Field Hockey 1970-80

Although BJC attended occasional field hockey tournaments in the late 1940s and 1950s, the first team sponsored by the Athletic Department was formed in 1970. Coach Connie Thorngren had never viewed a hockey game and half of the team had never played before that season. It was not a surprise that the team lost all four games played the first year. The team didn’t score a single goal. However, the following years proved to be very different. During the next six years that Thorngren coached, the team won 75 games, lost five and tied six.

In 1973, the team played 10 games and did not allow a goal to be scored against them. Players during these early years included Penny Gillaspy, Ginger Waters, Barbara Eisenbarth, Jayne Van Wassenhove, RoAnne Rich, Fran Mortensen, Terry Madsen, Charmaine McKay, Janis Ogawa and Kristy Baker.

From 1973-75 the field hockey team won 48 games, lost two and tied one. The two losses and the tie were to Canadian schools that had a long tradition of hockey excellence. During those three seasons the team scored 218 goals, while only 21 were scored against them. In 1975, the team’s record was 23-0-1, with the last game played against the University of British Columbia ending in a scoreless tie. Also during that tournament season, the team beat the University of Oregon twice by scores of 4-1 and 2-1. Oregon placed third among all teams that year in the national large college tournament.

In 1977, Thorngren’s last year as coach, the Broncos played an expanded schedule of 34 games. Again, the team was spectacular, with 29 wins, two losses and two ties. Some of the outstanding players during these years were Cindy Fralick, Maureen Hirai, Connie Coulter, Elaine Elliott, Kendra Falen, Trina Michaelis, Deanna Brower, Dale Hunt, Julie White and Alice Meyers.
The teams often traveled long distances to compete. On one memorable trip in 1976 two vans carried the varsity and JV teams to Central Washington State College in Ellensburg to play in an early season tournament. An alternator went out on one van near Pendleton, Oregon. By 10 p.m. the van was repaired and the team was on its way again. Ten minutes later, one van had a flat tire. A short distance outside of Umatilla, Oregon, the other van had a flat. Because it would not have been safe to travel without a spare on either van, a tire dealer was roused from his sleep to sell a tire. The team arrived in Ellensburg at 4 a.m. with a game against Washington State University at 8 a.m. Sleep was brief and so was the game. The Broncos ended up with a disappointing tie, but played well the remainder of the weekend. The trip home was uneventful until the alternator went out again near Baker, Oregon. At that point the JV van went home, while the varsity team stayed overnight in Baker and missed Monday’s classes while the van was repaired.

Nearly all of the field hockey players were also members of the basketball team. Some even played volleyball at the same time as hockey. This was possible only because Thorngren also coached both teams and seasons were very short compared with modern schedules.

When Thorngren retired from hockey in 1977, former player Jayne Van Wassenhove took over as head coach and lead the team to more successful seasons.

In 1979, Van Wassenhove’s players qualified for the national playoffs for the first time since the program began. During the season the squad faced field hockey powers like Arizona, Oregon, BYU and Washington State enroute to a 14-8-1 overall record, including 14 shutouts. The team earned its berth in nationals by winning the Northwest Collegiate Women’s Sports Association tournament at Eugene, Oregon. BSU represented Division II schools from the Northwest. They lost their opener to Pfeiffer College of North Carolina 2-1 in double overtime, then rebounded to beat Southeast Missouri State 2-1, again in double overtime, and then again lost to Bucknell University from Pennsylvania 2-0. The 1-2 record placed the Broncos ninth out of 36 teams at nationals. Four seniors ended their careers at the tournament — Twyla Bulcher, Treva Hunt, Laura Rosecrans and Donna Weast.

The 1980 team was ranked second in the region, but won only one game in the national qualifying tournament. The squad ended with an 11-9-5 record.

Field hockey’s short history as a varsity sport came to an end after the 1980 season. Athletic department officials said several schools in BSU’s region had dropped field hockey, making scheduling difficult. And, tight state budgets and a slow economy in Idaho led to several cuts in both academic and athletic programs at BSU during the early 1980s. Field hockey and baseball, along with several academic programs, were eliminated to reduce operating expenses.
Basketball 1976-83

A CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON

By Duane Halliday

The presence of the Boise State men's basketball team at the NCAA West regional playoffs in 1976 was a fitting reward for something Bronco basketball had never before experienced: a Big Sky championship season.

Coach Bus Connor had one senior on his 1975-76 basketball team: Pat Hoke, a 6'8" All-Big Sky center, who had already earned three varsity letters and was expected to be another All-Big Sky pick that year. Although Hoke was the only senior, the rest of the team made up in talent for what it lacked in experience. Four of the five sophomores on the team had earned varsity letters the previous year. Three players, 6'2" guard Steve Connor, 6'7" forward Dan Jones and 6'5" forward Trent "TJ" Johnson, started their freshman season. Bench strength came from 6'7" sophomore Steve Barrett, who red-shirted in 1974-75.

Of the three juniors on the team, only guard Terry Miller had played since his freshman year. Kip Newell, forward, possessed surprising hustling and rebounding ability, and 6'9" center Brett Clegg was the tallest man on the team.

In addition to the veterans, the team had five freshmen who could hustle, and who demonstrated a determined style of play. Only one of the freshmen, Sean McKenna, a 6'7" center from Capital High, came from Boise, and he remained to become a future star for the Broncos. Other freshmen included Dominic Trutanich, Marvin Stewart, Tommy Morgan, and Joe Dendary.
The size of the team, coupled with the returning talent, promised a winning season for the Broncos, and the promise proved true. Bronco players and fans experienced an exciting season highlighted by last-second baskets and victories over rival teams both on the road and at home.

Boise State had two six-game winning streaks during the season. The first, which came at the end of the non-conference schedule, found the Broncos victorious over Montana State University and the University of Montana on the road. The second streak began with an 83-64 win over archrival University of Idaho, and subsequent victories over Gonzaga and Montana State. The Broncos played their last game of the season against the Michael Ray Richardson-led University of Montana, needing a win for a share of the regular season title.

BSU led 38-37 at halftime but with seven seconds remaining in the game, Montana scored a basket to put the Grizzlies up 66-65. After the Broncos threw in the ball, a Montana player stole it but was called for traveling. Steve Connor took the inbounds pass with three seconds left in the game. He took the final shot 30 feet from the basket. As the buzzer sounded, the ball hit the bottom of the net. Victorious over the Griz, the Broncos tied with Idaho State and Weber State for the league lead with an 11-5 record and earned the playoff berth.

Considered underdogs at the tournament, the Broncos faced Idaho State University, which had beaten the Broncos twice during the season. With 26 points from Steve Connor and excellent rebounding by Jones and Johnson, the Broncos took the Bengals 93-81. The next evening, BSU squared off against the Weber State Wildcats, who were hosts of the tournament.

After taking a 32-27 halftime lead, the Broncos let the Wildcats race to six-point leads three separate times in the second half. With 2:59 left in the game, Weber State was ahead 60-54. With three seconds left, the score was 60-58 Weber State. Once again in a clutch situation, Connor put one in from the top of the key to take the Broncos into the first of two overtimes tied at 60-all. The first overtime ended in a 66-66 tie. The Broncos took the lead in the second overtime and never let
up. They won the game and the Big Sky title, 77-70. For the first time in the school’s history, the Broncos qualified for the NCAA tournament.

But the euphoria lasted only until the Broncos stood face to face with the Runnin’ Rebels of the University of Nevada-Las Vegas, one of the nation’s top scoring teams. The Rebels took a shot every eight seconds during the regular season. The Broncos slowed the pace and held UNLV to 44 of 87 field goal attempts. The final score: Broncos 78 and Rebels 103.

Everyone expected the young Bronco basketball team that had captured the Big Sky championship in 1976 to continue to improve. However, the team never quite lived up to its potential the next year when it won 10 and lost 16, despite Connor’s 17.3 scoring average and 145 assists on the season, a record that stands today. In 1977-78, the squad went 8-6 in the conference and 13-14 overall. The team beat Idaho twice, but was unable to get past Montana or Idaho State. The three freshmen who came to BSU in 1974 — Steve Connor, Trent Johnson and Dan Jones — ended their careers in 1978 as the most prolific scoring class in school history. Connor stands second on the career scoring list with 1,927 points, while Johnson and Jones are sixth and seventh respectively. The Broncos went 11-15 in 1978-79. Sean McKenna led the conference in field goal percentage and Dave Richardson led in blocked shots. Richardson led the conference in field goal percentage during a 10-16 season in 1979-80. Bus Connor stepped down following the 1979-80 season.

Dave Leach, an assistant to Ralph Miller at Oregon State, took the coaching helm in the spring of 1980. He expressed his determination to build a solid team. “We want to launch our new program on a successful note; however, we are most interested in establishing a sound foundation for the future.”

The 1980-81 team had only three seniors, Larry McKinney, 6'10" center and leading scorer, guard Scot Ludwig who had been sidelined the previous season with a back injury, and guard Roger Bates. Eric Bailey and John von Uden came in as junior college transfers and Neftali Reyes and Ron Schimbke joined as freshmen. Leach’s first season with the young Broncos produced only seven wins. Highlights of the season saw the Broncos down Weber State in a classic defensive struggle 44-39, and get by Nevada-Reno 57-55. McKinney made the Big Sky second team, and Bailey received honorable mention.

The 1981-82 squad featured Bailey, Jim Maldonado, Bruce Bolden at forward and Schimbke, Terry Lee, Charles Jackson, Vince Hinchen and freshman Mike Hazel at guard. The beginning of the season set the tone for some heartbreakers to come as the Broncos lost their opener against Western Michigan 68-67 and fell the following night in two overtimes to Central Michigan 73-72. The Broncos were 12-14 on the season.

The end of the 1981-82 season also marked the last game in Bronco Gym, capacity 3,500. That spring work was almost complete on the Broncos’ new home — the 12,000-capacity BSU Pavilion. The Broncos unveiled the beautiful new Pavilion in November 1982. “Special guests” for opening night were the Spartans of Michigan State, who three years earlier had won the national championship with Magic Johnson. Jud Heathcote, the former Montana coach
and now Michigan State mentor, got a tough battle from the energized Broncos before prevailing 72-59. The crowd of more than 5,000 was a new BSU record at the time, but that figure would more than double in the not too distant future. The new Pavilion was a vast improvement over old Bronco Gym. Nevertheless, the losing pattern prevailed in the 1982-83 season as the Broncos won only 10 games.

Duane Dlouhy, who had made his fame in Bronco football, joined the team in 1983 at forward along with Bruce Bolden, Rawn Hayes and JC transfer James McNorton. The guards were Hazel, Patrick White and Schimbke with Scott Elle and John Martin at center.

The Broncos almost upended BYU before falling 68-67 and managed to defeat Montana State 57-55 and Montana 62-59. Meanwhile, Hayes set a record with 12 steals against Weber State on January 22, 1983. Hinchen earned second team All-Big Sky honors in 1983 and scored 459 points, a total that still keeps his name in the record books. Bailey's name is also there with his 450 points in 1983. Bronco fans remember hailing Bruce Bolden's slam dunks with a loud "BRUUUUUCE." Besides slam dunks, Bolden would also set the record in career blocked shots a year later with 108. Hinchen remains fourth in all-time scoring with a career total of 1,243 points.

Women's Track and Field

By Thomas Ansbach

Women's track and field made its debut in the spring of 1971. Connie Thorngren was the program's first coach, a position she held until 1975. Twelve student-athletes comprised the debut squad: Toni Balderama, Helen Fleenor, Jeanie Hawkins, Karen Mahan, Julie Oman, Pat Rechmeyer, Janie Rich, Brenda Swift, Toni Turnbull, Nancy Vanderhooft, Jayne Van Wassenhove and Diane Westbrook. The initial group won the Idaho College Women's Sports Association track meet and the BSC Invitational meet. The Broncos finished fourth in the region.

Sparse reporting of the early women's competitions indicates that the Broncos regularly competed in dual and four-way meets. In 1974, the Bronco cinder squad captured a victory in a four-way meet with Ricks College, Brigham Young University and Utah State University. Kendra Falen won three events — discus, javelin and shot put, thereby helping the Broncos to amass 121 points to
outdistance their nearest competitor, Ricks College, by 15 points.

The 1974 squad sent five women to the Northwest regional meet in LaGrande, Oregon. They were Falen, discus and javelin; Jackie Killian, 100-yard dash and anchor for the 440-relay team; and Debbie Hill, Cindy Woodworth and Gretchen Thompson, who rounded out the relay team.

In 1975, Genger Fahleson took the helm and coached track and field through the 1980 season.

That year, Kelly Pate in the 100-yard hurdles and 440-yard dash, Barbara Buchan in the mile and 880-meter run, and Debbie Towne in the 440-yard hurdles led the squad throughout the season. The 1975 squad embraced the changing attitude toward women in sport at BSU, as demands were made for greater funding, equal practice time and better travel accommodations. Frequent Bronco victors included Connie Figueroa in the mile, Barbara Buchan in the two mile, Tandra White in the 100-yard dash, and Alice Meyers as the anchor of the 440 and mile relay teams. Six Bronco women participated in the Northwest regional meet in 1977: Kim Erekson, White, Woodworth and relay runners Cindy Jorgenson, Meyers and Figueroa.

Five Bronco women qualified for the 1978 outdoor Northwest regional at Bozeman: Buchan, distances; Karen Osburn, 100- and 440-meter relays; Connie Taylor, 200-meters and 440-relay; and the other 440-relay runners, Karma Osburn and Sue Wessels. Despite the fact that the women did not have a championship season, several student-athletes set new track and field records, including Karen Osburn in the 100-meters, Schenk in the 800-meters, miler Jorgenson, and Buchan in the 5,000-meters.

In 1979, the Broncos won the All-Idaho championship. That year, sprinter Karen Osburn became the first women track athlete to compete for BSU in the national AIAW championships, held at Michigan State.

In 1980, the Broncos took third at the NCWSA regional meet, which was hosted by BSU. That year many changes affected the women's track and field program. Fahleson resigned as coach and was replaced by Joe Neff in July 1980. By the spring of 1981, Neff had a powerful team that took second place in the NCWSA meet at Western Washington in Bellingham. The squad missed first place by five points as the Boise State women set four meet records: Jody Smith Aronson in the 1,500-meter run, Kim Carroll in the high jump and teams in the 440-and 800-meter relays.

Nine Bronco women qualified for the national AIAW Division II Track and Field championships held at Indiana, Pennsylvania. Of the nine, two finished in the top six and became Boise State University's first women track and field All-Americans: Jody Smith Aronson placed fourth in the 1,500-meter, and Kim Carroll captured a sixth-place finish in the high jump.

Following the very successful 1981 season, Neff resigned and Jim Klein became head women's coach. Klein inherited a nucleus of returning veterans that ensured another successful season. In February 1982, administrators from Boise State University, Eastern Washington University, Idaho State University, Montana State University, Portland State University, the University of Idaho, University of Montana and Weber State College joined together to form the
Mountain West Athletic Conference. The new women’s conference moved swiftly to become an affiliate of the NCAA. At BSU, some women feared that the male-dominated NCAA would thwart the progress of women’s athletics, but former coach Connie Thorngren believed the women could maintain their own program within the NCAA.

The newly-formed conference held unofficial championship meets in the 1982 indoor and outdoor seasons, with five of the eight eventual conference members competing. Boise State captured the indoor “championship” at ISU in February by setting eight school records and amassing 159 points. Carla Damiano, Cindy Stewart and Kristi Meece swept the top three places in the pentathlon. Meanwhile, Kim Carroll won the high jump, and Darla Hasselquist took the 600-meter run. The Broncos repeated their indoor win by also taking the outdoor title. Carroll and Sandy Johnson won All-American honors. Carroll took third in the nation in the high jump and Johnson achieved a second-place finish in the shot put.

The Mountain West Athletic Conference held its first “official” indoor track championships at the Minidome in Pocatello in 1983. At that meet, Karla Jacoby, daughter of Coach Ed Jacoby and sister of Bronco men’s high jump specialist Jake Jacoby, participated in her first conference championship meet. Karla set a school and conference record in winning the 55-meter hurdles.

**Twins on the Track**

In 1978 and 1979, the women’s track and field squad possessed a very unique feature. The team had two sets of twins. The Osburn sisters, Karen and Karma from Boise’s Borah High School, established new school records. Karen set a record in the 100-meter dash and both girls were part of record-breaking relay teams.

The Smith sisters, Jody and Judy from Ontario, Oregon, qualified as competitors in the 1979 NCWSA Regional Championships. In 1979, Judy set a new school record in the 800 meters and Jody established a school record in the 1,500 meters and was an All-American in 1981. In 1981, twins Connie and Joyce Taylor from Welser joined the Bronco track team. They boosted the number to three sets of twins participating in the same sport simultaneously.37
High jumpers Carroll, Chris Crouch and Stewart, swept the top three places at the meet. Despite the shattered records and the outstanding performances of several Broncos, the women finished the meet in a disappointing fifth place.

In the 1983 outdoor season, the women edged Idaho in the All-Idaho meet, but finished a close second to the Vandals in the first MWAC outdoor championships. BSU and Idaho exchanged wins in event after event at the meet. Coming into the final event, the mile relay, the two teams were in a tie at 101 points. In a heartbreaking finish for BSU, the Vandals prevailed. Just six points separated the two teams. An unsung heroine of the Bronco squad was Sandy Johnson, the Broncos' top discus and shot put specialist who had broken her hand prior to the meet. Unable to throw the shot put, she missed qualifying for the discus by just one foot.

The determined Bronco women went on to win the MWAC outdoor championship the next season. In the meet at Bozeman, gold medals were won by Debbie Florke in the 100-meters and the long jump, Diane Dodds in the 400-meter hurdles, Carmel Major in the 110-meter hurdles, Michelle Marchant in the triple jump and Karen Woodbeck in the discus.

The women again won the Mountain West outdoor title in 1985, scoring 129 points to the University of Montana's 107. Major won the 100-meter hurdles and the 400-meter hurdles in a record-setting time. Sabrina Johnson grabbed the gold in the 200- and the 400-meter dashes, and both women contributed to the record setting 100- and 400-yard relay squads. Kate Burton won the shot put.
Following the 1985 victory, seven Bronco women made the All-Conference track and field team: Major, Hardin, Johnson, Burton, Woodbeck, Sheryl Florian and Jody Barnes.

The Bronco women then swept the MWAC indoor field in 1986 and captured their third outdoor championship in the spring. Johnson, Major and Macie Miller paced the Broncos in the indoor season and joined Marj Connors, Florke (back after a severe foot injury), Marilyn Burrows and Heather Heasley to key the outdoor season. Others who contributed to the championships were Julie McConnell, Florian, Nicole Terra and Burton.

From the beginning of the championship meet, the caliber of Boise State's squad left little doubt that it would triumph as it amassed 146 points, 26 points ahead of runner-up Weber State. Three Bronco women scored double wins during the meet. Major became the meet's first double winner with victories in the heptathlon and the 400-meter hurdles. Johnson added the second set of Bronco victories by seizing first-place finishes in the 200- and 400-meter events. Miller completed the rare triad of double wins with firsts in the long and triple jump events. Overall, the Broncos captured nine of the 18 total events at the meet, including Florke in the 100 meters, and Burton, who turned in a gold-medal performance in the shot put.

Klein was the unanimous choice for Coach of the Year for the third year in a row.

The Broncos' iron grip on the Mountain West outdoor crown came to an end in 1987 after Johnson tore a hamstring and the Broncos finished second to Montana. Although the squad did not win the championship, it had three gold medal winners: Miller in the long jump, Nancy Kuiper in the shot put and Major in the heptathlon. Although devastated that they did not win a fourth title, the Broncos placed 11 student-athletes on the MWAC All-Conference team. In addition to the gold medal winners,
Kelly Baker, McConnell, Carla Boyde, Donna Swindell and Jennifer Whelan of the relay teams also made the elite group.

Baker and Major qualified for the 1987 NCAA Track and Field championships in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where Baker finished 10th in the high jump and Major earned an eighth-place finish in the heptathlon.

Major ended her career as one of the most successful track student-athletes in BSU history. In her four championship meets, 1984-87, she scored an average of 29.9 points. As a sophomore she won four events and scored 41 points. A hurdler and heptathlon specialist, she was a member of the Bahamas' national track team and was named an outstanding track athlete in the MWAC in 1985 and '86.

The Bronco women's team competed in the MWAC for the last time in 1988 before the conference merged with the Big Sky. The women bid farewell to the MWAC by winning the outdoor championship for the fourth time in five years. During that spring, many an event was labeled the "Crystal Young Show." Young, a transfer from Mt. San Antonio Junior College, often racked up 29-30 points at a meet. Winning the conference championships in the heptathlon and the long jump, she went on to finish third in the shot put and 100-meter hurdles and sixth in the javelin, and aided the 4x400 relay team to a first-place victory. With 5,741 points in the heptathlon competition, Young led the nation in that event. Young received the Outstanding Field Athlete award during the championship meet. Other Bronco champions included Kuiper with a double win in the shot put and discus, and Sabrina Johnson in the 200-meter, 400-meter and 4x100 and 4x400 relays.

Johnson's four victories at the conference meet ended her career as the best sprinter in Bronco history. In four years she put her name in the record book 64 times, including conference marks in the 200- and 400-meters and the 4x100- and 4x400-meter relays.

Klein, coach of the championship Bronco squad, added a fourth MWAC Coach of the Year honor to his record. On the heels of his selection, Klein received the NCAA Division I, District 7 Track Coach of the Year award.

Young competed at the 1988 NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships in Eugene, Oregon, where she took second place in the heptathlon. Through this achievement, Young became the first BSU woman athlete to achieve NCAA Division I All-American honors and to be classified as a "U.S. national class heptathlete." That summer Young placed seventh in the tryouts for the U.S. Olympic team.

In 1989, Young took first in the long jump and second in the shot put in the Big Sky indoor championship meet. Young and Butler led the Broncos through the 1989 outdoor season. In the championship meet held at Bronco Stadium, the Broncos came in second to Northern Arizona University, missing the championship by nine points. Young and Butler finished 1-2 in the heptathlon. Young placed in six other events, garnering 37.5 points. Butler placed in three events. Other champion Broncos included Stachia Neeley, who won the long jump, and Sherril Brown in the 200 meters. The women also had the winning 4x100 and 4x400 relay teams.
Young and Butler went on to the 1989 NCAA outdoor championships, and for the second year in a row Young took All-American honors. She eclipsed her old heptathlon best by 48 points, but finished a disappointing fifth in the competition. Butler finished 15th in the heptathlon.

Although the Bronco thinclads won no championships in 1990, Kathy Karpel captured the Big Sky title in the 3000-meter run, and Nicole English won the discus. Carla Boyde-Canty, Kris Jessen, Brown, Christine Olen and Neeley earned valuable points to place the Broncos second to Northern Arizona.

1991 marked the 21st year of competition for the women's track and field team. To that point, the Broncos had never placed lower than second since the creation of the Mountain West, and later, Big Sky Conference. They won four times, but that record ended in 1991 when the Bronco squad finished third in the conference's outdoor championships. In the meet, Bronco winners were Christine Johnson in the high jump, English in the javelin, and the 4x400 relay team, comprised of Kris Littlefield, Ruth Brown, Ada Alger and Vanessa Pike.

The women placed fourth indoors and third outdoors in 1992. Gloria Dillard captured first place in the discus and the shot put at the outdoor Big Sky meet held in Bronco Stadium. She was named Outstanding Big Sky Field Athlete at the meet. Rubye Jones took first in the long jump. Indoors, Dillard also won the shot put at the conference meet.

The women moved up to third indoors and second outdoors in 1993. Their outdoor results were made possible by six first-place finishes — Jones in the long jump, Tosha Bailey in the 100-meter hurdles, Jovita Davis in the 100-meters, Misha Looney in the 200-meters, the 1,600-meter relay team of Marty Nrguelles, Lisa Van Gorp, Wendy McGamish and Davis, and the 400-meter relay team of Looney, Andrea Holmes, Davis and Jones.

The team returned to the winner's circle in March of 1994 when they won the Big Sky indoor meet held in Pocatello. They were joined on the victory stand by the Bronco men's team, the first time both squads had won the indoor crown in the same year. The women finished 18 points ahead of second-place Weber State on the strength of winning performances by Abigail Ferguson in the triple jump, Bailey in the 55-meter hurdles and Jones in the long jump. The BSU squad placed four women in that event — Looney in second, Bailey in third and Stephanie Rascoe in fifth. Bailey was also second in the high jump.

Once outdoors, the team matched its indoor results by winning the Big Sky title for the first time since 1988. The Broncos beat second-place Weber by 18 points. As indoors, the biggest event for the Broncos was the long jump, where Rubye Jones set a new meet record and teammates Misha Looney and Tosha Bailey placed second and third.

Bailey also won the 100-meter hurdles, while Looney took second in the 100- and 200-yard dashes. Other first places came from Abigail Ferguson, who set a meet record in the triple jump, and the 440-meter relay team of Bailey, Looney, Ruth Brown and Andrea Holmes.
Golf

In the junior college era, Bronco golf teams were occasionally matched against local teams like Northwest Nazarene or College of Idaho as well as ICAC opponents.

But the first team at the four-year level was organized in 1969. One week after Athletic Director Lyle Smith announced the formation of the team, it played in its first meet. Coached by Darcy F. Frederick, Rich Hutchins, Mike Bideganeta and Mark Beebe were consistent winners during the first season, which featured a schedule of teams like NNC, Treasure Valley Community College, CoI and Mountain Home Air Force Base.

The 1970 team received $1,300 in funding and held the first Boise State College Invitational meet. Big Sky teams eager for competition responded to the invitational. The Broncos finished eighth at their tournament, which was won by the University of Montana.

The Bronco Invitational would become a popular event for Big Sky participants since the meet was played on the golf courses at Hillcrest and Crane Creek country clubs.

Mike Young, whose legacy would come as Bronco wrestling mentor, became golf coach in 1970.

The Broncos played in their first Big Sky golf tournament in 1971 but struggled to a seventh-place finish. They took fifth in 1972. The 1973 team, coached by Gordon L. Gochnour, posted a 7-1 regular season mark and took fourth in the Big Sky championship tourney. The Broncos were fifth in the conference in 1974. No league championships were held in 1975-76.

In 1977, the Bronco golf team, coached by Doug Oliver, captured second place in the Big Sky golf tournament in 1971 but struggled to a seventh-place finish. They took fifth in 1972. The 1973 team, coached by Gordon L. Gochnour, posted a 7-1 regular season mark and took fourth in the Big Sky championship tourney. The Broncos were fifth in the conference in 1974. No league championships were held in 1975-76.

In 1977, the Bronco golf team, coached by Doug Oliver, captured second place in the Big Sky golf tournament, the highest finish up to that point. Joe Hickman finished seventh to lead the Broncos, who took four out of the top 11 places. Brian Mickels was ninth, Jim Wallace tenth and Gary Duncan eleventh. The next four years — 1978-81 — the Broncos could finish no better than fifth. They moved up to third in 1982 and '83.

The Broncos again took second place in the conference in 1984 under Coach Lyman Gallup. Danny Moore achieved a first in Bronco sports history by winning medalist honors in the meet. Courtney Foster and eventual touring pro Tad Holloway tied for seventh and Larry Raschko took tenth. BSU finished third in 1985 and fourth in 1986. That year the Big Sky dropped golf and the Broncos became a Division I independent.

Boise golf pro Bob Campbell took over as BSU's first full-time head golf coach at the start of the 1988-89 season. Immediately, the team's performance improved. Led by John Kawasoe, the Broncos finished second at the Fox Acres Invitational hosted by the University of Wyoming, and third at the Rippling River Invitational in Portland and in their own BSU Spring Invitational. Boise State also had two fourth-place finishes that year — the Washington State and University of Portland invitationals.

In 1989-90, the Bronco golfers won the Black Butte Ranch Invitational hosted by Portland State. David Peterson had the best stroke...
average with a 76.2 that year, while Larry Bull took first place at the Wolf Pack Classic in Carson City, Nevada. The squad also took second at its own invitational and third at the Red Jacoby Invitational in Wyoming.

Jon Herendeen was Boise State's top golfer in 1990-91 with a 76.6 stroke average as the Broncos won their own invitational, finished second at the Sky West Invitational hosted by Southern Utah State, came in third at Wyoming's Jacoby Invitational and finished fifth at Cal State-Stanislaus' tournament in Turlock, California.

The 1991-92 team was led by Marc Rhodes, who finished the year with a 75.6 stroke average. The Broncos won their own invitational and finished fourth three times — at the Black Butte Ranch Invitational, the Sky West Invitational and the Cougar Classic in Provo, Utah. BSU's Matt Schweiger was the lone individual winner that year, taking first at a tournament hosted by Sacramento State.

The 1992-93 season marked another step forward for the golf program. Led by NCAA qualifier Dave Lebeck, the Broncos posted three tournament wins — the Black Butte Ranch, the BSU Spring Invitational (for the third consecutive year) and the Grand Canyon Invitational in Phoenix.

Lebeck enjoyed a memorable year as he finished with a 72.9 stroke average, won three individual crowns — the Jacoby, Black Butte and BSU Invitationals — and became the first Bronco golfer ever to qualify for the NCAA regionals. He also finished second at the Nike Northwest Invitational hosted by Oregon State.

At the end of the regular season Lebeck played in the NCAA Western regionals at Riverside Country Club in Provo, where he carded rounds of 72-73-74, finishing tied for 24th and missing the cut for the NCAA finals by 3 strokes.

The Big Sky re-established golf as a conference sport for men and women beginning with the 1993 fall season. The Broncos did well at the initial conference championships held at the University of Idaho course. The men took second, narrowly losing to Weber State by 2 strokes. Seniors Lebeck and Herendeen were joined by Travis Thompson, Schweiger and Ryan Deiro. Lebeck took second place in medalist standings.

In the spring of 1994 the Bronco men's team followed its successful fall season with the first-ever berth for a BSU golf team in the NCAA regionals. Led by Lebeck and Herendeen, the Broncos had their best 1-2 punch in history. After good results from a series of spring tournaments, the Broncos qualified to make the trip to regionals in Tucson, Arizona. A tough first round put an end to the team's hopes of placing among the nine teams that qualified for nationals. The Broncos played better the second and third days to finish 15th out of the 18 teams in the regional. Herendeen led the Broncos by placing 16th among individual competitors. Deiro placed 43rd, Lebeck 59th and Lance Reiber 77th. Others on the team included Tyler Andrew, John Cook, Matt Schweiger and Travis Thompson.

BSU added a women's golf team to its array of sports in the fall of 1992. In its first year, the team played in eight tournaments and won its own Bronco Invitational. The women took the top spot in the inaugural Big Sky tournament by 24 strokes over Idaho State. Led by Coach Todd Bindner, the team included Shawna Seiber, Nichole Morrison, Amy Hutchinson, Teri McCarron and Daniela Wall. Seiber won the conference medalist title.
Tennis

Tennis was played as an intramural and club sport during much of the 1960s. In 1967, Bus Connor, with Tony Bindner as his assistant coach, issued a call for players to form a new varsity tennis team. Bob Chatterton, Carl Ellsworth, John Stohler, Allen Smyth and Reed Bowen responded. In 1968, they won the ICAC championship. Smyth led the squad by capturing the singles championship. Joining him were Butch Henson, Wayne Mittleider, Gary Giffin, Larry Haugness and Chuck Baxter.

In 1968, a women's team was formed under the leadership of coach Jean Boyles. The team played only two matches against Northwest Nazarene and College of Idaho, but the Broncos won them both. Among the high points of the early years in women's tennis was a win by Kathy Bestry and Becky Baldwin in the B doubles at the Idaho Women's College Sports Association Tournament in 1971. In 1976, the team won 6 and lost one, led by Leslie Green, Rose McFadden and Patti Turner.

By 1970, the Bronco men's tennis team became a power and went through the season undefeated, beating the University of Portland, Lewis and Clark, Weber State, Whitworth College, Gonzaga, Washington State, Idaho State and the University of Idaho. The next year the Bronco men's team joined the Big Sky and hosted the conference meet, but dropped to seventh out of eight teams. The 1972 Broncos surprised the league by bouncing back to take second. Terry Benjamin, Dave Graham and Rau Balbutin won singles titles, while Balbutin teamed with Ben Strawn to win doubles.

The 1973 team, coached by former player Dan Owen, posted a 7-1 season, with Utah State getting the only win. The squad again took second in the Big Sky. Hector Enriquez, Tony Pontious and Nacho Larracochea won singles titles. The latter pair also won doubles.

That success led to the first Big Sky men's tennis title the next year, as the Broncos won 40 of 45 individual matches and went 9-3 in dual competition. The only teams to beat BSU in the regular season were Spokane Falls and Utah State. The Broncos swept through the conference tournament by easily beating Idaho, Montana State, Weber and Montana. The Owen-coached team won four of six singles titles and two of three doubles. Larracochea capped the championship day by being the first Bronco ever to win a conference title from the No. 1 singles spot. Other singles winners included Bill Steege, Dave Graham and Jim Smyth. Doubles champions included the teams of Steege-Pontious and Smyth-Larry Parson.

The Big Sky held no championship tournament in 1975 and '76. But the Broncos had good teams both seasons. In '75 Pontious and Larracochea returned to lead the team to a 7-8 dual record against an improved schedule that
included Oregon, Oregon State and Washington State. The next year Mike Megale, Nelson Gourley and Larracoechea were key players on Coach Bob Cornwell’s squad. Big Sky competition was renewed in 1977, and the Broncos placed third, despite having no individual champions. In 1978 the Broncos again climbed into second place on the strength of Mike Megale’s win — the second in Bronco history — from the No. 1 singles spot. BSU slipped to third in 1979, then fifth in 1980 and fourth in 1981. Chris Nord won a singles title that year. Chris Langdon won the singles and teamed with Steve Appleton to win doubles as the Broncos took fourth in 1982.

BSU took fifth in the Big Sky in 1983, with Parry O’Keefe the team’s only individual champion. The Broncos repeated the fifth place finish in 1984 as Megale and Maurice Vasconcellos won a title in doubles. The next year, 1985, BSU narrowly missed the Big Sky crown, placing second to Weber by only a two-point margin. It was BSU’s best finish since the 1974 championship. Vasconcellos earned an individual championship in singles. The Broncos slipped to third in 1986 and 1987. In ’87 the doubles team of Lee Galway and Dave Tibbets won the league title.

In 1988, the team again challenged for the league championship, but placed second to perennial power Weber State. Graeme Smith and Mike Harvey won singles titles.

Coach Ron Dibelius arrived for the 1989 season. That year the men took fourth in the Big Sky tournament, led by the duo of New Zealander Lee Galway and Mexican Pablo Bracho, who won a doubles championship. Bracho also won a singles crown and was named the tournament’s MVP. Galway became the first Bronco ever invited to the NCAA championships that year, but he lost in the opening round.

In 1990, Mike Parker and Gavin Fenske led the Broncos to a second-place finish in the Big Sky tournament by winning singles championships. Parker teamed with Jeff Perkins to capture a doubles trophy. The 1991 season marked the opening
of Boise State's new indoor facility, but the Bronco tennis squad struggled in sixth place.

The BSU women's program competed with other AIAW schools prior to entry into the Mountain West Conference in the 1983 season. The best individual performer in the AIAW era was Phyllis Dupras, who won the regional tournament and advanced to the national small college tournament in Denver, Colorado, in 1979. That year Dupras was also Idaho's representative at the Seventeen magazine national tournament.

After the formation of the MWAC, the Broncos could do no better than sixth. The league merged with the Big Sky for the 1989 season. The Broncos tied Idaho for fifth that year, but slipped to seventh in 1990 and '91.


In 1992, the Big Sky changed its tournament format. No longer would there be secondary positions in singles and doubles play, but just one championship in each bracket. And even though both Bronco squads finished fourth and did not claim any individual championships, six BSU players earned All-Big Sky honors – Australian Nick Battistella, South African Johan Gedlitschka and Swede Kristian Widen for the men and Kris Costi, Cris Shin and Vicki Boas for the women.

In the fall of 1992 big changes occurred for Boise State tennis as Dibelius moved to the Bronco Athletic Association and Greg Patton and Mike Edles took over as head men's and women's tennis coaches, respectively. Patton, the former head coach at UC-Irvine and Edles, the former head coach at Cal State-Hayward, were named NCAA coaches of the year in Divisions I and II before coming to Boise State.

In 1993, the two first-year coaches led Boise State to one of its most memorable tennis seasons when the men won the Big Sky championship – their first title since 1974 – and the women took second. The Bronco men were led by Chilean Ernesto Diaz, who finished second in singles competition and earned an at-large berth in the NCAA tournament in Georgia, where he advanced to the second round before being eliminated.

The Big Sky women's tournament featured an all-BSU doubles final as Brazilian Luciana Nolasco and Kris Costi defeated teammates Lisa Denton and Bindi Thomas for the championship.

There was an element of deja vu in the 1994 season results – as the year before, the men again took the Big Sky title and the women were second. But this time there was something new. The men advanced to the NCAA regionals, the first team from the Big Sky to advance to postseason play. And the cast of characters was different – nationally ranked 1993 players Ernesto Diaz and Marcello Achondo were on the sidelines with pre-season injuries.

The Broncos were dominant in winning the conference crown, beating Eastern Washington 7-0, Idaho State 6-1 and Northern Arizona 7-0. In the championship match against NAU, Bronco players lost only one doubles match. But competition got tougher once the Broncos arrived on the NCAA scene – the team lost to Fresno State in the first round to finish the season with an 18-10 record.

Three players earned all-conference honors: Kenneth Baker, Amir Ben Mordechai and Nick Battistella. Other members of the squad included Anthony Adams, Ben Davidson, Jim Martin, Remy Pop, Steve Vozeh and Kristian Widen.

The women's team again finished runner-up to Weber and finished the season at 17-8. Two players, Lisa Denton and Maria Capuano, were named to the All-Big Sky first team.