

# A Capital-ized ending

Braves' memorable comeback falls short on rare defensive effort by Eagles' player

By Bruce Smith  
Matchup

Momentum can play a big factor in a high-school football game. Friday night's rivalry contest between Boise and Capital was a good example.

Makena Simis passed for three touchdowns and ran for two more and Steven Matlock provided the big play on defense, blocking Boise's potentially game-tying extra point as Capital emerged with a 42-41 victory at Dona Larsen Park.

"A great high school football game," said Capital coach Todd Simis. "We jumped to a big lead but Boise had some outstanding individual performances to get back into the game."

The teams combined for 1,093 yards and there were several big plays. Braves quarterback Tanner Gustavsen passed for 369 yards and ran for 109 more.

"The second half was just crazy," said Boise coach Bob Clark. Tanner, Skyler Rowe and Deion Hardy played out of their minds."

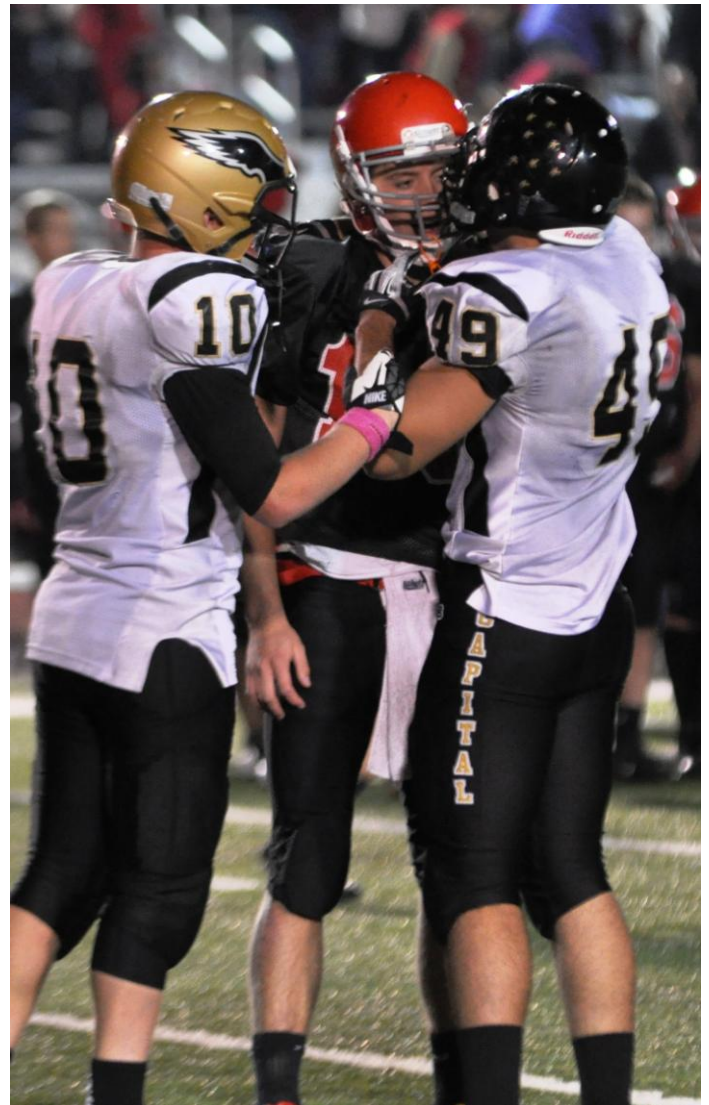
Hardy made one of the season's most-memorable plays for the Braves when he leaped between two Capital defenders on a fade route and snared a 22-yard touchdown pass from Gustavsen with less than two minutes left in the game.

Clark said the Braves chose to tie the game – instead of going for a two-point conversion – because Boise's defense had successfully stopped Capital enough in the second half and there was enough time to get the ball back.

Plus, Travis Browndyke had been perfect on his extra points. On this play, though, the 270-pound Matlock got some penetration and deflected the kick.

"He blocked it with one arm," said Simis. "It was a great individual effort."

Boise's on-side kick attempted failed. The

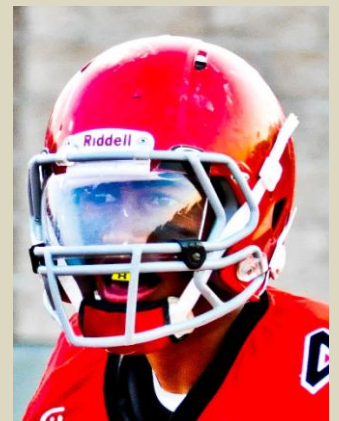


Tanner Gustavsen chats with two Capital players after the game.

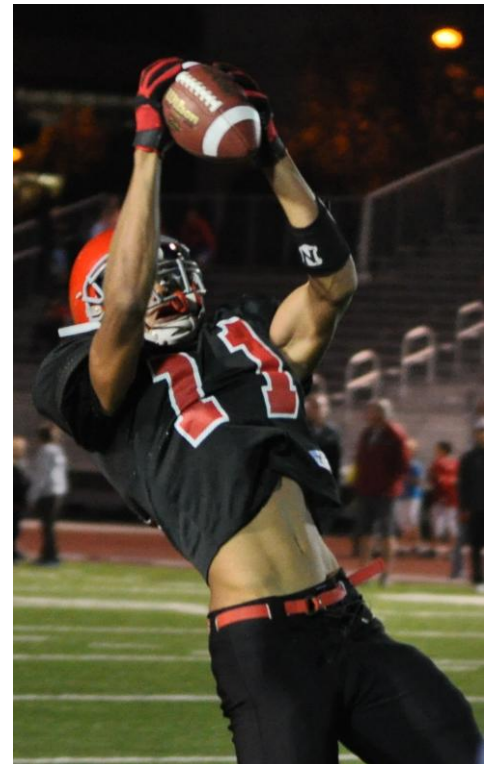
## A guy who Rowe's to the occasion

Boise's junior wide receiver had a remarkable finish to the 2012 season, starting with the Centennial game. Rowe's stats:

Opponent	Rec.	Yds	TD
Centennial	10	128	1
Capital	10	204	0
Timberline	11	187	3
Meridian	16	240	2



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**LEFT: Josh Maxfield** breaks a tackle, even though the Capital player seems to have a good grasp.

**ABOVE: Deion Hardy** goes high to snag another pass.

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Braves eventually recovered a fumble with four seconds remaining, and the game ended on an ill-fated “Hail Mary” attempt.

“We had a nice comeback,” said Clark. “It was awesome. The crowd was going crazy. It (the game) could have have gone either way.”

Instead, it went in Capital’s favor. The Eagles also beat Timberline and Borah during the season to sweep their Boise School District opponents for the ninth straight year.

“We are very proud of that,” Simis said.

At first, it appeared the game would be a Capital rout. The Eagles took the opening kickoff and quickly scored on a 21-yard pass from Simis to Ian Kinkaid. Simis had a huge night rushing, and finished with a career-high 189 yards.

The Eagles then took advantage of a fumble on the ensuing kickoff and captured the momentum. Capital had a 21-0 advantage after the first quarter and led 35-14 at halftime. Clark said Boise’s injury-depleted defense was frustrated, but finally learned their roles.

“We just kept plugging along and, finally things went our way,” said Clark.

### GAME SUMMARY

Capital	21	14	0	7	-	42
Boise	0	14	14	13	-	41

- C – Ian Kinkaid 21 pass from Makena Simis (Conner Poulson kick)
- C – Simis 6 run (Poulson kick)
- C – Dylan Hale 8 pass from Simis (Poulson kick)
- C – Hale 62 pass from Simis (Poulson kick)
- C – T.J. Clarke 1 run (Poulson kick)
- B – Skyler Rowe 21 pass from Tanner Gustavsen (Travis Browndyke kick)
- B – Rowe 37 pass from Gustavsen (Browndyke kick)
- B – Rowe 31 pass from Gustavsen (Browndyke kick)
- B – Gustavsen 13 run (Browndyke kick)
- C – Simis 1 run (Poulson kick)
- B – Josh Maxfield 3 run (Browndyke kick)
- B – Deion Hardy 22 pass from Gustavsen (kick failed)

### INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

**RUSHING:** Capital – Simis 22-189, Clarke 15-62, Marcell King Jr. 6-58. Boise – Gustavsen 15-109, Maxfield 14-63, Brett Walton 11-54, Chase Choate 6-27.

**PASSING:** Capital – Simis 10-12-0-161 yards. Boise – Gustavsen 21-26-1-369 yards.

**RECEIVING:** Capital – Tarik Littlejohn 5-48, Kinkaid 2-15, Hale 1-61, King 1-32, Clarke 1-5. Boise – Rowe 10-204, Hardy 4-71, Avery Miller 4-62, Maxfield 2-17, Cameron Mayne 1-14.