

Freshmen build up, stay confident

Late-season victory vs. Capital helps Braves gain more confidence

**By Bruce Smith
Matchup**

The Boise High freshmen football season was a work in progress.

“At the start of the season, we had 13 kids,” said coach Courtney Smith. “But it got better and we were able to put together a decent team.

“The thing about our team is that everybody plays. We don’t just throw them in the last few minutes. We want those kids to come back and play football. That’s more important to us than winning and losing.”

The Braves finished with a 3-6 record and a late-season 41-38 victory over Capital allowed them to tie the Eagles for sixth place in the SIC standings. Smith said quarterback Calen Gustavsen had a fine season, and was helped by teammates like John Grady Hansen, Josu Bieter-Lete and Sage Lords.

“We got better after we got some kids who had been playing baseball and then we went and recruiting the schools during registration,” Smith said. “It was a little tough because we are one of the few school districts where the ninth graders aren’t in high school, so we had to go to the junior highs.”

This season also marked

2012 results (3-6)

Date	Opponent	W/L	Score
Aug. 29	VALLIVUE	W	36-28
Sept. 6	at Eagle	L	12-48
Sept. 13	BORAH	L	18-26
Sept. 20	at Rocky Mtn.	L	7-42
Sept. 27	at Mtn. View	L	13-28
Oct. 3	CENTENNIAL	W	35-14
Oct. 11	CAPITAL	W	41-38
Oct. 18	at Timberline	L	21-50
Oct. 25	at Meridian	L	0-50

Home games in CAPS

SIC standings

Team	W	L	Pct.
Rocky Mtn.	9	0	1.000
Timberline	8	1	.889
Meridian	7	2	.778
Borah	6	3	.667
Mtn. View	4	5	.444
Boise	3	6	.333
Capital	3	6	.333
Centennial	2	7	.222
Eagle	2	7	.222
Vallivue	1	8	.111

the first time the Boise players had gone up against teams outside the Boise School District and had to compete against the suburban schools, which all had far more players.

Boise ran an option-style offense, led by Gustavsen, who often carried for big yardage.

“He liked to tuck the ball and run, and also had good arm strength and accuracy,” Smith said. “A few more athletes on the offense line and he could have been really good.”

The Braves opened the season with a 36-28 victory over Vallivue and, later in the season, defeated Centennial and then edged Capital. Smith said Rocky Mountain (which won the league with a 9-0 record) was the best team they played but Boise has high hopes for its future, too.

“There were two turning points to our season,” Smith said. “When Lords fractured his vertebrae, that hurt us, but then we beat Capital and that was the

“It got better and we were able to put together a decent team.” – Coach Courtney Smith

best we ever played. Our biggest problem was turnovers, but that’s probably because the kids got tired.”

The Braves played their home games at Boise High. Smith said there were 38 players on the roster at its high point, so many players had to go both ways.

“It’s our culture,” Smith said. “We’re working on getting better. Both North (Junior High) eighth grade teams made it to the playoffs, so we’re starting to see our numbers come up.

“The kind of season the varsity team played also helped,” he added. “There was excitement for football around here.”

Boise didn’t have enough players to support at junior varsity team, so most of the freshmen players should be listed on the varsity next year.

BOISE FOOTBALL: Freshmen season recap



Boise Braves 2012 freshmen roster

<u>No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Ht.</u>	<u>Wt.</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Ht.</u>	<u>Wt.</u>
2	John Ryden	K			49	Trevor Munden	WR/DB	5-8	140
4	Dylan McGee	WR/DB	5-10	140	54	Noah Conlin	OL/LB	5-7	170
5	Noah Latimer	WR/DB	5-6	130	56	Michael Hall	OL/DL	5-7	200
10	Hussein Hussein	WR/DB			57	Valentino Daltoso	OL/DL	5-11	190
12	Calen Gustavsen	QB	5-10	150	60	Patrick Call	OL/DL	5-9	215
13	Joe Tonkin	WR/DB	5-4	120	64	Arlo Burke Jones	RB/LB	5-8	145
17	Trevor Franco	WR/DB	5-9	120	65	Kodee Ruckdashel	OL/DL	5-10	210
20	Graham LeMay	WR/DB	5-2	105	66	Jose Ramirez	OL/DL	6-0	170
21	Sunny Moran, Jr.	WR/DB	5-8	140	72	Jonathan White	OL/DL	6-2	200
22	Sage Lords	WR/LB	5-10	170	74	Ian Culley	OL/DL	5-9	220
23	Will Bjerke	WR/DB	5-10	140	75	Colton Schlag	OL/DL	5-10	175
24	Gabe Sullivan	WR/DB	5-5	125	77	Jacob Molenaar	OL/DL	6-2	280
25	Martin Mayo, Jr.	TE/DB	5-7	165	78	Havilah Higgins	OL/DL	5-6	220
27	Mansoor Nadir	WR/DB			80	Ian Sullivan	TE/LB	6-1	165
34	John Grady Hansen	RB/LB	5-10	200	88	Alexander Lakatos	TE/DB	5-6	140
40	Abdi Dahiri	RB/LB							
42	Brandon Lee-Hammett	WR/LB	5-10	145					
44	Austin Cooper	TE/DB	5-7	120					
45	Losu Bleter-Lete	RB/LB	5-5	175					

Head Coach: Courtney Smith

Assistants: Andrew Bothke, Laurent Delegarde, Jason Fenwick, Greg Tomlinson

Trainers: Nikki Clark, Scott DaBell, Carissa Kane