Wimbledon winner joins elite group of former Broncos

Boise State can boast a handful of athletes who have entered the professional ranks and then have gone on to reach the pinnacle of their sport.

In 1984 Dee Pickett, who played quarterback for the Bronco football team in 1976 and ’77, captured the world title in team roping and was named the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association all-around world champion. And in 1995 Troy Kemp, a two-time track All-American who competed for BSU from 1984 to ’88, won the men’s high jump at the World Track and Field Championships. In football there’s Markus Koch, a three-time All-America defensive lineman for BSU from 1982 to ’85 who was a member of the Washington Redskins’ Super Bowl XXII championship team in 1988.

Now you can add Wesley Moodie to that short but illustrious list.

Earlier this year Moodie, an All-American on the Bronco tennis team in 1999 and 2000, and his doubles partner Stephen Huss surprised the tennis world when they captured the Wimbledon men’s doubles championship, defeating second-seeded Americans Bob and Mike Bryan in four sets (7-6, 6-3, 6-7, 6-3).

Playing in only their second tournament together, the pair began their march to tennis’ most prestigious double title with wins in two qualifying matches just to get into Wimbledon’s opening round. They then went on to upset four ranked teams in the five rounds in which they played to reach the finals. In the semifinals Moodie and Huss beat the world’s top-ranked doubles team of Max Mirnyi and Jonas Bjorkman to advance to the championship match. Their triumph in the finals marked the first time in the tournament’s long history that a man’s doubles team came from the qualifying rounds to claim the championship.

“We went into each match saying, ‘How far can we go in this tournament?’ Moodie told the media after the title match. “I guess we can go pretty far.”

Moodie, a native of South Africa, competed for the Boise State tennis team from fall 1998 through spring 2000 after transferring from Auburn. During his junior and senior years at Boise State, he helped lead the Broncos to back-to-back Big West championships and into the first round of the NCAA Tournament each year.

He began playing professionally after completing his eligibility at Boise State and became the first Bronco to play at Wimbledon, qualifying for the singles competition in 2003 and ’04. He failed to qualify for Wimbledon’s 2005 singles draw, but teamed with Huss, a former teammate at Auburn, in a bid to qualify for the doubles bracket after they won a minor circuit event earlier in the year.

Since his improbable win at Wimbledon, Moodie, 26, has rapidly ascended the Association of Tennis Professionals singles rankings. A victory in the Japan Open finals in October rocketed him up 41 places on the ATP rankings to a career-high of 57.

Pickett, Kemp and Koch would no doubt be impressed.

— Bob Evancho

Korey Hall helps build football program in more ways than one

Construction management student and Bronco starting linebacker Korey Hall spent his summer vacation working on a project that is very close to his heart.

As an intern for McAlvain Construction, Hall helped build the Caven-Williams Sports Complex.

The new indoor practice facility, located next to Bronco Stadium, is expected to be completed in February.

Hall, the Broncos’ co-captain and leading tackler at the mid-point of the season, says his summer job has made him the resident expert on the indoor field, and that he’s fielded many questions from his teammates on the progress of the facility.

“It was pretty neat to be able to be a part of something like that,” Hall says. “All my teammates kept asking me how it was going. It’s unusual to get work experience on a project that is so personal.”

Hall said his first internship gave him a wide range of experiences. He worked as an assistant to project superintendent Mike Wilson, and he helped him complete his eligibility at Boise State and became the first Bronco to play at Wimbledon, qualifying for the singles competition in 2003 and ’04. He failed to qualify for Wimbledon’s 2005 singles draw, but teamed with Huss, a former teammate at Auburn, in a bid to qualify for the doubles bracket after they won a minor circuit event earlier in the year.

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