The Varsity B Adventure
Reaching out to do more

By Michel Bourgeau, Varsity B Coordinator

The Varsity B has been filling the void, and many former student athletes, band members, maneline dancers, cheerleaders, sports medicine and the parents of student athletes have joined in. The opportunity to get back into the Bronco mix, and be involved on various levels has been enough to demonstrate that starting the Varsity B club has been yet another success by our athletic director, Gene Bleymaier. It is well known that Mr. Bleymaier has been instrumental in the growth and success of the Boise State athletic department. He feels that his job is much easier because of the many solid citizens that Boise Junior College, Boise College, Boise State College, and Boise State University have generated and the legacy that was left by those before him.

As we continue our Varsity B adventure, the socials like the alumni volleyball game, the Bronco Wrestling Club golf tournament, the Gus Urresti – Varsity B golf tournament, and the Bronco Gymnastics Golf Shamble have all been great ways for former Broncos to revisit the old stomping grounds and see how far we have come as a university. Many have asked the question, “How can the Varsity B do more?”

Looking at ways to help and give back to the program that many feel have given us so much, is easy and difficult. How can the Varsity B help? Many ideas were offered. Our Strength Center and Sports Medicine department are two areas that are absolutely key to “building” and “healing” our student athletes. This is why the Varsity B has set up two separate athletic endowments in support of the Strength Center and the Sports Medicine departments. These endowments will generate funds for each department to use as they grow and strive to provide the best attention possible to our student athletes so they can continue to represent Boise State University with the best possible advantages. Gary Craner, Assistant Athletic Director and Director of the Sports Medicine Department, was very touched and excited. So much so, he actually made the first donation to the fund. Tim Socha, our newly hired strength and conditioning coach, was immediately overwhelmed and understood that Bronco Pride is alive and well within the Varsity B. —vb

“The Boise State University and our athletic department are poised for even greater accomplishments as we work together to continue building on the foundation that you have left us. We are extremely grateful and mindful that we count on your involvement and support as we become one of the premier athletic departments in the United States.”

— Gene Bleymaier, Director of Athletics

To make a donation to the Varsity B Strength Center or Sport Medicine endowments, please send donation to:

Varsity B Club
1910 University Dr., Boise, ID 83725-1020
ATT: Varsity B Endowment (Sports Medicine, Strength Center)
John Rade – a student of football and life.  BSU Bronco, Wolverines coach, and former Atlanta Falcons linebacker

—By Terry Smith, Express Staff Writer, Mt. Express Newspaper, Ketchum, ID

When John Rade’s pro career ended, he did something unusual for a retired football player—he went back to school.

Rade, the defensive coordinator for the Wood River High School Wolverines, and a former linebacker for the Atlanta Falcons, was something to prove, not only to his Boise State college professors, but to himself.

Now 46, Rade acknowledges that in his younger days, when he played defensive end at Boise State, he “majored in eligibility.” The second time around though, he took school seriously, retaking classes he’d previously passed, earning 4.0 grade averages, impressing his professors and graduating with a degree in finance.

Rade, who doubles at WRHS as assistant athletic director, is a studious guy. He studies the game of football, he studies academically, and he studies life.

“Sports is about life,” Rade said. “You have successes and you have failures. And you’ve got to learn to be able to deal with both.”

Rade came to WRHS last year with head football coach Mike Glenn. Rade had been Glenn’s defensive coordinator for three years before that at Eagle High School near Meridian.

“I don’t know if it was a package deal,” Rade said. “I just tugged on his coat strings.”

Glenn sees it differently. “I wasn’t going to take this job without him coming up here with me,” Glenn said.

Glenn and Rade have been a winning combination. They had winning seasons at Eagle, and there are high expectations that they’ll make the Wolverines into a winning football team.

Rade is a California native. His father was in the military so he lived in a lot of different places.

He played two years of football at Modesto Junior College before transferring to Boise State University, where he played defensive lineman for the Broncos. He’s now a member of the BSU athletic hall of fame.

In 1983 Rade was an eighth round draft pick by the Falcons. He made the team and played nine seasons at line-backer for Atlanta.

Playing for the Falcons brought out the student in Rade. He’d never played linebacker before, and the only way the position made sense to him was if he studied the entire defense. Eventually he was chosen as a team captain.

“It was a lot of study, and I lived and died football,” Rade said.

Looking back at his pro career, Rade said his one regret is that he was so obsessed with the game that he didn’t really take time to enjoy it enough.

“If I had it to do all over again, I truly would stop and smell the roses,” he said. “I didn’t appreciate what I accomplished, but instead it was just grind, grind, grind and fix all the negatives.”

Rade speaks highly of the Falcon coaches he played for—Dan Henning, Marion Campbell, and especially Jerry Granville, the outspoken former head coach of the Houston Oilers.

“Yeah, I love him,” Rade said. “He was great. He had a carefree attitude. If you were doing the right thing and got beat on a play, he understood and didn’t come down on you. It was all about having fun, and he knew a ton about football. I learned a lot from him.”

Rade was a teammate of such football notables as quarterback Steve Bartkowski, running back Gerald Riggs and cornerback Deion Sanders.

“He was an awesome teammate,” Rade said of Sanders. “He was a very hard working guy. He had his media persona and his teammate persona. And the teammate persona was the real him. I really respected his abilities.”

Bad knees forced Rade onto the injured reserve list in his final year with the Falcons. In 1992 he decided it was time to retire.

After his second college stint, he and former Boise State teammate Paul Unger set up a successful telecommunications business. But football was still in the back of his mind and eventually he sold his half of the business to Unger.

“And then I got the bug back—the football bug,” Rade said. That happened when his son Jared, who is now a junior at WRHS and a middle linebacker for the Wolverines, started playing little league football.

Rade coached youth football for a few years, and eventually met Glenn, who recruited him as a motivational speaker for the Eagle football team.

“One thing led to another, and I became his defensive coordinator,” Rade said.

Rade and Glenn share similar philosophies about football. Both of them see the game as a way to teach kids about life.

“Making an impact on a kid’s life—that is really important to me,” Rade said.

With son Jared playing for the Wolverines, Rade has the unique perspective of being both parent and coach.

On the football field, “I try to take the father out of the picture,” Rade said. “I try to treat him like any other player. Home is father and son, and field is player and coach.”

Rade and his wife Lori, a former Twin Falls resident and Rade’s “college sweetheart,” have purchased a home in Hailey and now consider the Wood River Valley home.

Lori is an assistant counselor at Wood River Middle School. The Rade’s also have a daughter, Jenna, who is studying education at BSU.

Ever the student, in addition to his football and assistant athletic director duties, Rade was a student teacher last year at WRHS. Now, he’s just a week or so away from receiving a teaching certificate in economics and business. —vb
The Soul of the Blue Thunder Band

Interview with Dave “Dr. Blue” Wells

HOMETOWN: Mansfield, Ohio…long time supporter of the Buckeye Band program (Ohio State University).

DEGREES: Ashland University, Ashland, Ohio, Bachelor of Music Education; Kent State University; VanderCook College of Music/Chicago, IL., Masters of Music Education

FAMILY: Wife, Lavaughn R. Wells – non traditional marriage of 45 years and counting. Two sons, Steven Wells – Boise Idaho, Scott Wells – Atlanta. Two grandchildren, Christopher and Nicholas.

WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO BOISE STATE AND WHEN? The challenge and the great opportunity.

FONDEST MEMORY AS BAND DIRECTOR? Making my parents proud of me…

FAVORITE PLACE ON CAMPUS: Any place you find members of the Blue Thunder band program and Bronco sports.

HOW HAS THE UNIVERSITY CHANGED SINCE YOU JOINED? They have taken the University to a completely different level. Paving the way for the future of Boise State.

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE REMEMBERED AT BOISE STATE? Being the faculty member who was willing to listen and give whatever is needed to help young people through tough times.

THOUGHTS ON FORMER BAND MEMBERS? Incredible pride in what they have accomplished…so many it is impossible.

WHAT IS IN DAVID WELLS’ FUTURE? Retirement? More work? Retirement is not in my future…having way too much fun…being around youth and the athletic department keeps you young at heart.

WHAT STANDS OUT THE MOST ABOUT BOISE STATE? The Blue spirit.

WHAT OTHER SPORTS DO YOU MOST ENJOY WATCHING? Basketball, Volleyball, Golf, etc.

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE VARSITY B CLUB? Great idea. A real need for this organization.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE BOISE STATE BRONCO? A distinct honor…incredible pride.

Interview with…

Laila Hardman

MANELINE DANCER, 1984-1989

HOMETOWN: (where did you grow up and where do you live?) I grew up in Boise but I now live in London, England.

DEGREES: BA in Communications/Secondary Education with a minor in Health Education.

FAMILY: My husband, Rich who is from SLC and 2 children, Niko who is 13 (and a huge Bronco fan) and Mikaila who is 11.

JOB: I am a professional choreographer, dance consultant and dance teacher.

FONDEST MEMORY AS A BOISE STATE ATHLETE: I was a 5 year member of Maneline (84-89) so I would have to say performing at the half time of football and basketball games was definitely a highlight. Every year the crowds just got bigger and bigger. The best game to perform for was always the U of I/BSU game!

FONDEST MEMORY AS A STUDENT: My fondest memory would definitely be of all of my friends. I had some great friends (most of them were other student athletes…wrestlers, cheerleaders, gymnasts, football players, boys and girls basketball.) We were like a big family and really took care of each other.

FAVORITE PLACE ON CAMPUS: The SUB was definitely a great spot but I also really loved the library in the evenings.

—continued on page 5
Before becoming a 6-foot-3, 250-pound all-star defensive lineman with the Alouettes, West Island native Doug Scott had determined to follow a credo that success often goes to those who diligently chase their dreams.

After four years of high school and football at Stanstead College in the Eastern Townships, Scott decided he wanted to pursue his football and education at an American university.

Though many warned Scott that he would get lost in the shuffle of the high-profile U.S. collegiate football system, Scott preferred the advice of his stepfather, Wally O’Connor, who persuaded him to pursue his dream.

“My stepdad stressed the importance of going after any dream and working extra hard to get there,” says Doug Scott, with Joe Galat in 1982.

“It was an incredibly positive experience,” Scott said. “I was lucky because I had extraordinarily outstanding coaches. I was a guy absolutely motivated to get better. You put those things together and good things can happen. I was fortunate enough to get a few accolades down there and it allowed me to join the Alouettes better prepared than most.”

One of those accolades was being named after his final season to the Associated Press All-American team for small colleges. He was No.1 on the Alouettes’ protected list and was invited to training camp in 1980.

“When he reported to camp, he was a man who was ready to play,” said Joe Galat, a Field Turf employee who was general manager of the Alouettes in 1980 and added coaching to his portfolio after taking over from Joe Scannella in ‘82.

“Doug had tremendous credentials coming out of Boise State and he showed he was a hell of a player with us right away. Usually, with defensive linemen, you hope to get a guy who can do one thing well. He was one of those rare guys who could plug up the run and/or rush the passer.”

Scott was an all-star in his second season. Though knee surgery following an exhibition game injury suffered in Hamilton wiped out his ’83 season, he was back to win all-star honours again in 1984 and ’85.

A training-camp injury to the other knee left him unable to play games in 1986. He retired five months before the Alouettes folded prior to the ’87 season.

Scott maintained the positive and confident approach that helped him in his football career when he entered the real world. The results proved to be equally successful.

“I knew coming out of football that I didn’t want to work for someone else,” Scott said.

Scott tried industrial real estate. He worked for Zimcor, where he was paid according to the business he brought in, and was a stock broker.

His brother-in-law, Jean Aucoin, was starting a business in the electronics field in which he bought merchandise from New York and sold it to small stores around Montreal.

“The harder you worked, the better you did,” Scott said. “I joined him as a partner.”

The small company which operated out of a garage 15 years ago became Sonic Services Inc., which refurbishes and imports electronic products and sells now to larger stores. Along with spinoff services, the company handles $30 million in business annually.

Scott also is president of the Beaconsfield Golf Club this year after serving as captain and on various boards in recent years. He and his wife, Kim, live with their daughters, Savannah and Rochelle near the course. —VB

Varsity B – Defensive Lineman was CFL all-star during ‘80s

“I was lucky because I had extraordinarily outstanding coaches…”

—Reprinted from Montreal Gazette, April 30, 2005

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THOUGHTS ON COACHES: Well, for starters I am a huge fan of Julie Stevens and Boise State is lucky to have her. She is incredibly dedicated to her programs. I learned a lot from her that helped me succeed in life. She has very strong work ethic and will fight for what she believes in. I was also a huge fan of Mike Young. He really helped build the wrestling program up to what it is today. He is one of the most inspirational people I have ever met and because he believed so much in his athletes, they believed in themselves.

HOW HAS THE UNIVERSITY AND ATHLETICS CHANGED SINCE YOU LEFT? It definitely has grown! Whenever I make it back to Boise there is some new building for the athletes and there are Bronco paraphernalia shops all over! Clearly the athletic department has had a huge financial growth since I graduated in 89.

LIFE AFTER BOISE STATE? I moved to SLC right after graduating, taught HS and danced for the Jazz. I also met my husband there. We got married and moved to Denver where I danced for the Nuggets, taught dance and worked as a free-lance choreographer. We lived there for 11 years and then in 2003 my husband was appointed the Assistant Country Attaché position at the American Embassy in London. I have started a dance school in London and also work as a choreographer for many different genres.

WHAT STANDS OUT THE MOST ABOUT BOISE STATE? The location and the campus. I love that it’s right next to the Boise River, downtown and parks.

WHAT OTHER SPORTS DO YOU MOST ENJOY WATCHING? I have always loved football. That’s probably my favorite. I love baseball and basketball too. Since moving to London I have really started enjoying watching Rugby and tennis as well. Of course, I love watching anything my son, Niko is playing!

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE VARSITY B CLUB? I think it’s fantastic. It’s a great way to keep former athletes connected to the program.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A BOISE STATE BRONCO? For me it’s a sense of pride. We are fortunate enough to travel around the world and I love telling people that I am a graduate of BSU and educate them about the programs they have not just with athletics but with academics as well. My son loves to wear his Bronco gear to school here in London and now many of his friends have started wearing it as well. It’s a feeling you have about the program that you continue to carry with you even after you graduate. Go Broncos!

FONDEST MEMORY AS A BOISE STATE ATHLETE: The gut splitting belly laughs that we shared as teammates on road trips. Just finished a girl’s weekend in San Diego with 5 former teammates and it is nice that we can still make each other split a gut. The friendships that will last a lifetime…they were and continue to be my favorite memories as an athlete at BSU.

FAVORITE PLACE ON CAMPUS: The training room…weird I know, but we always cracked each other up there…I loved our trainers.

THOUGHTS ON COACHES: Tough, funny, unique, driven and life changing. The skills on and off the court are definitely one of the main reasons I am a successful person in many facets of my life.

HOW HAS THE UNIVERSITY AND ATHLETICS CHANGED SINCE YOU LEFT? Wow…it has become one of the leaders in academics and athletics. I am proud I was a part of that growth…

LIFE AFTER BOISE STATE? Quality. I have had a terrific life…just as it was meant to be…

WHAT STANDS OUT THE MOST ABOUT BOISE STATE? The relationships you make and friendships you maintain. It was a small enough campus you got to know alot of people.

WHAT OTHER SPORTS DO YOU MOST ENJOY WATCHING? Football, Basketball (lots of Yball lately!), Beach Volleyball…baseball bores me!

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE VARSITY B CLUB? I really hope it takes off. It is fun to have a group of “has-beens” together in support of the institution that gave us so much. I handed out a few applications to my former teammates recently…SOOOOO get your applications in ladies…the challenge is on!

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A BOISE STATE BRONCO? Pride. Gratitude. Friendships. It is great to be a Bronco.

Interview with… Sandy Stewart

VOLLEYBALL, 1986-1989

HOMETOWN: Born in New Mexico but went to Jr High and High School in Idaho Falls. Currently live in Boise.

DEGREES: BS in Education, MEd in Educational Leadership (unfortunately from that other university, ugh!)

FAMILY: Daughter Isabelle age 8, fiance’ Carter Winters (June ’07 Wedding)

JOB: Elementary Principal at White Pine Elementary

FONDEST MEMORY AS A STUDENT: My fondest memory as a student is working with a special education student named Larry. I later had Larry again as a student when I taught at Timberline High School. Amazing.
Our mission is to encourage and promote the heritage, traditions, success of Boise State student-athletes and Boise State athletics; to establish and maintain the qualities that represent being a Boise State Bronco. Please help getting other Broncos involved in the Varsity B.

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

Former Bronco Hawaiian reunion for the U of Hawaii football game, “Hang Loose”, Rocky!

Honorary Captains for Oregon State football game, 20 years of the Blue!

Former Boise Junior College ballers from Oregon catching up with Coach Lyle Smith.

Former Bronco TJ Acree helped the BC Lions from the CFL win the 2006 Grey Cup.

Meeting up with Coach Lyle Smith at the Gus Urresti – Varsity B Golf Tourney.

2006 Volleyball alumni game, kicking the girls off to a great start!

Bob Bruce, Kim Metcalf, and Dan Lukehart celebrate another Bronco win with members of the cheer squad.

Former Bronco T.J. Acree helped the BC Lions from the CFL win the 2006 Grey Cup.
With Boise State headed for its seventh bowl game in the last eight years, it’s a good time to mark history. There were bowl games before the Division I-A era, and they gave Bronco fans the same feeling the current ones do. The first was the Camellia Bowl 35 years ago. At that time it was the Western Region College Division Championship, and to make it was quite an accomplishment for a team in only its second year of Big Sky membership.

The 1971 season was a couple lows and a bunch of highs, and the bookends were euphoric for the Broncos. The opener was the legendary first matchup against the University of Idaho, which finally had to schedule Boise State College as part of the Big Sky slate. The buildup to that game was enormous. Construction delays on “New Idaho Stadium”, the facility that would become the Kibbie Dome when the roof was added four years later, forced the Vandals to rent Bronco Stadium and play the game in Boise as the home team.

That first Bronco-Vandal game sold out the then 14,500-seat Bronco Stadium two weeks in advance—quite a feat in those days. When it was all said and done, 16,123 fans squeezed in to witness state history. And for BSC it was historic indeed. The Broncos jumped all over the Vandals in a 42-14 ambush, rocking the conventional thinking that the upstart school from the south wouldn’t be able to stay with the program that had been playing football for over 75 years. But Tony Knap’s Broncos ran roughshod, outgaining the Vandals 422 yards to 250. The ’71 season took off from there, with BSC ending Montana’s Big Sky domination in a 47-24 rout in October (the Grizzlies were coming off back-to-back 10-0 seasons). The only conference loss going into the season finale at Idaho State was at Weber State, then a power itself. Against ISU, the Broncos dominated everywhere but the scoreboard, falling 21-17. Turnovers happen, and consequently, Boise State’s first Big Sky title didn’t. But an invitation to the Camellia Bowl in Sacramento did.

The Broncos faced Chico State, which got a Gipper-like pep talk from Governor Ronald Reagan the night before the game. Keith Jackson called the action for ABC’s regional telecast, and the audience watched the Broncos fall behind 28-7 in the third quarter. But quarterback Eric Guthrie and wide receivers Don Hutt and Al Marshall, among many others, staged an incredible rally to pull out the victory, 32-28.

Amidst all the fun were games against the likes of Central Washington and College of Idaho, both of them close wins. Yes, scheduling was no easier then than it is now. Said athletic director Lyle Smith at the time he was trying to upgrade, but “major classification schools aren’t particularly interested in playing college division teams.”

He went on to say that he had contacted Utah State, San Jose State and Fresno State, without much success. And with that, we salute the new century, and the Broncos’ next bowl team. —vb
As a CHAMPS/Life Skills participating institution, Boise State University has implemented the BroncoLife (Bronco Lives Invested For Excellence). The purpose of the BroncoLife program is to provide opportunities that will encourage personal investment and enhance the quality of the student-athlete experience at Boise State University. The BroncoLife Program is committed to academic excellence, athletic excellence, personal development, services, and career development.

October 9th, 2006 marked a record year for the annual Make-A-Wish Foundation and Boise State Athletics Serving Up Wishes Dinner and Auction! The Serving Up Wishes event raised over $100,000 for the Idaho Make-A-Wish Foundation! This was all due to the outstanding support of BSU Athletics staff, coaches, and student-athletes. The student-athlete celebrity servers rose over $9000 in “tips” for the Wish Kids!

This year, over 65 student-athletes will be graduating and entering the “real world”. To assist in preparing the graduates, the BroncoLife Program offered a Resume and Graduate School Preparation Workshop on October 30. Debbie Kaylor from the BSU Career Center provide great tips on how to build the perfect resume, and Michel Bourgeau spoke about the importance of utilizing Varsity B as a means to network and give back to the university. The next event will be held on Monday, November 27th to discuss how to begin the job search. In the spring we will be hosting the first ever Networking and Etiquette Training Dinner! Keep posted for details!

All of the BroncoLife Programs can utilize YOUR support! Alumni student-athletes are becoming an integral part of our services provided to the athletes, especially in the areas of career and personal development and financial support.

If you are interested in assisting in any of these programming efforts, no matter how little or big your contribution may be, your volunteerism is welcome!! Please contact Valerie Cleary at 208-426-1103 or vcleary@boisestate.edu to find out how you can be a part of this exciting and evolving program! —vb

Bronco Wrestling Club Mission Statement:

What Does Your Money Provide?

Bronco Wrestling Club funding allows the wrestlers to attend training camps, which translates into better performance on the mat. Additional training strengthens the entire wrestling program by increasing the level of competition.

Bronco Wrestling Club funding provides assistance to former Bronco wrestlers who wish to continue their training at Boise State. Wrestlers are only as good as their training partners, and thus maintaining a high level of competition in the practice room helps each individual, along with the program, to grow stronger.

Bronco Wrestling Club funding also allows former Bronco wrestlers to compete in additional competitions on the national and international level.

Contact Information: Jackie Smith
jazz11585@aol.com or 208.377.8885

In Memoriam...Mel Pfost

We are sad to report that Mel Pfost recently passed away peacefully in his sleep at age 74. Mel was the beloved Boise State equipment manager from 1970 to 1996. Mel played baseball at Boise State Junior College for Coach Lyle Smith on the 1954 team, and then played two seasons in the Pittsburgh Pirates’ minor league system. Mel’s life long passion for sports drew him back to Boise State University in 1970 where he served with a smile (OK, a scowl…). Pfost was one of the first certified equipment managers in the nation. All of us who knew Mel will remember the busy equipment manager who was always ready to provide a helping hand or a clean bag of laundry. He was also an avid outdoorsman who would share the details of one of his most recent fishing trips at any moment. An endowment has been set up with the Bronco Athletic Association and donations may be made to: BAA, Melvin Pfost Athletic Endowed Scholarship Fund, Boise State University, 1910 University Dr., Boise, ID 83725-1020. He will be greatly missed by family and friends.