

Braves pull another surprise

Mayne, Williston lead Boise's defense to convincing SIC victory

By Bruce Smith
Matchup

Don't look now, but the Boise Braves are 2-0.

The Braves proved to be the biggest surprise in the Treasure Valley so far this season. Friday night, the Braves intercepted three Vallivue passes and roared to a convincing win over the Falcons in a 5A SIC game.

After a tough year in 2011, this appears it could be a special season. Playing at Dona Larsen Park, the Braves continued their tradition of walking to the field and now Boise is in sole possession of first place.

Did anyone think this could happen a few weeks ago?

"The Brave varsity team began this game with confidence and ended with a solid performance that gave us our second win," said coach Bob Clark. "It was a great job by our guys and we can't stop now."

Boise's offense wasn't that impressive. However, the defense had one of its best halves in years. Once Boise held a 14-0 lead, Vallivue was forced to change its game plan. The Falcons tried to pass and Cameron Mayne and Noah Willison returned interceptions for scores that led to a 28-0



Tanner Gustavsen tries to get past a Vallivue defender early in the game.

lead.

"We had a couple penalties that really hurt us and we threw a couple picks for touchdowns," Vallivue coach Layne Coffin said. "That pretty much sealed the deal."

Vallivue actually finished with more total offense — 357 yards to 209 — than the Braves, and had 22 first downs compared to Boise's nine.

But Boise intercepted three Vallivue passes during its 21-point second quarter. All

three were returned for scores, but one was negated by a penalty.

"They're high school kids and that momentum gets to you," Coffin said. "It was tough to turn around."

The first interception (that counted) came after a long Vallivue drive. Mayne picked off a short pass by Layne LaFollette at the Boise 25-yard line and returned it all the way for the

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score.

Willison added a 20-yard interception return for a touchdown just before halftime.

“Layne LaFollette; he’s a sophomore quarterback, and he’s really good, really intelligent,” Vallivue running back Kado Johnson said in defense of his quarterback. “It’s only his second year playing football, and he’s got a lot ahead of him.”

Vallivue limited its mistakes in the second half. But, by that point, the Falcons were in a deep hole and unable to dig themselves out.

The Braves switched to a much more conservative style and tried to run down the clock. Boise managed just 55 yards after halftime, but wasn’t too concerned. After a great offensive effort in the first game, the defense came through here and the damage had been done.

Vallivue played without Sean Davis, who was injured much of last year and suffered a high ankle sprain in preseason practice. This was Vallivue’s first game and the Falcons finished with 236 rushing yards on 67 carries – an average of just over three yards per carry. That would be one of their lowest efforts of the season.

Johnson had 94 yards, including a 1-yard touchdown run with 1:50 remaining to pull Vallivue within 28-14. Boise, however, was able to recover the ensuing kickoff and ran out the clock to remain on top of the SIC standings.

Cameron Mayne and Noah Willison converge on a Vallivue ball carrier during the Braves’ SIC victory over Vallivue at Dona Larsen Park. Boise’s defense made the game’s biggest plays.

GAME SUMMARY

Vallivue	0	0	0	14	- 14
Boise	7	21	0	0	- 28

- B** – Avery Miller 19 pass from Tanner Gustavsen (Travis Brown dyke kick)
- B** – Cameron Mayne 20 pass from Gustavsen (Brown dyke kick)
- B** – Mayne 75 interception return (Brown dyke kick)
- B** – Noah Willison 20 interception return (Brown dyke kick)
- V** – Lane Sale 4 pass from Layne LaFollette (B.J. Verduzco pass from LaFollette)
- V** – Kado Johnson 1 run (run failed)

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING: Vallivue – Johnson 29-95, Brandon Gaskins 21-108, LaFollette 10-17, Verduzco 3-15, Talon Free love 4-1. Boise – Chase Choate 9-42, Gustavsen 5-41, Brett Walton 5-15, Josh Maxfield 4-9.

PASSING: Vallivue – LaFollette 9-18-3-56 yards. Boise – Gustavsen 9-14-0-100 yards.

RECEIVING: Sale 3-14, Free love 2-14, Doug Radloff 1-9, Verduzco 1-8. Boise – Skyler Rowe 4-40, Mayne 2-26, Miller 2-18, Deion Hardy 1-16.