

Former Bronco stars make their mark in NFL



JIM BEVEN/GREEN BAY PACKERS



Above: Daryn Colledge (73) blocks for Packer's quarterback Brett Favre (4). Below: Kimo von Oelhoffen, now with the New York Jets, celebrates a sack during Pittsburgh's Super Bowl win earlier this year. Opposite page: Oakland's Chris Carr on the run

Led by a Super Bowl winner who has since moved on to the Big Apple, five former Boise State football players are currently on National Football League active rosters while a sixth is on his team's injured reserve list.

Now in his 13th season in the NFL, New York defensive tackle **KIMO VON OELHOFFEN** signed with the Jets after six years in Pittsburgh. His career with the Steelers was highlighted by Pittsburgh's Super Bowl victory earlier this year. Before joining the Steelers in 2000, Von Oelhoffen spent his first six seasons in the pros with the Cincinnati Bengals.

After spending the first four years of his pro career with the Denver Broncos, **JEB PUTZIER** signed with Houston during the off-season and has spent the season so far as the Texans' backup tight end.

QUINTIN MIKELL is a reserve safety and special teams standout in his fourth season with the Philadelphia Eagles.

In his second year with Oakland, defensive back **CHRIS CARR** continues to be the Raiders' top punt and kick returner. He returned an interception 100 yards for a touchdown in the Raiders' 20-13 win over Pittsburgh on Oct. 29.



PITTSBURGH STEELERS/KARL ROSE

Green Bay's second-round pick in this year's NFL draft, rookie offensive lineman **DARYN COLLEDGE** has started at left guard and seen action at left tackle for the Packers. He made his first NFL start against New Orleans on Sept. 17. Colledge's selection in the second round makes him the third Boise State football player to be picked that high. He joins fullback David Hughes, who was the Seattle Seahawks' second pick in 1981, and defensive end Markus Koch, who was the Washington Redskins' No. 2 choice in 1986.

All told, 34 ex-Broncos have been drafted by NFL teams between 1971 and 2006, and 32 have played in the league.

Chicago Bears fullback **BRYAN JOHNSON** was placed on the team's injured reserve list following surgery in August to repair a hamstring injury he incurred in practice. The six-year veteran showed no ill effects from a foot injury that had dogged him for much of the previous 19 months. He joined the Bears in 2004 after spending his first four NFL seasons with the Washington Redskins.

Two former Bronco stars also are playing in the Canadian Football League. **RYAN DINWIDDIE** is the backup quarterback for the Winnipeg Blue Bombers and **T.J. ACREE** is a wide receiver for the British Columbia Lions.



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DARRIN OSWALD/THE IDAHO STATESMAN

From left: Former Boise State standouts Lee Marks, Bart Hendricks and Tim Gilligan model the Boise Burn's new uniforms at the press conference announcing their signings with the arenafootball2 expansion franchise earlier this year.

Ex-Broncos with talent to 'Burn'

When the Boise Burn opens its inaugural indoor football season next spring, at least three familiar faces will be on its roster. Former Boise State standouts Bart Hendricks, Tim Gilligan and Lee Marks signed with the arenafootball2 expansion franchise in October.

Their signings were announced at a press conference earlier this fall when the Burn also debuted its new team logo and orange, silver and black uniforms at Qwest Arena in Boise.

"I'm young enough still to do it," said Hendricks at the press conference. "I didn't want to look back in five years from now and say, 'I could have done it.'"

"They kind of had to convince me a little bit," said Marks. "Now I'm excited because I'm playing football and competing, working out and lifting weights."

Hendricks started at quarterback for the Broncos from 1997 to 2000 before stints in the San Diego Chargers' preseason camp, NFL Europe and with the Edmonton Eskimos of the Canadian Football League.

Gilligan played wide receiver at Boise State from 2000 to 2003 and holds records for receptions in a game (16), receiving yards in a game (255) and receiving yards in a season (1,192). He played for the CFL's Montreal Alouettes in 2004 and 2005.

Marks played tailback at Boise State from 2002 to 2005. He was the Broncos' leading rusher his junior and senior seasons.

