IT WAS A DIFFERENT FIESTA
by Tom Scott

The magic of Boise State’s appearance in the 2014 Fiesta Bowl was in the element of surprise. It was, of course, the Broncos’ third trek to Glendale, Ariz., but it may have been the most exhilarating.

In 2006, the first Boise State Fiesta Bowl season, it was evident by the end of September that something special was going on in Chris Petersen’s first season. The Broncos, blessed with outstanding senior leadership, ended the month by taking apart a good Utah team 36-3 in Salt Lake City. The season took off from there—then came the capper, the 43-42 win over Oklahoma that remains arguably the best game in college football history.

The second Fiesta Bowl season came in 2009, and there was a lot being taken for granted by the end of September, a month that started with the upset of Oregon on the Blue Turf. Kellen Moore was a sophomore and well on his way to becoming college football’s winningest all-time quarterback. The roster was laden with eventual NFL Draft picks, and few games that season were close. The closest was the finale, when the Broncos edged another undefeated non-BCS team, TCU, 17-10.

But never has a Boise State team shaken off adversity better than this squad. The Broncos started having fun and won a gut-check road game at Nevada by scoring 51 points. In their next two games at Albertsons Stadium, they kept Fresno State at arm’s length and defeated a tough BYU squad. The Broncos weren’t out of the woods even in early November, though, when New Mexico took them apart in the first half in Albuquerque. Boise State blasted back by scoring 60 points and winning its fourth straight game.

MARCH 2015

MARCH
6 Gymnastics vs. Alaska (Senior Night)
7 M BB vs. Fresno St. (Senior Night)
7 W Tennis vs. Denver
7 Softball vs. St. Mary’s & vs. Montana (Home Opener)
9-14 Men’s & Women’s Mountain West Basketball Tourney
17 Lyle Smith’s Birthday (99 years young!)
19-21 NCAA Swimming Championships
19-21 NCAA Wrestling Championships

APRIL
10 Gridiron Social REGISTER AT VARSITYB.COM
11 Spring Game

MAY
2 Boise State Auction
9 Spring Graduation

INSIDE
It Was A Different Fiesta by Tom Scott
Interview with Lee Marks
VARSITY B Moments

continued...
The moment of truth came against San Diego State during the coldest game ever on the Blue Turf. The Aztecs led Boise State 20-0 midway through the second quarter and looked good getting there. It was at that moment the Broncos turned the corner once and for all, outscoring SDSU 38-9 the rest of the way to finally take control of their fate. They beat Wyoming by 49 points and Utah State by 31 to win the Mountain Division and make the Mountain West championship game. And they toppled Fresno State a second time to win the title.

The nation celebrated the return of Boise State when the Fiesta Bowl invitation was doled out, while the Broncos themselves felt they had never left. They certainly looked like their old selves on the big stage when they burst out to a 21-0 lead on Arizona. When the Wildcats repeatedly threatened to overtake Boise State in the second half, the Bronco defense dug deep, especially in the final seconds. It was déjà vu. And so the Golden Era goes.

CATCHING UP WITH LEE MARKS
Football, RB, ’01 - ’05

Hometown: Reseda, CA
Degree: B.S. Psychology, Masters in Education, Teaching
Family: Wife, Kimberly
Job: Boise State Running Backs Coach
Fondest memory as a student? Having an opportunity to develop friendships with students outside of football. Graduating.
Fondest as Student-Athlete? Scoring a TD vs. Hawai’i when we were down 10-0. It was a defining moment in the game (we came back to win) and for me as a player. I became a big part of the offense after that play. Being a part of four conference championships was great too.
Favorite Place on Campus? THE BLUE, of course.
How has Boise State changed since you left? Athletics has helped build a gateway to bring more students to campus, growing the university in all facets, helping my degree become stronger.
Thoughts on Coaches? I was originally recruited as a defensive back, cornerback. Kenny Lawler and Bob Gregory were my coaches till I was sent to running back my sophomore year. I was coached by (now tight end coach) Kent Riddle.
Life After Boise State? I played for the Boise Burn of the Arena League and was ready to go up to Canada and play after. But I was offered a job as assistant strength coach at U of Colorado. Looking back on it now, if I had to do it over again, I would have went up north. I was still in football mode at the time, but then again, I would not be here at Boise State as the running back coach if I had.
What stands out most at Boise State? Doing the little things that no one else does, we say it and actually do it. The community, family atmosphere, the pride of being a Bronco is very relevant.
Other sports you like? Boxing, Track & Field.
VARSITY B Club? Great thing, former players need to be a part of it to help stay connected to Boise State. Great resource for our graduating athletes to network and communicate with, discuss life after Boise State.
What does it mean to be a Bronco? I think about winning, being the best, no selfishness, doing what it takes to be successful. Being a part of Bronco Nation that has built a great reputation across the country. Portray the right things and understands how success is earned. Proud to be a part of it as a student-athlete, continue to be proud as a coach.

VARSITY B MISSION STATEMENT
“TO ENCOURAGE AND PROMOTE THE HERITAGE, TRADITIONS, AND SUCCESS OF BOISE STATE STUDENT-ATHLETES AND BOISE STATE ATHLETICS FOR ALL FORMER BRONCOS; TO HONOR THE LEGACY, AND PRESERVE THE QUALITIES THAT REPRESENT BEING A BOISE STATE BRONCO.”

THREE CORE GOALS
1. PROVIDE SOCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL INTERACTIONS FOR VARSITY B MEMBERS.
2. HELP CURRENT STUDENT-ATHLETES GET A FAST START TO LIFE AFTER ATHLETICS.
3. BE AN AMBASSADOR FOR BOISE STATE ATHLETICS IN THE COMMUNITY.

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A few legends, Kyle Wilson, Ian Johnson, Jared Zabransky, & Alex Guerrero at “Legends of Boise State” event in Scottsdale, Ariz.

Chrissy “Huck” Koennecker, Beckkie Ritchie, Amy “T” Temcio, Amy Kilgore Candiotti, Coach Sam Sandmire, & Lori Braseth enjoying the Beauty & The Beast social.

Kim Metcalf, James Adams, Mike Kilgo, Steve Despot, & Boo Heffner enjoying the Scottsdale night.

Vinny Perretta, Bart Hendricks, & Daryn Colledge taking in the action at the Fiesta Bowl.

Gymnastics & Wrestling alumni gathered for a reunion at Beauty & The Beast.

Women’s Basketball Alumni gathered to celebrate 20 year reunion of 1994 Big Sky Championship team.

Bronco great Bryan Johnson was Fiesta Bowl bound & hosted the VARSITY B tailgate.