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The Varsity B Spring 2012 newsletter is 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.

A First for the Varsity B Club

By Michel Bourgeau, Varsity B Coordinator

THE VARSITY B CLUB was thrilled to welcome the first four year class of seniors from the upstart Bronco softball team. Head Coach Erin Thorpe has done a fantastic job getting Bronco softball on the Boise State map. These young women are now joining the Varsity B ranks after spending four years on the Bronco softball team. They have been great role models and we are looking forward to helping support them as they move into life after Bronco softball. – Go Broncos!

Bronco Football Alum Donates $1 Million to Football Complex

By Max Corbet

FORMER BOISE JUNIOR COLLEGE football player Bryant Lemon and his family, along with Boise State University, have announced a $1 million donation to the Bronco Football Complex.

The Lemon family requested the donation be mainly designated for the new recruiting lounge in order to make it a memorable highlight when visiting the new Bronco football complex. The “Bryant Lemon Recruiting Lounge” will be located at the north end of Bronco Stadium, when the facility is completed in the summer of 2013.

Ground was broken on the $22 million football complex this past month. The 68,000-square-foot,
state-of-the-art, two story building will include coaches’ offices, meeting rooms, recruiting and player’s lounges, academic center, weight room, athletic training room, equipment room and a locker room for the Bronco team.

“The Lemon family’s generosity in supporting our student-athletes is greatly appreciated,” Bronco head football coach Chris Petersen stated. “It’s great when former student-athletes remain involved in our program. Their willingness to give back is proof they valued their time at Boise State.”

Lemon, a native of Boise, played for former Bronco head football coach and athletic director Lyle Smith in 1953 and 1954, helping Boise Junior College to a two-year record of 17-1-1.

Following his career at BJC, Lemon received his undergraduate degree in civil engineering from the University of Idaho in 1958, and his master’s degree in engineering administration from George Washington University in 1961. He worked on many high-profile projects throughout the United States before forming BRYCON Corporation in 1990, one of the Southwest’s largest industrial contractors.

Chairman and CEO of BRYCON, Lemon has guided the company into one of the largest clean room contractors in the Southwest. A full-service general contractor, BRYCON has performed successful projects for a multitude of clients in industries such as advanced technology, manufacturing, industrial, cleanroom, healthcare and office build-out.

Bill Lemon, President of BRYCON, stated his father is one of Boise State’s biggest fans.

“He has watched the growth and development of the program for many years. It is with great pleasure we are able to support the future advancement of Boise State and its athletic program in my Dad’s name.”

BRYCON is located in Rio Rancho, N.M., a suburb of Albuquerque.

Former Bronco soccer star Amy Dunn played for the Broncos from 2000 to 2003.

By Maureen (Shea) Brewer (Soccer 2002-2006)

THE BRONCO SOCCER family lost one of their own this spring. Amy Dunn, who played soccer for the Broncos from 2000-2003, lost her fight with melanoma on the afternoon of March 31, 2012, surrounded by family and friends. Her Bronco teammates held a candlelight vigil to say goodbye the following evening and her life was celebrated at a memorial service on April 9. Hundreds came to commemorate their teammate, friend, teacher, and coach.

This year’s alumni soccer weekend, held April 27-29, was held in tribute to Amy. Current players and alumni participated in skin cancer screenings and played together in a 7-a-side tournament in Amy’s honor as part of the weekend’s events. The tournament will be played each year to honor and remember her.

Throughout Amy’s 8-month fight, she kept her positive attitude, complete with her infamous wit and sarcasm. She encouraged everyone around her not to wait for life, but to go live it. The day Amy passed away, she woke up long enough to watch a news clip of herself scoring the winning goal for Timberline against Bishop Kelly in the state championship her senior year of high school – a perfect, lasting image. Amy’s impact is already being experienced by those she left behind, inspiring not only the BSU soccer team, but others in the Bronco and Boise community to GET IT DUNN.
Catching up with…

JESSICA (HOBDEY) PERRETTA
SOCCER 2004-2007

Married to...
Vinny Perretta FOOTBALL (2004-2008)

HOMETOWN: (Where did you grow up and where do you live?) Pocatello, Idaho and currently living in Boise.

DEGREES: BA Communication & MPE Athletic Administration.

FAMILY: Vinny, Jess and Louie (our yellow lab)

JOB: Boise State University; Athletic-Academic Services

FONDEST MEMORY AS A STUDENT: Freshman year dorm life, it was all about survival and making lasting friendships. I met Vinny for the first time in the dorms and the student-athletes from “Chaffee D Block” were all at or in our wedding.

FONDEST MEMORY AS A BOISE STATE STUDENT-ATHLETE: 2007 Win in double over time at Utah State to give us 2nd seed in the WAC tourney as well as everyday locker room time with the girls.

FAVORITE PLACE ON CAMPUS: PRECO

HOW HAS THE UNIVERSITY AND ATHLETICS CHANGED SINCE YOU LEFT? The campus as a whole has changed immensely from new construction alone; I think there are about 15 new structures up within the past eight years.

LIFE AFTER BOISE STATE? Life is great and we are settled in northeast Boise. We can’t get enough of what Boise has to offer as a community as well as the abundance of outdoor activities. We spend the majority of our free time outdoors with our yellow lab “Louie” in the foothills, on the greenbelt, or in the river.

WHAT STANDS OUT THE MOST ABOUT BOISE STATE? The mentality to never be complacent and always work to get better even when things are good.

WHAT OTHER SPORTS DO YOU MOST ENJOY WATCHING? March Madness

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE VARSITY B CLUB? Varsity B is a great way to stay in contact with former teammates as well as members from other teams who you spent a lot of time with as an athlete. We have both built friendships with other alumni members who we did not get to play with but, share a special common bond as alum.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A BOISE STATE BRONCO? We are very proud to call ourselves Boise State Broncos and the university as a whole means a great deal to both of us. “Once a Bronco always a Bronco”.

Maureen Brewer second from left relaxes with Bronco soccer alums and Varsity prior to 7 on 7 game.

Both Varsity and Alumni gladly gather for a group shot holding Amy Dunn’s framed jersey.
When Hoops Turned the Corner

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO there was really no reason to sense a seismic shift in Boise State basketball. Sure, the Broncos had lured Coach Bobby Dye to the Pavilion several years earlier—the same Dye who had taken Cal State Fullerton on a memorable ride to the NCAA Elite Eight in 1978. But despite some milestone upsets, Dye was frustrated after finishing second in recruiting battles for players who would have been program-changers and he had to settle for records in the .500 neighborhood his first three seasons.

But even before Dye’s roster came together for the 1986-87 season, Boise State fans seemed to know something was up. The peach-fuzzed Broncos were 12-16 in 1985-86 and were led in scoring by true freshman Chris Childs. They had averaged 86,587 mostly hostile fans in his ear, Kellen Moore coolly guided Boise State down the field in 22-8—the best yet to that point. The Broncos were swept in the Big Sky’s most difficult road swing at Montana State and Montana, partly because they didn’t yet realize how good they were. But they would avenge those losses in February in the Pavilion. The Broncos had a one-point lead in the final seconds when Utah’s Albert Springs drove the length of the floor and was fouled by Jones. With 10,000+ fans screaming at him, Springs missed both free throws to preserve BSU’s victory.

The thrilling triumph sent Boise State to Seattle to face Washington at Hec Edmundson Pavilion in the second round. The Broncos led by three at the half but ended up being called for a staggering 31 personal fouls in the game. Jones, Jeff Kelley and Greg Dodd all fouled out, hurting BSU down the stretch. Chris Childs’ 21 points weren’t enough, and the Huskies won, 73-68. The season finished at 22-8—the best yet to that point.

Coach Leon Rice’s recently-completed second season at Boise State was eerily similar to the one that preceded the 1986-87 breakout. The Broncos were also four games under .500. Their leading scorer was also a true freshman, Anthony Drmic. Now, Rice hopes to guide another talented young Bronco team to a similar breakout. And he’s been reaching out to fans to buy in the way they did a quarter century ago.

A shocking one-point loss ushered the Broncos out in the first round of the Big Sky Tournament, but they earned the first NIT berth in school history, nevertheless. On March 11, 1987, before what is still considered to be the loudest crowd in Pavilion history, Boise State beat Utah, 62-61, in its first-ever NIT game. The Broncos had a one-point lead in the final seconds when Utah’s Albert Springs drove the length of the floor and was fouled by Jones. With 10,000+ fans screaming at him, Springs missed both free throws to preserve BSU’s victory.

The key additions to the squad that season were Doug Usitalo, the floor-slapping point guard who set the tone defensively, and Arnell Jones, the junior college transfer at power forward who was a menace around the basket. Jones led the team in scoring six straight times in December, including back-to-back 30-point games and three double-doubles, as BSU started the season 8-1. The Broncos had glued together, and the fans had bought in.

By mid-January, Boise State had logged its first-ever Pavilion sellout, with 12,225 attending the Idaho game. The Broncos were swept in the Big Sky’s most difficult road swing at Montana State and Montana, partly because they didn’t yet realize how good they were. But they would avenge those losses in February in the Pavilion. The Broncos had a one-point lead in the final seconds when Utah’s Albert Springs drove the length of the floor and was fouled by Jones. With 10,000+ fans screaming at him, Springs missed both free throws to preserve BSU’s victory.

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ANOTHER SEASON rolls around and there are many tears shed and hugs exchanged as the senior Bronco student-athletes realize that it is the end of the road for their collegiate athletic careers. Some are already looking to the future, and some are trying to understand what just happened.

The spring 2012 graduation reception took place on May 11th in the Stueckle Sky Center with over 250 people in attendance. The simple ceremony and many photos taken were the start of a new life as a former Bronco student-athlete and a new Varsity B Club member.

The Lyle Smith scholar athlete awards were won by gymnast Amy Glass and track star, Curt Felix. The Varsity B honorary captain awards were awarded to soccer alum Liz Ruiz and former wrestler, Kirk Smith.

The message from athletic director Mark Coyle was simple but heartfelt: “Thank you for all you have done for Boise State.” The Varsity B Club encourages recent graduates to reach out to athletic alumni and make them part of the graduates network.

— Once a Bronco, Always a Bronco!
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.

Cindy (McArthur) Martin was recognized as the Varsity B honorary captain for the U of Wyoming women’s basketball game on February 25 at Taco Bell Arena.

Former Bronco teammates Janie Bos (Arvides Hurricanes) and Tasha Harris (BV Wolfenbüttel Wildcats) both played in the Premier basketball league in Germany this past season. Tasha led her team to the championship while averaging over 14 points per game.

Former Bronco legend Coach Smith poses with former BJC football player Jimmie Coulson.

Varsity B honorary captain Mike Sanor salutes the crowd at Taco Bell arena during the pre-game introductions prior to the San Diego State basketball game.
Varsity B moment for four Bronco golfing seniors. From left to right: Taylor Porter, Katie Somers, Scott Spiewak, and Maria Santisteban.

Three Bronco tennis seniors are honored by the Varsity B club at the last home match of the season. Damian Hume, Erik Sheldon, and James Meredith will leave Boise State with a Mountain West conference championship.

Graduating Bronco football star Kyle Efaw (center) accepted the Lyle Smith Scholar Athlete award at the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame (Southern Idaho chapter) on April 28th in Boise. With Kyle is his girlfriend Brittany Miller and Coach Lyle Smith.

Send your photos and info to:
Michel Bourgeau, Varsity B Club Coordinator
Varsity B Club
1910 University Dr., Boise, ID 83725-1020
michelbourgeau@boisestate.edu
208-426-5440

www.varsityb.com
ALLEN DYKMAN received an honorary doctorate at Boise State’s May 12 Commencement ceremony at Taco Bell Arena. Dykman, a 1974 graduate in economics, is the only person to have served as president of the Bronco Athletic Association, the Alumni Association and the Boise State Foundation. He also co-chaired the university’s first-ever comprehensive campaign and currently is working with the Alumni Association to raise funds for a new Alumni and Friends Center.

Speaking to a capacity crowd, Dykman noted the many changes at Boise State University since his graduation in 1974, including a booming student population and the growth of computer science. He encouraged students to adapt to change and always move forward.

“Do the best you can do, whatever your choices. If you want to be successful, do one thing better than anyone else,” he said.

During the ceremony, the largest ever for the university, a record 11 doctoral degrees and more than 2,400 bachelor and masters degrees were awarded in front of a capacity crowd that topped 13,000.
COACH PETE and the Varsity B Club hosted the third annual Gridiron Social on April 13th at the Stueckle Sky Center. Close to 300 Bronco football alums turned out for a good old-fashioned-comin’-together of both young and old Broncos, to hear what Coach Pete has up his sleeve, now that Kellen Moore is a Varsity B member. Seventy one years of Bronco football were represented. Coach Lyle Smith excitably noticed that there was a player from each of his teams in attendance. Next year’s Gridiron Social will be scheduled the evening before the spring Blue and Orange game.

— Go Broncos!
THE VARSITY B CLUB, the alumni club for former Bronco student-athletes, band, cheer, Mane Line, and sport medicine graduates, is pleased to announce that former Bronco, Butch Henry, (football 1980-1983), Construction Management graduate (1985) and his wife Jerri Henry, College of Business graduate of the year (Accounting 1983) and Top Ten Scholar, are making a $100,000 commitment to Boise State Athletics.

The financial commitment from Butch and Jerri will be in the form of a matching fund and an incentive for all Varsity B members to give back to Boise State athletics.

All dues-paying Varsity B members in good standing are eligible to get their donation matched up to $10,000.

“We are very excited about the direction of the Boise State athletic program, and wanted to give back to Boise State while encouraging other Varsity B members to do the same.”

– Jerri and Butch Henry

“Butch and Jerri came up with the concept of matching funds to help stimulate something they truly believe in: Having more former Broncos rallying around the current athletic department, as we grow to meet the challenges of joining new conferences. The Varsity B club is honored to help facilitate their gift to Boise State athletics.”

– Michel Bourgeau, Varsity B Club Coordinator

“Thank you Mr. and Mrs. Henry. Your support and commitment will have a positive impact on more than 450 student-athletes who represent Boise State.”

– Mark Coyle, Athletic Director
WITH ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL season under our belts for Boise State Gymnastics, it seems like it is the time of year to reflect on what was accomplished and where we’ve been. On the alumni front, head coaches, Neil Resnick & Tina Bird, kicked off the season with a Bronco Gymnastics Alumni Reunion, sponsored by the VARSITY B, as an organized effort to bring together Bronco Gymnasts for the first time in a few years. It was great to see so many gymnasts attend this function which included a pre-meet gathering on Friday, a designated alumni section at the opening competition of the 2012 season, and a breakfast and new facility tour on Saturday morning.

The alumni who attended had the opportunity to meet new Athletic Director, Mark Coyle, and to see the newest Bronco facilities that are popping up all over our campus! We also were able to get a peek at the 2012 Gymnastics team who went on to earn a final ranking of 14th in the nation with a 3rd place finish at Regionals. Boise State also experienced some new records this year with Senior Amy Glass finishing her career on a high note, becoming the first ever AAI award winner (they call it the “Heisman Trophy” of NCAA Gymnastics), a vault regional champion, national qualifier in the all-around, and being named Second Team All-American on beam. The Bronco Gymnastics legacy continues to make us alum proud to be part of such an amazing program!

The gymnastics alumni were loud and proud at the first home meet of the 2012 season…a win over Washington!
Catching up with…

MIKE SANOR
BASKETBALL 1986-1989

HOMETOWN: (Where did you grow up and where do you live?) Born and raised right here in the Treasure Valley. (Still live in Boise).

DEGREES: BA Computer Information Systems, AA Business Marketing

FAMILY: Married (Christy (Martin) Sanor) Kids: Kelsey, Andre’, Sydney, Dante’ & Camden.

JOB: Compatibility and Performance Lab Manager with Crucial.com (Division of Micron) 17 years.

FONDEST MEMORY AS A STUDENT: Professor Richard Payne Economics. (Everything is about Supply and Demand, and the effect on competition, price and supply).

FONDEST MEMORY AS A BOISE STATE STUDENT-ATHLETE: As cool as it was to play in the NCAA tournament in 1988. The prior year in the NIT vs Utah (1987) and the AMAZING crowd support that showed up for that team still gives me chills!

FAVORITE PLACE ON CAMPUS: Chaffee Hall seemed to always be a location I ended up at. (Never lived there)

THOUGHTS ON COACHES: Rod Jensen has been and continues to be one of the favorite coaches I have had in all my playing days. Bobby Dye's dry sense of humor is much more appreciated as I entered the post college world. I also had a great relationship with Dave Leach (prior to coach Dye) and a close friendship with Greg Graham and his family as our kids played together and against each other from Elementary through High School.

HOW HAS THE UNIVERSITY AND ATHLETICS CHANGED SINCE YOU LEFT? The facilities are greatly improved and watching the talent of the players that show up year in and year out is impressive.

LIFE AFTER BOISE STATE? I have worked in the computer field since leaving Boise State. I started a non-profit sports program for kids, to give back to the community that supported me, Rise Up Sports! in 2006.

WHAT STANDS OUT THE MOST ABOUT BOISE STATE? The growth of the University as a whole. The national notoriety around the football program has brought in kids that may have never considered Boise State before.

WHAT OTHER SPORTS DO YOU MOST ENJOY WATCHING? Football, Basketball, or any sports that my kids are playing!

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE VARSITY B CLUB? I like the re-connection to the University that the Varsity B provides to alumni athletes. For a long time the former Bronco players that I watched and played with were gone-and-forgotten.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A BOISE STATE BRONCO? Being part of a history that is bigger than anything any of us could have done on our own.