 10

NOV. 29, RICHMOND, VA.

Ward threw for 245 yards and three touchdowns as the Spiders scored 31 unanswered points in the first round of the FCS playoffs. Ward and redshirt freshman receiver Tre Gray connected on two second-half touchdowns, and Vaughan scored twice on the ground and gained 90 yards on 23 carries.

RICHMOND 33, APPALACHIAN STATE 13

DEC. 6, BOONE, N.C.

The Spiders forced seven turnovers, including five interceptions of Armanti Edwards, and stunned the Mountaineers in the FCS quarterfinals. Junior cornerback Seth Williams tied a Richmond single-game record with three interceptions, while Vaughan rushed for 133 yards and a career-best three TDs.

RICHMOND 21, NORTHERN IOWA 20

DEC. 13, CEDAR FALLS, IOWA

Ward threw a 13-yard touchdown pass to Joe Stewart with 14 seconds left and Andrew Howard kicked the extra point, giving Richmond the win and sending the Spiders to the Football Championship Subdivision title game. Ward finished the game 28-of-35 passing for a career-high 280 yards and no interceptions.

— John Frierson

RICHMOND SEASON STATS

	RICHMOND	OPP	RUSHING	G	Att.	Yards	Avg.	TD
SCORING	482	243	Josh Vaughan	15	332	1781	5.2	19
Points Per Game	32.1	16.2	Eric Ward	13	140	574	2.8	8
FIRST DOWNS	293	215	Garrett Wilkins	11	64	334	4.9	2
Rushing	155	92	Justin Forte	4	24	127	5.0	1
Passing	120	110	John Crone	12	19	116	6.1	4
Penalty	18	13	PASSING	G	A-C-I	Pct.	Yards	TD
RUSHING YARDS	2784	1465	Eric Ward	15	218-341-7	63.9	2712	16
Rushing Attempts	631	478	Will Healy	8	2-9-0	22.2	32	0
Average Per Rush	4.4	3.1	RECEIVING	G	Rec.	Yards	Avg.	TD
Average Per Game	185.6	97.7	Kevin Grayson	14	59	828	14.0	3
TDs Rushing	39	10	Tre Gray	15	53	679	12.8	4
PASSING YARDS	2758	2530	Joe Stewart	15	25	308	12.3	4
Att-Comp-Int	352-221-7	437-253-28	Jordan Mitchell	15	23	437	19.0	3
Average Per Pass	7.8	5.8	Joe Monteverde	15	12	150	12.5	1
Average Per Catch	12.5	10.0	John Crone	12	12	85	7.1	1
Average Per Game	183.9	168.7	PUNT RETURNS	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD
TDs Passing	16	12	Derek Hatcher	28	297	10.6	49	0
TOTAL OFFENSE	5542	3995	INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD
Total Plays	983	915	Justin Rogers	7	116	16.6	68	2
Average Per Play	5.6	4.4	Michael Ireland	4	64	16.0	33	0
Average Per Game	369.5	266.3	Derek Hatcher	4	90	22.5	35	2
KICK RETURNS (No.-Yards)	50-951	76-1373	Seth Williams	4	74	18.5	40	0
PUNT RETURNS (No.-Yards)	38-455	14-188	KICK RETURNS	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD
INT RETURNS (No.-Yards)	28-454	7-159	Justin Rogers	34	702	20.6	46	0
KICK-RETURN AVERAGE	19.0	18.1	FIELD GOALS	FGm	FGa	Pct	Long	Blk
PUNT-RETURN AVERAGE	12.0	13.4	Andrew Howard	17	26	65.4	53	3
INT-RETURN AVERAGE	16.2	22.7	PUNTING	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	In20
FUMBLES-LOST	20-12	23-13	Brian Radford	55	2014	37.1	52	23
PENALTIES (No.-Yards)	74-631	62-531	TACKLING	G	S-A-Total	TFL-Yrds	Sack-Yards	
Average Per Game	42.1	35.4	Eric McBride	15	45-58-103	6.5-18	2.0-9	
PUNTS (No.-Yards)	60-2160	73-2693	Patrick Weldon	15	50-39-89	13.0-45	2.0-17	
Average Per Punt	36.0	36.9	Michael Ireland	15	51-33-84	3.5-9	—	
Net punt average	30.5	28.7	Derek Hatcher	15	44-36-80	5.0-12	—	
TIME OF POSSESSION	32:45	27:11	Jordan Shoop	15	29-39-68	8.0-36	3.5-22	
3RD-DOWN Conversions	80/197	75/209	Parker Miles	15	22-43-65	3.5-6	1.0-3	
3rd-Down Pct	41%	36%	Colin McConaghy	13	24-34-58	1.0-2	—	
4TH-DOWN Conversions	15/21	8/24	Martin Parker	15	21-32-53	7.0-23	3.0-13	
4th-Down Pct	71%	33%	Justin Rogers	15	38-13-51	4.0-7	—	
SACKS BY-Yards	29-192	25-150	L. Sidbury Jr.	15	21-30-51	16.0-58	7.5-39	
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	61	27	Sherman Logan	15	18-31-49	12.5-73	6.0-53	
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	19-29	19-24	Seth Williams	15	25-20-45	—	—	
ON-SIDE KICKS	0-1	1-2	David Horton	15	20-13-33	0.5-1	—	
RED-ZONE SCORES	60-72 (83%)	31-36 (86%)	Tyler Sullivan	8	19-14-33	2.0-1	—	
RED-ZONE TOUCHDOWNS	44-72 (61%)	19-36 (53%)	Brooks York	15	11-16-27	0.5-1	—	