

Braves win stadium debut

Browndyke, Gustavsen lead the way as Boise starts the year off right

By Rachel Roberts
The Idaho Statesman

The first points scored at Dona Larsen Park did not come on a pass or a run, but on the solid right leg of Boise kicker Travis Browndyke.

The 5-foot-8, 150-pound senior sent a 28-yard field goal through the uprights with 10:02 remaining in the first quarter to earn the distinction of being the first football player to score at the new facility.

“I try to think as little as possible when I am kicking,” said Browndyke, who also went 5-for-5 on PATs. “I really spent this whole day just trying to calm myself down.”

Browndyke and his teammates looked in control from the start, as the Braves bullied rival Borah for a 38-24 victory, their first against the Lions since 2009 and only the fifth win in the past 16 meetings.

After losing to Borah by a combined score of 97-21 in their previous two games, Boise showed no mercy, scoring 24 points in the first half and leading by as much as 38-10 at the beginning of the fourth quarter.

“It was the longest fourth quarter — the longest eight minutes ever it seemed like at



Said Ramadhan, Cameron Mayne and Braeden Sullivan celebrate a touchdown in Boise’s opening-game win.

the end,” Boise coach Bob Clark said. “It just felt great and such a relief. The stress of this game, the stadium and what it represented, Borah.

“That was unbelievable for us, and a great victory for our high school. These kids deserve this more than anything.”

A year after rushing for a 5A SIC-low 703 yards, the Braves showcased their versatility, rushing for 239 yards to provide the perfect complement to third-year starting quarterback Tanner Gustavsen.

The senior, who started

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at receiver as a freshman, completed 15-of-24 passes for 212 yards and three touchdowns with no interceptions. Junior running back Chase Choate led Boise’s run game with 87 yards, while seniors Brett Walton and Josh Maxfield each added a rushing touchdown.

“This is awesome. It is a little different from last year when we were throwing the ball a lot,” Gustavsen said. “We were able to mix it up this year, which is really good. It kept them on their toes.”

Gustavsen and 6-5, 210-pound senior receiver Deion Hardy connected for the first touchdown pass in Dona Larsen history. Hardy caught the ball at about the 5-yard line and scampered in for the 13-yard score with 3:43 to play in the first quarter.

“We’ve been talking about it for a while, who’s going to get the first one,” Hardy said. “To be able to do it was awesome, but it was a team effort. I’m just glad we got the touchdown at all.”

This was the first season-opening victory for the Braves since the 2005 season and already surpasses their win total from a year ago.

“The whole team was firing off on all cylinders,” said Walton, who also added three sacks at linebacker. “We had to play a great game. Borah is a tough rivalry, but we came out and out-shined them. We ran the ball down their throat. We stopped them on defense. We’re back. That’s all I can say.”

Borah revived its offense in the second half and was paced by junior receiver Kion Williams with eight catches for 224 yards and two touchdowns.

LEFT: Kyle Dilulo, Noah Willison, Brett Walton and C.J. Kennedy line up for the play.

ABOVE: Deion Hardy dances over a Borah player after scoring a first-quarter touchdown.

GAME SUMMARY

Borah	3	7	0	14	- 24
Boise	10	14	7	7	- 38

- BOI** – FG Travis Browndyke 28
- BOI** - Deion Hardy 13 pass from Tanner Gustavsen (Browndyke kick)
- BOR** – FG Jacob Szuch 26
- BOI** - Avery Miller 17 pass from Gustavsen (Browndyke kick)
- BOI** - Skyler Rowe 50 pass from Gustavsen (Browndyke kick)
- BOR** - Kion Williams 41 pass from Cole Skinner (Szuch kick)
- BOI** - Brett Walton 1 run (Browndyke kick)
- BOI** - Josh Maxfield 8 run (Browndyke kick)
- BOR** - Williams 79 pass from Skinner (Szuch kick)
- BOR** - Kadeem Torgeson 10 pass from Skinner (Szuch kick)

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING: Borah: Hunter Kenyon 23-92, Karsten Niederer 1-47. Boise: Chase Choate 19-87, Gustavsen 11-66, Walton 13-62.

PASSING: Borah, Skinner 18-36-2 239. Boise, Gustavsen 15-24-0 212.

RECEIVING: Borah - Williams 8-224, Trey Dennis 3-37, Justin Coburn 4-29. Boise - Miller 5-54, Skyler Rowe 4-124.