Celebrating the Power of IX with the Women of the Varsity B

By Michel Bourgeau, Varsity B Coordinator

ON DECEMBER 7th the Varsity B Club, in conjunction with the AAUW (American Association of University Women), celebrated the 40 year anniversary of Title IX. Former Bronco women student-athletes, including the starting five from the 1970 basketball team, came out to participate and recognize former Bronco women’s athletic director and Coach Connie Thorngren.

Connie Thorngren coached many student-athletes from 1970 to 1983 at Boise State. Connie introduced women’s volleyball, track & field, basketball, and field hockey at Boise State in the early seventies. Thorngren eventually focused all her energy as the Bronco women’s basketball coach until she retired in 1983. In 1975, Thorngren’s basketball team won the Northwest Large College Tournament, and went on to play in Harrisonburg, Virginia, in the Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women National Tournament. There is no question that Connie Thorngren led the charge for women athletics at Boise State when Title IX was implemented in 1972.

“Women and girls have always wanted to participate in athletics. Title IX dramatically increased those opportunities and every year female athletes demonstrate their amazing abilities at higher and higher levels. I personally feel most rewarded by the success our former athletes have had in life and the credit many give to their role as team members and leaders. These are experiences equally valuable to men and women and one of the reasons it is so important to celebrate and remember the passing of Title IX legislation.”

– Connie Thorngren

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Several entries were considered, but in the end, Melissa Dahl Phillips (volleyball 1990-1994) prevailed. Melissa’s costume coordination and striking disco pose, complimented by her husband Jay, was enough to be selected by the Varsity B panel. Melissa who lives in the Seattle area, will be receiving a special Varsity B gift pack. Congratulations, Melissa!

Boise State Flag of Champions Takes Off!

By Dale Fackler and Rod Couch

THE IDEA of developing a flag of champions for Boise State began with the military tradition of battle or campaign flags being carried onto the parade field along with the State and National Flags. These flags designated the branch of the military, such as Army, Navy, Marines, etc., and were adorned with streamers naming the various battle victories of the branch, such as Normandy, Tarawa, Guadalcanal, Okinawa, etc.

Following this battle flag tradition of the military, the idea of developing a Flag of Champions for Bronco Athletics was born. It was decided the Flag should be a white flag with gold trim and show the Bronco logo. Streamers, representing various Bronco athletic championships won in all sports from the inception of the school in 1932 to the present date, adorn the Flag. The criteria for streamer eligibility was established as, Conference Championships, Bowl Championships, Team Tournament Championships, Team National Championships, Individual National Championships.

Research, using the above criteria, showed that some 165 streamers would be required to bring the Flag of Champions up to the date of its first presentation in Bronco Stadium. Since the time of that presentation, the Broncos have won the Mountain West Conference Football Championship and an additional streamer will be added to reflect this latest win.

The Flag will accompany the National and State flags during the presentation of the colors at all athletic events. When not in use at athletic events, the flag will be on display in the Allen Noble Hall of Fame at Bronco Stadium. The Flag is especially a source of pride for those individuals who were responsible for and were there during those championships. The Varsity B Club will help facilitate future ceremonies where former Bronco student-athletes will be able to assist in updating the Flag of Champions with new championship streamers.

Bronco legend Coach Lyle Smith is very proud of Boise State University’s athletic accomplishments.
WHAT OTHER SPORTS DO YOU MOST ENJOY WATCHING?
I love watching athletes compete at their highest potential but my favorite sport is college football.

THOUGHTS ON COACHES:
I admire the consistency in the soccer program. I’m proud to look at the program now and see that fundamentally it is the same and I was a part of building that along with my teammates and players before me. Thanks to Steve Lucas and the athletic dept the only thing that has changed is the players’ names. And the gear!

LIFE AFTER BOISE STATE?
It’s great! I would go back and live those 4 years at BSU all over again but growing up hasn’t been that bad in the last 5 ½ years. Living the student-athlete life was a privilege while it lasted. My teammates have become lifelong friends. For the last 3 years I’ve been fortunate to genuinely love going to work every day for a great company. I’ve given up soccer and have put my energy towards learning a new sport – triathlons. I completed my first Ironman in June 2012 in memory of BSU teammate Amy Dunn.

WHAT STANDS OUT THE MOST ABOUT BOISE STATE?
I recommend BSU to everyone I talk to. Boise is an extremely affordable place to live during college, it is safe, there is a major airport right up the hill, enough outdoor entertainment to keep you busy all year long and the athletic department makes it very difficult to not rally behind. I can’t say enough great things about BSU. I’m very thankful I made the choice to attend BSU.

WHAT OTHER SPORTS DO YOU MOST ENJOY WATCHING?
I love watching athletes compete at their highest potential but my favorite sport is college football.

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE VARSITY B CLUB?
I think the VB Club is a great network for former BSU athletes. I know just where to go if I need information and the members all have something special in common – being former BSU student-athletes.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A BOISE STATE BRONCO?
Being a Boise State Bronco means that I put in the work in the classroom and on the field for four years. I got out exactly what I put in. I learned life lessons on the field and during fitness mostly about perseverance and grinding it out. It means I have a network of lifelong friends who are just a phone call away. Those memories will last a lifetime.
It can’t be the 10th anniversary, can it?

TIME FLIES when you’re having fun, Bronco Nation. It’s already been 10 years since the 2002 Boise State football team strutted together some unforgettable firsts. Topping the list was the Broncos’ first-ever appearance in the national rankings, a place Boise State has visited at some point in every season since.

Coach Dan Hawkins set the Top 25 as one of his primary visions when he took over the program from Dirk Koetter after the 2000 season. Even though Bronco fans had experienced a taste of what was to come with back-to-back Big West championships and Humanitarian Bowl victories, it still seemed like a pipe dream to many. The 2001 campaign was encouraging, but it ended at 8-4—one deflected pass away from a WAC title and without a bowl invitation. Hawkins embraced the slogan “Leave No Doubt” in the offseason, and his team did, too. And there was great anticipation with quarterback Ryan Dinwiddie entering his junior year.

After a 38-21 season-opening win over Idaho, Boise State made the trek to Fayetteville to face Arkansas, a team it lost to by only seven points two years earlier. The Razorbacks were ready, though, and Dinwiddie went down with a broken ankle in a 41-14 loss. Backup B.J. Rhode was thrown into the fire, but he guided the Broncos to wins over Wyoming, Utah State, and Tulsa, improving their season telecast from the blue turf. Rhode started the game and staked the Broncos to a 13-0 lead. But then, sooner than anyone expected, Dinwiddie returned from his injury. He threw for 406 yards and five touchdowns in less than three quarters, and Boise State annihilated the Bulldogs, 67-21.

The Broncos now had the nation’s attention, and they built on it with 37-point and 55-point road wins at San Jose State and UTEP, respectively. They were bubbling under the rankings with Rice coming to town November 9. The Owls had blistered Boise State with their option attacked in 2001 in a 45-14 rout in Houston. It was different on the blue turf, as the Broncos blasted Rice, 49-7. The next day, they were voted No. 23 in the Coaches Poll and would enter the AP Poll the next week.

There were firsts still to come: Boise State’s first WAC championship, its first 12-win season as a Division I-A school, and its first victory over a BCS school, the 34-16 Humanitarian Bowl triumph over Iowa State. The Broncos topped 45 points per game for the first time, and the offense averaged more than 500 yards a game for the first time in 28 years.

All the while, tailback Brock Forsey had turned into an unprecedented scoring machine, leading the nation in touchdowns with 32, at that time second only to Barry Sanders in Division I-A history. Forsey, the one-time walk-on from Centennial High School, was named WAC Offensive Player of the Year. And safety Quintin Mikell wrapped up his sensational Boise State career with WAC Defensive Player of the Week honors. Two more pillars of a 2002 Bronco team that was as fun to watch as any.

The Passing of Former Broncos

ROBERT (BOB) SIMMONS
passed away on Dec. 25, 2012. Bob was a passionate Bronco who was 91 years old at the time of his death. Bob played football for the Broncos in 1940 and 1941 under Coach Harry Jacoby. Bob always looked forward to attending the annual spring Varsity B Gridiron Socials.

GEORGE L. TAVARES
Former Bronco football alumnus and the first Hawaiian student-athlete to play for the Broncos from 1952 to 1954, passed away on November 17, 2012, at his home in Caldwell.

George was very appreciative of Coach Lyle Smith giving him the opportunity to be a Bronco. George was always in attendance at several Varsity B functions.

MITCH TAYLOR
Former Bronco wrestler 1985-1987 passed away on November 17, 2012. Mitch was a fierce competitor for Bronco wrestling. He wrestled for Coach Mike Young. Mitch was 47 years old and lived in Glenns Ferry, Idaho.
The Maaco Bowl 2012 in Las Vegas was the third trip for the Broncos and the Varsity B Club was glad to share in the third win, as the Broncos defeated the U of Washington Huskies on December 22nd.

Several Varsity B members were in attendance and enjoyed the pre and post game festivities.

Former Broncos Keith Walk-Green and Jason Payne pose with the Blu Kaboy at the Varsity B social at Hard Rock Casino.

Former Bronco and Blue Elvis for the day, Rico Austin, high fived many Broncos during the Maaco Bowl football game.

Post-game celebration at Maaco Bowl…New Year’s confetti came early.

The Bronco cheer team was in high-flying form…perfect view from the Varsity B section at Sam Boyd Stadium.
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.
The Varsity B honorary captain, Jessica (Hobdey) Perretta, is recognized at the final home soccer match of the season against Nevada.

 Sideline Shot – Antwan Murray, Cedric Febis, and Brandyn Thompson congratulate Rod and Ryan Stearns on being the Varsity B honorary captains for the Colorado State game.

 Varsity B tailgate in Hawaii brings old teammates Doug Scott, Kauhi Hookano, and Carleton Ching together for some pupus and beverages prior to the football game at Aloha Stadium.

 The Bronco women’s soccer team ham it up as they celebrate eight soccer seniors who are on their way to the Varsity B.

 Former Bronco volleyball star, Sandy (Stewart) Winters, was the Varsity B honorary captain for the Wyoming game. Way to go, Sandy!

 Varsity B honorary captains Nick Schlekeway and Alex Toyos walk to center field for the Black Out coin toss vs. UNLV.

 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
Football Alumni Shines on the Next Level

by Elite Sports Society LLC

RYAN CLADY – ONCE A BRONCO, ALWAYS A BRONCO!
The 2012 NFL season was Clady’s fifth and maybe most memorable of them all, as he and the Denver Broncos finished the season on an 11-game winning streak earning them the title of AFC West Champions and home field advantage in the NFL playoffs. As Clady has done in all 5 seasons of his career he proved his durability by starting all 16 games of the season. Clady was an anchor on the Broncos’ offensive line, which allowed quarterback Peyton Manning time to make the plays he needed to win games and possibly the NFL’s Most Valuable Player award. Clady ended the season tied as the top offensive lineman in the category of sacks allowed, allowing only 1 sack in the 2012 season. Clady’s performance was noticed and rewarded by Pro Bowl voters as he was named to the 2012 AFC Pro Bowl roster. In 2012 Clady’s tremendous work was not limited to just the football field. Clady’s non profit the Sharon Kemp Clady foundation found ways to impact both the Denver and Boise communities by funding two special Christmas miracles where five less fortunate families were granted their holiday wishes.

DOUG MARTIN - #22 SETS THE BAR HIGH IN TAMPA.
In his rookie season with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers Doug Martin not only provide some of the best performances in the 2012 season, but he also proved that he is top tier starting NFL running back. Martin rushed for 1,454 yards on 319 carries, a solid average of 4.6 yards per game, while rushing for over 100 yards 5-times in the season. Martin rushed for 11 touchdowns, which tied him for 5th among all running backs. Martin showed the NFL his versatility as a running back by hauling in 49 receptions for 492 yards and 1 touchdown. Martin’s most impressive performance came in week 9 against the Oakland Raiders as he rushed for 253 yards and 4 touchdowns, which broke multiple team records. It is safe to say that this 31st overall pick in the 2012 NFL Draft will be making those teams that passed on him pay for years to come. Off the field Doug has become a fan favorite and his name and brand of football promises to be a staple in the Tampa Bay community for years to come.

Elite Sports Society, LLC (ESS) is a professional athlete brand-marketing agency that offers individualized services to professional athletes. At ESS, we feel that the need of personal off-the-field brand management and strategic marketing is essential to any professional athlete’s long-term success. ESS will provide dedicated services to expand lasting connections that both athletes and business can benefit from, for years to come.
ON A PLEASANT OCTOBER AFTERNOON, the annual Gus Urresti golf scramble took place at the Warm Springs Golf Course. About 140 golfers showed up to compete for the ultimate prize. The fivesome of Jeff Black, Brett Job, Mark Jones, Greg Stevenson and Don Vandegrift managed the best net score, while Eric Andrade, Danny Weeks, Colby Halker, Mike Burns and Lee Schrack finished with the best gross score. The annual event was successful in raising $13,000 for the Gus Urresti scholarship endowment, which will help a fifth year football student-athlete achieve graduation. Be sure to make plans to participate in next year’s Gus Urresti!

– Go Broncos!

The top gross winners strike a pose from left to right: Danny Weeks, Mike Burns, Colby Halker, Eric Andrade, and Lee Schrack.

Former Broncos huddle around Coach Lyle Smith; Jim Lynch, Jerry Mahoney, and Don Neves.

Tournament Director, Rich Urresti (right) and Rocky Lima (left) thank Coach Lyle Smith for his inspirational words right before the shotgun start.
Since the Butch and Jerri Henry Varsity B matching fund was established in April of 2012, over $100,000 dollars have been donated to Boise State athletics by Varsity B members. These donated dollars have generously been matched by Butch and Jerry Henry, who set up the $100,000 matching fund in hopes of encouraging other former Broncos to give back to Boise State athletics. Butch and Jerri's Boise State pride was at an all time high when they received notice that their $100,000 matching fund had been exhausted, proving that former Broncos are making monetary contributions to help Boise State athletics reach new heights at a national level.

Here are a few examples of how the Butch and Jerri Henry Varsity B matching fund has made a huge difference at Boise State.

Kevin and Virginia Dunn, the parents of former Bronco soccer star Amy Dunn, established a scholarship endowment in Amy’s name as a memorial to her after she passed away due to melanoma cancer in March of 2012.

“We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Varsity B Club for all they do for Boise State athletics and their members. We were excited to see that Butch and Jerri Henry came up with a unique way to give back via their matching funds program. It certainly meant a lot to us to be able to take advantage of their generosity to jump start the Amy Dunn #14 Soccer Scholarship endowment fund in honor of our daughter. Amy was always one to pay it forward and being able to continue her legacy at Boise State at this level so soon, makes us feel very proud to be associated with such great people.”

- Thanks, Kevin & Virginia Dunn

Former Bronco men’s golfer, Graham DeLaet (2001-2005), currently on the pro tour, was very generous when he donated back to the Bronco golf program to help head coach, Kevin Burton, meet his objectives for the 2012-2013 golf season.

“We’d like to personally thank Butch and Jerri on their generous gift to Boise State athletics. As an ex Boise State golfer, I know how tight the golf budget is. It is a huge deal to Men’s golf to receive any donation alone, but to pair it with a match from the Henry’s is extra special. Go Bronco!”

- Ruby and Graham DeLaet

Former Bronco football star and Boise State hall of fame defensive end, Doug Scott, established the Doug Scott Scholarship Endowment in support of Football. Doug Scott (1976-1979) felt that the opportunity that Boise State provided him in athletics and academics made a huge impact on his life.

“The Butch and Jerri Henry are unanimous Varsity B All Stars in my book. It is members like these two who inspire us all. I truly believe, if all my past fellow brother & sister student-athletes at Boise State thought hard about the opportunity Boise State gave us, and how it helped define who we are today, perhaps more former Broncos like Butch and Jerri would step forward to financially support our school.”

- Doug Scott

The Varsity B Club and Boise State athletics would like to thank Butch and Jerri Henry for their generous matching gifts. They are the shining example for: “Once a Bronco, Always a Bronco!”

-- Go Broncos!
HOMETOWN: (Where did you grow up and where do you live?) I grew up in Spokane, WA. We now live in Boise.


FONDEST MEMORY AS A STUDENT: Meeting great friends and faculty, quarterback in first BHU/U of I game, co-founding Idaho student lobby.

FONDEST MEMORY AS A BOISE STATE STUDENT-ATHLETE: Winning the unofficial small college national football championship in 1973!

FAVORITE PLACE ON CAMPUS: College of Business and Economics (COBE).

THOUGHTS ON COACHES: Tony Knap, the original pioneering genius of “wide open football.”

HOW HAS THE UNIVERSITY AND ATHLETICS CHANGED SINCE YOU LEFT? We still win with class and character, now everybody knows it.

LIFE AFTER BOISE STATE? I have been very fortunate. Great family all played college athletics and obtained postgraduate degrees.

WHAT STANDS OUT THE MOST ABOUT BOISE STATE? Consistent achievement while ever challenging itself in every new area.

WHAT OTHER SPORTS DO YOU MOST ENJOY WATCHING? Tennis and basketball.

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE VARSITY B CLUB? The unique commitment of athletes doesn’t end at graduation. Michel figured it out and is doing a great job.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A BOISE STATE BRONCO? Pride.

Art Berry Enters NWAACC Hall of Fame—In August of 2012, the Northwest Athletic Association Conference of Community Colleges (NWAACC) announced five 2012 hall of fame inductees. Included was Art Berry (Boise State BBA 1973, MBA 1980). Berry is the holder of 11 all-time career passing records at the conference and junior college level, while at Community Colleges of Spokane (CCS). He started games at quarterback for Boise State in 1971 and 1972 and was Boise State alumni Association president in 1979.
BOISE STATE WOMEN’S swimming and diving welcomed back 18 alumnae for the inaugural Boise State Alumnae Meet Saturday, Oct. 20, as part of the University’s homecoming week activities. The Broncos in attendance represented each of the first six years of the program.

Broncos past and present teamed up in the water with half of the 2012-13 roster and half of the alumnae forming the Orange Team, while the other half made up the Blue Team. Participating alumnae competed in the relays as well as 50-yard events in each stroke.

The Orange Team used strong performances in the relay events to hang on for a 146-123 win. Orange took the top three spots in the 200-yard medley relay and the top two positions in the 200-yard freestyle relay.

Stephanie North (2008-12) turned in the best individual performance by an alumna. North tied with current Bronco, Jessica Bottelberghe, for the win in the 50-yard freestyle with a time of 23.89.

The alumnae festivities wrapped up at halftime of the Homecoming football game against UNLV when the 2011-12 Mountain West Champion Broncos were presented with their championship rings.

— Go Broncos!