

Eagle batters Braves in big SIC battle

Surprising Boise misses on its early chances and Mustangs roll

By Bruce Smith
Matchup

The matchup two of the SIC's unbeaten was expected to be an interesting matchup, but it was the Eagles Mustangs who took control.

Playing away from their new home field for the first time, the Braves couldn't take advantage of their opportunities.

Eagle's J.T. Williams rushed for 122 yards and scored three touchdowns to lead the Mustangs downed Boise 21-6 at its Thunder Stadium, handing the Braves their first loss of the season.

"It was a really good game," said Boise coach Bob Clark. "We played hard and we were only down 21-6 at half. This was a lot closer than the score showed, but they were pretty darn good for a team that was reloading."

The game drew some extra attention locally because with 3:20 left in the third quarter, the Thunder sent in a girl – Qarli Stone – to attempt a field goal. Stone, just a freshman, sent a 42-yard field goal toward the uprights, but it fell just short. The home crowd cheered nonetheless.

"This is not a gimmick," Eagle coach Paul Peterson said



Avery Miller tries to grab a pass as he is hounded by a pair of Eagle defenders.

afterward. "She's the real-deal athlete. So who cares what the gender is, we are here to try to win."

Boise had its chances, but Eagle's defense came up with big plays when it needed. Boise quarterback Tanner Gustavsen threw for just 123 yards, but with a few breaks, things could have been different.

On the Braves' second drive, Gustavsen connected with

Deion Hardy, who toed the end zone pylon on the play. The officials, however, ruled that Hardy did not score. That forced a 4th-and-goal play and the Braves were stopped.

Later, Gustavsen threw a nice pass to Avery Miller that the Braves thought should have been a score, but Miller was ruled out of bounds.

"Those two plays made a

Continued on next page



TOP LEFT: C.J. Kennedy and Avery Miller pressure the punter.

TOP RIGHT: Deion Hardy

MIDDLE: Cameron Mayne, Brett Walton and J.B. Durham.

MIDDLE RIGHT: Tanner Gustavsen gets blocking help from Nick Funke, Will Winkle and Zachary Noeker.

Continued from previous page



big difference,” Clark said. “We moved the ball really well, but we just couldn’t convert. It was one of those frustrating games.”

Eagle improved to 3-0 with the win and remained tied with Rocky Mountain for first place in the SIC standings. The Mustangs were coming off wins over Lake City (which eventually made the 5A semifinals) and Capital. Without QB Tanner Mangum, who graduated and moved on to BYU, Eagle still managed to play with a lot of confidence.

Eagle put the game away in the third quarter. Boise’s fast-moving offense couldn’t get first downs when needed and the defense got tired.

The Thunder got its option running attack rolling and scored two touchdowns and a field goal. With a 38-6 lead, Eagle also let its talented freshman give football a try. Stone also plays on the Thunder’s girls soccer team.

“We are young. We are inexperienced,” said Peterson. “I believe in the talent of our team. It’s a long road. We’re off to a legitimate start.”

Peterson was also impressed with Boise. The Mustangs defeated the Braves 58-7 last year, but this year’s contest was closer than the final score indicated.

“I really respect that program and what they are trying to do and how they are trying to do it,” he said. “I am happy that they are feeling good and having some positive vibes over there.”

GAME SUMMARY

Boise	6	0	0	3	-	9
Eagle	7	14	17	0	-	38

E - J.T. Williams 3 run (Layne Leisten kick)
 B - Skyler Rowe 10 pass from Tanner Gustavsen (kick blocked)
 E - Williams 10 run (Leisten kick)
 E - Austin Diffey 7 run (Leisten kick)
 E - Williams 16 run (Leisten run)
 E - Nick Wheeler 18 pass from Williams (Leisten kick)
 E - FG Leisten 37
 B - FG Travis Browndyke 28

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING: Boise - Chase Choate 14-43, Gustavsen 13-51, Josh Maxfield 11-61. Eagle - Williams 21-122, Collin Ray 11-47, Diffey 5-52.
PASSING: Boise - Gustavsen 11-25-2-123 yards. Eagle - Williams 8-10-0-96 yards.
RECEIVING: Boise - Avery Miller 4-52, Rowe 4-37, Deion Hardy 3-34. Eagle - Diffey 3-52, Wheeler 3-22, Jake Erickson 2-22.