

# Boise State Qb History



**Boise State QB history** is a tale of evolution, marked by standout performances, historical milestones, and a legacy that has shaped the culture of Bronco football. From the early days of the program in the 1930s to the recent successes in the NCAA, the quarterbacks at Boise State have played pivotal roles in establishing the team's reputation as a powerhouse in college football. This article delves into the rich history of Boise State quarterbacks, exploring their contributions, achievements, and the impact they've had on the program.

## Early Years and Foundation

Boise State University began its football program in 1933, but it wasn't until the late 20th century that the team began to gain national recognition. The early quarterbacks played crucial roles in developing the team's identity, laying the groundwork for future success.

### 1930s to 1960s

During the early years, the role of the quarterback was often underappreciated, as the team relied heavily on a run-oriented offense. Some notable quarterbacks from this era include:

- Mervin "Merv" McNeill (1949-1951): An early standout, McNeill was one of the first players to bring attention to the quarterback position at Boise State.

- Bob Dwyer (1961-1963): Dwyer led the team through the transition to a more modern passing game, showcasing the potential of the quarterback position.

As the program grew, so did the complexity of its offensive schemes, setting the stage for more dynamic quarterbacks in the years to come.

## **The Rise of the Broncos**

The 1990s marked a significant turning point for Boise State University and its football program. Under the leadership of head coach Pokey Allen, the Broncos began to carve out a niche for themselves in NCAA Division I-AA football.

### **Key Quarterbacks of the 1990s**

- John Fries (1990-1992): Fries was a prolific passer who set several school records, including career touchdown passes during his time. His ability to lead the team to victory established a foundation for future success.

- Ryan Dinwiddie (1999-2002): Perhaps one of the most significant quarterbacks in Boise State history, Dinwiddie led the Broncos to a 12-1 record in 2002, earning the team's first bowl victory. He was named the MVP of the 2003 Humanitarian Bowl, solidifying his legacy.

The success of these quarterbacks not only elevated the program's profile but also attracted talented recruits, setting the stage for the Broncos to compete at a higher level.

## **The BCS Breakthrough**

The 2000s were a golden era for Boise State football, highlighted by its inclusion in the BCS (Bowl Championship Series) and a burgeoning national fanbase. Quarterbacks during this period became the face of the program and propelled it into the national spotlight.

### **Notable Quarterbacks of the 2000s**

- Jared Zabransky (2004-2006): Zabransky was instrumental in Boise State's undefeated season in 2006. He is best remembered for his performance in the memorable 2007 Fiesta Bowl against Oklahoma, where he threw for 200 yards and ran for a touchdown. His infamous "Statue of Liberty" play remains one of the most iconic moments in college football history.

- Kellen Moore (2008-2011): Kellen Moore is arguably the greatest quarterback in Boise State history. With a career record of 50-3, he led the Broncos to multiple BCS bowl games and was a finalist for the Heisman Trophy in 2010. Moore's precision passing and leadership on the field helped solidify the program's status among the elite in college football. He finished his college career with over 14,000 passing yards and 142 touchdowns.

## **Transitioning to the Big Time**

As Boise State transitioned to the Mountain West Conference in 2011, the expectations for the program grew. The Broncos continued to attract top talent, including impressive quarterbacks who carried on the legacy established by their predecessors.

## **Recent Quarterbacks**

- Brett Rypien (2015-2018): Rypien followed in the footsteps of Moore and became one of the most prolific passers in Boise State history. He threw for over 13,000 yards and 90 touchdowns during his tenure. Rypien was known for his poise in the pocket and ability to lead game-winning drives.

- Hank Bachmeier (2019-2022): Bachmeier showcased his potential as a dual-threat quarterback, combining passing and rushing skills. He became the first true freshman in Boise State history to start a season opener and has continued to build on the legacy of successful quarterbacks.

## **Impact on Boise State Football Culture**

The history of Boise State quarterbacks has had a profound impact on the culture of Bronco football. Their performances have created a blueprint for success, influencing future generations of players and coaches.

## **Quarterback Development**

The program's emphasis on developing quarterbacks has been a key factor in its success. Boise State has established a reputation for producing NFL-caliber talent, with several former quarterbacks making the leap to professional football. This has drawn attention from recruits and helped the program maintain a competitive edge.

## **Fan Engagement and Identity**

The memorable performances of Boise State quarterbacks have also contributed to a strong fan culture. Games are often filled with excitement, and the highlights of past quarterbacks are celebrated in various media and social platforms. The identity of the team is closely tied to its quarterbacks, who have become beloved figures in the community.

## **Conclusion**

The history of Boise State quarterbacks is a testament to the program's growth and resilience. From early pioneers to modern-day stars, each quarterback has left an indelible mark on the team's legacy. As Boise State continues to evolve and compete at high levels, the foundation built by these quarterbacks will remain a source of pride and inspiration for future players and fans alike.

As the Broncos look to the future, the stories and achievements of their quarterbacks will undoubtedly continue to shape the narrative of Boise State football, ensuring that the program remains a formidable force in college athletics. The legacy of these quarterbacks not only showcases their individual talents but also highlights the spirit of teamwork and determination that defines Boise State football.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Who is considered the greatest quarterback in Boise State history?**

Kellen Moore is widely regarded as the greatest quarterback in Boise State history, holding numerous school records and leading the team to a national prominence during his tenure from 2008 to 2011.

### **What year did Kellen Moore lead Boise State to an undefeated season?**

Kellen Moore led Boise State to an undefeated season in 2009, finishing with a 14-0 record and a victory in the Fiesta Bowl.

### **Which Boise State quarterback won the 2010 Sammy Baugh Trophy?**

Kellen Moore won the 2010 Sammy Baugh Trophy, awarded to the nation's top college quarterback.

## **Who succeeded Kellen Moore as the starting quarterback at Boise State?**

Joe Southwick succeeded Kellen Moore as the starting quarterback for Boise State, taking over the role in 2012.

## **What notable achievement did Boise State quarterbacks accomplish in the 2000s?**

Boise State quarterbacks, particularly Kellen Moore and Ian Johnson, helped the team achieve significant milestones, including multiple BCS bowl appearances and a reputation for high-scoring offenses.

## **Which Boise State quarterback had a standout performance in the 2007 Fiesta Bowl?**

Quarterback Jared Zabransky had a standout performance in the 2007 Fiesta Bowl, leading the Broncos to a victory over Oklahoma with a memorable trick play.

## **How did Boise State's quarterback play impact their overall program success?**

The quarterback play at Boise State has been crucial to the program's success, as strong performances have led to high national rankings, bowl game appearances, and increased recruitment efforts.

## **What styles of play have defined Boise State quarterbacks over the years?**

Boise State quarterbacks have often been characterized by their accuracy, mobility, and ability to execute a dynamic passing game, adapting to both spread and pro-style offenses.

## **Which current NFL quarterback started his career at Boise State?**

Current NFL quarterback Brett Rypien began his college career at Boise State, where he set numerous records before entering the NFL.

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