DYNAMIC MOUNTAIN WEST

A GOOD HOME FOR RISING BRONCOS

By Mike Journee

JUST A MENTION OF BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY CONJURES IMAGES OF A HUNGRY, PROGRESSIVE, UP-AND-COMING WESTERN POWERHOUSE POISED TO BREAK THROUGH STAID TRADITIONS AND CHALLENGE OLD WAYS OF THINKING.



"The invitation to join the Mountain West Conference reflects the excellence that Boise State University has demonstrated academically and athletically."

- Bob Kustra, Boise State president



BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY



University of Wyoming

Location: Laramie, Wyo. Enrollment: 13,207 Year Founded: 1886 Team Name: Cowboys/

Cowgirls

President: Thomas Buchanan Athletic Director: Tom Burman

Fun Facts: Wyoming's War Memorial Stadium has the highest elevation of any stadium in the Football Bowl Subdivision - 7,220 feet. Named one of the top "adventure colleges" by Outside magazine.

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Location: Las Vegas, Nev. Enrollment: 29,069 Year Founded: 1957 (Nevada Southern) Team Name: Rebels President: Neal Smatresk

Athletic Director: Jim Livengood

Fun Facts: Nevada Southern held its first commencement in 1964 after gaining independence from the University of Nevada-Reno. Elvis Presley and Ann Margaret danced in Nevada Southern's gym in the 1964 movie Viva Las Vegas.



SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY

Location: San Diego, Calif. Enrollment: 32,396 Year Founded: 1897 (San Diego Normal School)

Team Name: Aztecs President: Stephen Weber Athletic Director: Jim Sterk Fun Facts: Prominent alums of SDSU include Marshall Faulk, Joe Gibbs, Tony Gwynn, Gregory Peck, Art Linkletter, Marion Ross and Dennis Conner. Don Corvell had a 104-19-2 record as football coach at SDSU from 1961-72.

UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO

Location: Albuquerque, N.M. Enrollment: 27,304 Year Founded: 1889

Team Name: Lobos President: David Schmidly Vice President, Athletics:

Paul Krebs

Fun Facts: The nickname "Lobos" (Spanish for wolf) was adopted in 1920. Lobo Louie and Lobo Lucy are the school's costumed mascots.



Among all of the reasons for Boise State's move to the young and dynamic Mountain West Conference (MWC), this shared forward-leaning outlook means the most for this new relationship.

It's a new home that pairs Boise State's growing research agenda, vigorous undergraduate experience and scenic setting in the heart of one of the West's most vibrant state capitals with conference peers who embrace the same can-do Western outlook. Among partners with a vision similar to its own, Boise State's new seat in the MWC - officially starting on July 1 – fulfills a longheld goal that recognizes the university's strides in academic and athletic excellence.

"It would be difficult to find a better fit for our emerging metropolitan research university and its Western agenda," says Bob Kustra, president of Boise State. "For several years now, our sights have been set on standing alongside other metropolitan research universities in meeting the challenges of the New West. Our new affiliation provides stronger relationships with a number of fine universities pursuing a vision very similar to our own. It is a promising new era for Boise State and our region, and an honor to be in the

"Our student-athletes, coaches and staff aspire to compete at the highest level of intercollegiate athletics. The move to the Mountain West Conference affords us those opportunities."

- Gene Bleymaier, Boise State athletic director

company of the schools of the Mountain West."

From its inception in 1999, the Mountain West Conference has been committed to excellence in intercollegiate athletics, while promoting the academic missions of its member institutions. Progressive in its approach, the MWC continues to cultivate opportunities for student-athletes to compete at the highest level, while fostering academic achievement and sportsmanship.

"Since our inception just 11 short years ago, the Mountain West has experienced tremendous success, and the addition of Boise State will further enhance that strength," says MWC Commissioner Craig Thompson.

With two Bowl Championship Series wins, a Heisman finalist and perennial national rankings in football, recent national contenders in wrestling, gymnastics and tennis, as well as conference championship teams in swimming and track, Boise State's athletes - who also receive outstanding rankings for academic accomplishments are ready for the challenge.



COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

Location: Fort Collins, Colo. Enrollment: 25,413 Year Founded: 1870 (Agricultural College of Colorado)

Team Name: Rams **President:** Anthony Frank

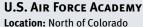
Athletic Director: Paul Kowalczyk

Fun Facts: Professional **Veterinary Medicine** program is ranked No. 2 in the nation by U.S. News and World Report. Colorado State and Boise State have never met in football.



FUTURE MEMBERS JOINING MWC IN 2012

Fresno State University of Hawaii (football only) University of Nevada, Reno



Springs, Colo. Enrollment: 4,400 Year Founded: 1955 Team Name: Falcons

Superintendent: Lt. Gen. Michael C. Gould

Athletic Director: Hans Mueh

Fun Facts: Youngest of the five service academies. Air Force has won the Commander in Chief's Trophy (for best record among the three footballplaying academies) 16 times in 34 years. Elevation at Falcon Stadium is 6,621 feet.



TEXAS CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

Location: Fort Worth, Texas Enrollment: 8,865 Year Founded: 1873 **Team Name:** Horned Frogs Chancellor: Victor Boschini

Athletic Director: Chris Del Conte

Fun Facts: TCU and Boise State will meet in football at Bronco Stadium in 2011. This will be their only game as **Mountain West Conference** opponents. TCU will leave the MWC following the 2011-2012 season.

MOUNTAIN WEST CONFERENCE — BY THE NUMBERS

Number of MWC student-athletes earning All-America honors in 2009-2010

50

Number of bowl games MWC schools have participated in (12 years)

51

Number of MWC schools earning post-season berths in men's basketball (11 years)

Number of MWC schools earning post-season berths in women's basketball (11 years)

56 110

Number of MWC student-athletes earning Academic All-America honors (11 years)