Varsity B Club: The Best is yet to come...

Every time I have the opportunity to meet one of our current Bronco student athletes, I am impressed with their attitude. Not only have these student athletes made several sacrifices to become a Boise State Bronco, they continue to work and dedicate themselves to their school and their sport. I quickly point out to our student athletes, that they are Varsity athletes for a mere four or five year, but they will spend most of their life as a Varsity B athlete.

These types of encounters warm the heart of every former Bronco. These days the "kids" are even more dedicated, with early morning, supervised workouts and very aggressive competitive schedules that add to the challenge of keeping up with their academic workloads. Boise State athletics has come a long way, but the best is yet to come.

With the recent opening of Caven – Williams Sports Complex and the stadium expansion on deck, Boise State University is poised to solidify its position as one of the major universities in the west. This should make all former Boise State athletes, band, cheer squad, mainline dancers, support staff, and the parents of

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Interview with Bus Connor, Basketball Coach

HOMETOWN: (where did you grow up and where do you live?)
I currently live in Nampa, ID, grew up in Minidoka County, and went to Minico HS, before attending Idaho State University.

FAMILY: Four boys and one daughter (son Steve Connor played for me from 1972-1976).

JOB: Retired, volunteer coach with Nampa HS Varsity Boys.

WHERE DOES THE NAME “BUS” COME FROM? It is short for Buster, people started calling me BUS and it stuck.

Doran is my real name, people could never get used to calling me Doran, even my mother never called me Doran.

FONDEST MEMORY AS A BOISE STATE COACH: Beating Weber State in double overtime to go to the NCAA championship in 1976 (at the time there were only 32 teams who could make the NCAA championships).

FAVORITE PLACE ON CAMPUS: The old gym, loud and crazy!

THOUGHTS ON PLAYERS: I was very fortunate to coach my own son Steve who was a pretty good basketball player, also coaching Trent Johnson who is now the head coach for Stanford basketball.

I was able to get my sons Brett and Steve to play together at the same time. I

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Varsity B – continued from page 1

student athletes, very proud to be part of the Varsity B family. The Varsity B is growing rapidly, with almost 200 dues-paying members. Former Broncos are realizing that an involvement and connection with Boise State is a key to the future of the university. Through the Varsity B, many former Broncos are being admitted to the very special fraternity and sorority of the Varsity B. Meeting other Broncos from different eras has been very gratifying; there is a certain understanding and a certain connection that is formed knowing we are all products of the Bronco environment.

Working to get others involved, the Varsity B is charging forward, and we are looking forward to adding even more members in the 2006-2007 year. Spread the word, twist some arms, close in on your teammates! Being a member of the Varsity B is the best way to continue your involvement with Boise State athletics. Go Broncos!

~ Michel Bourgeau, Varsity B Coordinator

Bus Connor – continued from page 1

was the only coach in the NCAA at that time to have two sons play on the same team and be the coach.

HOW HAS THE UNIVERSITY AND ATHLETICS CHANGED SINCE YOU LEFT? The size of the players has definitely increased. I see Boise State adding more sports and more scholarships; this has helped the other sports grow significantly and drive more attention towards those sports.

LIFE AFTER BOISE STATE? Retired from Boise State in 1983, and then went to help College of Idaho (Albertson College basketball coach Marty Holly for nine years, then the University of Idaho for one year as an assistant. I also coached at Treasure Valley Community College for two years helping one of my former young assistants. I never coached basketball outside of Idaho.

WHAT IS THE BUS CONNOR LEGACY AT BOISE STATE? A lot of my former players have gone on to successful careers, and I still stay in touch with them, and that makes me feel good about having had a part in their growing up as young men. Coaching my own son for four years was also a very exciting experience.

WHAT STANDS OUT THE MOST ABOUT BOISE STATE? Not many people can say they experienced the many changes first hand like I did at Boise State. I was there during the transition from junior college, to state college, and to a four year university. I was able to feel the growing pains and even had a hand in the football team when I was an assistant with Tony Knap in 1967 or 1968. I also took over the tennis team in 1979-1980 as an interim head coach. Steve Appleton was a very good player for us. The opportunity to help out in many ways made it very special.

WHAT OTHER SPORTS DO YOU MOST ENJOY WATCHING? I like the NFL and all basketball (college and the pros). I usually attend the Boise State basketball games because one of my former players is either a coach or there may be one of my former assistant on the coaching staffs of the teams that come to play Boise State.

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE VARSITY B CLUB? I graduated from Idaho State and whenever I get a chance to see what some of my old teammates are up to, I really enjoy the updates. The Varsity B club is a great way to stay in touch, and rediscover some of the friends that I haven't seen in a while. I think all former student-athletes should take it upon themselves to be part of the Varsity B.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A BOISE STATE BRONCO? I wasn't a student at Boise State; however I did spend 20 years with the department of Boise State athletics. The experience was a tremendous way to have a part to play in the maturing process of the many young men I had the opportunity to be in touch with, in fact many of my former player still call me now and then and that makes me feel really good. I loved my years as a Bronco!
Interview with Brian King, Basketball, 1986-1990

HOMETOWN: I grew up in Ontario, Oregon and currently reside in Eagle, Idaho.

DEGREES: Degree in Finance from BSU and also hold the Accredited Wealth Management designation from Michigan State University.


JOB: Financial Consultant RBC Dain Rauscher

FONDEST MEMORY AS A STUDENT: My fondest memory as a student at Boise State revolves around the great weekends that I spent with my good friends. Either heading up to McCall with Skip and the boys or pheasant and chukar hunting with my teammates. Those are great memories!

FONDEST MEMORY AS A BOISE STATE ATHLETE: My favorite memory is the energy that was inside the Pavilion on game night. 12,000 screaming fans every night gave us a tremendous home court advantage. There was not a better place to play basketball in the entire Western United States. That place went crazy! The road trips to Flagstaff, Missoula, Bozeman, etc., were also great fun. There was certainly never a dull moment on those trips.

FAVORITE PLACE ON CAMPUS: The Pavilion (Taco Bell Arena).

THOUGHTS ON COACHES: I still stay in touch with Coach Bobby Dye and currently work with former assistant Coach George Barrios. Coach Dye was a tough guy to play for. Very disciplined, very demanding, a perfectionist and a great teacher. As everyone knows we played very slow and emphasized defense over offense. As a shooter that didn’t exact fit with my specific skill set, but who can argue with the success we had. Coach Dye always used to say, “Always remember the fans will love you win or tie, and let’s make sure we don’t get many of those ties”!

Coach Dye knew how to win basketball games and I am very appreciative to have played for him. I gained a tremendous amount of knowledge from him, and not only on the basketball side, we still use a number of Coach Dye’s principles in our daily life, both inside of the workplace and outside of it.

HOW HAS THE UNIVERSITY AND ATHLETS CHANGED SINCE YOU LEFT? It has changed dramatically. The facilities are incredible at Boise State, both athletically and academically, with more to come. This is all of a sudden a BIG TIME University. The Academic programs have expanded, the University is drawing instructors from all over the world, and of course the success of the the Athletic programs have made it great fun to be a Bronco.

LIFE AFTER BOISE STATE? Life is pretty demanding right now. My family of course get’s the focus of my attention. Sonja pretty much runs that operation and I fill in when instructed to. Brooks and Janie have been playing basketball since age 4 and I am proud to say that they LOVE it. Brooks has a little bit of his dad in him (he loves to shoot, but doesn’t like defense much). My career at RBC Dain Rauscher also keeps me very busy. In our spare time we love to travel, spend a lot of time in McCall, coach a few different youth basketball teams, hunt a lot of birds, play some golf, attend the Bronco games, and spend as much time with friends, family, and clients as possible.

WHAT STANDS OUT THE MOST ABOUT BOISE STATE? The great progression they have made over the past 15 years.

WHAT OTHER SPORTS DO YOU MOST ENJOY WATCHING? We love going to the football games, that’s about all we have time for.

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE VARSITY B CLUB? I’m really excited that Michel is taking the Varsity B to the next level.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A BOISE STATE BRONCO? Our entire family bleeds Bronco Blue. We even have a blue and orange sport court at home! It’s fun to be involved with Boise State, it’s truly a program that if you get involved, you can certainly feel like you are still a part of the program.

Make sure to renew your Varsity B membership!

- Take advantage of two or more tickets to special “Varsity B Days” at the gym, arena or stadium
- 10% discount on Bronco Gear at BSU bookstore
- Access to special Varsity B merchandise
- Invitation to special Varsity B sponsored events
- Fall and Spring Varsity B Newsletter
- Sponsor one or more former teammates, for $35 per member, we will add one of your former teammates to the Varsity B. This is a good way to get them on board!

www.broncosports.com
Diane (Quong) Compton, 
Tennis, 1980-1984

**HOMETOWN:** (where did you grow up and where do you live?) Grew up on a farm in Eagle, currently live in Boise.

**DEGREES:** B.B.A Accounting, B.B.A. Information Sciences.

**FAMILY:** Single.

**JOB:** Manager of Retail Information Reporting (Accounting) at Albertsons Corporate Headquarters.

**FONDEST MEMORY AS A STUDENT:** I enjoyed my full time at Boise State University where I made many great friends and met professors who have all made a difference in my life. This preparation for taking that next step into the real world was an invaluable experience. Had I known, I would have taken more advantage of my free time!

**FONDEST MEMORY AS A BOISE STATE ATHLETE:** I was a member of both the tennis team and the cheer squad which kept me extremely busy year round and allowed me to travel to many places that I would not have visited had it not been for participation in these activities. Tennis trips were made via the ‘blue vans’ which were an experience in itself. I recall studying in the vans and having many a great conversations with my coach and fellow teammates. Over the winter months, I remember the 10pm practices held at the Boise Racquet and Swim Club. One memory that has always stayed in my mind took place while awaiting our next match in a tournament at Weber State. The radio announcer stated that an assassination attempt had been made on President Reagan. Overall, the experiences taught hard work and teamwork.

**FAVORITE PLACE ON CAMPUS:** I don’t have a favorite place on campus, it was more the location next to the river and near the park that I enjoyed most. I rode my bike around campus which was beautiful with the mountains in the background. My spring tradition after my last final entailed a visit to the zoo to just relax and watch the animals.

**THOUGHTS ON COACHES:** I appreciate the dedication of coaches to not only the sport but also the success of their student athletes. I see that continued if not more so today, where this dedication consumes most of their time. I didn’t realize back then but now see the dedication of not only the coaches but also their families.

**HOW HAS THE UNIVERSITY AND ATHLETICS CHANGED SINCE YOU LEFT?** The University and the athletic program has continued to grow and excel every year it seems. I’m proud to say Boise State University is my alma mater and it amazes me that no matter where I travel across the country, people know of BSU and regard highly the school and the athletics. I attribute this to the coaches, the student athletes and the great leadership at BSU. The indoor tennis courts (which would have eliminated the 10pm practices!) are incredible but the outdoor facilities are phenomenal thanks to the sponsorship of Steve Appleton.

**LIFE AFTER BOISE STATE?** My first job after graduation was a local CPA firm but for the last 18 years I’ve been employed with Albertsons at their corporate headquarters. I enjoy golf, running and biking on the many foothills trails and spending time with my family who all reside in the area.

**WHAT STANDS OUT THE MOST ABOUT BOISE STATE?** I believe the continued growth and excellence are the greatest standouts.

**WHAT OTHER SPORTS DO YOU MOST ENJOY WATCHING?** I have season tickets to both football and basketball games. I also enjoy the many tournaments that have drawn high levels of competition such as tennis, track and field, men’s basketball and of course the football bowl games.

**WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE VARSITY B CLUB?** I enjoy being able to meet up with former athletes and add another level of participation in support of the school.

**WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A BOISE STATE BRONCO?** PRIDE!!!
Interview with Kam Henson, Wrestling, 1985-1989

Kam maintains his wrestling physique by actively taking advantage of Idaho’s great outdoors!

HOMETOWN: (where did you grow up and where do you live?) Boise, ID.

DEGREES: BBA General Business Management.

FAMILY: Cooper, son 9.

JOB: McNeil Specialty Pharmaceuticals, a Division of Johnson & Johnson.

FONDEST MEMORY AS A STUDENT: Actually it was graduating.

FONDEST MEMORY AS A BOISE STATE ATHLETE: Fulfilling a lifelong dream of becoming a collegiate athlete.

FAVORITE PLACE ON CAMPUS: Gymnastics Room (HAHAHAHA) Most likely the SUB.

THOUGHTS ON COACHES: Coaches really have an opportunity to mold young people. Their mentoring and work ethic have an impact on their athletes well after the competitive years have past. It isn’t in their job description, but they have the ability to prepare the student athlete for life after athletics. I would imagine the rewards are phenomenal.

HOW HAS THE UNIVERSITY AND ATHLETICS CHANGED SINCE YOU LEFT? It really has become more respected as a university, both in academics as well as the obvious athletic achievements. It is disappointing that so many people in the community still don’t realize that the wrestling team is not only in the Pac-10, but also dominating it.

LIFE AFTER BOISE STATE? It certainly was hard letting go of the college lifestyle. Most all of my best friends to this day are the ones I bonded with during college. In that respect, I never really let go.

WHAT STANDS OUT THE MOST ABOUT BOISE STATE? It really represents Boise in personality and flavor.

WHAT OTHER SPORTS DO YOU MOST ENJOY WATCHING? I love going to Beauty and the Beast, and of course football. It would be nice if the Idaho Statesman would focus on more than just a couple of sports so that we could know when to go see more events. I think the Varsity B Club has helped in that regard.

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE VARSITY B CLUB? It is a great opportunity to reconnect with old friends and meet the athletes from all sports from different generations. We really are in the same fraternity after all.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A BOISE STATE BRONCO? Hating the Vandals (HAHAHAHAHA). It has been great going to the football games these last several years and seeing the stadium packed with blue and orange. There are no socio-economical barriers at the games. It is just a community.

Kim (Quintero) Saucerman, Cheer, 1988-1991

Kim Saucerman contributing to the electrifying energy at the BSU Pavilion (now Taco Bell Arena)

HOMETOWN: (where did you grow up and where do you live?) I grew up in Nampa, Idaho and now live in Meridian. I have had short stays in other places, but the Treasure Valley is home!

DEGREES: BA in Communication.

FAMILY: Married to Paul Saucerman (also a Boise State Alumni – from the Construction Management program) for 11 years. Two children – Jacob (6) and Kaitlyn (4).

JOB: I work for Tom Scott Communication Shop, an advertising agency in Boise. I am fortunate to have a marketing career I enjoy, plus have the opportunity to work with great colleagues who also love the Broncos! Plus, working with Tom (also known for his Scott Slant column and as the BSU football color commentator), I can stay informed on Boise State athletics on a daily basis!

FONDEST MEMORY AS A STUDENT: My fondest memories are from my internship in the Sports Information Department within the BSU athletic office. It was the perfect learning and working experience that allowed me to work on media guides and PR activities promoting BSU athletics. A big THANK YOU to Lori Hays and Max Corbet who gave me the learning opportunity in the office, and wonderful work experiences at BSU athletic events.

FONDEST MEMORY AS A BOISE STATE ATHLETE: Every home football game in the stadium and all those close basketball games in the Pavilion. I remember the Pavilion completely packed, and so loud you couldn’t hear yourself scream.

FAVORITE PLACE ON CAMPUS: My favorite place was on the track during football games. It was great to be so close to the football action!

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THOUGHTS ON COACHES: Julie Stevens is a great coach with an incredible amount of energy. That energy and spirit always come out during each practice. It’s wonderful to see that she still has that same enthusiasm and determination to grow and enhance the program.

HOW HAS THE UNIVERSITY AND ATHLETICS CHANGED SINCE YOU LEFT? The university and athletic program have definitely grown! When I attended Boise State, we were in the Big Sky Conference. Though there has been amazing growth in BSU athletics since that time, it’s great to walk in the athletic department and see so many familiar faces. Still the same great people!

LIFE AFTER BOISE STATE? My life after Boise State has included career opportunities that have often come about from people I met during my time at BSU. For example, my 5-year marketing career at MicronPC started with an interview with a former cheerleading teammate. And my current position working with Tom Scott, was aided by the fact that Tom and I had met years ago working the BSU Gymnastics meets. In short, life and career opportunities after Boise State have been great!

WHAT STANDS OUT THE MOST ABOUT BOISE STATE? In the recent years, I would say the winning football teams which have allowed BSU to come into the national spotlight. The national attention has allowed people across the country to learn about our amazing university.

WHAT OTHER SPORTS DO YOU MOST ENJOY WATCHING? College and NFL Football!! And my kiddos in golf, soccer, and baseball.

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE VARSITY B CLUB? It’s a great organization to feel connected to Boise State Athletics! The e-mail updates and newsletters are great communication tools to help past student-athletes stay informed and connected to current BSU athletes and events.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A BOISE STATE BRONCO? Knowing that I am a part of a special university with a tradition of excellence, and always PROUD to wear the Orange and Blue!


Tyler Jones (2001-2004) is tearing it up with the NFL Europe Hamburg Sea Devils, Boise State pride in hand.

Super Kimo!

Kimo Von Oelhoffen (1992-1993) won the 2006 Super Bowl as a member of the Pittsburgh Steelers. The only other Bronco athlete to win a Super Bowl was Markus Koch (1982-1985). Markus won two with the Washington Redskins.

Jermaine Blackburn (2003-2005) makes his presence known in just his first season with the CBA’s Idaho Stampede.
A 30th Anniversary on the Hardwood
by Tom Scott

Boise was a simpler place in 1976. With a population of less than 100,000, the city wasn't thought to be large enough for a mall, or a major downtown hotel, or an airport with more than a lobby and 10 gates.

But it was big enough for a Division I basketball team. Boise State was in only its eighth year as a four-year institution, and the Bronco hoopsters were still trying to crack the upper echelon of the Big Sky as the football team had with three straight championships.

Bus Connor, a former high school star in Rigby and college standout at Idaho State, was BSU's head coach. He was known for his offensive acumen, and he recruited players who could execute – starting with his son, Steve, out of Borah High. The sweet-shooting leftie was a long-range bomber in the era before the three-point line, and he was complemented by Trent Johnson, Danny Jones and Terry Miller in the same 1974 recruiting class.

By the time those four were sophomores, they had the drill down. And by the end of the 1975-76 season, they and senior Pat Hoke formed a formidable starting five. Connor was the leading scorer, and Johnson was like a coach on the floor, a prelude to his head coaching jobs at Nevada and, now, Stanford.

Still, the Broncos were 15-10 going into the final game of the regular season and needed to beat Montana at home to force their way into the four-team Big Sky Tournament, the first one ever held. With 3600-seat Bronco Gym filled almost to capacity, BSU and the Grizzlies staged a do-or-die classic. As the clock wound down, Montana had taken a 66-65 lead. Enter Connor, who launched what is generally agreed to be a 30-footer at the buzzer. It swished, Connor was mobbed, and it was on to Ogden.

The tournament opener was against Idaho State, which dominated BSU in those days and was one year away from a monumental upset of UCLA in the 1977 NCAA Tournament. But the Broncos mustered all their firepower for a 93-81 upset in the semifinals. That set up the title game versus host Weber State, the conference regular season champion playing in its old Wildcat Gym before a rabid crowd. After an exhausting two-overtime battle, BSU had triumphed 77-70 to earn its first trip to the NCAA Tournament.

It was there that Boise State ran into the Runnin’ Rebels of UNLV in the first round of the West Regional in Eugene. The Broncos trailed by only seven early in the second half, but the Rebels ended up with another 100-point game – putting up an incredible 87 field goal attempts in their 103-78 victory. Connor was the game’s high-scorer with 26 points.

There’s a first time for everything. This one was 30 years ago. It was a simpler time. And, maybe just because of that, it was a blast.
Interview with Lisa (Workman) Fisher, Basketball, 1990-1994

Lisa (Workman) Fisher (1990-1994) and her husband Toby. Lisa is currently assistant head coach of the Washington State women’s basketball program.

**HOMETOWN:** (where did you grow up and where do you live?) I grew up in Portland, OR and am currently living in Pullman, WA.

**DEGREES:** BA Psychology, ’95.

**FAMILY:** Husband, Toby, ’97 Boise State grad. Currently a police officer in Moscow, ID (busting the U of I students)!

**JOB:** Associate Head Women’s Basketball Coach, Washington State University.

**FONDEST MEMORY AS A STUDENT:** First date with my future husband. Too many great times with my teammates to pick only one.

**FONDEST MEMORY AS A BOISE STATE ATHLETE:** 1994 NCAA tournament experience.

**FAVORITE PLACE ON CAMPUS:** The Bronco statue

**THOUGHTS ON COACHES:** Incredibly enthusiastic and motivating.

**HOW HAS THE UNIVERSITY AND ATHLETICS CHANGED SINCE YOU LEFT?** BSU has received more national exposure through the success of the football program. Programs are competing at a higher level in the WAC versus the Big Sky.

**LIFE AFTER BOISE STATE?** I was blessed to begin my coaching career immediately after graduation and for the past 11 years have been a part of the growth of young women’s lives. I married an incredibly loving and supportive husband.

**WHAT STANDS OUT THE MOST ABOUT BOISE STATE?** The amazing support and passion of the community for the Broncos.

**WHAT OTHER SPORTS DO YOU MOST ENJOY WATCHING?** College football.

**WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE VARSITY B CLUB?** The efforts that are being made to connect and involve alumni with the current programs is very much appreciated.

**WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A BOISE STATE BRONCO?** To have an incredible amount of pride in the blue and orange. It’s a great feeling of knowing I was a part of something very special during my time at BSU.

Broncos helping future Broncos

Former Bronco basketball star, Clint Hordemann (1997-2001), is leading the way in helping young male basketball players improve their skills by emphasizing fundamentals through hands-on coaching and providing, the best scholarship opportunities, by tailoring his recruiting program to the players’ needs.

Clint and his brother Vince have created 3FOR3 Productions, LLC, which is an event management and marketing company focusing on the development, operation and promotion of sporting events in the Treasure Valley. One branch of 3FOR3 is Idaho Select, a non-profit program created to give high school players in the state of Idaho opportunities to showcase their talents in front of college coaches to increase the likelihood of receiving college scholarships. 3FOR3 Productions, LLC was created in December of 2002. More information can be found at www.3for3.org and www.idahoselect.org.

What does it mean to be a Boise State Bronco?

“The experience was a tremendous way to have a part to play in the maturing process of the many young men I had the opportunity to be in touch with in fact, many of my former players still call me now and then and that makes me feel really good. I loved my years as a Bronco!”

~ Bus Conner, Bronco Basketball Coach