

Tuesday, March 12, 2024 IDAHO STATE BENGALS VS MONTANA GRIZZLES

Game Time: 11:00 pm ET Selection: Montana -6

The Montana Grizzles are one win away from a spot in the Big Sky Conference Championship Game and the opportunity to punch their ticket to the big dance. With the top seed Eastern Washington already getting eliminated along with the 2 seed Northern Colorado and 4 seed Weber State, Montana can smell the blood in the water. This season Montana is 12-1 against the bottom 5 teams in the conference. Against their opponent tonight, Idaho State, they have won the last 5 straight meetings by an average of 14 points and 27 of the last 28 meetings dating back to 2009 which includes a win in last year's Big Sky quarterfinal in which they beat Idaho State 83-74.

Montana starts 5 seniors giving them an abundance of experience with 703 games played in total between the 5 of them. Head Coach Travis DeCuire has 4 Big Sky championship game appearances in 8 tournament appearances. A veteran coach leading a veteran team is what you like to see this time of year. DeCuire is also 17-1 vs Idaho State in his 10 years as head coach of Montana. The Grizzles are currently shooting 80% from the free throw line this season which ranks 4th nationally and has them on pace for a new school record. The offense has been very good as well ranking top 25 nationally in both field goal percentage and assist/turnover ratio. They have shot over 50% from the floor in 3 straight games and have won all 3 in a row. Montana is particularly lethal behind the arc as they are second in the conference in 3-point shooting percentage and have 3 players that have made over 50 3's and are shooting over 40% from 3 (Aanen Moody, Dischon Thomas, Josh Vazquez). Idaho State does not defend the 3 well ranking dead last in the conference. Montana averages 77.6 points per game on the year and are 20-3 when scoring 70 points or more. Idaho State gives up on average 70 points per game. On the year betting on Montana has been profitable as they are 17-12 ATS and 13-8 ATS as a favorite, both of which are the best rates in the Big Sky Conference. We expect the Montana Grizzles to continue their success vs Idaho State and cover the -6.

If a single game you purchased does not win based on the point spread, you will receive the next equivalent game FREE OF CHARGE. Any questions or comments can be sent to: <u>wiz@wizardraceandsports.com</u> Follow me on Twitter at: The Wizard@WizardPicks

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