



Letter from the President

Office of the President, president@uidaho.edu

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Dear Vandals,

As the transfer portal and lucrative name, image and likeness (NIL) deals dominate college athletics, the University of Idaho men's basketball team is forging a different path.

A lineup filled with players representing Idaho high schools is competing near the top of the Big Sky Conference this season.

"There is a lot of (NIL) money out there and that can be attractive to some people, but we take pride in wearing Idaho on the front of our shirts," said senior Brody Rowbury, a Meridian High School graduate. "To impact winning here at Idaho has meant a lot to me."

Rowbury took a circuitous route to his role as starting center for Idaho. Despite earning the prestigious Gatorade Player of the Year award as Idaho's top high school player in 2021, the 6-foot-11 center had few Division I scholarship offers upon graduation. After one year at a prep school in Kansas, Rowbury landed at Southeastern Louisiana University where he excelled for three seasons. But he wanted to compete for a championship and he jumped at the chance to do so in his home state with the Vandals.

Rowbury averages 8.6 points and a team-best 5.9 rebounds per game this season. Perhaps more importantly, he brings more than 100 games of college experience to the court. He mentors freshman forward Jackson Rasmussen, an Owyhee High School graduate. And Rowbury's chemistry with point guard Kolton Mitchell (Lake City) and wing Jack Payne (Owyhee) helped spark the Vandals' strong start to the season.

"I grew up playing with or against a lot of these guys so it's a real full-circle moment to play with them this year," Rowbury said. "When I came here to visit I knew a lot of the guys and it just felt like a really familiar place."

Rowbury's leadership extends to the classroom as well. He was one of two men's basketball players to earn a 4.0 GPA for the fall semester. A business administration major, Rowbury said the team's goals go beyond the basketball court.

"Coach (Alex) Pribble preaches taking pride in striving for greatness in the classroom and on the court as well," Rowbury said. "We have a super close-knit group and we're all pushing each other to be the best versions of ourselves."

The Vandals are on the verge of their first winning season since

2018. But the real focus is the Big Sky Conference tournament, March 7-11. The winner earns an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament, which Idaho hasn't played in since 1990.

"We're in a great spot right now," Rowbury said. "We've had some good wins and some losses that we'd like to have back, but the goal is to be playing our best basketball in February and March."

I personally love watching this hard-working, dedicated team. They are truly great representatives of our university. Fans can take authentic pride in our athletes and students as they cheer on our Idaho Vandals.

Go Vandals!

C. Scott Green
President



Snapshots

U of I team explores cell signals in mosquitoes and ticks

U of I Professor Shirley Luckhart leads work on a Department of Defense study to learn how cells in mosquitoes and ticks transmit messages, which could lead to methods to control the pests. The \$2.7 million grant includes colleagues from the U of I and partners from Uniformed Services University and the University of Maryland.

[Learn more.](#)

Cohort program creates opportunities for Idaho teachers

The U of I helps meet the need for trained school administrators in the state by providing flexible options for educational leadership training. By creating regional cohorts, the programs are convenient for active teachers who learn from each other and support one another as they prepare for administrative openings within their school districts.

[Learn more.](#)

Alumni invited to write to admitted students

U of I alumni are invited to write to prospective students about what the Vandal Family means to them. You can encourage and motivate future Vandals as they begin their new journeys. The letters will be matched with incoming students and sent through the Office of Alumni Relations.

[Learn more.](#)



Former Vandal football player Christian Elliss will play in his second Super Bowl on Feb. 8. Elliss is a standout linebacker for the New England Patriots.



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