Celebrating a special journey

By Michel Bourgeau, Varsity B Coordinator

Recently I had the opportunity to attend the season ending banquet for our men’s tennis team. Usually these affairs can be very long and are almost always emotionally charged. This year, Coach Patton’s banquet did not disappoint (although Coach Patton gave himself credit for keeping it to two and half hours). The five graduating seniors and soon to be Varsity B members, each spoke of how their tennis journey at Boise State was very special. All shared that this was primarily because of their teammates, with whom they have become best friends while studying, traveling, and battling together. Each one recognized that the sum of all parts was much greater, and the experiences and lessons learned were life changing.

Interestingly enough, whether stated by a young group of graduating tennis players, or middle-aged football teammates, or elderly Bronco colleagues, the underlying constant seems to be an appreciation to Boise State athletics for giving individuals the chance to have come together and competed in the sport that they love.

The Varsity B is celebrating its third year of continued growth, with over 500 members. The ability to reconnect with Boise State University, old teammates, and meet other former Broncos that have fought for the blue and orange, seems to be a special connection that cannot be denied.

The future is looking bright and your participation is key to keep the Varsity B moving and on the rise. – Go Broncos!

It’s the end of the roll of tape for Gary Craner…Retirement!

Gary Craner, the man, the legend, is retiring after 36 years on the job at Boise State. During his time at Boise State Gary has literally touched so many student-athletes it is hard to get an accurate count. There is no question that Gary did more than help many student-athletes back to the field of competition, he was a friend and advisor that help keep things loose and always ready to offer a helping hand.

The Varsity B club will be hosting the Gary Craner Retirement Golf Scramble at Eagle Hills Golf Course on Monday June 16th with a 12 noon start. It will be a great way to celebrate Gary and send him on his way to retirement and a great way to help out a great cause. The money raised with this Golf Scramble will go directly to the Gary Craner Scholarship Endowment which will help fund a scholarship for a deserving student-athlete.

– Go Broncos!
Imagine what changes happen to the city and the college you attended after almost 40 years of being away. This is what occurred November 9, 2007, when 14 members of the first 4-year basketball team gathered for a reunion at Boise State. Former players from Washington, D.C., New Jersey, Georgia, Alaska, Utah and Idaho got together for dinner, took campus tours and attended the first regular season BSU basketball game. The reunion also included their basketball coaches Murray Satterfield and Bus Connor along with trainer Bill Jones. The Varsity B Club sponsored several events for the team. All attended the pre-game practice, enjoyed a catered buffet at the Allen Noble Hall of Fame Gallery, took tours of the campus and had tickets for the game. The team was recognized at halftime of the Boise State-Utah Valley basketball game.

When the players from out of state first got here, they commented about how much Boise had changed since they left. The comment was made that when they flew into Boise the first time it was on a propeller airplane. When they unloaded, they descended down portable steps from the plane and walked into one small building to get their luggage, and left on the only road to the city. Now they arrived on jets to an airport with terminals, gates and several roads leading to it. They stayed at the Marriott Courtyard, which had been just a vacant lot next to East Junior High where many of them did their student teaching. Then there was the University. They didn’t recognize the campus. When Renee Ruth first came to campus, he said he took a taxi from the airport and was dropped off by the Administration building. He had never been in Boise before and had never been on campus. He asked someone where the men’s dormitory was and they pointed toward Morrison and Driscoll Halls, because you could see them from there. He went over and he could tell one was the women’s dorm, so he knew the other must be the men’s dorm. Now because of the growth on the BSU campus, he said he could not even see either of the old dorms and there are so many new dorms he wouldn’t have been able to tell where he was supposed to go. Everywhere the team went they had a hard time recognizing the campus and the city they had known. What a special weekend it was for all who attended. —BART CHAFFEE, BASKETBALL 1965-1969

BSU basketball game. All enjoyed sharing the stories of their college experience and catching up with almost 40 years of absence. Most commented that they would like to get together again. —BART CHAFFEE

It was truly a wonderful experience to see the great friends that I had not seen in almost 40 years and also experience what Boise State University has become. I wonder if they still flood the grounds in the summer for irrigation and play flag football. I almost drowned one Sunday afternoon when a 300 pound Hawaiian landed on top of me in 6 inches of water.

Not only is Boise a beautiful city, but the campus at Boise State is an uplifting experience. Back in the 60’s there were only two dormitories, one for the men and one for the women. Most students had to live off campus and therefore the true campus life was not available. What marvelous facilities and grounds there are available for the students today.

I wish I could have laced up the sneakers one more time and taken a hook shot! GO BRONCOS!

—KEITH BURKE, BASKETBALL 1966-1970
“For them BSU gymnastics is like a big, happy family.”


Jim Poore

In a sport where 14-year-olds win Olympic gold medals and a 17-year-old wonder in 1972 is a 21-year-old has been by 1976, Jerrie Sievers and Jo Cassin realize they’re already a bit ancient for gymnastics.

“It’s basically a sport for kids,” Sievers said, nodding her head when the talk of how youth and gymnastics go together.

“When you get older, you get bigger hips and bigger legs,” Cassin said.

Saturday afternoon, these two old ladies of 21 or so competed in the last home meet of their college careers for Boise State. The Broncos defeated Idaho 126.65 to 109.35.

That victory should enhance Boise State’s standing among the nation’s small colleges or elite gymnast, you can’t go anywhere unless you’re in a club.”

Sievers and Cassin agree that both clubs are younger would have helped considerably. While they’ve gotten a lot of help from Zimmer, Sievers and Cassin agree that getting started when they were a lot easier to get lost in yourself, but I think the girls pull together very well.”

Cassin said. “I couldn’t have expected to come and compete with a better team. Cassin and Sievers agree that both clubs are doing a good job.

“They’re both good clubs and they’re growing too,” Sievers said. “For an Olympic or elite gymnast, you can’t go anywhere unless you’re in a club.”

One advantage of starting when you’re younger is that – just like starting a person skiing or swimming when he or she is three or four – some of the fear aspects of sports is overcome easier.

Sievers admits there are times when the thrill – and prospect of a spill – of doing some difficult maneuver on the bars or beam gets to her.

“But never when I’m competing, you don’t have that kind of feeling,” she said. “In practice, heck, it’s scary up there. But there’s something about doing it that makes you want to get up there again. It’s like mountain climbing. Why do you do it? Cause it’s there, I guess.”

“When I first came here, I remember talking to him and I was kind of nervous being on the team.” said Cassin. “I told him that I wasn’t very good. He said it doesn’t make any difference how good you are, we’ll make you the best gymnast you can be. He helped me in practice. I knew he was there to help me.”

Cassin came to Boise State from Littleton, Colo., where she had little experience – her father used to coach YMCA gym team and his daughter received a little instructional fallout from him.

Severs, on the other hand, is a Boise girl. If you’ve never seen her perform on the parallel bars, then chances are you’ve seen her at a Boise State football game as a three-year veteran of the Boise State dance squad.

When Sievers was a sophomore at Borah, Shannon Paige was just starting the school’s gymnastics program. By the time Sievers was a junior, Paige had recruited her for the gymnastics team.

Both ended up at Boise State.

“I wanted to stick around home and save some money, possibly go to graduate school,” said Sievers, an environmental health major who hopes to get her degree in microbiology.

Cassin didn’t want to stay home, which after high school, became Midland, Tex., when her parents moved.

“I just wanted a kind of medium sized school and I wanted to major in political science so I wanted to be around a state capital, but I didn’t want to be around a big city,” Cassin said. “I like the West and I kind of like being around the mountains.”

It gave both women an opportunity to join Boise State’s gymnastics team and grow with it. Sievers, who finished third in the uneven parallel bars Saturday, concentrated mainly on the bars in high school but has since expanded to the beam, vault and, this year to the floor exercise. Cassin spent most of her time on the floor exercise until this year when she started working on vault and beam.

Zimmer, obviously, has been a great help to both of them.

“Ed is a super coach and I think the team can go a long way with him as coach,” said Sievers. “He’s got the knowledge and the character of a coach. The kids really respect him.”

Zimmer has encouraged the girls to act as a team and not let individual success cause a split in the spirit of togetherness.

“He’s encouraged us to help each other and not be individuals,” Sievers said. “It’s easy to get lost in yourself, but I think the girls pull together very well.”

Cassin agrees.

“At a lot of other schools, the girls aren’t just competing against other teams but against each other and it can get bitter,” Cassin said. “I couldn’t have expected to come and compete with a better team. We’re just like a happy family.”

While they’ve gotten a lot of help from Zimmer, Sievers and Cassin agree that getting started when they were a lot younger would have helped considerably. There are two gymnastics club in Boise – Wings and Mike Young’s academy – and Cassin and Sievers agree that both clubs are doing a good job.

“Cause it’s there, I guess.”

—VB

SUMMER 2008, VOL. 3, ISSUE 2
Interview with…
Mike Young
RETIRED WRESTLING & GOLF COACH 1970-2005
BOISE STATE HALL OF FAME, CLASS OF 1987

HOMETOWN: Grew up in Victor, ID then Idaho Falls, ID. I am currently living in Turlock, CA

DEGREES: I have an undergraduate degree in advertising and public relations and a Masters in Health and Physical Education, both from BYU.

FAMILY: I have six children, my oldest is 39 and my youngest is 2.

JOB: I fully retired from Boise State University in 2005, and I am loving it!

FONDEST MEMORY AS A COACH: As the wrestling and golf coach for 35 years at Boise State, I have so many great memories that it is hard to put my finger on just one. I always looked forward to work and the challenges that each day brought. I was very fortunate.

FAVORITE PLACE ON CAMPUS: Definitely the wrestling facility, and my office which was directly connected.

THOUGHTS ON FORMER STUDENT-ATHLETES: I became close friends with football coach Lyle Setencich. A great person. I also became close to Coach Pokey Allen. We were best friends until he died from cancer. What a tough deal that was. We lived together for two years and played golf four days a week during the summer.

HOW HAS THE UNIVERSITY AND ATHLETICS CHANGED SINCE YOU LEFT? I have only been gone for three years, and I am amazed at all the changes. I have not yet been inside the new Caven-Williams Sport Complex, and I read about the Sky Suites which are putting Boise State in a whole new category. One of my former wrestlers took me to Phoenix for the Fiesta Bowl in 2007, and I think that game really helped move things along for Boise State. I was very proud of our Broncos.

LIFE AFTER BOISE STATE?
Retired! Actually, semi-retired raising my 2, 4, and 6 year-old children. It has been great. I have three grown children from my first marriage, and these three young ones from my second. I also have eight grandchildren.

Even with three young children at home, my wife and I have arranged our schedules so that I still manage to play 18 holes five days a week! The body is holding up, and I am down to a five handicap.

WHAT STANDS OUT THE MOST ABOUT BOISE STATE?
The growth of the university has been tremendous from the 4000 students that were enrolled and Boise State (actually Boise College) when I got there in 1970. Bronco Stadium was just being built. From an athletic standpoint, everybody knows about Boise State's blue field, Gene Bleymaier's exceptional idea. I have been very proud to tell people that I coached at Boise State.

WHAT OTHER SPORTS DO YOU MOST ENJOY WATCHING? I love watching football and golf. I enjoy all sports and tried to attend as many different sporting events while I was at Boise State as possible. There were so many great athletes.

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE VARSITY B CLUB?
I think it has been a great idea. It has been a super way to stay in touch. I enjoy the information. It really makes a difference to have someone like Michel heading the program since he has such a deep connection to the school and the athletic program.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A BOISE STATE BROnCO?
I am proud to tell people that I used to coach at Boise State. My connections to Boise State mean a lot to me. Based on how well wrestling and golf have done since I left, I bet Gene Bleymaier wishes I had left earlier.

the best golfer ever to play at Boise State. He won so many tournaments for us. It was a great experience to tag along with him to the NCAA qualifiers. Great kid!

THOUGHTS ON OTHER BOISE STATE COACHES: I became close friends with football coach Lyle Setencich. A great person. I also became close to Coach Pokey Allen. We were best friends until he died from cancer. What a tough deal that was. We lived together for two years and played golf four days a week during the summer.

In golf, I was very proud of the Canadian, Graham Delaet, who is probably the best golfer ever to play at Boise State. He won so many tournaments for us. It was a great experience to tag along with him to the NCAA qualifiers. Great kid!

THOUGHTS ON OTHER BOISE STATE COACHES: I became close friends with football coach Lyle Setencich. A great person. I also became close to Coach Pokey Allen. We were best friends until he died from cancer. What a tough deal that was. We lived together for two years and played golf four days a week during the summer.
Hard as it is to fathom in this era of stadium expansion, bowl games, and season ticket waiting lists, there was a period of time when basketball was king at Boise State. The Broncos had an amazing three-year run that is still unmatched—on the floor and in the stands—and it culminated 20 years ago with BSU’s best performance in an NCAA Tournament game.

The Big Sky was a nine-team league in those days, like the WAC is now. But somehow the Big Sky was able to make the conference schedule work so that fans could depend on Thursday-Saturday games in January and February. And the anticipation leading up to those homestands in the Pavilion was magnetic. It didn’t matter if it was a school night with an 8PM tipoff, crowds of 8,000-10,000 were the norm. All to see what Bobby Dye’s sticky defense and punishing halfcourt offense would do to the next opponent.

Dye had been hired five years earlier, five years after he had taken Cal State Fullerton on a memorable ride to the NCAA Elite Eight in 1978. The Broncos were stuck in the .500 area his first three seasons despite some groundbreaking upsets. But BSU busted out in 1986-87, winning 23 games and going to the NIT for the first time. That merely set the table for 1987-88, when the lineup featured seniors Arnell Jones, Doug Usitalo and Greg Dodd and juniors Chris Childs and Wilson Foster. All had learned how to play Dye’s way, giving it all up on defense and, at the other end, working the opponent’s defense until its will was broken.

The Broncos won 16 of their first 17 games in 1987-88, with the lone loss truly a memory-maker. No. 5 Wyoming came to the Pavilion with flashy Fennis Dembo. On a weeknight three days before Christmas, the arena sold out with 12,265 fans. It was high-decibel drama to the end, as Childs, with a chance to tie, tried to dribble around Dembo but slipped and fell. The final was 59-55, Cowboys. The night was also notable as the last BSU sporting event covered by legendary Idaho Statesman columnist Jim Poore before he was felled by an aneurism on Christmas Eve.

BSU blasted through the Big Sky schedule that winter with a 13-3 record and went to the conference tournament in Bozeman as the top seed. The Broncos would have to face host Montana State in the title game. With the score tied at 61, and the NCAA Tournament on the line, Childs drove the baseline and laid in the winning bucket to send BSU to Salt Lake City for The Dance.

Bronco fans scooped up every ticket available to them and traveled to the University of Utah’s Huntsman Center 2,000 strong. BSU had to face Michigan, the team that would win it all a year later. The Wolverines started five future NBA players: Glen Rice, Terry Mills, Loy Vaught, Rumeal Robinson and Gary Grant. And they looked the part, bursting out to a 19-point lead early in the second half. But then the Broncos’ patience paid off. Michigan wore down, with its shots coming up short and its rebounding advantage neutralized. BSU clawed its way back in and was within three points with 10 seconds left. Sure-shooting Brian King had a good look, but his three-pointer glanced off the right side of the rim, and the Wolverines prevailed after a pair of free throws, 63-58.

There always seems to be a championship anniversary at Boise State. This one marks 20 years since an incredible four-month run of fun with BSU hoops.

—VB
LeSley Slaton-Mcnorton (basketball 1983–1987) is recognized as honorary captain for women’s basketball game against San Jose State.

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.

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

Spring Reunion of 1979 and 1980 Football Teams
First row: D Hughes, K Metcalf, C Doyle, B Henry, T Zahner, B Fisk,
J Hyder Second row: C Minter, C Chandler, M Manning, B Markovich,
T Scott, S Beaton, E Thomas, L Graham, S Woods, R Trautman, M Schaal,
G Sutton Third row: T Klea, J Valalie, J Kilgo, M Bourgeau, T Spadafore,
J Greenough, R Santucci, L Alder, D Dlouhy, R Harvey, M Brady,
K McDonald, J Turpin, D Lukehart. J Gasser

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Varsity B reunion at the NBA D-League playoffs: Roberto Bergersen (96-99), Coby Karl (02-06), and Jason Ellis (01-05) square off at playoff game between Idaho Stampede and LA Defenders.

Without 79, there wouldn’t have been an 80.

PHOTO BY JOHN KELLY
PHOTO BY STAN BREWSTER
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.

Renee Ruth (basketball 1966-70) re-visits the gym where he scored many points for the Broncos.

During the weekend of April 19th, approximately thirty BSU soccer alumni returned to socialize and play in the second annual spring alumni game. The weekend kicked off with a social event at The Reef restaurant in downtown Boise where alumni interacted with the current varsity players, while reminiscing with memories of their past accomplishments on the Boise State soccer team. The following day consisted of a tour of the ever-upgraded Boise State athletic facilities. That afternoon the wily alumni got it on with the varsity players, which was a very competitive affair. The highlight was the post-game potluck with the famous Julie Allen special energy drink... The festivities were great, but more importantly it was a fun opportunity to reunite once again. It is amazing how sports can bring together so many different personalities, backgrounds, and people, and build a community of lasting friendships and support. Coach Lucas, who has been part of Boise State soccer since it started in 1998, the staff, and the current players would like to thank all the alumni who attended the weekend's festivities. See you all at the Boise State home opener on Sunday, September 16th @ 1 PM vs. Eastern Washington University.

2008 Alumni Soccer weekend: A decade of women’s soccer at Boise State

By BreeAnn Milligan, (02-05), Graduate Assistant women’s soccer

Varsity B girls posing during women’s football clinic fashion show.
John Kauinana leaves a legacy at Mililani High School

Former Boise Junior College football player John Kauinana (1964) retired in 2001 leaving an impressive legacy at Mililani High School in Hawaii. John, who played for Coach Lyle Smith in 1964, helped the Boise Junior College Broncos to an 8-2 record while playing tackle. An injury forced John to miss the 1965 season, but Coach Smith felt so strongly about the big Kauinana that he found him a job and asked him to help as assistant coach. The 1965 season was another success for the Broncos with a 9-2 record and a fifth Potato Bowl appearance.

Big John returned to his native Hawaii and accepted the athletic director position at a brand new high school in Mililani (right outside of Honolulu) in 1974. Starting from ground zero with about 1000 students, John built the athletic facilities for soccer, swimming, tennis, baseball and football with the help of volunteers and parents, and minimal help from the state of Hawaii. Kauinana’s key to success was to continuously emphasize and push for high academic standards at Mililani HS, which has positively impacted the winning records at Mililani HS. The now retired Kauinana makes himself available whenever the high school calls him for assistance. During our meeting at the tailgate in the parking lot prior to the Sheraton Hawaii Bowl last December, big John wanted to impress on me that Coach Lyle Smith has always been an important role model for him.

– Go Broncos!

Interview with…

Trent Johnson

BASKETBALL 1974-1978

PAC-10 Coach of the Year (Stanford 2008) and current head coach for Louisiana State University Tigers

HOMETOWN: Seattle, WA

DEGREES: Bachelor of Science – Physical Education 1983


JOB: Director – Men’s Basketball

FONDEST MEMORY AS A STUDENT: everyday interaction with other students and people on campus

FONDEST MEMORY AS A Boise State Student-Athlete: Big Sky Championship 1975-76, relationship with teammates, life long friend Danny Jones

THOUGHTS ON COACHES: Good players make good coaches

Ed Jacoby – track coach

Mike Young – wrestling coach

HOW HAS THE UNIVERSITY AND ATHLETICS CHANGED SINCE YOUR LEFT: The university and athletics has gotten bigger and better.

LIFE AFTER BOISE STATE: I’ve been very blessed to still be involved with the game of basketball.

WHAT STANDS OUT THE MOST ABOUT BOISE STATE: The people, the community and the city.

WHAT OTHER SPORTS DO YOU MOST ENJOY WATCHING: All sports

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE VARSITY B CLUB: The Varsity B Club is an important part of the support system for Bronco Athletics. Michel Bourgeau does an excellent job of involving the Bronco community.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A BOISE STATE BRONCO: The pride of being a Bronco and knowing that I was a part of something special.
In the spring of 1966 when I first ran track for then BJC, the team was largely made up of football and basketball players. Although there were exceptions over the years like Curt Flisher who won the NJCAA 220 low hurdles in 1961 and Clinton Alley, a terrific sprinter, and of course, Gary Tipton, probably one of the finest sprinters to ever wear Bronco colors, most of us tracksters were there from other sports. In High School, I played football, basketball and ran track and managed to win several events at the state track meet for three years or so.

At any rate, coach Ray Lewis, track coach at then BJC, was able to gather us together and our first year we performed well, winning most meets we traveled to. The second year in 1967, we won our conference and qualified three relays, Jim Cafferty in the hurdles and Rich Dickson in the sprints, for the National meet in Garden City, Kansas. As I recall, illness sent Rich to the sidelines for the meet but Jim Cafferty did well in the hurdles, our 440 (400) relay did well and set a school record of 42.2 seconds that held for about 10 years or so. Our Mile Relay (1600 Meter) team of Gary Tipton, Jim Owseley, Dave Rolfe and myself finished 5th at the National Meet despite being in a slow heat and set another school record of 3:18.5 that I think held for 10 years. Earlier, Gary Tipton won the open 440 (400) with a 46.3 seconds, but was disqualified for running out of his lane, although his real transgression was that he smoked three or four guys that were the odds on favorites to win the race.

I love track and continue to support our current track teams, both men and women, and enjoy watching. And thank God, I don’t have to try to make the team today. —VB

Track and Field at Boise State: a 60’s retrospective

By Tony Maher, member of NJC All American member of 1968 4 x 440 relay team and football player (65-69)

Being the parents of three rambunctious boys is not easy; chasing these same boys around the country at various national wrestling tournament makes it even more interesting. Many parents of Boise State student-athletes have made sacrifices to help their children pursue their dreams of college athletics. Rick and Jackie Smith have made many sacrifices so their three children could compete at the highest level. Boise State wrestling is very grateful for their sacrifices. Rick and Jackie’s children all competed for the Bronco wrestling program. Their oldest, Eric qualified for NCAA nationals in 2004 as a heavyweight. Nick (Jr) and Kirk (Fr) have just completed their first year as wrestling teammates helping the Broncos win the 2008 Pac-10 championship. Both Nick and Kirk qualified for Nationals where Kirk earned All-American status.

Both Rick and Jackie have been involved and supportive of their kid’s sporting efforts. “Involved” to them doesn’t mean driving thousands of miles to wrestling tournaments in Fargo, North Dakota to cheer. They take it to a whole different level. Rick, who was a State of Idaho wrestling referee for many years prior to his accident that left him unable to work the mat, and Jackie is the USA/Idaho Wrestling secretary treasurer and membership director. Rick and Jackie have also volunteered in helping Bronco head coach, Greg Randall with his fundraising efforts, in particular the annual Bronco Wrestling golf scramble. “We enjoy being involved with the Boise State program. Our kids are having a great experience at Boise State University. They have grown closer as teammates; we get to know the other wrestlers and their parents. “Winning the PAC-10 championship was the icing on the cake for us”, says a proud Jackie. She goes on to point out other benefits, “It is great to have them close to home, and I have noticed that my house stays cleaner now that they have moved out”. —Go Broncos!

Varsity B Parent Profile: Jackie and Rick Smith

Rick, Nick, Jackie, and Kirk Smith are proud to be holding and sharing the 2008 PAC-10 wrestling championship trophy.

Rick, Nick, Jackie, and Kirk Smith are proud to be holding and sharing the 2008 PAC-10 wrestling championship trophy.
Lyle Smith Scholarship Campaign well under way...

The Lyle Smith Scholarship Endowment was created to continue Boise State's outstanding athletic tradition in the name of the man that began it all, and to make a profound difference in the lives of our dedicated student-athletes.

The goal is to grow the Lyle Smith Endowment scholarship to $300,000, which is the fully endowed level. Many have donated to the fund, but we need your help.

With your generous participation, the Lyle Smith Scholarship Endowment will be a program of caliber to match the stature of its namesake.

We would like to recognize the donors who have helped make this a great start to a worthwhile cause. – Go Broncos!

Interview with...

Andrea (Durieux) Brooks

BASKETBALL 1994-1998

for some exhibition games. It was a once in a lifetime experience to be overseas playing basketball and learning about the culture in England, Austria, and Hungary. I know that is something that will be with all of us for the rest of our lives.

THOUGHTS ON COACHES:
My coaches were the reason I chose Boise State over other schools. They genuinely cared about our well-being as a person, not just as an athlete.

HOW HAS THE UNIVERSITY AND ATHLETICS CHANGED SINCE YOU LEFT: “If you build it, they will come…” The hard work and dedication of every athlete, team, coach, administrator before me and since I attended, has helped to lay the solid foundation and future success for the University and Athletic department.

Boise State competes with the top schools for student-athletes.

LIFE AFTER BOISE STATE. Married with a wonderful 2 year old son. We enjoy supporting the football, women’s basketball, tennis, just about all the teams when we have a chance.

WHAT STANDS OUT THE MOST ABOUT BOISE STATE. The thing that stands out the most is the tremendous growth and success of the athletic programs in recent years and how it has in turn, had a positive effect on the University and community as a whole.

WHAT OTHER SPORTS DO YOU MOST ENJOY WATCHING? All.. I am a “sports nut”.

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE VARSITY B CLUB. Love it! It's great to celebrate and support our fellow athletes at various games/functions.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A BOISE STATE BRONCO. “Once a Bronco, Always a Bronco”, as the saying goes. Being a Bronco gives me a great deal of pride for what I accomplished and it has given me life long friends as well!

To make a donation to the Lyle Smith Scholarship Endowment, please send checks to: Lyle Smith Scholarship ATT: Bronco Athletic Association, 1910 University Dr, Boise, ID 83725-1020 Or call 208-426-3556
The Fabulous “FIVE”

By AnnMarie Kaus (gymnastics 1997-2001)

Boise State Gymnastics has been graced with a lot of wonderful teammates and great groups of ladies over the years. However, in my memories of Bronco Gymnastics, there was one particular group of athletes that more-or-less defined Boise State Gymnastics in more ways than most people realize. That is the “Fabulous Five.” These were the five teammates that made up the recruiting class of 1995 – Diana Loosli (now Diana Nydegger), Lisa Leuka, Carrie Roeloffs (now Carrie Value), Kerry Jacobson (now Kerry Buck) and Kerry Irwin (now Kerry Davis). Otherwise known as Rodeo, Jake, IrnDawg, Di, & Leuka. The media knew them, the public knew them, and people today still talk about them. For some reason, there didn’t seem to be a class before them or after them that carried the combined gymnastics talent, separately unique personalities, collaborative leadership, dedication to “team”, or ability to be respected by their teammates like this group of five did. Looking back on it, it’s easy to say they may have been the most memorable class of the past – both in the gym, and socially. Each of them brought their own set of stories and contributions to the team – whether it be Jake's extreme competitive nature, Rodeo's unmatched style as a gymnast, Di's inability to do poorly in competition, Leauka's ability to do more bar sets in a week than most gymnasts do in a lifetime, or IrnDawg's fun spirit and can do attitude and most likeable personality. The thing that set them apart is how they were as a group. These ladies lived together, trained together, partied together, dealt with drama together, but most importantly, led together. It’s doubtful the class of Kerry, Carrie, Kerry, Di and Lisa will ever be forgotten! –VB

Interview with…

Wendy (McCamish) Henson


JOB: I’ve been working as a homeowner property adjuster for Allstate for nine years. I’ve recently started utilizing my degree with a part time job as a service coordinator for adults with developmental disabilities.

FONDEST MEMORY AS A STUDEnt. I spent a lot of time in the SUB studying… or was that socializing?

FONDEST MEMORY AS A BOISE STATE STUDENT-ATHLETE. I haven’t checked in a little while but I think I’m still part of the school record holding Distance Medley Relay team.

FAVORITE PLACE ON CAMPUS. I miss the time I spent on the track. After my last race my senior year, it took a long time for me to take off my spikes because I knew I’d never be on a track again in that capacity.

THOUGHTS ON COACHES. Coaches expect hard working and dedicated athletes. These qualities lead to success in sports and beyond.

HOW HAS THE UNIVERSITY AND ATHLETICS CHANGED SINCE YOU LEFT. The landscape of the university has changed since I left, with new buildings and parking structures. The athletes continue to compete at higher levels. They’ve gone beyond the Big Sky days.

LIFE AFTER BOISE STATE. The friendships I made and the experiences I had at BSU truly shaped my life. My coach led me to my first job after college which led to other career opportunities and a BSU friend introduced me to my husband.

WHAT STANDS OUT THE MOST ABOUT BOISE STATE. The school spirit brings the whole community together.

WHAT OTHER SPORTS DO YOU MOST ENJOY WATCHING. I love going to BSU football games.

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE VARSITY B CLUB. Varsity B is a great way to stay in the loop on all of Boise State’s athletic teams.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A BOISE STATE BRONCO? Being a Bronco is like being part of a really big family.
Boise State basketball is taking off. Both men’s and women’s teams qualified for the post-season in 2008. Big dreams and big ideas can become reality. Athletic director Gene Bleymaier is leveraging the momentum to propose a new basketball facility: “This project is critical to the future success of men’s and women’s basketball allowing us to enhance the student-athlete experience at Boise State University.”

Scot Ludwig, former Bronco basketball player (1979-1980) is very excited about Boise State’s desire to take the next leap to boost the basketball program. The former shooting guard and graduate assistant, kicked off the campaign with a significant donation to help fund the basketball project. “I am thrilled to see Boise State propose this type of facility for basketball. It definitely will help take us to the next level.” – Scot Ludwig, Former Bronco (79-80), partner with Ludwig Shoufler Miller LLC.

The Passing of a Bronco

We are sad to report that Parry J. O’Keefe, 47, of Boise, passed away Saturday, Feb. 16, 2008, at his home. He lived in the Boise area and was the Head Tennis Professional at Crane Creek Country Club. Tennis was Parry’s passion and highlighted his accomplishments. He attended Boise State University and added to his tennis credentials with a Big Sky Championship at number six singles during his time at Boise State (82-83). Parry’s infectious smile and upbeat personality are what made him a great teammate and great person. Our heart goes out to his mother and step father, Ron and Lotus Dibelius.