Another GREAT START for the BRONCOS...

Defensive tackle Billy Winn displays Maaco Bowl trophy for the Varsity B section after the Broncos shut down the Utes 26-3 on December 22nd at Sam Boyd Stadium in Las Vegas.

The Varsity B section at the Maaco Bowl was loud and proud as the Bronco football team claimed another Bowl victory.

The Varsity B fall 2010 newsletter is the first full version to be offered as an electronic document. We plan to print some copies for the Varsity B members who do not have email. We believe that this format will actually better serve the membership as we can add more information without incurring significant printing costs.

Let us know what you think by sending an email to: varsityb@boisestate.edu

You can also post a comment on the Varsity B Facebook page.

See next page for more Maaco Bowl images.
The Bronco Nation was out in full force for the Maaco Bowl pep rally in Las Vegas.

Varsity B members and former teammates from the 1958 Boise Junior College football team Jerry Mahoney and Lenny Chow had a great time at the Maaco Bowl in Las Vegas.

Former Bronco teammates Doug Scott and Willy Tufono reconnect at the Maaco Bowl in Las Vegas.

Dan Lebeau, Doug Scott and Kim Metcalf loved being close to the action at the Maaco Bowl.

Bono impersonator from VegasU2 rocked the Boise State pre-game tailgate.
BOOKENDS – with national champions on one end and greatness on the other

BOISE STATE’S WIN in the MAACO Bowl wrapped up a 30-year segment of Bronco football history in a most interesting way. It starts with one of the school’s most successful teams, the 1980 Division I-AA national championship squad. That group began its landmark campaign with a stunning 28-7 upset of Utah in Salt Lake City. And it culminates in 2010 with what numbers say is the best team ever to wear the blue and orange—one that finished with a 26-3 thumping of the Utes in Las Vegas.

The 30th anniversary of the 1980 team was overshadowed during the fall by the current Broncos’ amazing run in the Top 5, but no one who was around three decades ago can forget the feeling when Boise State won that title game in Sacramento. The Bronco program then, like now, had been craving respect. It was earned through a thrilling 31-29 win over Eastern Kentucky at the Camellia Bowl, Boise State’s first-ever appearance on national TV.

How fitting it would have been had the cards fallen the right way this season to enable the Broncos to do the unthinkable and make the BCS Championship Game. Does the fact that Boise State didn’t end up being part of a BCS bowl preclude the Broncos’ 2010 team from being declared the school’s best ever? Well, no. The evidence starts with margin of victory. Of all the great teams the Broncos have put forth since this Golden Era began in 1999, the 2010 squad had the highest scoring margin—by far—winning by an average of 32.3 points. The 12-1 team in 2002 was a distant second at 27.1 points a game.

For more fuel, we go to some school records. This was Boise State’s best season ever in total offense—the average of 521 yards per game broke the 36-year-old standard of 517. The Broncos also set a school record for pass efficiency with a rating of 180.

On defense, they registered a record 49 sacks. The defense’s average allowance was 255 yards, the best mark in 40 years. The Thanksgiving weekend loss to Nevada didn’t end up being part of a BCS bowl—chewing up most of the drive with passes to Kipp Bedard—and hitting Duane Dlouhy with the famous winning TD on 4th-and-10. The national championship trophy set the standard for everything that has happened in Bronco football since.

For the 2010 group, the drive for the ages was on Opening Night. Virginia Tech led Boise State 30-26 when the Broncos got the ball with 1:47 left. A 25-yard punt return by Mitch Burroughs had set them up at their own 44. With 86,587 mostly hostile fans in his ear, Kellen Moore coolly guided Boise State down the field in five plays, hitting Austin Pettis with the dramatic winning touchdown from 13 yards out with 1:09 to spare.

Two teams from two entirely different eras, 30 years apart. But both with distinct places in Bronco history.
**Former Bronco golf star Troy Merritt is having one big adventure!**

*By Michel Bourgeau, Varsity B Club*

**TROY MERRITT** was mostly raised in Idaho with stops in Iowa and Minnesota. During his time at Boise State from 2004 to 2008, Merritt excelled on the golf course. The 2008 All-American and WAC conference player of the year, has been busy since leaving the Boise State golf team in 2008.

In the past year Merritt joined the PGA Tour as a rookie finishing 125 in the 2010 money list, married his girlfriend Courtney Achter (former Bronco gymnast 2005-2009) on a beach in Florida, won a million dollars in the Kodak Challenge, and is expecting his first child, a boy, later this year. You would think that Troy and Courtney could use a vacation or maybe a honeymoon. Not yet…

Merritt points out that travel has been the hardest for him this past year; so many destinations, so much competition on the golf course. It has been quite an adjustment. Merritt says that his goal for the 2011 season is to maintain his PGA card, demonstrate consistent improvements, and deliver on Sunday afternoons with the ultimate goal of winning his first title on the PGA tour.

Troy recently donated part of his earnings back to Boise State. Merritt points out that Bronco head golf coach, Kevin Burton, was instrumental in helping Merritt grow as a player and as a person while aiding him to reach his potential on the golf links. Merritt feels so strongly about his experience at Boise State, that he wanted to help the Bronco golf program grow and gain national respect under Coach Burton’s direction. Troy said that his decision to give back to help the Bronco golf program was a personal one. His Bronco pride is very evident as he displays a Boise State logo on his golf bag. As the 2011 PGA gets underway in January, look for Troy Merritt to gain even more attention as he reaches for the blue and orange skies…

**Courtney Achter (Gymnastics 2005-2009) and Troy Merritt (Golf 2004-2008) were married on Sanibel Island in Florida on March 13, 2010. Photo credit: Nick Adams Photography**

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Bronco head men’s golf coach who caddied for Troy Merritt at the Nationwide Tour Boise Open (fall 2010) discusses Troy’s next move as they negotiate the terrain at Hillcrest Country Club.

Photo Credit: Shawn Raecke / Idaho Statesman
Gus Urresti Golf Scramble: A Boise State Homecoming Tradition

THE ANNUAL Varsity B – Gus Urresti Golf Scramble took place at the Warm Springs golf course on Friday, October 8th. It was a grand time to reunite with many former Broncos and raise money for a great cause. The annual scramble helps raise money for the Gus Urresti Scholarship Endowment. Tournament chairman, Rich Urresti, was in great spirits and the afternoon of golf, under fabulous Boise early October-sunshine, was another success. The scramble raised over $11,000 and brought the Gus Urresti scholarship endowment to a new high of $130,000.

Coach Lyle Smith and head football coach Chris Petersen were all on hand to welcome the golfers and share their excitement of the 2010 football season.

About 140 golfers competed ferociously for the coveted Bronco helmet trophy. The winners, thanks to their teamwork, golf skills and many purchased mulligans, were thrilled to end the day as 2010 Varsity B – Gus Urresti Golf Scramble champs.

Next year’s Varsity B – Gus Urresti is tentatively scheduled the Friday before homecoming. Make sure to get it on your golf calendar.

— Go Broncos!
Former Bronco track star Nick Cunningham (2005-2008) seated inside his US Bobsled team’s ride. Nick is fresh from a strong performance at the 2010 Vancouver winter Olympics.

Varsity B honorary captain Ron Harvey and fellow teammate Kim Metcalf pose with star running back Jeremy Avery (center) after the Homecoming game vs. Toledo.

Varsity B member Dave Maloney (FB 1982-1984) will do just about anything to get a gameday sideline pass at Bronco Stadium.

The 1997-1998 Bronco women’s basketball meet up at the Varsity B tailgate for College Game Day and another Bronco victory against Oregon State.

The Varsity B’s mission is to encourage and promote the heritage, traditions, and success of Boise State student-athletes and Boise State athletics for all Broncos; to honor the legacy, and preserve the qualities that represent being a Boise State Bronco.
Varsity B tailgate is always a great place to warm up prior to the game.

Send your photos and info to:
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Three Bronco volleyball seniors graduate to the ranks of the Varsity B, Sadie Maughan, Alicia Young, and Lauren Harn. On the road with the Varsity B at Idaho.

On the road with the Varsity B at San Jose State.

Former Broncos Kyle Wilson (New York Jets) and Ryan Clady (Denver Broncos) pose after the game on October 17th at Invesco Field at Mile High.

Varsity B tailgate is always a great place to warm up prior to the game.
Interview with…

HILARY MEEK
VOLLEYBALL • 1998-2002

HOMETOWN: (where did you grow up and where do you live?) Bakersfield, CA -born and raised (currently #1 in most polluted air in America!). I currently live in Boise, ID.

DEGREES: Bachelor of Business in General Business Management

FAMILY: I haven’t had kids of my own yet, but am thoroughly enjoying being an aunt to my 5 nephews and a niece. I have a huge family (I am middle of 5). My parents moved to Boise to retire, and my youngest brother now attends Boise State as a Psychology major. My other siblings and their families live in Boulder, Houston, and Newport Beach.

JOB: Provider Relations Representative at PacificSource Health Plans

FONDEST MEMORY AS A STUDENT: Marketing Group projects with Football alumni, Brad Chase. One semester we had to do a marketing project on an African American Greeting Card Company called, “Shades of Black”. Brad was in charge of the PowerPoint, and the introduction slide, he had put pictures of many of his African American teammates/friends…then him at the end of the line looking very Caucasian. I still think of that popping up on the screen, as we were up in front of the class, and laughing! Our teacher thought it was funny too...we got an A!

FONDEST MEMORY AS A BOISE STATE STUDENT-ATHLETE: Upper Decks!—not. There are too many to choose from; but one is when we beat Idaho in Moscow my freshman year. It was particularly sweet because my oldest brother had played football there, so my sister Becky (who was on the team with me, and got the match winning kill) and I teased him non-stop after the game. It was my first experience of the rivalry, and I’ve been hooked ever since!

FAVORITE PLACE ON CAMPUS: I have to say…The weight room! It’s inspiring to see and remember all of the hard work that goes on in there.

THOUGHTS ON COACHES: I think they are the perfect fit for BSU. They demand hard work, team unity and character. Christina (Moore) Ward and I often joke that we want our eligibility back! As Alumni, we REALLY appreciate how current Bronco volleyball coaches Shawn, Candy and Chris involve us with alumni games, functions, and emails. They go above and beyond for the program; past, present and future.

HOW HAS THE UNIVERSITY AND ATHLETICS CHANGED SINCE YOU LEFT? It’s gotten HUGE! Nonetheless, I was as proud of our school and athletics teams when we were “small potatoes” as I am now.

LIFE AFTER BOISE STATE? Boise State life never ends for many of us. In addition to attending games on a regular basis, I enjoy working for PacificSource Health Plans (which has been an awesome employer) and learning new hobbies to curb my active lifestyle! From skiing, to mountain biking there is always something to learn and do in Idaho. I love it.

WHAT STANDS OUT THE MOST ABOUT BOISE STATE? The first class people who follow their principles. I think most bronco alumni would agree that we learned more about character and class at Boise State than anywhere, and that education is priceless.

WHAT OTHER SPORTS DO YOU MOST ENJOY WATCHING? College football!! Every week is exciting.

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE VARSITY B CLUB? I always have a great time networking and socializing at various Varsity B events; mostly because we are like minded individuals with a desire for ourselves and others to succeed in whatever we do. It is an awesome support group to be a part of.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A BOISE STATE BRONCO? The thing that I think is most special about being a bronco is the “family” feel. To this day I share a sisterhood with my old volleyball teammates unlike any other friendship. Even though we live in different states, we still get together several times a year for reunion weekends, where we spend the majority of the time sharing old memories and making new ones. We always pick up where we left off, and will the rest of our lives! We are so fortunate to have each other. In addition to that, I absolutely love going down to the football games, and seeing ex-athletes to visit with at the tailgates. I think it’s awesome and rare what friendships we have preserved across all the sports teams with the common bond of being a BRONCO!
Interview with…

LIBBY JOHNSON

SOCCER - 2001-2004

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

DEGREES: Bachelor of Arts, Mass Communications and Journalism – Boise State University Masters of Athletic Administration – Idaho State University.

FAMILY: Mom Sue, Dad Bob, Brother Chris (25), Sister Molly (20).

JOB: Assistant Coordinator of the Boise State Auction – Bronco Athletic Association.

FONDEST MEMORY AS A STUDENT: Getting to know all the new people and places around Boise.

FONDEST MEMORY AS A BOISE STATE STUDENT-ATHLETE: Pre-game was always one of my favorite times as a student-athlete. Everyone has their own routine and you get to know the girls and how they prepare. We had many team traditions before heading out onto the field; those are the things I will always remember.

FAVORITE PLACE ON CAMPUS: The tennis bubbles of course!

THOUGHTS ON COACHES: Steve always challenged us no matter what we were doing. Whether he was running us ragged during a practice, or on a road trip testing our knowledge of 70’s and 80’s butt rock bands, you always had to be ready for what Steve was going to bring. Steve and I have a similar sense of humor and it makes it fun to go and visit him over at the bubbles to this day.

HOW HAS THE UNIVERSITY AND ATHLETICS CHANGED SINCE YOU LEFT? I just couldn’t stay away! I was given the opportunity to come back to the world of Boise State athletics as a graduate assistant last summer and have loved every second of it. While earning my masters, I’ve met some great people in my classmates and colleagues and have the opportunity to work for the Broncos!

LIFE AFTER BOISE STATE?

I hope there isn’t one!

WHAT STANDS OUT THE MOST ABOUT BOISE STATE? The national recognition. Since my freshman year, Boise State has grown so much and not just in athletics. I feel like I can’t even find my old dorm there are so many new buildings. Our football program has put Boise State on the map as somewhere students from all over the country want to go to school.

WHAT OTHER SPORTS DO YOU MOST ENJOY WATCHING? I’m a huge college football and basketball fan. I grew up a sports nut and most of our family gatherings revolve around a game of some sort, our most recent trip was to Washington DC for the Virginia Tech game. Growing up in Corvallis, I was always a Beaver fan. My sister goes to the University of Oregon. I love the fact that my Broncos have dominated my home state over the past few years.

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE VARSITY B CLUB? It’s a great way for former athletes to stay connected to the university and to their specific athletics programs. It is also a great way to give back to Boise State and say thank you for all the school did for us while we were getting our degrees and participating in sports.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A BOISE STATE BRONCO? Everything! It has been a transition from student-athlete to fan, but a great one. Last fall, I got to sit in the stands and cheer for the soccer girls as they won the program’s first WAC Championship. I am so proud that I am a part of that family and can see how hard work over the years propels a program into its potential. I’m excited for what’s to come!
Why is that pirate flag in the south end zone?

By Allen Sielaff, Sport Medicine 1992-1996

I HAVE BEEN ATTENDING Bronco games since 1978 when I was eight year’s old with my father Martin Sielaff. I have always noticed that the pirate flag was flying in the south end zone bleachers, and wondered where did it come from?

It wasn’t until I was admitted into the Athletic Training program in 1992 that I learned a little bit about the tradition.

Gary Craner, who was the head athletic trainer since 1972, had been carrying on the tradition of taping the pirate flag in the bleachers. I found out why when I asked Gary to tell me about the story behind the pirate flag.

The pirate flag is black with skull and crossbones, with the fraternity symbol for Sigma Phi Epsilon. It was originally a defensive Battle Flag that came from the Boise State players themselves in the 1970’s. About eight of the football players who were on the defensive team were also members of the fraternity.

There was a tradition of getting to wear a black practice jersey for outstanding defensive play in the practices after a game. So some of the players thought their fraternity flag would help them remember to have a great defensive game.

I was honored that Gary asked to tape this flag in the bleachers when I was a student trainer from 1992-1996. I always made sure that it would be straight. I had no idea the tradition and meaning of the flag at the time, I just did it because Gary asked me to.

To me, the flag was just one of the many legacies that Gary Craner left behind when he retired in 2008. Craner has been named to the Athletic Trainer’s Hall of Fame and the Boise State Hall of Fame.

Few people know of Gary’s small Boise State traditions and help in other ways, as well as his work in the training room.

Gary also helped come up with the concept of Boise State’s logo of a horse within the state of Idaho, rising up with his hooves digging at the town of Moscow while the other end of the horse said hello to the town of Pocatello.

Although the original flag has been lost (hopefully it will be found some day), the tradition of these players and Gary placing it in the South End zone will continue to help remind the Broncos of excellent defensive play.

Now you know the answer if your youngster asks, “Why is there a pirate flag in the South end zone?”

— Go Broncos!
Hawaii Warriors on the blue in November

By Carleton Ching, Football 1975-1976

THE WARM WEATHER and blue turf may have lured the Warriors into hoping for a “day at the beach.” Doing their HAKA, a spirited pre-game ritual with vigorous body and facial gestures, stomping of the feet with rhythmically shouted accompaniment, the Warriors appeared motivated. The spectators were certainly moved by large dancing men in football gear!

The Broncos ruled the beach and the Warriors were not able to catch a wave of momentum. For the BSU alumni from Hawaii who wore shorts and t-shirts for the warm early November day, a once a year chance to see the Broncos perform on the Blue is a great experience. And of particular importance were the Honorary Co-Captains for the game, Big John Kauinana and David Hughes, two of the great players from Hawaii who have been a part of the foundation of Boise State University football.

The BSU alumni from Hawaii anxiously await the 2011 season and Boise’s invasion of the Mountain West!

– Go Broncos!
Interview with…

ANDY AVALOS

FOOTBALL 1999 - 2004

HOMETOWN: (where did you grow up and where do you live?) Hometown: Corona, California. Currently: Kearney, Nebraska.

DEGREES: Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice Management (Corrections/Counseling), Masters of Arts Degree in Social, Multicultural and Bilingual Foundations of Education (University of Colorado, Boulder).

FAMILY: Summer Joy Avalos, wife.

JOB: Assistant Football Coach, University of Nebraska at Kearney. Just accepted an assistant football coaching position at Sacramento State (linebacker coach).

FONDEST MEMORY AS A STUDENT: Completing the final paper for my Senior Seminar class and Graduating!

FONDEST MEMORY AS A BOISE STATE STUDENT-ATHLETE: To pinpoint one memory that stands out more than others is difficult. There are numerous experiences with my teammates that I cherish from knocking off #8 Fresno St. in 2001 to the undefeated regular season in 2004. If I had to pick a memory that stands out it would be the interception return for a touchdown in the 2004 Liberty Bowl. Guys like Korey Hall, Gerald Alexander, and Gabe Franklin escorted me into the end zone.

FAVORITE PLACE ON CAMPUS: Bronco Stadium would be stating the obvious so I will go with the Library, a good place to take naps between classes.

THOUGHTS ON COACHES: I got into coaching football because of the impact the Boise State Coaches had on me not only as an athlete but more importantly as a person. The guidance they provided was invaluable. They are the type of coaches you enjoy to be around and have relationships with outside of football.

HOW HAS THE UNIVERSITY AND ATHLETICS CHANGED SINCE YOU LEFT? I believe the principles and fundamentals of the University and Athletics are quite similar, however the University has continued to improve the quality of education, facilities, and living. Athletics has done the same while continuing to have principles and goals that are second to none. Bigger & Better!

LIFE AFTER BOISE STATE? I look forward to starting a family with my wife. I enjoy coaching football and have aspirations in the coaching profession. Hopefully someday I can make it back to Boise State as a coach.

WHAT STANDS OUT THE MOST ABOUT BOISE STATE? The ability to improve and succeed as a University and Athletic department at a rapid pace. The leadership within and the support from outside is remarkable.

WHAT OTHER SPORTS DO YOU MOST ENJOY WATCHING? College Basketball, X-Games, Golf… well rounded

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE VARSITY B CLUB? It is a great organization that keeps alums informed and connected while providing support to the current student/athletes.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A BOISE STATE BRONCO? The level of integrity and pride associated with being a Boise State Bronco is second to none. There are a lot of people around the country intrigued by the Broncos and want to know how the success has been achieved…The Bronco Way: leadership, integrity, sacrifice and an unmatched level of dedication to the common goal.

Boise State Athletics is pleased to announce the launch of the new Boise State Athletic Career Network powered by Career Athletes.

The Boise State Athletic Career Network is an online resource that allows current and former student-athletes to research and apply for employment opportunities with companies who wish to hire former student-athletes. If you or your company would like more information, about posting your careers and hiring former Broncos please contact:

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