

Championship Football CHAPTER XV *for two Decades*

Boise Junior College had had excellent football teams prior to the coming of Coach Lyle Smith. From 1934 to 1938 the team was coached by a part-time instructor—Max Eiden. When Coach Eiden decided to resign from his coaching position in football and basketball in the late spring of 1938 and take over the management of his father's plumbing business in Boise, Harry Jacoby, with a bachelor's degree from the University of Idaho, took over the coaching duties from the first of September 1938 until he was called into the army in late October of 1941.

Coach Jacoby made an excellent record with his teams for the four years he was coach. He was superseded, when called into the army, by Coach George "Stub" Allison who remained to finish out the school year. During the next three years until the fall of 1946, athletics had to go along on a catch-as-catch-can war basis, largely intramural, with each of the different coaches performing for less than a year; John D. Glasby in 1942-43, Rex Engelking in 1944-45, and Carl Warner for a full year in 1945-46. In the 1943-44 year there were so few male students that a coach was not hired. Coach Jacoby returned in the fall of 1946 and, assisted by Lyle Smith, developed a small but rugged football

team averaging 169 pounds which scored a total of 78 points to 57 points for the combined opponents.¹

In 1947 Lyle Smith took over as head football coach, when Coach Jacoby resigned, and continued in this position until he retired as coach in November of 1967 and became athletic director. At that time he had served as head coach for 20 out of the 21 years he had been with the College except for the one year when he was re-called into the navy during the Korean Conflict. During that one year George Blankley was head coach. He assisted Lyle Smith from 1948 to 1962 after the latter returned from the navy.

In this same fourteen year period, Blankley had exceptional basketball teams, sending a number of them to the National Junior College Athletic Association meets in Hutchinson, Kansas. From 1965 to 1968, under Coach Murray Satterfield, Boise tied the Intermountain Collegiate Athletic Conference the first year and won the last two years, going to the N.J.C.A.A. to represent the Northwest in both of those years.²

Ray Lewis returned to his Alma Mater in 1956 as head coach of both track and wrestling and assistant football coach. His teams have been universally successful from that time to the present, often competing against such four-year institutions as the College of Idaho and Northwest Nazarene College.

In the 20 years from 1947 to 1967 while Lyle Smith was head football coach, the Boise Junior College football teams dominated the I.C.A.C., (winning the Conference title 16 out of 21 years), and went for a stretch of 30 games without defeat from 1947 thru 1949.³ In the remaining seasons the College teams rarely lost even one game. They played the top junior colleges in the entire Northwest and many from California and the Midwest and often defeated small four-year institutions.

When Coach Smith retired as coach at the end of the last season Boise Junior College competed as a junior college (in the fall of 1967), he had a record of 158 wins, 25 losses, and 6

ties.⁴ This included post-season bowl games when the Broncos played seven opponents in the top junior college games of the nation—five invitations to the Potato Bowl, one to the Little Rose Bowl, and one in their own stadium, Bronco Stadium, under the National Junior College Athletic Association auspices.

In non-bowl games they went as far east as Michigan to play Grand Rapids and as far south as Tyler, Texas to pick up an opponent for the N.J.C.A.A. game in 1958.

They won two of the five games played at the Potato Bowl in Bakersfield, California and the N.J.C.A.A. game with Tyler College at Boise, but lost the Little Rose Bowl game in Pasadena, California in 1950.

Although the Boise Junior College Broncos competed in five Kern County Shrine Potato Bowl games, the first one played in 1949 was the one which received the most recognition. When the Broncos arrived in Bakersfield to meet Taft Junior College, they were sporting a 27-game winning streak. This was all that was known about them, but at the game's finish it was obvious that this comparatively unknown team would be heard from again.

Taft won the toss, but from then on the Broncos virtually took over. At the end of the first half the score was 13-7 and by the games' end it was 25-7. The "hero" of the evening was Bill Moore, otherwise known as "King Spud" and "Wild Bill Moore." The papers of the following morning eulogized this 185 pound halfback from Nampa. Headlines included such comments as "One Man Show by Visitor Thrills," "Bill Moore Rambles for More Yardage than Combined Total of Entire Taft Football Team," and "Moore Sparks Broncos to Win."

Every man on the Bronco team played an excellent game. Fullback Dick Bader scored two touchdowns; Scatback Bob Wilder equalled Taft's entire offense through jaunts of 64 yards, 25 yards, and 10 yards. It was Moore, however, who won the evening's title of "Most talked about player." He not only

engineered the Bronco offense, including runs of 27, 32, 39, and 17 yards, but did some marvelous punting—55 and 56 yards among the longest and topped off his evening with 89 yards of punt returns.

In the middle of the 1950 season, Coach Smith was re-called into the navy during the early part of the Korean Conflict. The last game to be played before his departure was against Ricks College. The final score was 52-13 in favor of the Broncos and was heralded by the Press with "B.J.C. wins game for navy bound Head Coach Smith."⁶ He returned in mid-August of 1952 after missing the 1951 season.

At the end of the 1950 season, the Broncos had received four bids to Bowl games, but accepted the one from the Little Rose Bowl after they had won their 40th game in a row. December 9, 1950 was a blistering 82 degrees in the California sun which followed one of the coldest Novembers in Idaho. The team held up well for the first half threatening another win, but the second half was another story when the Broncos gave way before a crowd of 47,500 in the famed Pasadena Rose Bowl. They were beaten by Long Beach City College to the tune of 33 to 13. Thus, the longest winning streak of any college in the State of Idaho came to an end in this combination of real Long Beach Viking power plus California heat.

This set-back did not dampen the ardor of the College. This was demonstrated the following fall with Boise's second appearance at the Potato Bowl in Bakersfield ending as the first one had, with Boise winning over Bakersfield Junior College by a score of 34 to 14.

Boise had previously won the Inter-Mountain Conference Championship for the fourth straight year and suffered but one defeat that season at the hands of Olympic Junior College of Bremerton, Washington. This 1951 performance at the Potato Bowl had been piloted by Acting Head Coach George Blankley assisted by Ralph "Arky" Rogers.

The Broncos appeared three more times in the Potato Bowl—1954, 1957, and 1966. Each time they had had a very successful season. The 7th Annual Shrine Potato Bowl game of 1954 was against Compton Junior College before 15,000 fans. Compton won by a score of 7 to 6. The other games were against Bakersfield College again in 1957, Bakersfield winning 38 to 13, and the last one in 1966 against Cerritos Junior College. The latter one was dubbed by the local sports writers as "The Potato Soup Bowl." The fog was so thick that the players were only visible for some 15 feet and most of the fans who sat in the fine new stadium at Bakersfield left before the game ended. The players were just as disappointed since it was impossible to follow the individual plays. The final score was 41-13 in Cerritos' favor.

Probably the greatest season that Boise Junior College ever had was the one of 1958. With one exception, all of the games were very lopsided with the Broncos scoring 389 points to the opponents' 67 points for the nine regular games and winning the N.J.C.A.A. Championship game against Tyler College of Texas.⁸ This was played in Bronco Stadium and the final score was 22-0. All the Broncos played an excellent game and at its finish, N.J.C.A.A. directors from Kansas, California and Texas named fullback Jerry Mahoney as the most outstanding player on the field. In defeating this team, Boise Junior College became the number one junior college football team in the nation.

Between 1947 and 1968 the Broncos usually ranged in the first ten junior colleges in the nation. Never has a community been so enthusiastic in its support of a college and never has that college football team deserved greater support. In fact, the success of these teams was directly responsible for the building of Bronco Stadium in 1950 and the support of the *Idaho Daily Statesman* and its manager, James L. Brown, in particular.

Lyle Smith was truly one of the great coaches in collegiate centers during his years at Boise Junior College. His teams were

noted for their desire to win. The boys were not only given encouragement in athletics, but were urged to excel in the academic field also. Coach Smith had that quality of getting each young man to take pride in his work as a member of the team and many a young man was to go ahead and finish his college work and go into a life profession thanks to his coach who had supported him in moments when his college career was anything but a bed of roses.

On Coach Smith's resignation in January of 1968, Coach Tony Knap was selected as the new head football coach for the four-year college. Lyle Smith continued as Director of Athletics.

¹*Les Bois*, 1947, p.22.

²*Ibid*, 1966, 1967, 1968.

³*Ibid*, 1948 to 1968 inclusive.

⁴*Ibid*, 1968, p.89.

⁵*Idaho Daily Statesman*, October 8, 1950.

⁶*Les Bois*, 1959.