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AROUND MONTANA

Bucks make semis

By Chronicle Staff

The Bozeman Bucks made the semifinals in the gold division of the UAS/Fleetwood American Legion baseball tournament in Billings on Monday with a win over the Billings Royals, 9-2.

Kyle Britt hit a leadoff single in the bottom of the second, advancing to third on Andy Ballinger's single and reached home on a balk, putting the Bucks on the scoreboard first. Ethan Wilkes, running for Ballinger, and Doug Crossman also scored in the inning establishing a lead for Bozeman they would carry through the remainder.

Andrew Abate pitched a complete game for the Bucks allowing two earned runs and five hits.

Eden Prairie defeated the Billings Scarlets 3-1 and will play Bozeman today at 11 a.m. The tournament championship game will be at 5 p.m.

Bozeman 9, Billings 2

Royals 002 000 0 - 2 5 2

Bucks 030 240 0 - 9 8 1

Jerry Schmalig, Stu Bertrand (5) and Tony LaGaly, Andrew Abate and Andy Ballinger.

Billings - Adam Ferlito 1-4, Matt Edwards 0-4, Blake Loran 1-2, Tony LaGaly 1-3, Devin Scott 1-3, Jerry Schmalig 1-3, Josh Benjamin 0-3, Jordan Kern 0-2, Taylor Boyer 0-1, Evan Bower 0-1.

Bozeman (30-13) - Brendan Phillips 2-3, Keith Alles 0-2, Caleb Schlender 2-3, Anthony Rinard 0-3, Kyle Britt 1-3, Andy Ballinger 2-3, Ben Leister 0-3, Doug Crossman 0-2, Mario Stanislaw 1-2.

2B: Phillips, LaGaly, Scott.

in the classroom, Montana State University has agreed to three-year contract extensions with head women's basketball coach Tricia Binford and head men's coach Brad Huse, MSU Director of Athletics Peter Fields announced Monday.

Each coach enters the final year of a three-year pact in 2009-10, and each new contract begins on July 1, 2010.

"Coach Huse and Coach Binford are committed to building programs the right way," Fields said, "and these extensions show the University's commitment to them. Their teams are succeeding academically and competing at a high level."

Binford is 49-66 in four seasons at MSU, including a 33-28 mark in the past two seasons. The Bobcats have advanced to the Big Sky Tournament for the past three seasons, and played in the semifinals last spring and the Big Sky Championship game in 2008.

After being picked among the league's bottom two teams before the

2008-09 season, the Bobcat men's team finished the regular season sixth, and roared through the league tournament to within seconds of a conference title, winning at Montana and Weber State along the way. Huse is 40-51 in three seasons at MSU.

The contracts are pending approval by the Montana Board of Regents.