

# 2014 FALL SPORTS PREVIEW

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# VANDALNATION

## Cross country



## Volleyball



## Football



## Soccer



# Season of changes

**Stephan Wiebe**  
Vandal Nation

Travis Floeck has a big name to live up to after taking over as Idaho's new distance coach for cross country and track and field Sept. 4.

New Director of Cross Country/Track and Field Tim Cawley hired Floeck as the distance coach for Idaho. The two, along with coach Cathleen Cawley, helped replace former coach Wayne Phipps, who won 16 combined WAC Championships in cross country and indoor and outdoor track and field during his time leading the Vandals.

"Sometimes it can be a little bit more difficult (replacing a guy like Phipps), just because of your own performance and how that's perceived," Floeck said. "But there's also a lot of positives of replacing someone who was doing a good job. The cupboard isn't bare. There's some great talent here, there's some great tradition, there's some great habits, there's great lifestyle, great culture."

Floek said he's definitely tweaking some things, but the team has been receptive to his new style of coaching.

Along with the new coaches, Idaho is also competing in the Big Sky this year — a conference much stronger than the WAC. Idaho had the top finishers in the WAC in both the men's and women's races in 2013, but top runners Hannah Kiser and Nicholas Boersma don't return for Idaho in 2014.

Still, Idaho has second-place WAC finisher Cody Helbling returning on the men's side. Helbling said he is excited for the increase in

competition this season.

"I would rather go out and run a PR than go out and win a race," Helbling said. "I know that's probably the best philosophy a coach would want to hear but, it's really exciting for me to run with runners that are going somewhere (in the Big Sky), have been places, that I know are above my current PR's."

On the women's side, it's a freshman who has stepped up as Idaho's top runner after the team's first meet. Despite the strategy to start slow in Idaho's opening meet, the Clash of the Inland Northwest, Sierra Speiker finished the race in fourth place.

"Because she came from a very small school in Washington she was used to just getting to the front and winning races by 30 seconds, 45 seconds, a minute," Floeck said. "So it was a whole new experience for her to be in a race where there was people up there. She must have passed half the field in the last half of the race."

Several questions were answered after the first meet for a team full of question marks entering the season. Sophomore Alex Siemens of the women's cross country team said the team is taking away some new strategies, techniques and confidence following the first meet.

"You kind of just go through all the bumps," Siemens said. "It was awesome just getting together as a team, doing the team cheer. Our team is definitely a lot closer, it's like a huge family and ... I'm excited to see what we're going to be doing this season."

*Stephan Wiebe  
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**Travis Floeck**  
Coach



George Wood Jr. | Argonaut

The cross country teams warm up during practice Friday on the Kibbie SprinTurf.

**Most quotable:**

"I'm definitely tweaking some things a little bit ... but fortunately the team's been really receptive of that. I think it's all been really, really positive."

- Travis Floeck, coach

**Projected Big Sky standings**

**Men's**

1. Northern Arizona
2. Southern Utah
3. Weber State
4. Idaho
5. Montana State
6. Eastern Washington
7. Idaho State
8. Montana
9. Sacramento State
10. Portland State
11. North Dakota
12. Northern Colorado

**Women's**

1. Weber State
2. Northern Arizona
3. Eastern Washington
4. Montana State
5. Idaho
6. Southern Utah
7. Montana
8. Sacramento State
9. Northern Colorado
10. Idaho State
11. North Dakota
12. Portland State

**Men's athlete to watch:**

Cody Helbling: The senior brings some much-needed experience in his second season as a Vandal. The BYU transfer has gone through a coaching change in the past so he knows what to expect as Idaho enters the season with a new coaching staff. He is also Idaho's top returner after his second-place finish in the 2013 WAC Championships.

**Women's athlete to watch:**

Sierra Speiker: The freshman has only competed in one collegiate meet and she has already impressed. Speiker finished fourth in Idaho's first meet of the season, the Clash of the Inland Northwest. The Oroville, Washington, native was a three-time cross country 2B state champion in high school.

**Keep an eye on:**

New coach Travis Floeck: Floeck originates from the Pacific Northwest and has several years of coaching underneath him already as an assistant at Oregon State. He was a late hire to new Director of Cross Country/Track and Field Tim Cawley's staff but he said the transition has been smooth.

**By the numbers:**

**4** The Idaho women's cross country team won four straight WAC Championships from 2010-2013 led by Hannah Kiser. With a new coach, tougher conference and the departure of Kiser, the Vandals have a tall order to get another championship in 2014.

**3** The Idaho men's team held the top three finishers in the 2013 WAC Championship on its way to a second-place finish. Nicholas Boersma doesn't return but senior Cody Helbling and junior Santos Vargas have the potential to finish near the top in the Big Sky this season.



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# Success breeds success

With success as player and coach, there's a reason Debbie Buchanan is currently Idaho's longest tenured coach

**Conor Gleason**  
Vandal Nation

Entering her 15th year as Idaho's volleyball coach, Debbie Buchanan knows what it takes to build a winning team.

In fact, she's won more matches than any volleyball coach in Idaho history and has led Idaho to two NCAA Tournament appearances. Buchanan notched her milestone 200th career win during the 2013 season.

She has been with the Vandals since 2000, longer than any other current head coach at Idaho. This year, Buchanan leads Idaho into the Big Sky after the Vandals finished with a 19-11 record last season in the WAC — tied for their most wins since Buchanan started with the program. In 2013, the Vandals lost to eventual WAC champion New Mexico State in the semifinals of the conference tournament.

As with most coaches, Buchanan began her volleyball journey as a player. In fifth grade, she attended her first camp. She would continue to play and lead St. Maries High School to four consecutive Idaho State A-2 Championships, all while playing basketball simultaneously.

Buchanan attended many camps across the country until she was offered a scholarship to play for the University of Southern California.

Before ever stepping foot on the court at USC, she tore her knee while playing basketball. Buchanan was able to play volleyball her freshman year, but multiple ensuing surgeries cut her playing career short.

"I had three or four (surgeries) when I was in college and it just wasn't rebounding the way that it should have," Buchanan said. "So I knew I wanted to get into coaching. Lisa Love, who was the coach there at the time, allowed me to join the coaching staff, which is an awesome thing to do while you're still in college."

Buchanan's responsibilities as an assistant coach included editing video, helping during practice and ordering

equipment. While assisting at USC, she became the co-director of the Santa Monica Beach Club.

She had multiple other job offers at the time, but opted to return home to Idaho. She accepted the position as the assistant coach to Tom Hilbert at Idaho in 1996.

After one year as an assistant coach, Buchanan followed Hilbert after he accepted the job at Colorado State. Three years later, she filled the head coaching vacancy at Idaho.

In her time at Idaho, Buchanan has accumulated a record of 216-202. Her success is attributed to rigorous work on the sideline and strong support from administration.

"Administratively, there's a lot of support," Buchanan said. "They're very pro-women's sports. For me as a coach, I feel like I have that support."

Buchanan expects her players to perform both on and off the court. She said she's willing to work with players academically and demands excellence.

In fact, her players have earned 75 All-Academic honors awards under Buchanan's tutelage, including nine in the 2013-2014 season. She attributes the academic success to recruiting and the ambition of the players.

"These kids are coming here to get that degree for the future," Buchanan said. "We'll adjust practices to make sure they don't miss class. In the recruiting process, we make sure that we're recruiting kids where academics are important. In my 15 years, I would say less than 10 percent of the kids have been in majors of general (studies)."

Junior setter Meredith Coba acknowledged Buchanan's persistence.

"Coach is awesome," Coba said. "She's always there for us to be student athletes first and gives us the tools that we need to have success both in the classroom and on the court. She's been an awesome coach for me, just working through the things I need to work on to become that starting setter."

*Conor Gleason can be reached at [arg-sports@uidaho.edu](mailto:arg-sports@uidaho.edu)*



Nathan Romans | Argonaut

Above: Coach Debbie Buchanan watches as freshman outside hitter Sarah Sharp practices spiking during practice Sept. 2. Buchanan has led the Vandals to two NCAA tournament appearances and a 216-202 overall record. The vandals play in the University of Idaho Tournament Thursday-Saturday in Memorial Gym. Inset: Coach Debbie Buchanan talks to junior setter Meredith Coba during practice Tuesday.



Nathan Romans | Argonaut

Jessica Hastriter and Ali Forde joke between drills during a practice last week. Both players are returning to the team this year.

# Players to watch:

## Meredith Coba: Jr., setter

The third-year setter from Salem, Oregon, captains a potentially dangerous offense with the focus on two senior middle hitters Stephanie Hagins and Alyssa Schultz. Through seven matches in 2014, Coba is averaging 10.35 assists per set. Expect a strong junior campaign from the shifty setter.

## Alyssa Schultz: Sr., middle hitter

A favorite target for Coba last year, Schultz returns for her senior season to provide Idaho with a force in the middle. Her season hitting percentage in 2013 was second in the WAC and 40th in the nation at a ridiculous .376. She's already compiled 138 attacks and 50 kills in seven matches in 2014. Schultz and Hagins should be a dynamic duo as the season progresses.

## Katelyn Peterson: Jr., outside hitter

Coach Debbie Buchanan said Idaho will need to spread its offense this season to take some pressure off Peterson on the outside. Through seven matches, Peterson leads the team in attacks by a long shot with 229. Outside hitter Ali Forde is second with 181. There should be plenty of reps for the junior so look for her to take advantage.

# Matches to watch:

## Northern Arizona: Thursday, October 2 Memorial Gym

Expect a large crowd for the Big Sky home opener for the Vandals. A tough Northern Arizona team cruised through its opening weekend in Houston, going 3-0 before improving to 6-0 after a tournament in Edinburg, Texas. Look for the Lumberjacks, who were predicted to finish tied for first in the Big Sky Coaches Poll, to give the Vandals all they can handle.

## Boise State: Friday, September 12 Memorial Gym

Idaho's second home match comes against in-state foe, Boise State. Last season, the Vandals topped the Broncos in Boise 3-2 highlighted by 47 assists by Meredith Coba. Alyssa Schultz finished with a .385 hitting percentage.



### Projected Big Sky standings

- |                       |                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Northern Arizona   | 7. Portland State   |
| 2. Idaho State        | 8. Sacramento State |
| 3. Idaho              | 9. Southern Utah    |
| 4. North Dakota       | 10. Weber State     |
| 5. Northern Colorado  | 11. Montana State   |
| 6. Eastern Washington | 12. Montana         |

### Most quotable

"The great thing about it is when kids come on their visits, they feel welcomed. They feel like people are friendly, they're engaging and feel like they're part of something special."

— Debbie Buchanan  
coach, on recruiting players



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Ilya Pinchuk | Courtesy Photo

Redshirt freshman quarterback Matt Linehan escapes pressure during Idaho's first game Saturday against Louisiana-Monroe. The Vandals lost 38-31 in the final minutes after the game was delayed for lightning. Idaho's Sun Belt Conference travel schedule means the team will fly more than 31,000 miles during the 2014 season.

# Travel, travel and more travel

Idaho football team has expensive travel schedule

**Korbin McDonald**  
Vandal Nation

The Sun Belt Conference has eight schools bunched together in the Southeast. One resides in the middle of Texas, with another not too far west in New Mexico — and 1,455 miles north is the University of Idaho.

At just under four million square miles, the U.S. is the third largest country in the world, and traveling gets expensive.

With an average cost of \$133,000, the Idaho Athletic Department will spend approximately \$800,000 on charter flights for Idaho's six road games this season.

"If we didn't have those travel costs, then we wouldn't be able to participate in the Sun Belt Conference," Idaho Athletic Director

Rob Spear said. "There is significant revenue from our membership in the Sun Belt."

In 2013, Idaho and the Sun Belt agreed to a four-year commitment, with football as the lone athletic program joining the conference. The school will receive upwards of a million dollars from television revenue and money distributed from the new college football playoff, Spear said.

The other Vandal athletic programs now play in the more regionally friendly Big Sky Conference. Spear said it helps offset the high travel costs associated with football.

The Vandal football team will fly more than 31,000 miles this season, which puts them ahead of most schools. Hawaii, however, tops the list with 36,000 miles, but also starts 2,000 miles away from the closest school.

"Awesome, that's a good record right there," lineback-

“

"If they look at it as an opportunity to go back and show some people that they should have been recruited there, I think that's a great thing,"

**Eric Brown, linebackers coach**

ers coach Eric Brown said of the travel. "It's more opportunity for us to be with them (players) and continue to get a grasp of the game plan."

Brown said the length of a flight doesn't matter, and it only becomes an issue if players talk negatively about it.

The charter flights make it possible for the student-athletes to miss minimal class time. Spear said the team leaves the day

before their game and makes the return flight right after. It makes it easier on the student-athletes and their studies, he said.

The Vandals have quite a few players who hail from the South. During fall camp, Bradenton, Florida, native Jacob Sannon said he is looking forward to the away games in the Sun Belt.

"It's motivation for me, because I was down South and no one recruited me," he said.

Brown said most of the southern players on the team were overlooked. He thinks it's a good thing they'll play with a chip on their shoulder.

"If they look at it as an opportunity to go back and show some people that they should have been recruited there, I think that's a great thing," he said. "We got great players from the South that were definitely overlooked ... so it would be nice for them to show out in the Sun Belt."

While some players get to go

home during the season, Vandal fans are finding it difficult to travel with the team. Spear admits it's hard for fans to attend the conference away games. He said it's important to schedule future non-conference games on the West Coast.

The 2016 schedule is much more regionally friendly. The Vandals nonconference away games are against Washington State, Washington and UNLV.

Spear asked fans to be patient, because even more change is on the horizon.

"At the end of the day, I'm in agreement that it would be great to play in a geographic friendly conference," he said. "There has to be a lot of movement for that to happen and I think there will be in the future, which will be good for the University of Idaho and our fans."

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# Sun Belt and beyond

Next four years will be a telling time in world of college football for Idaho

**Korbin McDonald**  
Vandal Nation

The Sun Belt mantra is “Together We Rise” — and the conference has done just that since it added football in 2001. It was the same year Idaho and the Sun Belt entered the world of what is now known as the Football Bowl Subdivision together.

In its first four years with the Sun Belt, Idaho had two different coaches who went a combined 9-28, and has struggled to stay relevant since.

In the meantime, the Sun Belt has grown to what many consider as one of the best non-power conferences.

“The Sun Belt is a lot more competitive than it was when we were in it before,” Idaho Athletic Director Rob Spear said. “It was historically ranked near the bottom, but this year it was ranked first out of the five non-power conferences — it’s really improved itself.”

Last season, Sun Belt teams went 8-1 against the non-power conferences. In the summer, Idaho coach Paul Petrino said the conference’s style of play is fast-paced, no-huddle offense that can score at a moments notice.

“It’s a very athletic league, a lot of speed,” he said. “The conference is tough, but it’s good to have a conference so we can try to go win a championship ... We’re excited for the challenge.”

Spear acknowledged the football team still has a ways to go, but believes it will compete moving forward. He compares the current process to renovating a house. He said they weren’t renovating just one room, but instead tearing down the whole foundation.

“Now the foundation has established great values in the program,” he said. “It has great accountability, great discipline and now we’re able to build on that, and at the end of the day we’ll have a competitive program — it doesn’t matter what conference we’re in.”

When the WAC disbanded football in 2012, the Vandals were left without a conference. After playing the 2013 season as an independent, Idaho joined the Sun Belt as football-only members.

Spear said it was a scary time because

of all the uncertainty. He said bad decisions are made when you have to react to situations, and the independent schedule was strictly reacting to their situation.

He admits it didn’t work out great, but said it gave them another year to find a conference. Now the school is in a position to control its future, he said.

Idaho has a four-year agreement with the Sun Belt Conference. Spear said each year Idaho will receive roughly \$1 million from the College Football Playoff distribution and around \$100,000 from the conference television contract.

With games all over the country and televised on ESPN, Spear anticipates Idaho will get more national exposure with the Sun Belt.

“We could have not asked to be in a better situation,” he said. “During that time frame of four years, we have the time to evaluate and see what’s going to be right in the future for the University of Idaho.”

The benefits from the Sun Belt expand to more than just exposure and revenue. The new College Football Playoff doesn’t grant any automatic qualifiers. It means any school from one of the 10 FBS conferences can earn a spot in it based on performance.

Along with the CFP, the Sun Belt is tied to five other bowl games, with two more being added in 2016.

Bowl games are nice, but some Vandal fans were upset with the Sun Belt decision and wanted a move back to the Big Sky. Idaho won nine conference championships in its 32 years there.

If Idaho moved back to the FCS level, Spear believes the program would never be able to make the jump back up to FBS.

“What they (fans) need to realize is the short term decision that would have been made would not have been the right one,” he said. “We have to wait and see how all this plays out.”

With the new NCAA governance model, its new autonomy and all the lawsuits, Spear said the college athletic world is going to change over the next four years. He believes the financial strain will be too much, and the tipping point is whether the power five conferences separate.

Spear sees a possible scenario in which Vandal football could rejoin the Big Sky without moving back down to the FCS. He said Big Sky Commissioner Doug Fullerton expressed the idea that his conference



Nathan Romans | Argonaut  
Junior defensive lineman Ryan Edwards participates in position drills at practice.

could evolve into an FBS conference, with an FCS component in the same league.

Whatever the future might hold for collegiate athletics, Spear is confident Idaho is in the best possible position to dictate its future. He said Idaho is the only school in the nation playing FBS football with its other sports in an FCS conference. He said they can now see what’s happening on both sides, which will give

them an advantage to make the best decision in the future.

“It’s going to be an interesting next four years to say the least,” he said. “I can’t tell you where we’re going to be, I just think our position of where we’re at now is the best spot we can be in to evaluate it.”

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# Football season predictions



Stephan Wiebe

## Stephan - Sports editor

Through one game, it is apparent Idaho has improved going into the second season in the Petrino era. That improvement should translate into more wins for Idaho in 2014. Overall predictions 4-7.



Korbin McDonald

## Korbin - Vandal Nation blog manager

The Vandals will be improved this season and provide fans with close competitive games. Idaho coach Paul Petrino has this team going in the right direction, and a 4-7 record would be a huge step forward. Overall predictions 4-7.

## Sept. 13 Vs. Western Michigan

Like Idaho, Western Michigan went 1-11 last season, but its coach P.J. Fleck brought in the best recruiting class in MAC history. The Broncos will be improved, but still very young, and won't be able to steal a victory in Idaho's first home game of the season.

Korbin's prediction: 38-24 Idaho  
Stephan's prediction: 35-28 Idaho

## Sept. 20 @ Ohio

Ohio will host Idaho for its 2014 home debut. The Bobcats offense will struggle with only three returning starters and the loss of record-setting quarterback Tyler Tettleton. What Ohio lacks on offense, it makes up on defense with eight returning starters, four of which play on the defensive line. Idaho made improvements to its

offensive line, but Ohio will be too much to handle.

Korbin's prediction: 21-13 Ohio  
Stephan's prediction: 27-24 Ohio

## Sept. 27 Vs. South Alabama

At 6-6 last season, South Alabama was one win away from earning a share of the Sun Belt Championship. Many picked them to finish second in the conference this season. With the Jaguars returning their four leading receivers, along with adding Alabama transfer Marvin Shinn to the group, South Alabama will have too much firepower for Idaho.

Korbin's prediction: 42-34 South Alabama

Stephan's prediction: 52-45 South Alabama

## Oct. 4 @ Texas State

This will be a revenge game for Idaho, as Texas State came to Moscow last season and beat the Vandals 37-21. The TSU offense will be inexperienced and the Vandal defensive line should have its way. However, with this game being played in San Marcos, Texas, it gives an extra edge to the Bobcats

Korbin's prediction: 35-21 Idaho  
Stephan's prediction: 28-27 Texas State

## Oct. 11 @ Georgia Southern

This will be Georgia Southern's first season in the FBS and Sun Belt, but don't let that fool you — the Eagles beat Florida in The Swamp last season. The Vandals will have the difficult task of containing Kevin Ellison, who might be the best dual-threat quarterback in the conference. With Idaho's strength being the defensive line, the Vandals win a close one.

Korbin's prediction: 21-20 Idaho  
Stephan's prediction: 45-35 Idaho

## Oct. 18 Vs. New Mexico State

Idaho has a lot working in its favor against NMSU. The Aggies have a new coach this year, and he takes over a program that lost its five leading tacklers from a 1-11 team last

season. Idaho puts on a show for the for Homecoming crowd.

Korbin's prediction: 34-10 Idaho  
Stephan's prediction: 28-21 Idaho

## Nov. 1 Vs. Arkansas State

Idaho went down to Arkansas State last season and lost by 24 points. The Red Wolves have been one of the better teams in the Sun Belt over the past few seasons and have captured three straight conference titles. They should be one of the better Sun Belt teams again.

Korbin's prediction: 34 -17 ASU  
Stephan's prediction: 43-21 ASU

## Nov. 8 @ San Diego State

If the trip to San Diego was made last year it would have been a lot tougher — but it's not. The Vandals will get a break as the Aztecs lost 12 starters from last season. Even with the loss of talent, SDSU will still be competitive as one of the better teams from the Mountain West.

Korbin's prediction: 24-10 SDSU  
Stephan's prediction: 31-17 SDSU

## Nov. 15 Vs. Troy

Like Idaho, Troy loaded up with junior college transfers to sure up a shaky defense from last year. The Trojans will have to replace their quarterback too, but talent will surround whoever wins the starting job. A lot of points will be scored in this game.

Korbin's prediction: 49-38 Troy  
Stephan's prediction: 42-38 Idaho

## Nov. 29 @ Appalachian State

Everybody remembers Appalachian State for its 2007 victory over Michigan. After spending decades dominating at the FCS level, the Mountaineers enter the Sun Belt for their first season. They will be a bit behind in talent, but still very competitive. This will be a tough game for Idaho to win.

Korbin's prediction: 24-21 Appalachian State

Stephan's prediction: 28-14 Appalachian State



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# OFFENSE

## Running back

1. Jerrell Brown
2. Kristoffer Olugbode
3. Elijah Penny
4. Aaron Duckworth

Brown is the starter, but all will contribute.

## Quarterback

1. Matt Linehan
2. Chad Chalich

Idaho coach Paul Petrino said he would go with the hot hand. Linehan got the start week one and played the whole game.

## Wide receiver

1. Joshua McCain
2. Deon Watson
3. Richard Montgomery
4. Jacob Sannon
5. Trent Cowan

Even with the loss of last year's leading receiver Dezmon Epps, the Vandals are still very deep. David Ungerer and Jermaine Johnson will contribute too.

## Fullback

1. Jake Manley

## Tight end

1. Justin Podrabsky
2. Jared Klingenberg

Idaho lost its two starting tight ends from last season.

## Offensive line

Left to Right: QT Nick Von Rotz, QG Steven Matlock, C Mike Marboe, SG Jordan Rose, ST Mason Woods

Back ups: Jesse Davis, Dallas Sundberg, Sione Maile, Jeff Travillion, Calvin White

## Defensive line

Left to right: DE Maxx Forde, DT Ryan Edwards, DT Quayshawne Buckley, DE Quinton Bradley

Back ups: Anthony Rice, Zach Cable, Alfonso Hampton, Tueni Luepamanu

## Special Teams

### Kicker and Punter



**Austin Rehkow**

Back up kicker, punter:  
Jordan Burke

### Punt returner



**David Ungerer**

Back up: Josh McCain

### Kick returners

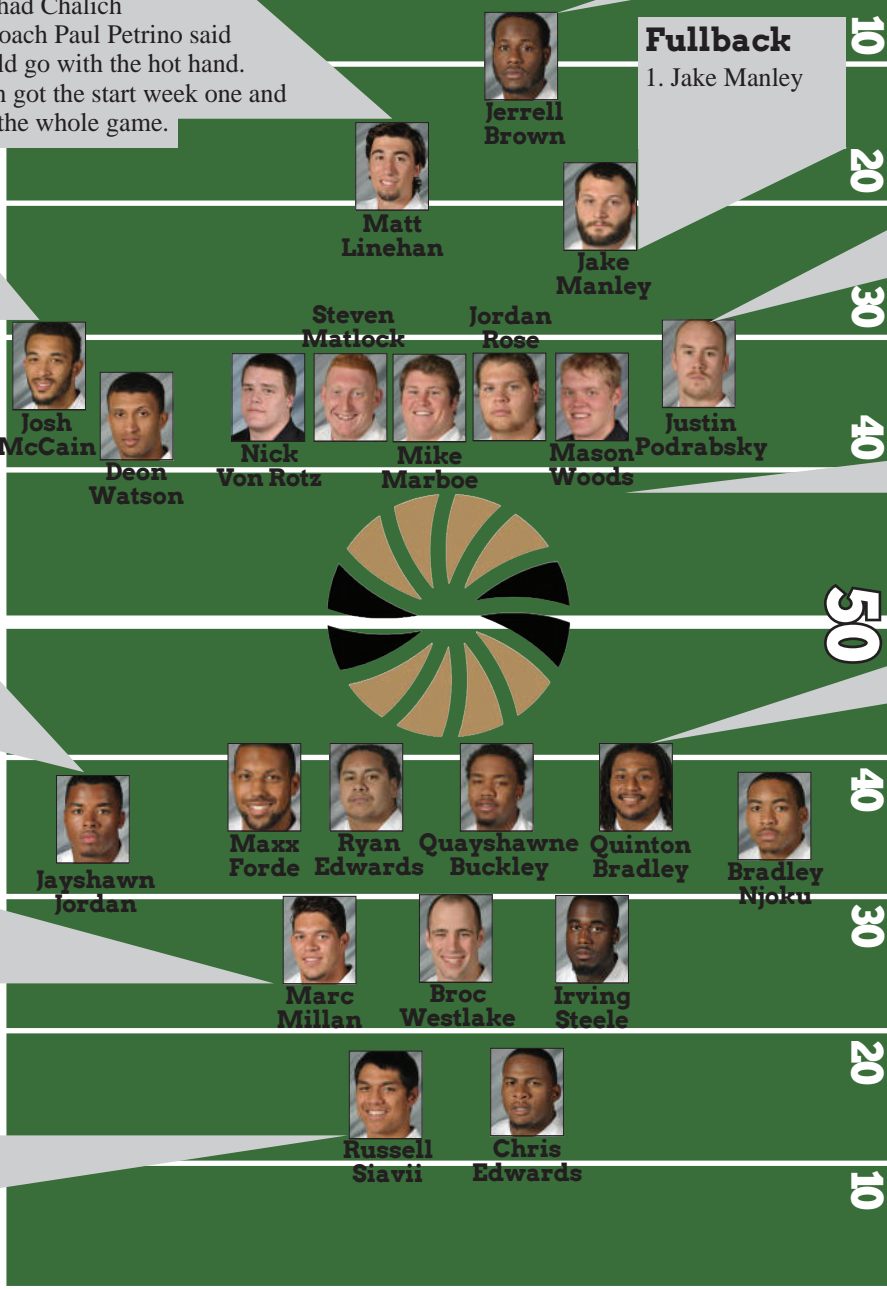


**Richard Montgomery**



**Aaron Duckworth**

Back up: Elijah Penny



## Cornerback

1. Jayshawn Jordan
2. Bradley Njoku
3. Delency Pharam
4. Joseph Smith

Need some players to step up. Secondary was an area of weakness last season.

## Linebackers

SLB: Marc Millan  
MLB: Broc Westlake  
WLB: Irving Steele

Back ups: SLB James Randall, MLB Tony Lashley, WLB Eric Tuipulotu

Steele is a junior college transfer who has made an immediate impact on the field and as a leader.

## Safety

Strong safety: Chris Edwards

Free safety: Russell Siavii

Back ups: Jordan Grabski

# DEFENSE

# Friends and enemies

**Joshua Gamez**  
Vandal Nation

Out are the Texas-Pan American's and the Missouri-Kansas City's, and in are the Eastern Washington's and Portland State's. The Vandal soccer schedule transitions into the Big Sky for the first time in program history.

The conference and opponent change brings an interesting opportunity for the Idaho soccer team. With 18 of the 24 players currently on the roster hailing from the Pacific Northwest, many players will play former teammates from their respective club teams before coming to Moscow.

"It's nice to know other people on the team, but at the same time it is a rival and we are going out there trying to win," sophomore defender Madison Moore said. "We are all so focused, and ready to go out there and play whoever we are."

The Vandals took on Gonzaga Aug. 31, which is not only Idaho coach Derek Pittman's former team, but the team Karley Baggerly plays for. She just so happens to be the older sister of Idaho freshman defender Olivia Baggerly.

Another Vandal who has faced former teammates is sophomore midfielder Alyssa Lloyd. She's faced a number of former teammates so far this season and will face several more as Hailie McClure, Laci Rennaker and Paige Gallaway all play for Eastern Washington. The three Eagles teammates also played with Lloyd on her club

soccer team, the Spokane Shadow, before Lloyd came to Idaho in 2013.

"It doesn't change anything, but it does make it more fun," Lloyd said.

Gallaway is a player who gave the Vandals fits all night long when EWU defeated the Vandals 4-0 on Aug. 29. Lloyd will play many of her former teammates on Oct. 12 as Idaho will travel to Cheney, Washington, to face Eastern for a second time this season as part of its conference schedule.

Although the Vandals know a number of players they have played in the past and will play against this season, it does not change the way they will prepare for their opponents, regardless of any affection they have for them. Every time they take the field, all personal feelings are set aside, Lloyd said. After the games are over is when they will meet up and exchange pleasantries, she said.

Moore shares the same sentiment.

"I talk to a lot of them," Moore said of her former teammates. "A few are in the Big Sky so that's cool to keep in touch with them ... It is always nice to hear how they are doing".

It is fun to see old friends in the Big Sky, but once the game starts they are the enemy, she said.

*Joshua Gamez  
can be reached at  
arg-sports@uidaho.edu*



Nathan Romans | Argonaut  
Freshman forward Ashley Engberg attacks during the Vandal's game against Boise State University Friday. The next game is at St. Mary's Sept. 12 and then back at home against Washington State University Sept. 14.



## Games to Watch:

### Northern Colorado, Sept. 26

Idaho opens Big Sky play Friday, Sept. 26 as the team hosts Northern Colorado at Guy Wicks Field. The Bears finished fourth in the Big Sky in 2013 with a 9-6-5 overall record and a 5-2-2 conference record. The Vandals host UNC after coming off a two-game road trip to Arizona the weekend prior as they face former WAC opponent Grand Canyon and Arizona out of the Pac-12. The Vandals should be battle tested by the time they open their conference schedule with teams from the Big 12, Pac-12, and Mountain West all on their non-conference schedule. The conference opener should be a great test for the Vandals and an opportunity for Derek Pittman's team to put the rest of the conference on notice.

### Eastern Washington, Oct. 12

Although the Vandals will be opening up Big Sky play with Northern Colorado, the Bears will be the second Big Sky team that Idaho will face this year. Earlier this season they hosted Eastern Washington in a non-conference game on Aug. 29 in a losing effort. The Vandals will look to get their revenge in mid-October when they travel to Cheney, Washington. In the Aug. 29 contest Pittman made a switch at goalkeeper late in the second half when freshman Kimberly Gerken relieved sophomore Torrell Stewart. The goalkeeping duo has split time since that game. The two will look to slow down EWU sophomore Paige Gallaway, who gave the Vandal defense fits in the early-season matchup.

### Idaho State, Oct. 19

The Boise State Broncos are perhaps the Vandals' biggest rivals, but the Idaho State Bengals are a close second. The Vandals host a late-season matchup when the Bengals travel to the Palouse for the Vandals' Senior Day Oct. 19. Last season the Bengals defeated Idaho 2-0, and the Bengals are off to a hot start in 2014. They netted seven goals in their first two games, both wins against Minot State and Wyoming respectively. ISU finished right behind the aforementioned UNC Bears in the Big Sky last year with a 7-8-2 overall record, and a 4-3-2 conference record. This home finale might not only be a big-time rivalry game, but it could potentially be a deciding factor in the final Big Sky rankings, and potential conference-tournament seeding.

### Illinois State, Oct. 30

Idaho finishes the regular season with a rare nonconference game as they travel to Normal, Illinois, to take on Illinois State. This is one of the few games that Pittman was able to schedule after he took the coaching job in February. This game not only gives the game one more out-of-the-region road trip, with trips earlier in the season to Arizona and California, but it also gives the team one more game before the Big Sky Tournament. Had this game not been scheduled, Idaho would have almost a full two weeks before potentially playing in its first tournament game. This game will be the final leg of a three-game road trip to end the season. Idaho also has games with Sacramento State and Portland State to end the regular season on Oct. 24 and 26, respectively.

## Players to watch:

### Alyssa Pease, forward

The Bend, Oregon, native and preseason All-Big Sky selection, was the co-winner of the Golden Boot Award as the team's top scorer with Katie Baran in 2013. With Baran now graduated from the program, Pease has a good chance to go back-to-back as the leading scorer. Pease, a sophomore, also led the team in shots last season with 24, 13 of them on goal. She has gotten off to a great start in her second season as a Vandal by scoring the team's first and only goal on the season through five games.

### J.P. Burgess, midfielder

The La Center, Washington, native has evolved from a role player to one of the key players for the Vandals thus far on the season. Through five games she has already matched her 2013 totals in starts and shots on goal with three and four respectively, and is currently leading the team in shots (7) and shots on goal (5). At her current pace she could challenge Pease for the Golden Boot award at year's end, she could also help get the Vandal offense going from her midfield position, especially as teams may look to slow down Pease.

### Projected Big Sky standings

1. Weber State	6. Southern Utah
2. Portland State	7. Idaho State
3. Montana	8. Idaho
4. Northern Arizona	9. Eastern Washington
5. Sacramento State	10. Southern Utah
	11. North Dakota

### Most quotable:

"We are really excited for what is to come. We have four games until the actual Big Sky starts ... We like having the fans and their positive energy. It really helps us out."

**Madison Moore, sophomore defender speaking on upcoming games and fan support**



@thevandalnation

## Suicide Prevention Week 2014 September 8th-14th

Idaho ranks 11th in the nation in its rate of suicide deaths. 39% higher than the national average

Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death among 15 to 24-year-olds

Approximately 987,950 Americans attempt suicide each year



Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the United States with one suicide occurring on average every 13.3 minutes

Between 2009 and 2013, 79% of Idaho suicides were by men

It is estimated that five million living Americans have attempted to kill themselves

Kayla is available to discuss these and other facts surrounding suicide, please e-mail [kburke@uidaho.edu](mailto:kburke@uidaho.edu) or come visit her at Blake Avenue House Room 112.

If you would like to talk with someone right away, the Counseling & Testing Center is available at any time, please call 885-6716.



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