



Defensive linemen could play a key role in SIC this year

By Rachel Roberts
Idaho Statesman

Starting quarterbacks will have to keep one eye on the line of scrimmage when they play Timberline and Eagle this season.

That's because the top two sack leaders from a year ago are back for another season at their respective schools.

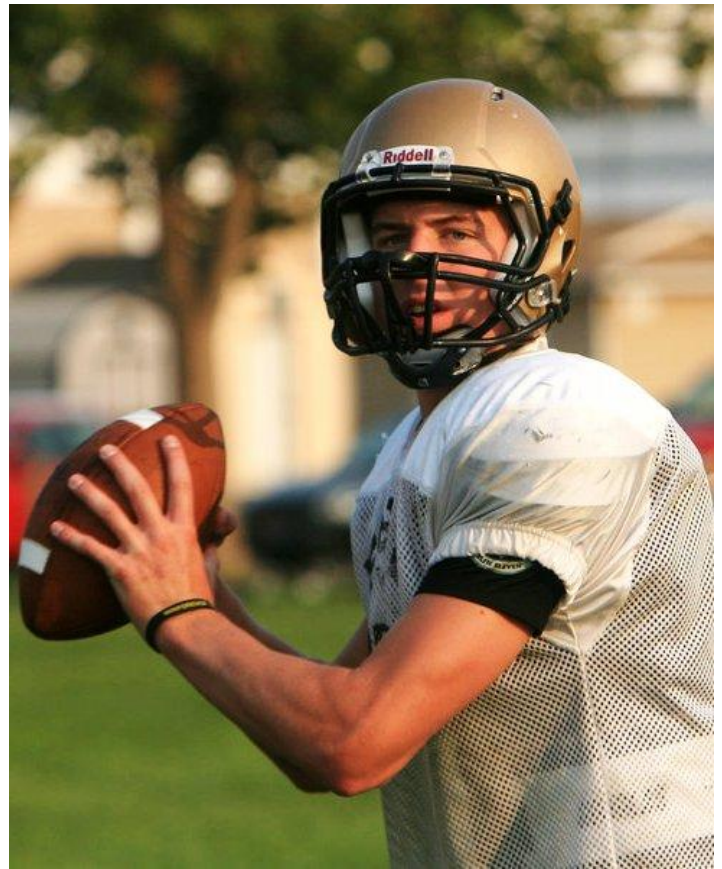
Eagle defensive lineman Corey Nielson recorded a 5A Southern Idaho Conference-best nine sacks during the 2011 regular season, accounting for 56 lost yards. The 6-foot-3, 205-pound senior has caught the attention of college coaches.

"There is no doubt he has a gift for rushing the passer," Eagle coach Paul Peterson said. "For most offensive tackles, he's just too quick and too fast and too long for them."

After focusing on defense in 2011, Nielson will also start at offensive tackle for the Mustangs this season.

At Timberline, 6-5, 225-pound junior defensive end Don Hill is just getting started. Hill finished second in the conference last season with seven sacks for a loss of 59 yards. Third-year Timberline coach Kirk Copeland said college coaches are inquiring about the hard-hitter.

"Quarterbacks are definitely going to be aware of his presence," Copeland said. "He's big, he's strong, he's fast, he's athletic and he has a passionate desire to get to the quarterback."



Capital QB Makena Simis had most people thinking the Eagles would win the SIC this year.

2012 COACHES' PREDICTIONS

(first-place votes in parentheses)

1. Capital Eagles (6)
2. Mountain View Mavericks (3)
3. Rocky Mountain Grizzlies (1)
4. Eagle Mustangs
5. Centennial Patriots
6. Meridian Warriors
7. Borah Lions
8. Vallivue Falcons
9. Timberline Wolves
10. BOISE BRAVES

IDAHO STATESMAN PREDICTIONS

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2011 STANDINGS

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>Pct.</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>Pct.</u>
Eagle	8	1	.889	10	2	.833
Capital	7	2	.778	8	3	.727
Mountain View	7	2	.778	7	3	.700
Meridian	6	3	.667	6	4	.600
Borah	5	4	.556	5	4	.556
Centennial	4	5	.444	4	5	.444
Rocky Mountain	3	6	.333	3	7	.300
Timberline	3	6	.333	3	6	.333
Vallivue	2	7	.222	3	7	.300
Boise	0	9	.000	0	9	.000

BOISE FOOTBALL: Newspaper article

RETURNING ALL-CONFERENCE PLAYERS

OFFENSE				DEFENSE			
POS. (team)	NAME	YR.	SCHOOL	POS. (team)	NAME	YR.	SCHOOL
RB (1st)	TJ Clarke	Sr.	Capital	LB (1st)	Lane Chadwick	Sr.	Mountain View
QB (2nd)	Makena Simis	Sr.	Capital	LB (2nd)	Jack Tate	Sr.	Timberline
RB (2nd)	Hunter Kenyon	Sr.	Borah	DB (2nd)	Kellen Copeland	Sr.	Timberline
OL (2nd)	Mason Hampton	Sr.	Meridian	DL (HM)	Don Hill	Jr.	Timberline
QB (HM)	Kai Turner	Jr.	Mountain View	DL (HM)	Jaren Kahoiwai	Sr.	Capital*
QB (HM)	TANNER GUSTAVSEN	SR.	BOISE	DL (HM)	Corey Nielson	Sr.	Eagle
WR (HM)	Collin Sale	Sr.	Mountain View	LB (HM)	Dallas Wallace	Sr.	Vallivue
WR (HM)	Josh Buss	Jr.	Mountain View	LB (HM)	BRETT WALTON	SR.	BOISE
WR (HM)	Jacob Foley	Jr.	Capital	P (HM)	Sean Davis	Sr.	Vallivue
OL (HM)	BJ Verduzco	Sr.	Vallivue				

* Kahoiwai played for Boise last season

2011 REGULAR-SEASON LEADERS

PASSING

Tanner Mangum, Eagle, 199-of-295, 2,882 yards, 26 TDs, 9 int
TANNER GUSTAVSEN, BOISE*, 152-OF-342, 1,895 YARDS, 11 TDS, 17 INT

RUSHING

Mike Burk, Vallivue, 204 carries, 1,386 yards, 12 TDs
 TJ Clarke, Capital, 222 carries, 1,338 yards, 7 TDs

RECEIVING

Parker Garner, Vallivue, 28 rec., 761 yards, 8 TDs
 Austin Diffey, Eagle, 17 rec., 507 yards, 5 TDs

INTERCEPTIONS

D.J. Dean, Eagle, 6; Beau White, Mtn. View, 5

SACKS

Corey Nielson, Eagle, 9

5A state champions (since 2000)

Year	Team	Coach	Year	Team	Coach	Year	Team	Coach
2011	Coeur d'Alene	Shawn Amos	2007	Meridian	Kip Crofts	2003	Centennial	Lee Neumann
2010	Coeur d'Alene	Shawn Amos	2006	Lake City	Van Troxel	2002	Highland	Gino Mariani
2009	Eagle	Paul Peterson	2005	Meridian	Mike Virden	2001	Eagle	Mike Glenn
2008	Highland	Gino Mariani	2004	Twin Falls	Tobe Smith	2000	Highland	Brent Koetter

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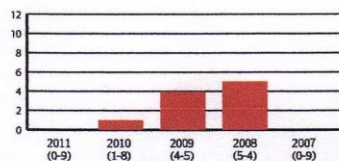
BOISE BRAVES

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Aug. 24	Borah (DLP)	7 p.m.
Aug. 30	Vallivue (DLP)	7 p.m.
Sept. 7	at Eagle	7 p.m.
Sept. 21	at Rocky Mountain	7 p.m.
Sept. 28	at Mountain View	7 p.m.
Oct. 4	Centennial (DLP)	7 p.m.
Oct. 12	Capital (DLP)	7 p.m.
Oct. 18	at Timberline (DLP)	7 p.m.
Oct. 26	at Meridian	7 p.m.

Coach: Bob Clark, ninth season, 13-59
 Stadium: Dona Larsen Park, Boise

WINS THE PAST 5 YEARS



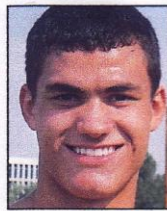
2011 post-season: Did not qualify for playoffs

PLAYERS TO WATCH



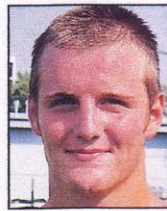
Tanner Gustavsen
QB

Stepping into his third season as the starting QB, the 6-foot, 185-pound senior has passed for nearly 4,000 yards and 40 touchdowns, making him one of the top threats in the 5A SIC. "He's seen everything thrown at him, so nothing really fazes him," coach Bob Clark said.



Deion Hardy
WR/CB

With "freakish" athletic ability, Hardy will be a jack of all trades, seeing time at WR, TE, CB, FS and on special teams. The 6-4, 205-pound third-year letterman and senior will be one of Gustavsen's favorite targets. "A really good athlete, great kid and really good football player," Clark said.



Brett Walton
RB/LB

After specializing on defense the past two seasons, the 5-10, 180-pound senior adds RB to his duties. Walton contributed 75 tackles, four QB hurries, three sacks and two fumble recoveries in 2011. "We just love his work effort and his energy he brings on the field," Clark said.



Avery Miller
TE/S

The 6-2, 190-pound senior saw limited time last year, but is expected to take on a bigger role in 2012, switching between TE and WR. Before last season, Miller hadn't played football since ninth grade, but coaches say he is catching up quickly and should have a breakout season.

SCOUTING REPORT

OFFENSE

The Braves had no trouble passing the ball last season, as QB Tanner Gustavsen racked up the third-most passing yards (1,895) in the 5A SIC. The key to success this year will be establishing the run, which proved difficult for Boise in 2011 with a league-worst 703 yards. Seven starters return. "We have some pretty good running backs and three linemen that are returning starters, so we are hoping that helps us get a little bit more balanced," coach Bob Clark said.

DEFENSE

Defense has been the Braves' downfall the past few seasons, as Boise ranked last in yards (442) and points (41.4) allowed. With only three starters back and five lettermen overall, new faces will have to catch on quickly. "We have all kinds of guys that are stepping up to the plate," returning cornerback Deion Hardy said.

OVERVIEW

Despite last season's winless record, the Braves seem upbeat and determined. With a talented skill group back, Boise should be able to hold its own offensively. It will be up to the defense to help produce wins.