sored by the Women's Athletic Association. In some years, BJC women did field basketball and tennis teams that competed outside the college, usually against Northwest Nazarene or College of Idaho.

In 1936, the women organized a basketball team that played other teams in the city. The next year, the women played Gooding College and the YWCA teams. Most women, if they participated in sports beyond the required physical education class, played in two or three sports activities during the year. In 1945, a women's tennis team consisting of Thelma Stewart, Gail Coffin and Juanita Montgomery defeated all comers.

The War Years and into the 1950s

Football, 1942-50

By 1942, war had gripped the world. Even the tiny campus in Boise was affected as male students and faculty joined the military. Football went to a six-man team that played local colleges, the airmen at Gowen Field and, occasionally, the inmates at the Idaho State Penitentiary. The program stayed at this reduced level for the 1942-45 seasons before it was revived in 1946.

In 1945, the Broncos started with 30 players out for football. But by mid-October, only five showed up for practice and Coach Carl Warner cancelled the season before the first game was scheduled.

Once the war was over, enrollment increased and put the men's program on a stable footing. It took a full year after the war to get the sports program activated. In 1946, football and tennis attracted returning veterans. The BJC Roundup of April 18, 1946, reported that
there will be no track at BJC this year due to a lack of interest, and a lack of funds for traveling and equipment. Most of the athletic-minded fellows here at school this year are devoting their time to either tennis or football.

Jacoby returned from the war and his 1946 football squad posted a 3-5-1 record. A large group of veterans turned out, but the Broncos had trouble scoring points early in the season. In the first six games, they crossed the goal line only three times. The Broncos did win or tie their last three games, thus unknowingly beginning an undefeated streak that would last until 1950. But 1946 was marked in Bronco history for more than the win-loss record. Suffering from a war injury, Jacoby hired a young assistant to help with the team. His name was Lyle Smith.

1947 was a watershed year for the Broncos. Prior to that time, the school had never fielded a winning football team, with frequent coaching changes and a reduced program during World War II. But all that changed in 1947 when Smith took over from Jacoby. Smith immediately turned the program around. Sixty players showed up for practice the first day, the most since the program began. The roster listed players from Oregon, Utah, New Mexico, Arizona and 12 towns in Idaho. Using Smith's disciplined single wing offense, the Broncos surprised even themselves when they marched through the nine-game season undefeated. The Broncos, ranked as one of the top six teams in the country, caught the eye of Little Rose Bowl officials.

The Broncos defeated the University of Idaho freshmen 19-12 in a Homecoming game that was carried over KDSH radio — the first play-by-play broadcast in the school's history. They also defeated Weber College, Ricks College, Carbon College, Olympic Junior College, Southern Idaho College of Education and Eastern Oregon that season. The last game of the season against Albion was played at a neutral site — Glenns Ferry. Even so, 2,000 fans turned out for the 7-0 Bronco win. During the year the Broncos produced their first All-American, tackle Dick Nelson from Boise. The first undefeated team in school history was led by Leo Compton, Ben Jayne, Jack Frisch, Phil Iriondo, Pete Call, Dick Nelson was BJC's first Little All-American in 1947.

WHAT ABOUT IT?

People go to football games for several reasons. Maybe it is for the fun and excitement, or for the spirit created by a cold crisp day with two teams battling for supremacy, or for the support of the team, and even to let off steam.

There are several ways to let off steam — by yelling for the team or player when on top or when on the bottom, or participating in the yells given by the yell leaders, or clapping and singing when the band plays.

There is one way which is not necessary or sportsmanlike. More than a few have noticed that at the recent games some students have been guilty of making fun of the yell leaders and band members by shouting remarks to them and by throwing things such as cups and papers. They are doing their best and they are there because YOU put them there or if you didn't vote it is not your place or privilege to make remarks. Only a few members of this student body are guilty of this action, but it gives BJC a bad reputation which is likely to follow us for the rest of the season if the report gets back to other towns by visiting team members.

We have a wonderful team. They are out on the field fighting for us. It is only right that we do the same for them.

Let's all try!
Don Miller, George Rogers, Jerry Wilson, Jim Lewis, Bob Mays, Ray Koll, Earl Naylor, Gail Porritt, Don Underkofler, Bob Underkofler, Gene Goetz, Don Dunn, Jim Lewis, Terry McMullen, Don Cockayne, Ted Nelson and Perry Colton.

Elated Bronco fans launched a public relations campaign to send their team to the famed Little Rose Bowl game in Pasadena, California. Gov. C. A. Robbins sent a wire to the selection committee and local sporting goods store owner Sib Kleffner got word from friend Bing Crosby that the committee was interested and that Crosby was doing everything he could to help the Broncos. But the BJC bid was unsuccessful and the Broncos were left out of the bowl picture.

In 1948, nine colleges in Idaho and Utah joined to form the Intermountain Collegiate Athletic Conference (ICAC), providing new framework for competition, including league championships. BJC, Ricks, Albion, Weber, Snow, Westminster, Branch Agricultural College, Dixie and Carbon were the conference members.

It did not take long for the league to find out about the BJC football program. For a second consecutive year, the team went undefeated, scoring 233 points against their opponents' 67. Smith hired George Blankley to replace Bill Richter as assistant coach. Ben Jayne, a native of Enid, Oklahoma, who enrolled at BJC after visiting his sister in Boise, was named an All-American end, while teammates Jack Frisch and Phil Iriondo received honorable mention. As in 1947, the undefeated season was not rewarded by a postseason bowl berth.

In 1949, the Broncos earned national recognition when they again went undefeated and were rated third in the country. At last the Broncos received their bowl bids, one to Beaumont, Texas, and the other, which they accepted, to Bakersfield, California, to meet Taft California Junior College in the Potato Bowl. The Potato Bowl Committee guaranteed $3,800 to cover the Broncos' travel expenses.

The Broncos left for Bakersfield accompanied by a 25-piece pep band, BJC queen Cecilia Simmons and a host of fans who carried placards, pennants and sacks of Idaho potatoes to display before the Bakersfield potato growers. The football team and many fans traveled by bus to Winnemucca and then by train to Bakersfield, while others took a chartered plane sponsored by The Idaho Statesman. The Broncos arrived in Bakersfield on Thursday and were featured guests at breakfasts, in the Christmas parade and on radio broadcasts. Coach Smith and President Chaffee shared the limelight with the team.

Fifteen thousand cheering fans attended the Shrine-sponsored game in Griffith Stadium. Radio stations KFXD and KDSH broadcast the game in Boise. Taft fielded a solid ball club with only one lineman weighing in at less than 200 pounds. The Broncos, dressed in new uniforms, were sparked by dynamite backs Bob Agee, team captain Bill Moore and Dick Bader. The Broncos made their first score before the game was two minutes old, but failed on the PAT. The Taft Cougars roared back and made the score 7-6.

The Broncos took a 13-7 lead into the locker room at halftime and scored again on the sixth play of the third quarter. In the third quarter, and once again in the fourth, the Broncos were kept out of the end zone.
by penalties and a fumble. However, late in the game, Taft fumbled on its 6-yard line, and Bader scored standing up. The final score was 25-7, and the Broncos went home with their first victory in postseason play. Quarterback Agee was named an All-American after the season.

The success of the 1950 season added to the growing reputation of BJC's football program. The Broncos, riding a 31-game undefeated streak, opened their home season in a brand new 10,000-seat stadium. For the fourth year in a row, the Broncos went undefeated. The only close game was an 8-0 win over Weber. The rest of the time Smith's single wing worked with machine-like efficiency. Three times the Broncos scored more than 50 points.

But one important ingredient was missing for the Broncos — Lyle Smith, who was called away to the Korean War after the third game in the season. Assistant Coach George Blankley took over the team and led them the rest of the season. The Broncos won another ICAC football championship, and three players were named to the all-conference first team: quarterback George Donaldson, guard Harry Howerton and end Ray Lewis. For the second consecutive year, the Broncos were selected for postseason play. This time it was the Little Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California, that came calling. George Cordes at the Idaho Hotel arranged free transportation for college men to Los Angeles and sold a package deal to the public. For $42.50 fans received a game ticket, Greyhound bus transportation, two nights lodging in Reno and two nights in Los Angeles, with transportation to and from the game.

On December 9, 1950, a crowd of 47,525 people, more than the population of Boise and 10 times their usual Bronco Stadium crowd, attended the Little Rose Bowl game. Thousands more heard the national broadcast with the play-by-play commentary of Tom Harmon, one time All-American at Michigan and sports director for KNX in Los Angeles. Radio station KDSH carried the broadcast for Boise.

BJC team captains Lewis and Roy Mosman led a talented squad, including standouts Larry Jackson, Joe Fulwyler, Bob Wilder, Dudley Montrose and others. The Broncos brought a 40-game unbeaten streak with them to Pasadena. The Long Beach City College Vikings scored only one touchdown in the first half but blitzed the Broncos for 26 points in the third and fourth quarters, as the Broncos faded under the broiling sun and the 97-degree temperature on the Rose Bowl field. BJC's only touchdowns came in the fourth quarter. Fullback Dwight Winslow scored BJC's first touchdown. The second was capped by a last-minute pass from Jackson to George Donaldson. The final score of 33-13 ended the Broncos' incredible 40-game unbeaten streak that began in 1946 under Coach Harry Jacoby.
Turning Point on a Fine China Plate

By Bob C. Hall

Historians who look for watershed turning points in Boise State's athletic history point commonly to campus architecture or coaching biography. They are not wrong, just incomplete. They overlook a culture crunch just as pivotal.

First it must be remembered that 90 per cent of all Bronco athletes in the immediate post-World War II years had rarely played anywhere else but up and down the Snake River valleys of Southern Idaho and Eastern Oregon. Those young men were neighbors who felt immediately at home in the first Bronco Stadium. A few rows of wood plank seats inside a gray-painted board fence defined the difference between the football field and the vast empty space around it. This place had only recently been Boise city's landing field and dump. This could be any high school field on the edge of Weiser, Emmett or Vale. The rest of BJC's sports teams labored in borrowed gyms and courts, with less notice than they had enjoyed as high school stars.

BJC's unbeaten football team had become a big deal in Boise. But it earned a sports page yawn in Moscow and no notice beyond there. Boise vs. Nampa high school games drew far more fans and headlines. Other than football and basketball, BJC sports were virtually a hobby operation. A biology professor coached the tennis team. Football and basketball coaches traded off watches over baseball and track programs and a ski buff chemistry professor got paid only for the gas it took to drive the valley's rich kids to ski team meets.

For a family-style student body, the rhythm was just right. A typical Bronco spring practice usually started in the open field behind the original two-room student union and ended at Ward's tavern down the street. A player could pick up a fast buck at a game of Hearts in the SUB, keep an eye cocked for a turn in the batting cage or the shot-put ring out back and finish in time to beat those who had cut late classes to Ward's basement bistro.

A BJC all-sports athlete played only football seriously. He was compensated for doing so, but to him, a "ride" meant the daily summer drive across the seared foothills to sweat on the green chain at Boise Payette's Emmett sawmill. After football, he could just wing it across his skill spectrum, winter and spring. A pugnacious basketball player might also punch away with the boxing team, in the far corner of the old wooden practice gym. A tennis player could trot a few feet across the lawn to pull on his catcher's armor in time for late innings.

Besides "relaxed," provincial is a fair adjective for BJC athletes of that time. Their imagination was fired when one or two teammates, exotic imports from Spokane or Chicago, told of games in soaring concrete stadiums and explained the juicy joys of pizza. Their own tales of life and love dwelt on Murray's Curb Service cuties or a big night at the Mountain Home Desert Drive-In movie.

So how, in that easy, homespun atmosphere, did the football program's win streak keep growing to an amazing 40 games over all comers from all states around them by the closing month of the decade? Lyle Smith fully understood the secret weapons that had brought them to this point. First, it was his exploitation of the provincial quality of a state where the biggest city counted all of 32,000 men, women and children and no building, save the Capitol and one hotel, barred a clean view of the barren foothills from anywhere in town. These Snake River Valley kids liked playing together, close to home and hard for hometown pride. They stayed eligible without special tutoring because their parents were usually married, conservative, and hot on their tail to stay straight with Lyle.

Second, BJC's skill nucleus was cheap to assemble. They could recruit an entire array of skilled backs and receivers with fleet, back-alley moves via just a bus ride across the river. Boise honed its athletic children in fully developed sports programs...
that were remarkable for the region. With more centralized funding, community support and facilities goodies than any neighborhood high school in Portland or Seattle, Boise city poured seven local grade schools' kids through a single junior high's rich two years of basic training, then into three more skill-building years at a single high school. They played in a permanent seating football stadium, free-standing basketball gym, separate running track and four all-weather tennis courts.

So Lyle Smith simply plucked off the best of the Boise Braves and filled in his machine's few missing parts with coachable "comers" from Treasure Valley's rural schools. Those boys were grateful for the prospect of a free bus ride to Utah. The Magic Valley was his eastern pasture and the Oregon bank of the Snake River the west fence of his talent farm. His strange Notre Dame Box offense whirled the Boise valley backs through massive team-blocked holes wedged out by muscular, willing farm boys.

The era reached its productivity peak and regional notice in 1949. BJC's first bowl team stayed dutifully in their seats during their first long distance railroad trip to Bakersfield, California. Once there, they turned their bull-shouldered Nampa neighbors, tailback Bill Moore and fullback Dick Bader, loose to stomp all over a stunned Bakersfield JC team and claimed the Potato Bowl trophy. Typically, they were respectful winners. No one slugged anyone or broke a thing during the happy train ride home.

But in December of 1950, this winning use of a unique culture by a wise coach came face to face with the distracting world to which their victory streak had propelled them. The first jarring signal had already come when the Korean War reached in and took their coach to the U.S. Navy in mid-season. It is a mark of that time that no newspaper screamed for his service to be delayed; no booster congressmen tried to intercede. Lyle was called and he went. His saddened players sorely missed their father figure, every practice, every remaining game. Still, they ran the streak to 40 at regular season's end and number 41 was waiting at the Little Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California.

The next sign that an era was ending showed soon after that team, looking like a vaudeville act in their new, elk hide "Smokey Joe" shoes (gift from a boosting Boise shoe store) boarded a chartered DC-3 for the school's first prime time game trip by air. It would become a routine trip for college athletes in every size division. But these BJC players, in December 1950, were already edged. Their coach wasn't there and neither were four key cogs in Lyle's whirling machine. The unbeaten team's starting fullback, halfback, left guard and blocking back had been suddenly declared ineligible for this one game by National Junior College Association nitpickers.

So, their growing sense that foreign forces could rattle them was amplified by the odd pain popping their ears as their airplane descended over a glittering Pacific Ocean down toward the bizarre, endless checkerboard of pink tile roofs and blue swimming pools spread as far as the eye could see. They gawked out the windows and gulped. Some of them spotted the Rose Bowl's unmistakable green oval, glowing in the blue haze of the Arroyo Seco, and gulped again.

Suddenly the door opened. They inched out into the sun's blaze, sweating under their topcoats, scarves and extra sweaters. Their last practice had been on the wind chilled, snow covered tundra that was the BJC campus in early December. Tackle Roy Mosman remembered how little the last regular season game on a frozen sand field under a driving ice storm in northern Utah had bothered anyone. But now he was worried. He felt his heavy wool clothes crawl and thought: "Everyone around here is half naked!" He gulped, again.

Even the bus ride wasn't familiar anymore. Restaurants built like bananas and Arabian mosques whizzed by the windows. Through Pasadena's palm-lined neighborhoods of iron fenced estates and up, up, up to the palatial Huntington Park Hotel, they kept whispering to each other:

"This is where the REAL Rose Bowl teams stay!" Gulp.

Thirty-three pairs of Smokey Joes padded across the hotel's opulent carpets under soaring textured ceilings. Their owners felt diminished by the oil-painted stares of the great railroad barons in their massive, gilt frames along endless oak paneled walls. None of them had ever seen a blue-haired Pasadena dowager. Yet here, they were everywhere, wheelchairing amid the potted plants with male nurses attending to their every shrill command. This was not the city center motel.

A team that had finally shoved its win streak before a nation's nose was having serious trouble focusing on ways to keep it going. Who could concentrate during practices at the elegant, polo-sized park where they mowed the beautiful blue grass every morning and THAT PLACE, with the legendary neon roses entwined across its cavernous entrance, loomed over them, behind every center snap, above the wind sprints and coaches' lectures?

Who could think about his assigned task ahead when teammates came shouting down to the brushy hotel swimming pool to show quarterback Larry Jackson in a heroic cartoon
spread across the front sports section page of a million circulation newspaper? "Why not me, too?", they thought instead.

How could a halfback from Wilder keep his mind on timing rules for the key halfback reverse with big band legend Helen O'Connell, actually up there in the actual Palladium ballroom warbling "Green Eyes"?

Who could say "It's just another game" when the game announcer asking you about that is your All-Time, All-Everything mega-hero Tommy Harmon? How could some players answer, when Coach Smith showed up on Navy leave to "just watch" and, after a mistake-filled practice session, demanded to know "What happened to my team?"

The down-home BJC sports era was slipping away for the "spudders," as the L.A. sports writers tabbed them. It left its last telltale mark on the day the team gathered with gusto before snowy napkins and gleaming silver service at their last training dinner in the grand hotel dining room. Their cross-table talk dropped to silence when livered carving chefs, working with surgical strokes from silver domed carts, laid magnificent English-thin slices of the finest, juiciest, rarest roast beef on fine china plates before them. The silence grew deeper. Heads bowed. No one picked up a fork. Furtive glances flicked from one table to the next.

Finally, tight end "Hagerman John" Curran muttered: "Geez, it ain't done!" Heads nodded. Someone giggled. The carvers held their knives poised. Then, Emmett blocking back George "Honker" Donaldson, prompted his buddy in a louder voice that carried across the room: "Hell, John, it's cooked, all right, but the gravy's all bloody!"

The maitre d'hotel rolled his eyes and walked to the coaches' table. Whispered instructions. The maitre d' waved away all 33 escutcheoned plates of majestic standing prime beef. Back, after an anxious space of time, came the same carts, but this time with a mixture of truck stop beef, brown gravy and platters of crisp fried chicken. With that, relief returned to all tables and a hearty meal was had by all. It was the only time these Broncos felt at home.

The next afternoon, there was no such comfort. The "spudders" trotted out of the Rose Bowl's long, dark tunnel to face, straight up all around them, vertical walls of roaring Rose Bowl fans and Tom Harmon somewhere way up there in the blinding blue arroyo sky. The ceaseless roar, the few spears of dry grass on a hard green-painted dirt field and the bakeoven canyon heat in mid-December were as unnerving as a fine china plate of bloody meat. This time, none of that could be sent away. The Broncos played an unglued game that broke their schools' most coveted athletic tradition 13-33.

BJC, BSC and BSU athletes would never again face such a cultural chasm. Their campus would swiftly develop to a crowded complex of high-rise educational disciplines, drawing students and athletes from every clime, creed and tongue. They can all do Martin Luther King Day comfortably, with understanding.

Still, something lingers. Shouldn't a boy from Eden, Idaho be forgiven for trading the world's best cut of rare roast beef for a platter of home fried chicken? After all, his kind of teams went 40-0 for half a decade. Pass the mashed potatoes.

Bob C. Hall, above, is director of the Idaho Newspaper Association. A graduate of Boise High School, he attended BJC in 1950-51 and was a center on the football team. He later served as Boise State's director of Information Services from 1974-78.

Almost 50,000 fans attended the 1950 Junior Rose Bowl game.
Basketball 1943-50

Football was reduced during the war years, but basketball continued as an intercollegiate sport, except for 1944 when the school did not sponsor a team. John Glasby took over the coaching reins from Allison in 1943, but saw the scoreboard in his favor only four times against 15 defeats.

Basketball was the only sport to play games with other colleges in 1945. A full 24-game slate included nine games against teams from Gowen Field. Led by Coach Rex Engelking, the Broncos registered 18 wins against six losses. The record against other colleges was 10-5. Two Broncos left the team to join the military, but they were replaced by three players who entered from high school during the season.

The Broncos' fortunes reversed the next season as they won only five games against 21 defeats. The squad, which included several veterans who enrolled at the winter term, was coached by Carl Warner, the fourth coach in five years. Aurelius Buckner was captain and high point scorer.

The Bronco basketball team was at full strength by 1947. In a complete turnaround from the 1946 season, the team recorded a 24-9 record, the best in Bronco history to that date. Lyle Smith, hired the previous fall as an assistant in football, was head coach. The team beat every team on the schedule at least once, with the exception of the University of Idaho. Bob Pritchett led the team in scoring, followed by Harry Kendall, Bill Owens, Max Reinecker and Perry Silver, who also

Oh, Really?

Recently sports fans have been rather puzzled on the action taken by Coach Smith in connection with the basketball games. Lyle Smith is of fine character and can be marked as a man of certainly trying, but in the opinion of many, he lacks the qualities necessary for a basketball coach. This column doesn't try to justify his actions, but to point out that he has had a hard time in starting the team off.

From the Roundup, Feb. 21, 1947
The ‘Buck’ Stopped Here

By Bob Evancho

Memories. Boise native Aurelius “Buck” Buckner settles into an easy chair in the den of his home in the city’s North End. He thumbs through the 1945 and ’46 editions of BJC’s yearbook, Les Bois. He occasionally stops at a page to take a closer look at a familiar face. “These sure bring back some fond memories,” he says with a smile.

Buckner, Boise State’s first black athlete, stops again at the “Sports” section of the 1945 Les Bois. That fall, Buckner’s freshman year, the Boise Junior College football “season” consisted of six games of six-man “touch” against equally makeshift teams from St. Teresa’s, Gowen Field and College of Idaho. “We just didn’t have enough players because of the war,” Buckner recalls. “Then the next year we didn’t play football at all.”

Nevertheless, the ’45 yearbook notes that Buckner was the Broncos’ co-leader in scoring with five TDs during their 5-1 season. In one of BJC’s wins, Les Bois describes Buckner, who played end, as “the scoring star of the day by making three of four touchdowns.”

Memories. Buckner turns to the basketball pages. Another smile. “At that time, I think we had the tallest basketball team in the Pacific Northwest,” he recalls. “But we only had two experienced players—Jim Reed and myself.”

Including nine games against Gowen Field squads, BJC posted a 18-6 record during the 1944-45 season under coach Rex Engelking. In 1945-46, the Broncos didn’t fare as well, falling to 5-21 under coach Carl Warner. Buckner was team captain and leading scorer both years.

He turns the page. Baseball photos. More memories. A standout athlete in football, basketball and baseball at Boise High School, he continued to play all three sports at BJC. In two years on the Bronco baseball team, Buckner played third base, pitcher and catcher. “I liked all three sports,” he says. “I really didn’t have a favorite.”

Buckner takes the 1946 yearbook and leafs through the pages. Another smile appears as he looks at photographs of himself and other young BJC basketball players. “I know where some of these guys are now; some I don’t,” he says of his former teammates. Buckner is 67 now. Nearly half a century has passed since his playing days at Boise Junior College. “[William] Simmons became a minister of some sort,” says Buckner, looking at the team photo of the 12-man squad. “[Wilford] Overgaard is still here [in Boise]. Jim Reed is still here and so is Jim Thompson. Marty Wilson is a pharmacist. Two are dead. I’m not sure where the others are.”

Memories. “BJC converted an old airplane hangar into a gymnasium, and that’s where we played our basketball games. If there were any big games to play, we would play in Boise High School’s gym,” Buckner recalls. “We played our football games on a field where BSU’s stadium is now. For baseball, we built a diamond where the Morrison Center stands now. We planted grass, put up a backstop and hauled some benches around with the help of [chief custodian] Charlie Brown and his crew.”

Memories. Most are good as Buckner reminisces about his days at BJC. Race, he says, was rarely an issue. “I’d run into a crackpot every now and then,” he says, “but race just wasn’t a big deal. My teammates and I stuck together and we were all good friends. I know that if I heard anything like that, my buddies would have cleaned their clocks—on or off the field. But I really don’t recall being subjected to racial taunts by opposing fans or players.”

In fact, says Buckner, it was not until years later as a Big Sky referee that he occasionally experienced the cruelties of racism. Sadly, he adds, it was a few of his fellow officials who were the culprits. “Some of the guys I was assigned to work football and basketball games with made it pretty evident that they didn’t want to work or travel with me,” he recalls.

Buckner began his officiating career in 1948 at the high-school level; eventually he moved to the college ranks. After more than 30 years of officiating, Buckner hung up his whistle in the early 1980s.

Today, he drives a bus for Boise-based Northwestern Stages. He goes to BSU games as his schedule permits. He and Dorothy Buckner, his wife of 43 years, have four grown children and four grandchildren. Buckner’s 97-year-old father also resides in Boise.

Memories. “This has been a great place to live and raise a family,” Buckner says. He smiles as he flips through a few more pages in the yearbook. “It really has.”
lettered in football and baseball.

After Smith took over the football program, Bill Richter was named basketball coach for the 1948 season. The Broncos dropped six games by three points or less to finish the season at 4-21.

For years the Bronco basketball coaching job was like a revolving door, with few coaches lasting more than a season. That changed in 1949 when football assistant George Blankley took over. He would lead the Broncos for another 13 seasons.

Blankley’s team got off to a good start winning 17 out of 28 games in 1949. The Broncos competed in the Intermountain Collegiate Athletic Conference for the first time, losing the championship game of the northern division to Ricks. The Broncos extended their recruiting net to cover a wide area, with players from Kansas, Ohio, Florida, Oregon and Idaho. Ray Coley and Joe Dietrich led the scoring.

The Broncos carried their success into the 1950 season, finishing with a 16-10 record. One “moral” victory came early in the season when the Broncos almost upset the defending national junior college champions from Tyler Junior College. The Broncos did go on to take second at the ICAC tournament at the end of the season. Dietrich and Jim Duncan made the all-tournament team.

More basketball on page 110.

**Women’s Teams in the Late 1940s**

After the war, BJC offered more opportunities for women to compete. In 1946, a new sport, field hockey, was introduced. After several matches with the College of Idaho, the team played in the Northwest Women’s Hockey Conference tournament in Portland, Oregon. This was the first time a women’s team traveled to a regional competition in any sport. The inexperienced Broncos lost two and won one against Oregon State College, Centralia Junior College and the Portland Hockey Club.

That year the women played two basketball games against the College of Idaho, winning one and losing one. It was the first win over the College of Idaho in three years, with the 36-32 victory coming after Joanne Maxwell and Marilyn Saxton scored in the last 20 seconds. Tennis, volleyball and softball teams also competed against local colleges.

The women returned to Portland for the Northwest Field Hockey Association tournament in 1947, playing Centralia, Washington State College and the University of Washington. The team was coached by Margaret Smithals, women’s physical education director. The team made its third trip to the NW tournament in 1948, with 15 women making the trip to Seattle.

**Other Sports**

During most of the war years enough players were available for basketball and baseball teams. The track program was a victim of the war after
the 1941 season. Tennis had a brief revival in 1940, but when Jacoby entered the military service, it again was dropped.

The student council voted to continue baseball in 1947, and players helped build a new field. The Bronco baseball team played a full 17-game schedule. Led in hitting by Pritchett and Silver, the Broncos had a winning season against the only three teams they played — Northwest Nazarene, College of Idaho and Eastern Oregon.

There was a large turnout for baseball in 1948. Under Coach Lyle Smith, the team ended with 12 wins and five losses. The 1949 team got off to a great start, winning six of their first seven games and ending at 11-5. Harry Goebel and Ray Coley led the team in hitting, while Jack Grader and Bill Mays were top pitchers.

Track staged a comeback in 1948 after an eight-year absence. Bill Richter coached the Bronco thinclads, who entered their first ICAC championship meet. Don Drake won the shot put and the discus in a third-place finish for BJC. The 1949 Bronco team was the best BJC had put together to date. George Blankley began a seven-year tenure as coach that season, and under his direction the three-man Bronco track team took second at the ICAC meet in Cedar City, Utah. The team was led by Ken Pecora, Carlyle Rossaw and Ed Troxel, who won the 220-yard dash and broad jump.

The Broncos moved to their new track in Bronco Stadium for the 1951 season. From 1950-56, Bronco squads could finish only fourth or lower in the conference meet. In 1952, the season
The Mane Attraction was called off after one meet. Varsity tennis again surfaced at the college in 1947. The team lost only one match of 18 as Howard Koppel, Hymie Reed, Phillip Bailey and Glen Seibol had excellent seasons. Biology professor Don Obee was coach and director of the tennis program. By 1949, the team was competing in the Intermountain Collegiate Athletic Conference, and two of the six players on the team, Ralph Hill and John Schober, won the doubles and faced each other in the singles championships at Cedar City, Utah, to capture the initial ICAC title. In the marathon meet, Schober played 137 games and Hill 111 in 11 hours.

In 1950, the squad boasted a female varsity player, Marilyn York (Rose). This appears to be the first time that a woman made an all-male varsity team at the college, and York held her own with her teammates Bob Hall, George Betebenner and Bill Hattabaugh.

York, on occasion such as when the team played NNC, won by default because her opponent refused to play "a girl." During the 1950 season the team competed in the ICAC championships at Salt Lake City, with Betebenner reaching the finals.

Skiing became a popular sport at BJC after the war. Johnny Bushfield and Stan Tomlinson, two veterans who served in the 10th Mountain Division of the U.S. Army, were among the expert skiers who gave lessons at nearby Bogus Basin on Friday afternoons. The "Schuss Bunnies" became the elite women's group on campus. The Bronco Ski Club sponsored a ski team that competed in meets at Sun Valley, Bogus Basin and McCall.

In 1948, Sibby Arriaga, former Sun Valley ski instructor and member of the Swiss national team, volunteered to coach the team, which included Bushfield, Tomlinson, Keith Taylor, T.J. Jones, Dick Vandenburg and John Cummans. Tomlinson won the Paul Brooks giant slalom race at Bogus, barely beating Sun Valley's Warren Miller, who later became world-famous as a director of ski movies.