In the 1959 season the Broncos had a 7-2-1 record and suffered their first conference loss in 48 games when they fell to Carbon 13-7 early in the season. That loss ended BJC's long string of ICAC conference titles. The Broncos' tie came in the longest road trip ever taken by a BJC team up to that time — a 20-20 draw at Grand Rapids Junior College in Michigan.

The '59 Broncos were led by quarterbacks Jim McCaffery and Grant Hall, with Allen Dougal and Charlie Wilson at center. They had an outstanding backfield, consisting of Jim Lynch, Bob Kincaid, Bill Young, Dick Ho and Mahoney. The line was bolstered by Paul Brunty, Doug York, Dave Eagle, Larry Lundin, Gary Comstock, Roger Nelson, Delmar Lee Hudson, Jim Cassan, Dick Ruhl, Deloy Meppan and Jim Pritchard. Five Hawaiian players rounded out the team, including Ho, Len Chow, Jim Alvohi, Norman Lau, and Gerald Young.

More football on page 119.

**Teams in the 1960s**

**Baseball 1960-65**

BJC fielded some of the best baseball teams in history during the early 1960s, making two appearances at the junior college national tournament and winning the league title twice. Behind the strong pitching of Patrick House, the Broncos went 12-0 in conference play in 1960 and earned a berth in the NJCAA tournament. House, who was 7-2, became the first Bronco to earn All-American honors in baseball and was named the best left-handed junior college pitcher in the nation. Other players, including catcher Jim McCaffery, infielder Don Payne and outfielder John Aschenbrenner had good seasons.

Coach Lyle Smith could not attend the playoffs due to family illness, and Dwight Dickey coached the Broncos in the tournament in Grand Junction, Colorado. The Broncos opened on May 19 against Northeastern Oklahoma A & M, losing 8-0. Although House and his relief, Ricky Smith, held the Golden Norsemen to only five hits, a series of errors put the Broncos away.

The Broncos won their second game by defeating Long Island, New York Junior College 11-1. Jim Vopat worked the mound for the Broncos. Bob Bates got the only Bronco hit of the afternoon, but walks, stolen bases, and errors gave the BJC team plenty of scoring opportunities. In their third and final game, the Broncos lost a grueling 10-inning contest 4-3 to Tarleton JC from Stephensville, Texas. House suffered his second loss of the tournament but turned in a six-hitter, striking out 12 batters. House ended the season with a 8-3 record and later went on to pitch professionally for the Houston Astros. The Broncos placed fifth in the tournament and ended the season at 19-7

In 1961, the Broncos notched a 24-2 regular season record. Led by pitchers Dave Sewright and Mike Glenn, the Broncos put together a 15-game win streak in April. After winning the ICAC title, the Broncos were back at the NJCAA baseball championships in Grand Junction. The Broncos twice tied the score in their opening game with Wilmington, North Carolina, but lost 6-5 in 12 innings. Left-fielder Bernard Bisho paced the attack with three doubles, which tied the tournament record for most doubles in one game.

The Broncos kept their hopes alive by winning their second game over Northeastern Oklahoma 5-4, on first baseman Bates' ninth inning bloop single to centerfield that scored Bisho from second base. Glenn pitched eight innings for the Broncos, but the win went to relief pitcher Claude Henry. The win put the Broncos in the semifinal game against Manatee, Florida.

Manatee erupted for five runs in the first inning and went on to
Despite elimination from the tournament, the Broncos ended their season with a 26-5 record, one of the best in Bronco baseball history. Shortstop Mush Stevens, who hit .337 during the season, was named an All-American.

In 1962, Glenn pitched two no-hitters for the Broncos. His first, a perfect game, came against Weber College on April 21, as the Broncos downed Weber 3-0 and Glenn fanned 18 batters. His second no-hitter was against Ricks College on May 4 in a 9-0 ballgame in which he struck out 14 out of 21 batters. BJC chalked up a 17-7 record in regular season play and won the northern division of the ICAC, but lost the league title game to Southern Utah. Third baseman Glenn Oura was named to the All-American team at the end of the season.

The team came back with a 12-8 season in 1963, and again won the northern division. But, like the year before, the league title went to Southern Utah after a close 2-1 game. Pitchers Bill Pederson, an All-American wrestler, and Dan Keller and long-ball hitter Lee Hudson led the Bronco attack.

Hudson was injured in a motorcycle accident early in the 1964 season, but players like Gary Kollman, Vyrl Alcorn and Stan Hicks took up the slack as the Broncos finished the regular season at 11-5 and won the ICAC northern division again. One pitching highlight was lefty Mike Carter's no-hitter against Eastern Oregon.

The Broncos met southern division winner Mesa College for the ICAC championship at Public School Field, but were bested in the three-game championship. Other standouts on the roster included Allen Dougal, Steve Rector, Grady Rawls, Tom Wright and Doyle Demond.

With a 14-3 regular season record, the 1965 baseball team defeated Ricks Junior College for the northern ICAC title. The Broncos again played Mesa College for the conference title, and again came up short after losing the best of three game series in Grand Junction, Colorado. Bill Ingram (a quarterback on the football team), Rector and Gary Hartnett were top pitchers, while Demond, Hicks and Gary Pedrow led the hitting attack.

Football 1960-63

In 1960, the Broncos regained the ICAC football title they lost a year earlier. Posting a perfect 5-0 conference record and 8-2 overall, the team set a new scoring record with 416 points. They were led by backs Bob Peterson, George Purdy, Frank Kaaa and Francis Meyer, who also did the kicking. The squad included three All-Americans: Kaaa, guard Gayle Laudenslager and Dave Wilcox. Center Allen Dougal was selected for the NJCAA East-West all-star game.

In winning form again in 1961, the Broncos had a fantastic 9-1 season behind the running of Mush Stevens. As usual, the Broncos won the ICAC title for the 14th time in 15 years. Only a 3-point loss to New Mexico Military in the last game of the year kept the Broncos from an undefeated season and a bowl bid. Wilcox
and Milton Kanehe were named All-Americans and Wilcox and Kaa played in the NJCAA East-West game. Wilcox later played at the University of Oregon and then went on to become one of the NFL's top linebackers for the San Francisco 49ers. Also on the 1961 team was Ron Stephenson, who later served as assistant athletic director under Lyle Smith and was named commissioner of the Big Sky Conference.

In the 1962 season the Broncos got off to a slow start, winning only one of their first five games. The loss to Snow College was only the second ICAC defeat for the Broncos since the conference began. But the team got over its early-season rash of injuries and flu, and ended with four consecutive victories to finish at 5-2-2. Tackle Jerry Inman was named an All-American. Other Bronco stars were fullback Bill Smith, quarterback Don Neves and lineman Rich Urresti. Roger Michener was a kicker, quarterback and all-conference linebacker.

Coach Lyle Smith introduced a “new” offense in 1963 when he converted from the single wing to the T-formation. Neves, a quarterback from Hawaii, was Smith’s first T-quarterback. The Broncos finished the season at 5-3-1, the most losses since 1946. Urresti was named a second team All-American.

The team also featured Steve Svitak and Sid Otton at guard, Bob Storie on defense and Junior Catron as halfback.

More football on page 127.
Basketball 1960-69

The 1959-60 team was light on experience, with most starting spots filled by freshmen. But Coach George Blankley produced a 15-win and 9-loss season, good for second place in the ICAC’s northern division. Without a big man at center, the Broncos fell to 9-12 in 1960-61. Early in the season the team lost five games by a total of eight points.

A newcomer from Akron, Ohio, put the Broncos back on the winning track in 1961-62. His name: Gus Johnson. Johnson amazed fans with his shooting and rebounding abilities. His 790 points during the season and 43 in a single game were both Bronco records. Johnson went on to star with the Idaho Vandals and then enjoyed a long career in the NBA with the Baltimore Bullets. With Johnson leading the way, the Broncos fell one game short of winning a spot in the NJCAA national tournament. The Broncos were lined up against Weber in a best of three game series for the tournament berth. BJC won the first game 73-70. Then, with Johnson lost to fouls midway in the second half, the Broncos fell 66-64 in overtime. Only four BJC players scored in the final game, and Weber went on to win 65-55. Johnson scored 96 points in the series, and the Broncos finished the year at 20-8.

At the end of the season Blankley ended his long 14-year tenure as the Broncos’ basketball coach. Blankley led the Broncos to three national tournaments in the mid-1950s and had only three losing seasons. As Smith did in football, Blankley brought stability to the basketball program. Blankley was the eighth coach in nine years when he arrived in 1948.

New coach Dale Chatterton led the 1962-63 basketball team to second in the ICAC and the first round of the regional tournament,
where they lost to Phoenix College in the third game of their best of three series. Led by All-American Ray Goodwin and freshman Dave Wagnon, the Broncos posted a 16-11 season.

Other members of that team included John Olsen, Dan Keller, and Mark Sather. Wagnon returned for the 1963-64 campaign and inherited Goodwin’s scoring role. He responded by averaging almost 20 points per game and setting the record for the most points in a two-year career—785. Freshman sensation Randy Ackley was second to Wagnon in scoring. The season had its share of controversy. Midway through the schedule, the Idaho Statesman chastised students for their lack of spirit. Later, students and players got into a brawl during the Carbon game. The Broncos finished fourth in the league and ended with an 11-15 record. Wagnon was named all-conference and went on to Idaho State, where he was the second leading scorer in the nation his senior year.

Ackley was the only returning starter the next season. By the end of the year, he had surpassed Wagnon’s two-year career scoring record by eight points. Freshman Lee Harvey was second in scoring and led in rebounding. The team lost its first five games and ended with an 8-15 record. Ackley was named all-conference. After the season, Chatterton was replaced by Borah High School coach Murray Satterfield.

The Satterfield-led Broncos posted a 7-2 ICAC record in 1965-66 and were 14-11 overall. The team was led by Harvey, Renee Ruth, Steve Loveless, Ron Swearingen, Lane Broyles, Denny Sauers, Nep Lynch and Bart Chaffee. Wayne Auer and Larry Kincaid also played. The Broncos ended tied for the ICAC crown after a crucial win at Dixie. In the playoff with Dixie on Weber’s neutral court, BJC lost despite a 20-point game from Ruth. Harvey and Lynch made the all-conference squad.
In 1966-67, the Broncos returned to the top post in the ICAC and then won a spot in the national tournament in Hutchinson, Kansas. Sparked by Ruth, Bill Otey, Wendell "Wendy" Hart, Keith Burke, Rodell Hill, Jim Archibald, Auer, and aided by Jim Hill, Broyles, Dan Bofenkamp, Larry Bronson and Jim Rogers, the Broncos played in the sub-regionals against the College of Eastern Utah, defeating them in two out of three games. At the regionals, the Broncos defeated a Nate Archibald-led Western Arizona 89-86 and Treasure Valley Community College 83-61. The Broncos then went to the NJCAA playoffs, where they knocked off Dodge City, Kansas, 91-77 before losing to Moberly, Missouri, 70-50 and Powell, Wyoming, 71-84. The Broncos ended the season 26-9 and ninth at the national tournament.

The 1967-68 Bronco basketball squad repeated the success of the previous year. During the regular season the Broncos lost only three games. Powered by Hart, Otey, Ron Austin, Burke, Gary Powell, Dennis Baird and Rodell Hill, the team again captured the ICAC championship, won Region I play and went on to the NJCAA tournament in Hutchinson. The Broncos beat the College of Southern Idaho and Treasure Valley Community College to win a spot at nationals. In the first game, the Broncos shot only 13 percent in the first half, losing to Miami Dade 62-55. A 66-64 win over St. Louis Baptist in the consolation bracket was followed by a 85-68 loss to Iowa Central. The Broncos finished tenth at nationals and ended the junior college era with a 26-5 record, the best win-loss mark in the school's history. Other Broncos who contributed during the season included Joe Gillespie, Gaylord Hogue, Tom Hoskor, Don Cox, Phil Choules, Harry Angelos, Tim Egbart and Bofenkamp.

Boise State's first year of competition with four-year schools in 1968-69 was a successful one. Behind the scoring and rebounding of Otey, the Broncos completed the season with an overall record of 20-8 and a trip to the NAIA district tournament.

Otey, a junior forward from Washington, D.C., led the Broncos with a 16.1-points and 17.3-rebounds-per-game average. His rebound average continues to be the single season record at Boise State.

Following an opening season loss at Idaho State University, 67-63, the Broncos won their first game as a senior college on December 6, 1968, in an 87-63 win over Eastern Oregon College before 2,500 fans at Bronco Gym. Junior guard Wendy Hart led Boise State to the victory with 21 points.
Posting an early 5-6 record, the Broncos went on a 15-game winning streak through the final months of the season, starting with a 93-75 defeat of Idaho State.

The Broncos completed the regular season with a record of 18-6. In the first round of the district playoffs, Boise State handed Southern Oregon a 101-70 defeat. Boise State ended the season with two consecutive losses to nationally ranked Linfield College, 90-81 and 83-80 in overtime.

More basketball on page 134.

**Track 1960-69**

The Bronco success of the late 1950s carried into the next decade as Coach Ray Lewis' teams began to dominate the ICAC. BJC had its first national champion in track and field during the 1960 season. Curt Flisher first led the Broncos to the ICAC championship by winning three first-place finishes in the 220-yard low hurdles, the 220-yard dash and the 440-yard dash. Flisher also ran a leg on the winning 880-yard relay team. Gary Bonar threw the discus a record 144'3" and won the high jump.

Flisher and Bonar went on to represent BJC in the 1960 NJCAA track meet in Hot Springs, Texas. Flisher won the low hurdles in 23.5 seconds, just missing the meet record. He caught Richard Haywood of Phoenix in the last 10 yards to score the victory. Flisher also finished second in the 440 with a time of 49 seconds. Bonar was fourth in the high jump and fifth in the discus.

The BJC Broncos dominated the ICAC championship meet at Ephriam, Utah, in 1961. They were led by Glen Walker, who won the 100- and 220-yard dashes and competed in two relays. John Pattinson won the javelin and discus events. Football star Dave Wilcox captured the shot put and Wendell Babcock took first in the high hurdles. The Broncos capped their day by winning the 880-yard relay.

In 1962, the Broncos put together another great season, including one meet at NNC where they won first place in all but one event, and won their fourth straight ICAC track and field championship. The

Above: Bill Otey clears the boards again in 1969. Left: Curt Flisher, seen with coach Ray Lewis, won the national title in the low hurdles in 1960. Below: Gary Bonar, 1960, was a national contender in the discus.
team accumulated 10 first-place finishes. Wilcox set a discus record with a heave of 146'10". The Bronco 880-yard relay team, composed of Doug Dillard, Mike Maywoor, Dennis Ingram and Don Walker, also established a record at 1:30.2. The other winners included Walker in the 100- and 220-yard dashes, Mike Hopkins in the 880-yard dash, Dale Thompson in the broad jump, Dillard in the high hurdles, Ingram in the low hurdles and the mile relay team.

The Broncos had an up-and-down season in 1963 and took only two first-place events and a fourth place in the ICAC. Randy Bates captured the discus title, while Bob Graham and Bob Storie placed first and second in the shot put.

Ray Lewis' Bronco squad bounced back quickly and performed in superior style throughout the spring of 1964, again taking the ICAC championship. In the meet, held at Ricks College, the Broncos broke one record after another. Clinton Alley won the 100- and 200-yard dashes, while other wins were scored by Randy Ackley in the javelin, Lee Blackburn in the 880, Warren Carpenter in the mile, Gary Butler in the long jump, and the 880 and mile relay teams.

Change was in the air during 1965 at BJC. In May, the Bronco team won its last ICAC title under the name of Boise Junior College. In that meet, held at Mesa College, the Broncos scored points in almost every event. Two ICAC records were set by Broncos: Blackburn in the 880 and Dan Baldwin in the two-mile. When classes convened in the fall of 1965, BJC had expanded to a four-year institution with a new name — Boise College. Athletics continued junior college competition until the fall of 1968, but only freshmen and sophomores were allowed to compete.

The Boise College Broncos hosted the 1966 ICAC track and field championships but finished a disappointing fourth, the worst finish in nine years. Louie Grant saved the Broncos from a shutout by capturing first place in the shot put. During the season, Steve Grayson was the team's leading scorer, with consistent finishes in the dashes, long jump and javelin.

In the 1967 ICAC meet the Broncos returned to the top of the conference when they took eight first places to win the championship at Snow College. Bronco Jim Cafferty ran the high hurdles in 14.9 seconds, breaking the old mark of 15. Teammate Rich Dickson was clocked at 21.9 in the 220-yard dash, beating the old record of 22 seconds. Dickson also won the 100. Gary Tipton captured the 440 and Grant won the shot put.

The Broncos competed in the ICAC for the final time in the spring of 1968, finishing in second place behind the Ricks Vikings. In that meet, held at Bronco Stadium, BJC's relay team set a mile record of 3:23, eclipsing the long-standing record of 3:27.2 held by Weber College since 1941. Other Broncos who broke records included George Wadsworth in the half-mile and Steve Rudd in the mile.

Track moved to four-year competition in the spring of 1969 and the team performed well enough to win a coveted invitation to the NAIA district meet in Ashland, Oregon. The squad finished in third place with 51 points. Doug Ward, Bronco quartermiler, set an NAIA record when he ran the final race in 48.7 seconds. Ward also placed second in the 220-yard dash, and was named the district's outstanding performer of the year by the NAIA. The Boise State College Broncos scored two other first place wins with Tom Kelly's victory in the long jump and Rich Dickson's victory in the 100-yard dash.

More track on page 158.
Wrestling 1959-71

All Boise State sports have enjoyed success at some point in their history, but none has been as consistently successful as wrestling, from the junior college era to today.

Coach Ray Lewis put together BJc's first wrestling team in 1959-60. The team got off to a rough start, with four losses to Ricks and one to Carbon before the first win came — 14-11 over Snow College. The team took fourth in the ICAC meet, with the best finish coming from Bob Ellis at 177 lbs. Others on the first team included LaVon Shelton, Gary d'Orazio, Darrel Lindstrom, John Bromet and Bill Camp.

The Broncos' second year went better. BJC produced three conference champions — Wayland Vance, Dennis "Cherokee" Faulk and Gail Wright — but lost the conference championship to perennial power Ricks College.

But the next year, 1962, the Broncos won their first conference title. In just their third season, the team won its last four matches in the ICAC meet to beat Ricks for the championship by three points.

The team again won the title in 1963 and then made its first appearance on the national stage when three wrestlers — Bill Pederson, Bud Johnson and Vance — qualified for the NJCAA championship tournament. Johnson and Pederson, both undefeated in two years, kept their remarkable records intact by also winning national titles. Pederson pinned every opponent. BJC finished sixth out of 17 teams at nationals.

Lewis faced a rebuilding year in 1964, with Ken Runyan the lone returning letterman. Ron Wright won a conference title, but the Broncos slipped to third at the conference meet. The Broncos again were inexperienced in 1965, with Dan Hollis and Don Moulton the only returning letterman. The team opened against the Idaho State varsity, which featured the three ex-Broncos who went to the NJCAA finals in 1963. But the BJC squad rallied for a 20-15 upset win. The Broncos didn't fare so well in the conference meet, placing fourth. Ron Warner was the only BJC wrestler to win his weight class.

With almost all freshmen in the lineup, the Broncos didn't win a dual meet in 1966 and finished third in the ICAC. The Broncos repeated that third-place finish in 1967, and advanced to second in 1968 behind the strength of Steve Jensen, Jack Bicandi, Dennis Ward and Ed Terry. For the first time in five years, the Broncos sent a wrestler to nationals in 1968. Ed Terry, wrestling at 152 lbs., pinned his first opponent and battled for a tie in the title match, only to lose on riding time. Terry finished the season with an 11-3-1 record.

The Broncos were 6-9-1 in dual meets during the 1969 season. Bill Bowman, the wrestling coach at Boise High School for 12 years, took over the Bronco program in the fall of 1969 and led the 1970 team to a 9-8 dual meet record.

The next year, 1971, was a pivotal one for the program as the Broncos made the transition into the Big Sky. Bruce Edgerton, at 150 pounds, paced the Broncos by taking second place in the Big Sky

Above: In 1963, wrestling coach Ray Lewis studies the starting position of Don Ruchti, in white, and Wayland Vance in the dark togs. Standing (left) are Bill Pederson and (right) John Porter.

Left: Wayland Vance (front) and Bud Johnson repeated as ICAC champions, and represented BJC at the nationals in 1963.

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tournament. Five others joined Edgerton in placing fourth or better and qualifying for the NCAA tournament: Ron Thompson at 118 pounds, Bill Knox, 126 pounds, Tom Harrington, 134 pounds, Pat Valiant, 142 pounds and Bruce White, 158 pounds.

Tragedy struck the squad when Bronco wrestler Carson Duffy died in an airplane crash in January 1971. The plane, flown by his father, crashed in a blizzard enroute from Jackpot, Nevada, to Hailey.

In the fall of 1971, the Broncos were joined by Junior Olympic world heavyweight wrestling champion, big Mark Bittick from Middleton, Idaho. Bittick stood 6'6" tall and weighed 370 pounds. A four-time state high school wrestling champion, in 1971 he won the Junior United States National Federation championship in Stillwater, Oklahoma. In the Junior Olympics, he defeated a Soviet Union wrestler for the heavyweight gold. But it took Bittick four tries to win the Big Sky heavyweight championship, a feat he accomplished in 1975.

More wrestling on page 154.

Football 1964-67

By 1964, players had adapted Lyle Smith's T-formation attack. The wins began to mount. The Broncos put together an 8-2 season with the losses coming when Columbia Basin and Dixie held the Broncos to only two points in each game. Lyle Smith's son, center Bill Smith, earned NJCAA All-American honors. Smith, Junior Catron, Vyrl Alcorn, Greg Duff, Mickey Cole and Bill Haymes made the ICAC all-star team. Ron Imel and Bill Ingram took turns at the quarterback spot. Standout linebacker Jerry Wilcox joined John and Dave as the third brother from the Vale, Oregon, family to play for Lyle Smith.

A 9-2 season in 1965 culminated with a showdown against Cerritos Junior College of Norwalk, California, in the Potato Bowl. It was the seventh bowl appearance for a Lyle Smith team and the fifth Potato Bowl. In the previous Potato Bowl contests the Broncos had a 2-2 record.

The 1965 Potato Bowl at Bakersfield is now known as the "fog bowl" because visibility was at zero when fog totally enveloped the teams on the field. The fog rolled in as the players were introduced. Ray Giffin described the scene in the December
5, 1965, Idaho Statesman: "Red Grange, the famous Galloping Ghost, would have been at his best Saturday night as some 12,100 Potato Bowl fans tried to separate the fog but failed."

Radio sportscaster Dick Eardley guessed at the action, and sportswriters left the press box and roamed the sidelines to get closer to the players. By halftime only 160 fans remained in the stands.

The Broncos took the Boise College band, drill team and pep band to the game, and several hundred fans had made the long trek to Bakersfield. Forty-four players made the trip. The Bronco team featured Jim Evenson at fullback, Ron Imel at quarterback, Mike O'Shea at running back, and Vernon Morse and Barney Roesner at the ends. (Imel replaced Bill Ingram in the game because Ingram had developed a bad heel blister.) Evenson ran for 102 yards in a 13-41 losing cause.

Evenson ended the season with 1,355 yards and earned All-American honors. Jon Granby and Roesner, Bronco ends, received honorable mention All-American in 1965.

In 1966, the Broncos again won the ICAC championship with a 9-1 season. They were ranked number one in the country coming into the season-ending game with Taft Junior College. But a 41-5 loss to the California powerhouse ended BJC's hopes for a postseason bowl bid.

Quarterbacks Hal Zimmerman, Terry Squibb and Perry Gossett led
Boise College Broncos Rated No. 1 in Nation

Trample Ricks Vikings 38-20 to Win Second Consecutive Championship

By BILL WINKLER
Roundup Sports Editor

The Boise College Broncos went into Rexburg Saturday afternoon and came home with a 38-20 win to stretch their winning streak to seven, and win the Intermountain Collegiate Athletic Conference for the second consecutive year.

The Broncos started early, waiting only six minutes in the first period to put the first TD on the scoreboard. This came with Jim Mahan grabbing a Ricks fumble on the 3 and racing for the touchdown. Stivers, as usual, made the PAT.

Toward the end of the first period the Broncos ran into stiff competition as Ricks held them on the 20. However, Mahan took advantage of this error. Their point after was good, making the score 6-0. That wasn’t all for the Broncos as Terry Squibb made his second touchdown of the game set up by Poole’s run on the three-yard line.

Ricks managed to get two more touchdowns in the first quarter, making the score 38-20 at game’s end. This week we travel to Shoshone College for our last out-of-town game of the season. Nov. 12 we may play an offense that scored 249 points to their opponents’ 84. Tackle Jim Mahan, who scored two touchdowns on the tackle-eligible play, was named an All-American.

An era ended in 1967 when Lyle Smith coached his last Bronco football team. It was also the Broncos’ last season of competition as a junior college. The Broncos turned in a mediocre 6-4 season, which included BJC’s first loss to Ricks in 21 years. Steve Svitak was named the lineman honors, the Bronco sports coordinator.

Lyle Smith led his team onto the field for the last time on November 14 at Boise College. Idaho Governor Don Samuelson proclaimed the day as Lyle Smith Day. Playing in a drizzle, the Broncos turned in a mediocre 6-4 season, which included BJC’s first loss to Ricks in 21 years. Steve Svitak was named the Bronco’s first All-American.

As Boise grew, it became inevitable that Boise’s college would grow with it. In 1964-65, a research team from the University of Oregon studied the Boise Junior College program and concluded that the college should offer baccalaureate degrees. The Oregon report coincided with a report from a San Francisco firm that had studied the community of Boise and its growth.

The firm reported that a true metropolitan community needed a school that provided four-year academic and professional degrees. As a result, the Boise Chamber of Commerce and private citizens petitioned the 1965 Idaho Legislature to enlarge the scope of BJC. Action came quickly and Governor Robert E. Smylie signed House Bill No. 7 on February 6, 1965, creating Boise College. The four-year school was put under the control of the Board of Trustees of Boise Junior College.

Before the first Boise College students graduated, the Idaho Legislature and Governor Don Samuelson signed legislation in April 1967 creating Boise State College, effective in January 1969. In just four years Boise’s junior college, supported by local taxpayers, had grown into a state-supported school with statewide responsibilities. Bronco sports switched from junior college play to four-year competition in the fall of 1968.

In October 1973, the State Board of Education adopted a mission and role statement for Boise State College that recommended that the Idaho Legislature change the name of the school from Boise State College to Boise State University. The name change passed the Legislature, and Governor Cecil Andrus signed it into law on the Boise State campus on February 22, 1974.
Football 1968-69

Lyle Smith retired after the 1967 season as one of the most successful coaches in the country, winning 80 percent of his games. In his 20 years as head coach, Smith had built a winning tradition that became the foundation for the athletic program as it grew into its new status as a four-year school. Smith became full-time athletic director after retiring as football coach. One of his first moves was to hire Tony Knap as his replacement. Knap, who played on the same football team with Smith at the University of Idaho in 1938, brought an innovative offensive scheme that he had perfected during coaching stints at Utah State and in the Canadian Football League. The winning seasons continued. The team went 8-2, losing to Linfield College in the first game and to Big Sky power Weber State College, but beating future Big Sky rival Idaho State. Idaho State was the first "big" school to agree to come to Bronco Stadium, granting the Broncos an October date in Boise. The 27-20 decision was the benchmark Boise College win in the inaugural season of a new era.

Hal Zimmerman, quarterback in 1966 and 1967, was co-captain with Rocky Lima in 1968. Zimmerman threw the last touchdown pass in a junior college game and the first touchdown pass in the four-year program. Two additional years of eligibility attracted several players back from previous junior college teams, like standout place kicker Gary Stivers. The team also brought in junior college transfers for the first time, most notably defensive star Faddie Tillman from Arizona Western. Leading receiver Tony Maher, along with Dennis Baird and Dennis Pooley, were important elements of Knap's passing offense. Abe Brown, who replaced an injured Pat Williams, and Larry Smith led the backs. Others on the initial Knap team included Svitak, Hoopai, Terry Baldwin, Jim Rogers and freshman quarterback Eric Guthrie.
Coach Knap's 1969 lineup included some talented Idaho players—Ted Buck and twins Greg and Jeff Phillips from Borah High, Vallivue's Cary Hoshaw, Doug Borah from Twin Falls, and Roy Lapp from Hagerman. Knap and the Broncos relished the new in-state rivalry established a year before with Idaho State. The Bengals came to Boise again, with BJC intercepting five passes enroute to a wild 35-27 victory over ISU and Ed "The Flea" Bell. But the biggest win of 1969 may have been earlier in the season on a California road trip, as long-time small college power Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo was stifled by the Broncos 17-7. The Broncos were 9-1 that year, defeating, among others, Eastern Washington 44-7, Southern Oregon 62-0 and Whitworth 66-7. The only setback was 10-16 loss to Northern Colorado.

The Broncos led the Pacific Northwest NAIA in scoring by averaging 38.9 points per game while holding their opponents to 12.5 points per game. They led the nation in pass interceptions with 34. They were also the most penalized team in the nation, averaging 110 yards per game. Kicker Gary Stivers led the nation's small colleges in scoring, and Svitak was named an All-American at linebacker.

**NCAA Accepts the Broncos**

On October 15, 1969, Boise State announced that the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) had accepted the Bronco football and basketball programs for membership. Then, on November 25, 1969, the Big Sky presidents voted Northern Arizona and Boise State College into Big Sky membership. The two school presidents, NAU's Lawrence Walkup and BSU's John Barnes, had effectively lobbied and canvassed the conference presidents before the meeting to assure acceptance. Neither Walkup nor Barnes attended the meeting. The decision to admit the two schools took everyone but the university presidents by surprise. Earlier in the discussions, the Montana schools had supported admittance of schools from North and South Dakota into the Big Sky. Idaho football coach YC McNeese confronted U of I athletic director Ed Knecht and his assistant Ron Stephenson as to why they had permitted Boise State to be admitted.20

President Barnes responded quickly by sending a letter of appreciation to University of Idaho President Ernest Hartung and the other Big Sky presidents for admitting Boise State College to the conference. "We are certainly grateful for the confidence which the Big Sky has placed in Boise State by voting it into membership," Barnes said.21 Boise State became an official member of the conference on July 1, 1970, and a new era in Bronco athletics had begun.

**Football 1970**

Now in the Big Sky, Boise State College opened a new season and its new 14,000-seat stadium in 1970 with a game against Chico State. For the first time, Bronco Stadium had Astroturf on the playing field. The turf was described as being "made of billions of tiny grasslike fibers of nylon, very similar to foliage on a manufactured Christmas tree. The field cost $300,000 and is nearly indestructible ... Thirty to 40,000 gallons of water are needed to wash the gigantic green rug and unless it is dried and the water worked out, it is capable of holding approximately 10,000 gallons."22

Bronco Stadium was dedicated on September 13, 1970. Misfortune struck the ceremonies when Wally Benton, captain of the BSC skydiving team, plummeted to the ground as he was carrying the game ball into the stadium.23 Benton made what appeared to be a perfect descent from the Cessna 172 plane. As he floated below the upper deck of the