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.

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. 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.”

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. Benton made what appeared to be a perfect descent from the Cessna 172 plane. As he floated below the upper deck of the
Boise State Broncos join the Big Sky

Boise State College and northern Arizona University were admitted to the Big Sky Athletic Conference Nov. 25 in a reference meeting held in Phoenix, officials announced.

According to conference chairman, approval by the president's council was unanimous for the first league session since its formation in 1969. BSC and Northern Arizona are charter members, with Weber State, Montana, Montana State and Gonzaga of Spokane.

Conference rules for seating and eligibility will apply to the new members immediately, a spokesman said, though neither will be eligible for championship competition until the fall of 1970.

The 1970 football title will be the first seven-way conference bash (Gonzaga does not field a football squad). This would, however, on whether or not the scheduling of the schools can be re-aligned. The University of Idaho is booked solid in football until 1977.

A committee was appointed to work out basketball schedules beginning with the 1970-71 season. Conference officials said the plan is to have all eight members play each other twice during the season, on a home-and-home basis. Boise's 1969-70 schedule already includes conference foes Idaho State (twice), Montana State, Montana and Weber State (twice).

At present, officials noted, the six charter members meet all other conference teams three times a season.

No firm announcements were made on football scheduling, but a spokesman said the conference was working on an eligibility formula.

According to Bronco coach Tony Knap, in a Nov. 25 talk to the Idaho Press Club, to be eligible for the conference title in 1970, it would take four contests. "Presently, we have Idaho State, Weber State and Montana State on our 1970 schedule and we would like to add the University of Idaho as the fourth conference game," Knap said.

Idaho has a game with Portland State in 1970, and Boise would like to tackle the Vandals for the fourth contest at this time. Knap also suggested an alternative of designating a non-conference game such as Cal Poly or another school as the fourth game and count it in the standings.

However, University of Idaho Athletic Director Ed Knecht said the following day that the U of I has no plans to drop Portland State from its schedule to play BSC or Northern Arizona.

"We're scheduled solidly through 1977 without either Boise State or Northern Arizona and those schools and all of the rest of the conference knew that when they voted this week," Knecht declared. Knecht said that he felt that the University of Idaho showed its good faith when the University nominated Boise State for membership.

Vandal head coach V. C. McNeese felt that Boise State was trying to dictate the U of I schedule and.

stadium, the paraplane chute twisted and he plunged to the ground. Benton sustained severe head injuries and compound fractures of both legs. The remaining skydivers made it safely into the stadium, unaware that an accident had occurred.

The Broncos won the game by beating Chico State 49-14, but the accident took the edge off the victory. The 1970 season witnessed some great play by outstanding Broncos, including Eric Guthrie and Ron Autele at quarterback and a host of talented players — Al Marshall, Pete Skow, Cary Hoshaw, Pat Ebright, Dennis Baird, Jeff Phillips, Greg Phillips, Rod Stearns, Faddie Tillman, John Walker, Mike Greever, Steve Forrey, Brent McIver, Brian Sopatyk, Ted Buck and Doug Borah. This Bronco squad went through an emotional season when Coach Tony Knap was stricken by the Herpes Zoster virus, but learned from Knap's courage as he first coached from the confines of a wheelchair and then progressed to walking sticks.

The Broncos were 8-3 on the season and 2-2 in the Big Sky. The first-ever conference game was a road contest at Montana State, and BSC came away with a hard-fought 17-10 win. They also won in their first appearance in Idaho State's new Minidome, but lost to the
New Stadium Promotes Win Over Chico State

Football fans numbering 14,028 watched Boise State College defeat Chico State last Friday night in the first game to be played in the new Bronco Stadium.

Opening night attendance was the largest ever to watch a BSC football game. Capacity of the stadium was almost reached, and plans are being formulated to expand seating capacity to at least 25,000 by adding an upper deck on the east side. A horseshoe on the south end is also planned.

In dedication ceremonies preceding the 49-14 Bronco victory, the Association of Past Exalted Rulers of Boise Elk’s Lodge 310 presented a Carson Flag to the school for use at all athletic contests. The flag has a 30-foot hoist and a 30-foot fly. It was carried over the Astro Turf by 16 past exalted rulers.

The ceremonies were conducted under the scoreboard on the south end of the field. Burt Kirpatrick, past exalted ruler, represented the Past Exalted Rulers Association, as he gave the flag to BSC President Wayne Mittleider.

In the short ceremony those introduced were Lytle Smith, representing the Boise State athletic department; Wayne Stein Jr.; Bronco Athletic Association president; and Ardener Sewell for Jay Araya and Gov. Don Samuelson.

ABT President Wayne Mittleider dedicated the stadium saying it marks the beginning of progress for BSC and the state of Idaho. He said, “I am proud to present Bronco Stadium which was completely financed with student funds.”

He said closing the purpose of the ceremonies was to be short to get on with the gridiron action. He introduced Dr. Barnes.

He said, “Boise State and the state of Idaho are indeed proud of this fine facility dedicated today, and we are extremely grateful to the student body of this college for financing the Stadium and Varsity Center.”

“The students of Boise State are also, through a student fee revenue band, paying the entire cost of constructing and equipping the School of Business Building and about 50 per cent of the cost of our new Vocational-Technical Building and the total cost of the Physical Education addition.

“No longer can we say that students have their hands out. Boise State students are indeed providing recreational and educational facilities for themselves and for the future students who will attend this college.”

Dr. Barnes extended his thanks to Mittleider for Bronco Stadium dedication ceremonies were opened Friday as Wally Benton, upper president of the BSC Skyline Balloon Club. Benton worked for the Winged Pegasus Club on campus and founded a school for skydivers in the Treasure Valley before his death in 1989.

Weber State Wildcats in Big Sky competition. They defeated a future Big Sky opponent, Eastern Washington, while falling to Long Beach State in a “designated” conference game. Quarterback Guthrie, who kicked extra points and field goals, scored 74 points to lead the Big Sky.

More football on page 136.
Basketball 1970-75

In 1969-70, all five starters returned from the previous year — Wendy Hart, Ron Austin, Bill Otey, Keith Burke and Renee Ruth — and the team finished the season with a 20-8 record. Its losses came from such schools as Hiram-Scott, Hardin-Simmons and New Mexico State, then ranked fifth in the nation.

In March, the team advanced to the NCAA small college tournament in Tacoma, Washington. The Broncos lost their opening game against UC-Riverside 83-71, but rebounded to take third place in the tournament by defeating the University of Puget Sound 63-61 in a thriller. Assistant Coach Bus Connor took the team to Tacoma because Coach Murray Satterfield was hospitalized at the time.

At the close of the 1970 season Hart, Otey, Burke and Ruth ended their playing careers. The quartet that began together as freshman compiled a 91-29 record during the four years they were together. Recruited as junior college players, they were the heart of the team that made the transition to a four-year program. They participated in four postseason tournaments — two in the NJCAA, one in the NAIA and one in the NCAA. Hart broke the two-year (junior college) scoring record with 1,053 points. Otey finished second on the list and Burke third. Otey still holds all of the BSU individual game and career rebound records.

The season marked BSC’s transition into the NCAA. In fact, participation in the NCAA small college basketball tournament got BSC in trouble with the National Association for Intercollegiate Athletics because the Broncos had played more NCAA schools than NAIA members. The NAIA placed the Bronco basketball program on probation, but President John Barnes said that the NAIA could not impose sanctions because Boise State had been accepted by the NCAA and the Big Sky in the fall of 1969. Barnes expressed the Broncos’ appreciation for the NAIA affiliation and the competition in the transition years from a junior college to a four-year school.

Despite high hopes, Bronco basketball fortunes failed to materialize during the first half of the 1970s. The '70-71 team went 10-16, despite an excellent senior season by Ron Austin, who set the school scoring record of 42 points in a game against Montana and scored 41 against Portland.

New Record

In the fall of 1970, Boise State’s Beta Sigma Chi fraternity set a new national record when fraternity brothers rolled an empty aluminum Coors' beer keg 250 miles from Boise to the Minidome in Pocatello. The previous record belonged to a Minnesota college with a 150-mile trip. The men left Boise at 1 a.m. on October 29, and arrived in Pocatello at 2 p.m. on October 31. That night the Broncos demolished the ISU Bengals 24-3. In 1970, the Broncos were 8-3 on the season and 2-2 in the Big Sky.
State. Four of five 1970-71 starters — Steve Wallace, Greg Bunn, Bill Barnes and Ron Maxwell — returned to the squad in 1971-72. The veterans were joined by junior college transfers Booker Brown, Bob McCollum and Dean Ecklund. Ron Franklin and Bill Cottrell rounded out the squad. The Broncos went 14-12 on the season and were 7-7 in Big Sky play. Led by Brown and Wallace, the Broncos had a team rebounding average of 41 per-game that remains in the Bronco record book.

In 1972-73, decked out in Harlem Globetrotter style warm-up suits, the Broncos posted a losing season at 11-15, despite outstanding play by Bunn, Brown and Steve Clifford. Maurice Buckingham and Clyde Dickey joined the squad as junior college transfers. A coaching transition took place in mid season when assistant Bus Connor replaced Murray Satterfield. A member of the scoring trio of Buckingham, Dickey and Clifford led the scoring in 23 out of 30 games. The team holds the Bronco record for most field goals attempted in a single season at 1,919 and the most free throws attempted with 797. They made 550 of the free throws.

The Broncos failed to beat the jinx in 1973-74, the first full season under Coach Bus Connor. The team managed a 12-14 record. It was the season in which standouts Dickey, Buckingham, Brown, Cottrell and Maxwell closed out their playing days at Boise State while Terry Miller, George Wilson, Steve Swanson, Scott McIlhenney and Pat Hoke emerged as stars of the future. In 1974-75, the squad recorded a .500 season and set a team record 847 field goals made. That year saw the debut of what may be the best freshman class ever — or at least the best since 1966-67. Steve Connor, Trent Johnson and Don Jones all started, and would go on to etch their names in the Bronco record book.

More basketball on page 166.

Ski Champs

Boise State won its first Big Sky title in skiing the same year the conference dropped the sport — 1974. The Broncos were led by Bill Shaw, who later won the NCAA slalom and went on to a career in professional skiing. Shaw wasn't the only Bronco skier to achieve national prominence. Ed Ferguson, a member of the 1968 team, was a pioneer in freestyle skiing and earned the nickname "Airborne Eddie" for his feats in aerial competitions.
The rivalry between the Boise State Broncos and the University of Idaho Vandals outranks all others in Idaho sports. The first encounter between the schools occurred in Idaho's home opener on September 11, 1971. Because the Idaho field was under construction, the Vandals rented Bronco Stadium. The game, billed as a contest between David and Goliath, drew more than 16,000 fans, many of them Vandal supporters. This first meeting between the Vandals and the Broncos set the stage for a fantastic Bronco season as BSC stunned the Vandals 42-14.

William Michels wrote about the upset in a Boise State College Arbiter article that headlined an upcoming Cal Poly encounter and not the Vandal game. In his review of the BSC-Idaho game he wrote: "The game had all the trimmings of a Roman gladiatorial contest, with 16,125 fans coming from far and wide to see their favorite team do battle. The array of uniforms, flags, streamers, pompons and brightly dressed fans was almost circus-like in appearance." Quarterback Eric Guthrie and company provided the aerial entertainment as the Broncos took to the air with Don Hutt, Al "The Bomb" Marshall and Pat Riley catching the ball for a total of 297 yards. With Dan Dixon running interference, Ross Wright and the rest of the backfield rushed for 125 yards against the surprised Vandals.

Football 1971-75

The adage "as Eric Guthrie goes, so go the Broncos" was true throughout the 1971 season as the Broncos went 10-2, losing only to Weber State and Idaho State. The Big Sky tapped Guthrie three times during the season as offensive player of the week. As the Broncos climbed to seventh in the national polls, University of Idaho Coach Don Robbins popped off about the weak clubs the Broncos played. Coach Knap replied in the media, "You can say we'll be glad to meet them again at Grangeville after the season ends." The record shows that the Broncos had beaten some good ball clubs, including Idaho 42-14. They had overpowered Nevada-Reno 17-10, Montana State 52-24, Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo 18-14, Eastern Washington 34-10 and Northern Arizona 22-17. Another high point of the 1971...
campaign was the Broncos’ first-ever matchup against Montana. The Grizzlies were coming off two straight undefeated regular seasons, accompanied each year by Big Sky titles and Camellia Bowl bids. They were the toast of the Big Sky at that time. But, as usual, Knap had a big game ambush awaiting — and the Broncos won it 47-24.

The successful 1971 season earned the Broncos a berth against Chico State in the Camellia Bowl at Hughes Stadium in Sacramento, California. The Camellia Bowl, one of four small college bowls in the United States, provided national exposure for the Broncos as Keith Jackson called the action coast-to-coast on ABC-TV.

“The Cardiac Kids pulled another one out of the fire, exploding for 25 points in the last fifteen minutes of the game to defeat Chico State 32-28.” So read Idaho Statesman sports writer Ray Giffin’s lead story on the outcome of the Camellia Bowl. Chico State came into the game with a 9-1 record and inspiration from Governor and Mrs. Ronald Reagan, who had addressed the team on Friday.

The Statesman reported that Reagan delivered a “Rockne-like” talk to the Chico players, telling them that “the gridiron sport is clean hatred for your opponent, since it is only symbolic in a jersey ... I want you to win because it’s California. Go out there and win.”

In the Bronco victory, Guthrie hit 19 of 43 passes for 282 yards, and his field goal provided the Broncos with the last three points in their four-point margin of victory. The ABC television crew picked him for player-of-the-game honors. Don Hutt made some sensational catches, as did other receivers Marshall, Allen Dykman, and Dick Donohoe. Nine seniors closed out their Bronco careers. Besides Guthrie, the seniors included guard Brent Mciver, linebackers Steve Vogel, Tony McAnally and Ray Rodriguez, defensive end Pete Skow and cornerback Brett Staples. Knap, District IX and Big Sky Coach of the Year, waxed eloquent about the game and his Broncos, calling them the finest team he had ever coached. Guthrie set records for points scored, total offense and passing yardage, both for a single season and a career.

Three Broncos made the All-Big Sky first team in 1971 — the “Canadian Rifle” Guthrie at quarterback, end Hutt and linebacker Vogel. Ted Buck and Skow
made the second team.

The 1972 Bronco offensive football team, one of the finest in Bronco history, featured Hutt, Marshall, Cary Hoshaw and Billy Stephens catching passes from Ron Autele and Jim McMillan. The defense bolstered by Buck, Harold Grozdanich, Brian Sopatyk, Rod Stearns and Greg Phillips demolished the opposition. The Broncos won seven and lost four. That year, the Vandals beat the Broncos in a thriller, 21-20. The Broncos' sole remaining rival from their junior college days had quickly become their nemesis in the four-year era. Weber State was 3-0 against Boise State and confidently marched in for a 1972 date at Bronco Stadium. BSC marched out with a 49-16 victory, starting a 12-game winning streak against the Wildcats. Grozdanich was drafted by the CFL British Columbia Lions and Marshall became Kodak All-American in the college division, made the Universal Sports of Canada list, and was drafted into the NFL.

In 1973, Bronco football again took to the airways. Quarterbacks Autele and McMillan, All-American center John Klotz, receivers Don and Terry Hutt, backs John Smith, Ron Emry and Dave Nicely quickly established the Broncos as the team to beat in the Big Sky. The defense, led by Ron Franklin, Blessing Bird, Claude Tomasini and Mark Duncan, terrorized the opposing receipts from the Camellia Bowl and forfeit the title and trophies. Since a distribution of funds had already been sent to Big Sky schools, BSC immediately returned its $6,000 portion. The university presidents voted on November 20, 1972, that each Big Sky school would return its $1,800 share as well.

The Big Sky Violation Committee absolved BSC of any charge of duplicity but insisted that the school remove Eric Guthrie's name from the record book. To the relief of Guthrie fans, the NCAA changed the amateur-professional rule in 1974 and the Guthrie records returned to the books. One can still count his name under 25 different categories in the all-time Big Sky records in Bronco football.

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offensive teams. Repeatedly, the Broncos bested the opposition by 200-plus yards in total offense. In the Portland State game the Broncos ran up 642 yards in total offense.

Coach Knap called the '73 squad his "team of destiny," and the Broncos responded by going 9-2 in regular season play. One of those losses was to the Nevada-Reno Wolf Pack. The Broncos had led in the contest, but a last-second defensive tripping penalty called on linebacker Tomasini gave UNR one more play. The Wolf Pack scored, and the Broncos lost 23-21.

The Broncos opened the season against the Vandals in the "New Idaho Stadium," the arena that became the Kibbie Dome two years later when the roof was added. Idaho had thrashed Texas-El Paso the week before 62-14 and brashly tromped and chanted its way through the BSC locker room before the game, as startled Bronco players looked on. But that afternoon, it was the McMillan-to-Hutt combination that did the talking in a convincing 47-24 Bronco win.

Boise State captured the Big Sky championship in 1973, also defeating fourth-ranked Cal Poly 42-10 in Bronco Stadium late that year. 31

The Broncos still needed one more win to make the Division II playoffs and got it in a close game at Cal-Davis 32-31. The Broncos' final touchdown, a pass from McMillan to Nicely, came with six seconds remaining, and the Statesman's Jim Poore reported, "With the weight of Boise State College's playoff hopes resting on his toe, Rolly Woolsey kicked the Broncos to a 32-31 victory." 32

The Broncos ended the season ranked seventh in the AP poll and eighth on the UPI poll. The University of South Dakota Coyotes became the Broncos' first playoff opponent—and next victim. On the Thursday before the game, seven Broncos were named to the All-Big Sky first team: wide-receiver Don Hutt, quarterback McMillan, guard Dan Dixon, center John Klotz, tackle Al Davis, cornerback Ron Neal and defensive end Mark Goodman. Hutt went on to star in the East-West Shrine Game.

The South Dakota game, played on December 12, 1973, was one of four regional contests. The Broncos stunned the Coyotes with seven touchdowns and a final score of 53-10. Don Hutt had three touchdowns, Smith two, and Chester Grey and Autele, one each. Grey's touchdown came after a Duncan fumble recovery on the Coyote 14-yard line. Following the game, the Broncos were selected for the Pioneer Bowl to face the Louisiana Tech Bulldogs.

Thirteen thousand fans watched the Bronco-
Tech game in the Pioneer Bowl at Wichita Falls, Texas. The Bronco dream was toppled in the space of eight seconds when, with 33 seconds to play, Tech's Denny Duron passed to All-American split end Roger Carr, giving Tech the 38-34 victory. BSU's Don Hutt received the player-of-the-game award. The loss disappointed the Broncos, but still gave them a 10-3 season. The Bulldogs went on to defeat Western Kentucky 34-0 in the Camellia Bowl for the Division II national championship. Western Kentucky had beaten Grambling to get to the final contest of the season.

Led by McMillan, the 1974 Bronco football team won a second consecutive Big Sky championship by defeating Montana State 40-37, ISU 61-3, NAU 28-10, Nevada-Reno 36-16, Weber State 42-14, Idaho 53-29, and Montana 56-42. McMillan registered the finest season of total offense in BSU history, and John Crabtree, Mike Holton, Grey, Ray Hooft, Ken Johnson, Bob Cleveland and Nicely were other standouts. The backfield received stout support from an unyielding line consisting of Ted Scoles at center, guards Jim Ryan and Glenn Sparks and tackles Carleton Ching and Greg Palin.

The defense included Loren Schmidt, Chris Isom and Barry Munson as linebackers. Woolsey, Gary Rosolowich, Chico Mills, Gary Gorrell and Rocky Patchin helped shut down the opponents' offense. Clint Sigman did the kicking.

One of the greatest comebacks in BSU history was one that fell short. But no one who was there or listened to it on the radio will ever forget it. The Broncos traveled to Nevada-Las Vegas in a meeting of two unbeaten Division II powers. UNLV star running back Mike Thomas staked the Rebels to a 30-6 halftime lead. The score went to 37-6 early in the third quarter before the Broncos came to life. With McMillan throwing for a school record 454 yards and Holton snaring passes totalling 252 yards, another BSU record, the Broncos chipped away relentlessly. The Rebels were on their heels, with the score 37-35 in the final minute before an interception inside the UNLV 20 cut the Bronco bid short.

The regular season ended with the Bronco-Vandal game marking McMillan's final home appearance. It was an exclamation point to a
brilliant career, as "Jimmy Mac" completed 30 of 42 passes in a 53-29 BSC triumph, the Broncos’ third in four tries against Idaho.

By winning the Big Sky, the Broncos became the only representative from the entire Western region to play in the NCAA Division II championships. The Broncos travelled to Mount Pleasant, Michigan, to face the Central Michigan Chippewas. The game, played in inclement weather with a high wind and the chill factor at 3 degrees, ended in a 20-6 Bronco loss. McMillan was the only player to get a postseason all-star invitation, playing in the East-West Shrine Game.

Knap’s last season with the Broncos came in 1975. Again, the Broncos won the Big Sky championship, posting a 5-0-1 conference record and 9-2-1 overall. Except for a 48-0 blowout of Northern Arizona and a 49-6 win over Nevada-Reno, the remaining Bronco games were close and dependent upon the “Cardiac Kids” to pull them from the jaws of defeat. Two of them were won in the final minute, both on long touchdown passes. The Broncos beat Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo when Greg Stern hit Mike Holton from 46 yards out with 44 seconds left, and Holton hauled in another winner the next week with 31 seconds left, a 32-yard pass from Lee Huey to beat Montana State. They tied Idaho at 31-31 as their last minute heroics failed. The only regular season defeat came at the hands of...
of Utah State when the Broncos were overwhelmed by the running of Louie Giamonna. For the second year in a row, a team from Michigan ended Boise State's bid for championship play beyond the opening round. This time, the Northern Michigan Wildcats came to Bronco Stadium and defeated the Broncos 24-21. The 1975 Broncos set 10 all-time records and tied three. Of the records, Smith owned six and shared two.

The team featured the famed "Red Arrows" on defense. The defensive players received a red arrow on their helmets for what Knap described as plays of "reckless abandon." The elite group included Pete Poumele, Sala Misa, Jr., Gorrell, Rosolowich, Sigman, Kauhi Hookano, Jim Meeks and Mark Humphries. The group also included the specialty players Mike Mallard, Egnacio Balinton, Vince Mendiola and Jerome "Toots" Kaahanui. Avi Rofe was the kicker. On offense, Smith, Hooft, Holton and tackle Everett Carr worked with quarterbacks Greg Stern and Lee Huey.

More football on page 181.
Most Bronco baseball teams in the 1960s and '70s won about as often as they lost, seldom finishing in the cellar of their league, but never finishing at the top. The 1966 team finished third in the ICAC race, playing .500 ball most of the season. Leading hitters were Dave Ball and Tom Dearing, and leading pitcher was Bob Neff.

The squad finished at 12-11 the next year, but was 5-0 in the ICAC and won the northern division crown by beating Ricks in a doubleheader. In the playoff for the league title against Mesa the Broncos won the first game of the three game series, but lost the next two. Lauren Messinger, Rod Chester and Hal Zimmerman carried the big bats and Warren Meador was the top hurler.

The 1968 squad was led by third baseman George Saphire, first baseman Zimmerman and pitcher Ken Kushlan. Bob Peterson pitched a no-hitter at CSI. At the Magic Valley Intercollegiate Baseball Tournament in Twin Falls, the Broncos had two shutouts, blanking Ricks 2-0 and the College of Southern Idaho 7-0. The team finished 14-14 on the season and won the ICAC northern division title.

The Broncos had a 18-15 season in 1969 and tied for first place in the fourth annual Kleffner Baseball Classic. Throughout the season the squad was led by pitchers Terry Begg, Bob Peterson and Kent Sefries with Eric Guthrie in relief, while heavy hitters like Peterson, Hal Takahashi, Jim Bianchi, Dan Smith, Jim Rogers and Sabin Landulace provided offensive punch.

The Broncos were 16-14 the next season, their last before joining the Big Sky Conference in 1971. Their first year of conference play ended with a 4-8 record and 18-18 overall. But the team led the nation in fielding with a .979 average, a collegiate record at that time. Third baseman Norm Kollman and outfielder Bob Peterson were named to the southern division all-league team. Dan Smith was the top pitcher.

Wins were hard to come by the next year. The team was 4-21 at one point, but bounced back to end at 10-28 and 2-10 in the conference. But utility player Tom Alpperspach has a great season and was named to the Big Sky's all-conference team, the first and only Bronco to earn that honor.

Lyle Smith, who had been full-time athletic director since 1968, ended his baseball coaching career in 1973. That season infielders Vic Wells and Gary Allen were named to the northern division all-conference team, but the Broncos could win only one of 11 Big Sky games and finished 11-25 overall.

Ross Vaughn, an assistant coach at Washington State, took over the
team in 1974. Lead by strikeout artist Paul Levar on the mound and Allen at the plate, the Broncos improved to 19-18 and 2-6 in league.

Change was in store for the Bronco baseball program in 1975 when the Big Sky dropped the sport and BSU joined the Northern Pacific League (Nor-Pac). Playing an expanded schedule in the highly competitive league, the Broncos were 23-25-1 overall and 11-13 in conference play. Mike LaVoie won the league’s batting title and was named to the all-conference team.

The next year, 1976, Vaughn put together the best team since the school’s junior college era. The team set 18 school records enroute to a 32-17 season and 16-8 in the Nor-Pac, good for second place. Four Broncos, infielders Dale Baldwin and LaVoie and outfielders Ed Yurick and Bob Murray, were named to the all-conference team. That year, Murray hit .397 in conference play, and pitcher Scott Hunsaker ended his career with the most wins in Bronco history – 17.

The team slipped to fourth in 1977 with an 11-13 mark. But overall, it was a 27-22 winning season, and infielders Baldwin and John McHenry were named all-league.

BSU rebounded to finish 12-10 in the Nor-Pac and 28-19 on the season in 1978. Kent Hollingsworth, Jim Sorensen and Baldwin made the all-Nor-Pac team. Baldwin, the best defensive player in Bronco history and a four-year starter, ended his career in 1978 after being named to the all-conference team for three consecutive seasons. He later signed a professional contract with the San Francisco Giants.

After three consecutive winning seasons, the Bronco’s fell to a 21-28 mark, 8-16 in league, in 1979. But Steve McMannon had an outstanding year, batting .455 and hitting a school record 12 home runs. An all-Nor-Pac selection, McMannon was also named to the all-district first team. He was an honorable mention All-American and was a second team Academic all-American. McMannon’s hitting skills resulted in 19 school records.

The Broncos came back in 1980 to take third in the Nor-Pac with a 15-11 mark. BSU was 23-26 overall after a rugged start against several nationally ranked teams like BYU, Nevada-Las Vegas and Washington State. Shortstop Tim Hayes was named to the all-league squad.

Just two weeks before the season ended, the 1980 Broncos learned that they had played the last organized baseball at Boise State. Cuts were necessary in the overall university budget. Baseball and field hockey were eliminated from the athletic program. Coach Vaughn, who remained at BSU to teach physical education, ended his baseball coaching career with a record of 173-155-1.