CARING FOR OUR CATS



BY BOZEMAN HEALTH

Bozeman Health and Montana State University's long history of working together has contributed to the vitality of southwest Montana.

Innovation rivaling that of Power Five schools exists right here, in our own Bobcat Athletic Complex. Efficiency in care drives the value of the Bozeman Health MSU Clinic, changing how coaches and athletes approach health and wellness.

By creating a patient-centered care model on campus, skilled providers assist in improving the success of Bobcat athletes across all sports. Driving this efficiency is a willingness of providers across the valley to partner in service to ensure Bobcat coaches and athletes have what they need to make informed healthcare decisions. From access to Bozeman Health primary care sports medicine physicians, to orthopedic specialists at Bridger Orthopedics and Alpine Orthopedics, and

expedited results from Advanced Medical Imaging (AMI) at Bozeman Health Deaconess Regional Medical Center, MSU's student athletes and coaches can formulate effective strategy, thanks to structured pathways for results and care plans. AMI's willingness to streamline scheduling and interpretation for student athletes means imaging results are usually reported within 24 hours of an injury, especially during the season.

Former Bozeman Health provider Dr. Karl Reisig reflects, "If there's a significant injury, I'm cautious with allowing athletic participation until I know what it is. Because of our integrated approach, I can get an MRI on a Sunday to support care planning. If I had to wait for results until Wednesday,

that would significantly change planning for both that athlete and coaches, who may have another game coming up on Saturday."

Other specialties have also been brought into the fold. When cardiac screening became required during the COVID-19 pandemic due to concern over increased risk of myocarditis, clinical workflows were developed with Bozeman Health cardiologists to ensure cardiac testing quality. Neuropsychology testing supports some behavioral health diagnoses, and Bozeman Health psychiatrists can support therapies and medications allowed by the NCAA.

Efficiencies abound due to all the services available right on campus—from X-rays (available to both teams during games), ECGs, phlebotomy, and lab work, the clinic is a single-entry point for all healthcare needs, both physical and mental.

When injuries do occur on the field, court, or in practice, athletes first see an MSU athletic trainer; then the Bozeman Health care team works with them to create a care plan. Feedback from trainers and coaches is consistently positive on the convenience of having not only physical therapy services available on campus, but also the enhanced opportunities for PTs to share knowledge and techniques with trainers and student trainers.

For high contact sports like football and basketball, during games you'll see EMS provider American Medical Response (AMR) with a stretcher and spine board on the sidelines. Before each game, Bozeman Health provider Dr. Jeff Rasch leads a meeting with

the lead MSU athletic trainer, the opposing team's athletic trainer and physician, the on-call orthopedist, AMR, and MSU support staff to review the emergency action plan and talk through how to respond to potential health events. If an incident occurs requiring EMS response during a game, Dr. Rasch responds, along with athletic trainers and AMR, to efficiently stabilize the patient and coordinate transport to Bozeman Health Deaconess Regional Medical Center if needed.

Bozeman Health and Montana State University are two of the region's most important and fastest-growing institutions. Their long history of working together has contributed to the vitality of southwest Montana. For more than 111 years, Bozeman Health has provided high quality, compassionate care to the communities of southwest Montana. Similarly, as Montana's land-grant university, Montana State has integrated education, the fostering of knowledge, creation of art, and service to communities for nearly 130 years. Together, Bozeman Health and Montana State University employ more than 6,000 individuals.

This collaboration has taken many forms over the years, from the WWAMI Regional Medical Education Program and MSU's School of Nursing to the more recent work they championed to address the COVID-19 pandemic through research and staffing supports. Bozeman Health, MSU, and Bobcat Athletics share a strong belief that academic excellence, physical wellbeing, and mental health bring

about a stronger, healthier community, and are essential for success on and off the field.

This belief inspired the partners to examine other outstanding examples of university and health system partnerships throughout the country. Kansas (University of Kansas and University of Kansas Health System and LMH Health), Colorado (University of Northern Colorado Athletics and Banner Health), and Virginia (James Madison University and University of Virginia Health System) were considered. The common thread among all three demonstrates that communities thrive where strong health systems and universities are partnering in innovative ways.

Since September 2021, the Bozeman Health MSU Clinic team in the Bobcat Athletic Complex has





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been caring for student athletes, MSU faculty and staff, and their family members and dependents. There is an incredible synergy that is realized through having a clinic connected to the MSU campus that allows Bozeman Health to provide expert, quality care to the MSU family. Having a Bozeman Health clinic on campus makes it convenient for athletes, faculty, and staff to attend to their health and wellness needs when they need it and in a manner that reduces stress through ease of scheduling, walk-in availability, and reduced travel time.

The clinic is open weekdays from 8 am to 5 pm, and is staffed with primary care providers, physical therapists, and sports medicine providers to diagnose and treat a full spectrum of health and wellness care needs. These include Dr. Jeff Rasch, Dr.

Logan Wilz, Christene Johnson PA-C, and Crystal Skovly, PA. The 5,500 square foot facility has six patient rooms, which provides privacy. All providers are innetwork with the MUS health plan and Blue Cross Blue Shield Montana. Same day care for all ages is available for both urgent and regular primary care needs.

Bozeman Health is the official healthcare provider for Bobcat Student Athletes—all varsity athletes including spirit squad and rodeo. The innovative model of care that Dr. Jeff Rasch, a sports medicine fellowship-trained physician, and his team provide for Bobcat student athletes is first class in the Big Sky athletic conference, and rivals the athletic care given at Power Five schools such as Alabama, UCLA, Clemson, and others.

The collaboration between Bozeman Health and MSU aims to improve the health and wellness of the MSU student athlete community by offering convenient access to coordinated care, including primary care, sports medicine, integrated behavioral health, and chronic disease management. Bozeman Health providers support general primary care, specialty care, and training room assessments within the existing Bobcat athletic training room. MSU currently has 350 student athletes, representing fifteen NCAA sports. These student athletes require specialized care to ensure they remain healthy and, if injured, are able to safely return to play as quickly as possible. The team incorporates the NCAA's focus of mind, body and sport into each student athlete's care.

Bobcat student athletes are supported onsite at MSU on a day-to-day basis, and during home events. A Bozeman Health provider also travels with the MSU Bobcat football program in coordination with MSU team athletic trainers and graduate assistants. The sports medicine team is also supported by Bozeman Health's physical therapy and rehabilitation team. They care for all athletic-related issues such as pre-participation exams (sports physicals), concussion evaluation and treatment, and non-operative management of orthopedic injuries, as well as nonathletic related primary care such as mental health management (ADHD, anxiety, depression), eating disorders, and other health and well-being concerns.

As we look to the future, the Bozeman Health care team is honored to be the provider for Bobcat student-athletes and is dedicated to helping them address their total health and well-being, which enables them to reach academic and athletic excellence.











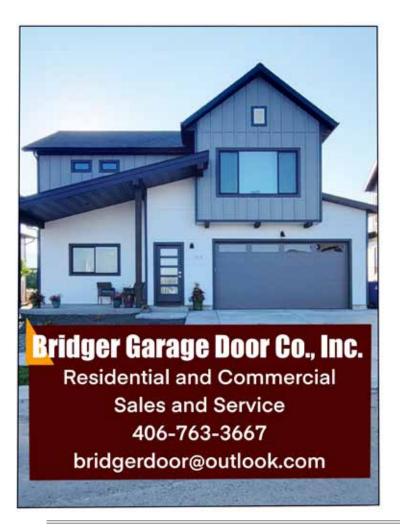


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