Is the Varsity B ready to graduate?

By Michel Bourgeau, Varsity B Coordinator

Since the fall of 2004, the Varsity B Club has been working to create a way to reconnect with former Broncos all over the world.

After four years of studying and studying, doing loads of homework, am I closer to offering the most attractive configuration to encourage more former Broncos to become involved?

The on-going education in getting more involved is the part of the journey that I really enjoy. Boise Junior College, Boise College, Boise State College, and Boise State University all have a very important place in the maturing of our great institution. Whether it is about our athletic successes, or our academic endeavors, we should be proud of the road we have traveled. Believe me; people are noticing the excitement and the pride that so many former Broncos carry with them.

The 50th anniversary reunion of the 1958 Boise Junior College football team, which happened on October 17th, was a great opportunity to celebrate the Junior College National Champions. The 1958 team represents well, the educational expedition that never seems to end. The 1958 team which was introduced during the BSU vs. Hawaii game to the roar of a sold-out Bronco stadium, encapsulate the Bronco spirit that burns loud and proud in all former Broncos.

The Varsity B will never graduate; it will continue to evolve in the shadow of Bronco Pride. –Go Broncos!

Former Bronco gets Boise State on ESPN College Game Day stage

John Mullins (FB 1983-84), currently a freelance producer with Habana Avenue, was responsible for the opening sequences of ESPN College Game Day. John produced the opening with the country band Big & Rich, who are featured singing a version of their hit song “Comin’ to Your City”. Notice how the Boise State logo is prominently displayed. –Go Broncos!
Former Bronco volleyball players share common bond: winning under Coach Bailey

By Bob Evancho

Former Bronco student-athletes and Boise-area educators Sandy Hadden and Rhonda Sprague share a common bond. And it’s more than just their alma mater and their profession: The two played volleyball at Boise State under former coach Darlene Bailey in the 1980s when the Broncos were a team to be reckoned with. In fact, they played on the program’s three winningest teams.

Sprague was a junior on the 1981 squad that went 28-5 and a senior on the 1982 team that finished 24-8 — the two most successful campaigns in the program’s history. That is until the 1989 squad, with Hadden as a senior co-captain, matched the ’82 team’s 24-8 record.

Both women credit Bailey, who compiled a 342-232 record and had just four losing seasons in her 19 years as Boise State’s head coach, with instilling a winning attitude that permeated the program.

“Darlene helped me understand the term ‘giving your all’ and showed me that hard work pays off as long as you keep at it,” said Hadden, a former teacher and coach who is now the principal at White Pine Elementary in Boise. “Her coaching style may have been a bit unorthodox for some, but she showed us the importance of attitude and determination — how to reach down within yourself and be willing to risk it all to succeed. That’s part of how she created high expectations and made the program what it was at the time.”

Sprague agrees. A physical education teacher as Ustick Elementary in Meridian, Sprague says Bailey didn’t use her players’ height and skill as the only criteria to assemble her teams. Determination, dedication and a strong work ethic were equally important.

“What made Darlene such an outstanding coach was that she knew the game and worked everybody hard,” said Sprague. Interestingly, Sprague’s freshman year of 1979 was Bailey’s first season as Bronco coach. “She took a very young team that had eight freshmen, one sophomore and two seniors, and we started winning right away,” said Sprague, who is tied for fifth on BSU’s all-time list for ace average in a season (49 percent in 1982) and is 10th on the ace average for a career (34 percent). We never had a losing record [during her four years] and always improved each year.”

Under Bailey, who left BSU in 1997 and now lives in Irvine, Calif., Sprague and the rest of the 1981 team won its league championship with an 8-0 record and went on to claim the Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women regional title, which qualified the Broncos for the AIAW national tournament. In the Broncos’ first appearance in a national volleyball tournament, they won their first match before dropping their next two to finish ninth.

In 1982, Sprague’s final season, the volleyball program joined Division 1 ranks by joining the Mountain West Athletic Conference, and the Broncos didn’t miss a beat at the higher level, taking third in the league tournament and finishing 24-8 overall.

When Hadden, then known as Sandy Stewart, and Kelly Baker, another former standout, came along four years later, the volleyball program’s winning tradition was well entrenched.

“When Kelly and I joined the team as freshmen [in 1986] we had the good fortune to walk into a program that was doing well,” said Hadden, who was the head volleyball coach at Pocatello, Boise and Timberline high schools as well as Timberline’s athletic director before she became a principal. “So there were high expectations from the upperclassmen that the winning would continue — and it would be based on hard work.”
A middle blocker for Bailey’s teams from 1986 through 1989, Hadden earned first-team All-Big Sky Conference honors her junior and senior years and played during a four-year stretch in which the Broncos went 89-39, posting at least 21 wins each season.

In 1988, Hadden’s junior year, Boise State won the Big Sky regular season championship with a 15-1 league record and a 21-7 overall mark. During the ’88 season Bailey notched her 200th win as the Broncos’ coach and the team tied the 1981 squad for most consecutive wins in a season with 17.

The ’89 team was ranked 10th in the NCAA Northwest region and earned a berth in the Women’s Invitational Championships, volleyball’s version of basketball’s National Invitation Tournament, in Birmingham, Ala.

At the postseason tournament, the Broncos reached the title match before falling to Wisconsin.

Hadden ranks high in a number of the Boise State volleyball program’s single-game, single-season and career blocking categories. She is fourth all-time in total blocks (414) and sixth for blocks in a single season (151 in 1989). She is also tied for second for blocks in one match (12 against Idaho in 1989). Hadden is third for career average blocks per game (1.23) and second all-time in average blocks per game in a season (1.45 in 1988).

In her sophomore season she had 10 assisted blocks against Idaho State, which is fourth in BSU’s record book, and she tied for second in solo blocks in one game with five against Nevada in 1987.
Interview with… Rocky Lima
FOOTBALL, 1965-1970

HOMETOWN: (where did you grow up and where do you live?) Honolulu, Hawaii, grew up at Palolo Valley (in the housing)

DEGREES: B.A. (Physical Ed. & Science), Masters Education (Curriculum & Instructions)

FAMILY: My beautiful wife Moana for 40 yrs.; Daughter Adrianne Noelani (Virginia); Son’s Kalani Junior (Boise); Keoni (Boise); Kapono (Boise); Grand Children: Gregory (Moscow, Id); Tatiana Olivia (Virginia); Colten (Boise); Kalani (Boise); Keanu (Boise)

JOB: Boise Public Schools – Physical Education Teacher

FONDEST MEMORY AS A STUDENT: I enjoyed Dr. Pat Bieter (Education Dept.) & Dr. Gene Cooper (Physical Ed. Dept.)


FAVORITE PLACE ON CAMPUS: Student Union Building – Saga Foods

THOUGHTS ON COACHES: Coach Lyle Smith trusted my hard work on the football field. I couldn’t have made it through Boise Junior College without him believing in me. Coach Ray Lewis was the most versatile coach with great teaching fundamentals. Coach Tony Knapp was my ‘Most Inspirational’ teacher and coach. He taught me to fight on every play.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A BOISE STATE BRONCO? Being from Boise Junior College and now Boise State University was an awesome era. The Bronco attitude of ‘do whatever it takes’ and ‘never give up’ is a wonderful spirit! That spirit taught me to be of service to humanity. Coach Lyle Smith and Tony Knapp not only taught football, but the skills of life. Being on time, being responsible for my shortcomings and of course respecting the people I meet. Be humble when you win and work harder when you lose. What else can an ex-Bronco ask for? I thank my Savior Jesus Christ for making me a part of the Bronco family that I am today.

HOW HAS THE UNIVERSITY AND ATHLETICS CHANGED SINCE YOU LEFT? I still have a piece of lumber from the old stadium. Practicing and playing on grass was the way to be and muddy. The philosophy today as it was then was about winning and having fun doing it!

LIFE AFTER BOISE STATE? I teach alternative Lifetime Physical Education students at Frank Church High School. I am entering my 37th year in the Boise Schools. I am also with the Prayer Ministry at Calvary Chapel of Boise.

WHAT STANDS OUT THE MOST ABOUT BOISE STATE? The dedication of the student athletes are above and beyond. We played with great intensity on the field, but could have been more dedicated in the classrooms.

WHAT OTHER SPORTS DO YOU MOST ENJOY WATCHING? Wrestling!!! Now there’s a sport of integrity.

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE VARSITY B CLUB? I love regular updates from the Varsity B Club. It’s motivating to have a great person like Michel Bourgeau to help make this Varsity ‘B’ club successful.
Here we are, 40 years after Boise State’s first football team as a four-year school in 1968. The people on the ground floor may have never envisioned the stunning success has come with the program, but they did have big dreams. Those were fostered by Boise Junior College’s amazing run under Lyle Smith, the “father of Bronco football”, resulting in 21 straight winning seasons and the JC national championship 50 years ago this month.

After his final season in 1967, Smith became Boise State College’s athletic director. He then made the first great hire in the school’s four-year era, needing to replace himself as the Broncos’ head football coach. Smith chose Tony Knap, a respected offensive mind he had known for 30 years. Knap had led Utah State to a 25-14-1 record in four seasons at Utah State (1963-66) before taking a job with the B.C. Lions in the Canadian Football League.

“Tony arrived in the spring of 1968, and we had about $7,000 left in our recruiting budget,” said Smith. But Knap pieced it together. The Broncos had about 15 or 20 players who, in effect, transferred from Boise Junior College to play four-year football. And they formed the nucleus for a very successful debut season in, well, no-man’s land. “We were just trying to find someplace to land,” said Smith. The team was neither NAIA nor NCAA those first two seasons. “We were floatin’ in the breeze,” said Lyle.

Yet, with no conference trophy to go after, the Broncos still competed. They lost two of their first three games, to NAIA power Linfield and to Weber State, the first Big Sky school that agreed to schedule them. But from there BSC ran the table, with the high point coming in the second-to-last game of the season. Idaho State had welcomed Boise State into the world of college football, and the Bengals actually came to Boise in that first year. The Broncos rocked ISU’s world, winning 35-27 in old Bronco Stadium. That first Boise State team finished 8-2, and the tradition had begun.

Among those at the core of that trailblazing 1968 squad were quarterback Hal Zimmerman, who threw the school’s last touchdown pass as a junior college and its first as a four-year school, and leading receiver Tony Maher, this year’s Bronco Athletic Association president.

Knap led the Broncos into the Big Sky in 1970 (Idaho State helped them get there, according to Smith). In short order, the Broncos would be winning their first three conference championships from 1973-75. Knap was 71-19-1 in his eight seasons at BSU. Now 93, Knap lives a quiet, private life in Walla Walla, WA. Smith is now 92 and still sharp as a tack. He can be seen at most every Bronco Athletic Association luncheon of the fall.

Without prompting, Smith said what has happened in these 40 years is beyond belief. From those humble beginnings at the old wooden facility by the river in 1968 has emerged a perennial Top 25 program at college football’s highest level. —vB
Our 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.

Former Bronco QB Gerald Despres now living in Portland enjoys the final score in Eugene.

Rolly Woolsey (FB 1971-74) knows how to dress up his tailgate appetizers!

Nevada bred Broncos get ready for the Wolfpack at Mackay Stadium. Bart Hendricks (FB 97-00), Vince Mendiola (FB 75-77), and Ty Dayton (FB 97-98).

National Football Foundation Membership Director Ron Dilatush, Head Coach Chris Petersen, Coach Lyle Smith pose with Varsity B member Nick Schlekeway, the winner of the NFF Scholar-Athlete award.
The Varsity B Three Core Goals:
1. Social and professional interactions for Varsity B members.
2. Helping our current student athletes get a fast start to life after athletics.
3. Being good ambassadors for Boise State athletics in the community.

Graduating volleyball seniors Mandy Klein, Maren Ericson, and Jeanette Jenkins are handling the transition from Varsity athlete to Varsity B former athlete with a smile that says Thanks for the memories.

BACK ON THE COURT: Some of the biggest names in Idaho college and high school basketball were featured at the Meeting of the Minds: Legends of Idaho Basketball Classic at Qwest Arena in July. Proceeds from the exhibition game went to the Idaho Black History Museum. Paul J. Schneider (far left), the longtime radio Voice of the Broncos, provided the play-by-play for the crowd, and former Boise State head coach Bus Conner (second left) and longtime Capital High School and former Boise Junior College player Charles Henry (fourth from left) were in attendance. Former Bronco players posing with Schneider Conner and Henry are (from left) Sean McKenna, Jason Ellis, Matt Bauscher, Tanoka Beard, Lance Vaughn, Brian Sperry, Bobby Dunn, Mike Sanor, Brian King and Roberto Bergersen.

Don Kubitscheck former Bronco Athletic Association Director still maintains his enthusiasm for the Broncos.

Varsity B member Jim Voulolis (FB 81-84) takes his passion for the Bronco to a whole other level.

Send your photos and info to:
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Interview with…
Jared and Natalie (Taylor) Aurich

Natalie: I really enjoyed performing on the blue turf at the football games, it was such a fun atmosphere. I also enjoyed team trips, our national competitions, and winning a National Championship during my senior year.

FAVORITE PLACE ON CAMPUS: Jared: My favorite place on campus is the weight room. I liked it so much I made it my career.

Natalie: My favorite place on campus was the quad, especially in the fall and spring when the weather was nice. It was fun to meet friends there in between classes.

THOUGHTS ON COACHES: Jared: I now work or have worked with most of the coaches I played for (Dan Hawkins, Ron Collins, Jeff Pitman and many more) so I have a pretty unique perspective. I have a lot of respect, admiration, and appreciation for what they did for me and my teammates as student-athletes, and what they continue to do for the young men that we work with on a daily basis. They are some of the best in the business.

Natalie: I have so much respect for Julie Stevens. She loves what she does and does it so well. She has given her life to BSU and the student’s she works with. She cares so much for the programs she has built at BSU, and I am glad to have her as a friend.

HOW HAS THE UNIVERSITY AND ATHLETICS CHANGED SINCE YOU LEFT? The university and the athletics program has grown and changed so much since we graduated, and even more so in the two short years we have been away. There are so many new buildings on campus and improvements in the athletic facilities that make them among the best in the country. We enjoy visiting campus and the athletic department when we return to Boise to see all the changes and visit old friends.

LIFE AFTER BOISE STATE? We have only been away from Boise State for two years. Following Jared’s graduation he accepted a Graduate Assistant position at Auburn University. After a short year he returned to Boise State as the Assistant Strength Coach and we were married. Jared spent the next three years working with football, men’s and women’s tennis, women’s basketball, volleyball, and wrestling. Natalie taught and coached at Eagle High School until the spring of 2007 when Jared accepted a position at the University of Colorado. We have since been busy raising our son and enjoying our new home in Colorado.

WHAT STANDS OUT THE MOST ABOUT BOISE STATE? The Fiesta Bowl win over Oklahoma because it was the culmination of all the hard work, sacrifice, and tradition and epitomizes what Boise State represents.

WHAT OTHER SPORTS DO YOU MOST ENJOY WATCHING? We love to watch any of the sports teams that Jared has or currently works with, but football is probably our favorite.

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE VARSITY B CLUB? It is a great way to stay in touch and still be a part of BSU. Since we have moved away from Boise the Varsity B Club has kept us informed with all the latest news at BSU.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A BOISE STATE BRONCO? Being a Boise State Bronco means we come from a tradition of excellence, hard work, and do things in a first class way. Regardless of where we live and coach we will always be Broncos. We proudly wear our Orange and Blue. Go Broncos!
The annual Varsity B – Gus Urresti Golf Scramble took place at the Warm Springs golf course on Friday, September 12th. 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. This scholarship is awarded annually to a 5th year Boise State senior football player to help with the completion of his degree. Tournament chairman, Rich Urresti, was in great spirits and the afternoon of golf, under fabulous Boise September-sunshine, was another success. The scramble raised over $10,000 and brought the Gus Urresti scholarship endowment to a new high of $108,000.

Athletic director, Gene Bleymaier, Coach Lyle Smith and head coach Chris Petersen were all on hand to welcome the golfers and share their excitement for the upcoming football season. Varsity B member, Dave Williams (FB 74-77) from Danville, CA, was recognized as the “Top Recruiter” for his efforts in rallying former Broncos and recruiting new Bronco supporters to the scramble.

About 120 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 2008 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!

Interview with…
Christina Moore Ward, VOLLEYBALL 2000-2003

HOMETOWN: (where did you grow up and where do you live?) Poway, CA

DEGREES: Health Promotion

FAMILY: Husband, Lane Ward and 2 Dogs- Middy and Murray

JOB: Realtor with Swope Investment Properties in Boise

FONDEST MEMORY AS A STUDENT: My first winter… zero degrees and I’m still trying to wear flip flops!

FONDEST MEMORY AS A BOISE STATE STUDENT-ATHLETE: Spending all of my time traveling and playing volleyball with my best friends

FAVORITE PLACE ON CAMPUS: Bronco Gym

THOUGHTS ON COACHES: All were very unique and helped me personally, professionally and athletically.

HOW HAS THE UNIVERSITY AND ATHLETICS CHANGED SINCE YOU LEFT? All of the sports teams are better! Nike is the sponsor?

LIFE AFTER BOISE STATE? Married to a Vandal, living in Boise and loving life.

WHAT OTHER SPORTS DO YOU MOST ENJOY WATCHING? Football and Basketball

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE VARSITY B CLUB? Such a great way to reconnect with former athletes and meet new people too!

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A BOISE STATE BRONCO? I’m so proud of the success of the University academically and athletically… this allows me to have bragging rights toward my vandal husband!
Twenty-five members of the 1958 NJCAA Championship team gathered during the Boise St/Hawaii football game for their 50th reunion. Festivities began with a Pu Pu Party Thursday evening at the Courtyard Marriott. A Luncheon prior to kickoff was held at the Stueckle Sky Club prior to the game. Also present were Coach Ray Lewis and Coach Lyle Smith. Jerry Mahoney was honored as one of the honorary captains for the game. The team was also introduced to a sellout crowd during the game. The festivities ended with a Barbeque/Luau Saturday, sponsored by Bud Zarbnisky. It was a great time had by all in attendance.
Varsity B Endowment Funds are off to a great start!

The Varsity B club has established three different endowment funds in support of three key areas that impact the Boise State student-athlete as they make their way through our athletic program. Many former Broncos have expressed an intense desire to give back, and what better way than to help these very important programs that have such a wide reach and such a tremendous impact on many student-athletes during their time at Boise State University.

SPORTS MEDICINE ENDOWMENT
Recently hired head athletic trainer Marc Paul knows that he has big shoes to fill after Gary Craner retired from Boise State’s in June 2008. In his new role, Marc has met many former Broncos who are excited to help him and his team be successful.

Gifts from:
Gary Craner  
(Sport Medicine 1972 – 2008)
Kenneth Dick  
(Sport Medicine 1973-76)
David Hammons  
(Sport Medicine 1991-95)
Ted Lindsley  
(Track & Field 1985-88)
Pam Arriola  
(Mane Line / Sport Medicine 1986-1993)
Ralph & Joanne Perretta  
(Football Parents)
Varsity B Club

STRENGTH CENTER ENDOWMENT
FEDRIZZI STRENGTH CENTER
Head Strength coach Tim Socha has made a big impact in helping our student-athletes stay injury free and be fully prepared for their competition. The Fedrizzi Strength Center is always buzzing with activity with the sounds of weight plates clanging amidst the loud encouragement from Coach Socha’s staff.

Gifts from:
Kim Metcalf (Football 1980-84)
Niki Gamez (Basketball 1986-90)
Andy Bennett (Football 1998-99)
Doug Scott (Football 1976-1980)
Tom Spadafore  
(Football 1979-1980)
Matt Strohfus (Football 1998-02)
Ted Lindsley  
(Track & Field 1985-88)
Yvette Barrios (Basketball 1997-00)
Ivan Rounds (Football 1975-77)
Greg Palin (Football 1973-74)
Ed Thomas (Football 1978)

BRONCOLIFE ENDOWMENT
The purpose of the BroncoLIFE program is to provide opportunities that will encourage personal investment and enhance the quality of the student-athlete experience here at Boise State University. Program director Valerie Cleary is hard at work helping our student-athletes get the most out of their time at Boise State as well as helping them prepare for life after college athletic competition. Plans are in place to help graduating student-athletes with resume preparation, interview skills, and networking opportunities with Varsity B members.

Gifts from:
Curt Wardhaugh (Football 1980-82)
Ted Lindsley  
(Track & Field 1985-88)
AnnMarie Kaus  
(Gymnastics 1997-01)
Varsity B Club
New Bronco Zone opens for lunch

Varsity B Members…The newly named Bronco Zone on the 3rd floor of the Stueckle Sky Center is open for lunch. The Bronco Zone will be open Tuesday through Thursday each week during the academic school year from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (Excluding holidays and football game days). Lunch will be a buffet each day with a great line up. Cost is $7.99 per person.

As a Varsity B Member you are invited to come to the Stueckle Sky Center for lunch. Please bring your Varsity B Membership Card and yes, you are allowed to bring guests with you for lunch.

took place at www.boisestateauction.com Oct 17-Nov 2 and offered unique items and experiences for both the “average Joe” and the Bronco enthusiast. This first effort of online auctioning raised nearly $17,000! All auction proceeds benefit athletic & academic scholarships for Boise State students.

The biennial Boise State Auction, presented by the Bronco Athletic Association and Boise State Alumni Association. We will be hosting another online auction starting Feb. 18, closing March 4, but the MAIN EVENT will be Saturday, May 9, at Boise Centre on the Grove. This wonderful evening will feature dinner, a silent & live auction and lots of fun throughout the evening! Check out our table sponsorship and ticket sales information online at www.boisestateauction.com. You can volunteer, or donate items, services, or money by calling AnnMarie Kaus at 208-426-5407 or through email at akaus@boisestate.edu.

Boise State Auction is “up” and running for 2009! This year, we added a fun twist by launching our first ever online auction! Bidding