

boise state qb history

Boise State QB History: A Legacy of Grit, Innovation, and Success

boise state qb history is a fascinating story of resilience, innovation, and remarkable talent that has helped shape the Broncos into one of college football's most exciting programs. From humble beginnings to producing NFL-caliber quarterbacks, Boise State's journey showcases how a mid-major program can consistently punch above its weight. Whether you're a die-hard fan or a casual observer, understanding the evolution of Boise State's quarterbacks offers an insightful glimpse into the broader culture and success of the program.

The Early Years: Foundations of Boise State Quarterback Play

Boise State's football program dates back to the late 1960s, but it wasn't until the 1990s and early 2000s that the Broncos began to gain national attention, particularly through their quarterback play. During these formative years, Boise State quarterbacks often had to demonstrate toughness and adaptability, traits that would become program hallmarks.

One notable early QB was Bart Hendricks, who played in the late 1990s. Hendricks wasn't a household name nationally, but he embodied the gritty spirit of Boise State football with his dual-threat capability and leadership. His versatility laid the groundwork for later signal-callers who blended passing and rushing abilities.

Building a System Around the Quarterback

In the early 2000s, Boise State's coaching staff, under head coach Dan Hawkins and offensive coordinator Chris Petersen, began to develop an offensive system that maximized their quarterbacks' unique skills. This approach often emphasized quick decision-making, mobility, and precision passing, which allowed Boise State QBs to thrive against more traditionally powerful programs.

This era was crucial because the Broncos were transitioning from a Division I-AA (FCS) program to a Division I-A (FBS) powerhouse. Quarterbacks had to adjust to faster defenses and more complex schemes, and Boise State's coaching staff crafted a system that highlighted their strengths rather than forcing them into conventional molds.

Chris Petersen Era: The Rise of the Modern Boise State QB

The arrival of Chris Petersen as head coach in 2006 marked a turning point in Boise State QB history. Petersen's offensive philosophy, often described as innovative and adaptive, put Boise State quarterbacks on the national stage.

Jared Zabransky: The Face of the Broncos' Breakout

One of the most iconic Boise State quarterbacks, Jared Zabransky, led the Broncos from 2005 to 2008. Zabransky was known for his poise, accuracy, and clutch performances. He was the mastermind behind the unforgettable 2007 Fiesta Bowl victory over Oklahoma, a game that catapulted Boise State into the national spotlight.

Zabransky's success wasn't just about physical talent—it was about leadership and football IQ. He was a classic example of how Boise State QBs had to be smart, calm under pressure, and willing to make unconventional plays, such as the famous Statue of Liberty trick play in the Fiesta Bowl.

Kellen Moore: Setting Records and Defining Excellence

Following Zabransky, Kellen Moore emerged as arguably the greatest quarterback in Boise State history. Playing from 2008 to 2011, Moore's tenure was marked by consistency, efficiency, and an impressive win-loss record. Finishing with a 50-3 record as a starter, Moore rewrote the Boise State record books.

Moore's style was emblematic of Boise State's QB philosophy: smart, precise, and highly adaptable. Unlike many quarterbacks who rely on sheer arm strength or mobility, Moore excelled through timing, reading defenses, and executing a disciplined game plan. His success paved the way for Boise State to be seen as a quarterback-friendly program.

Post-Moore Era: Continuity and New Challenges

After Kellen Moore's graduation, Boise State faced the challenge of replacing a generational talent. The Boise State QB history in the 2010s reflects a mix of ups and downs, with quarterbacks stepping into big shoes and adapting to evolving offensive schemes.

Joe Southwick and Grant Hedrick: Navigating Transition

Quarterbacks like Joe Southwick and Grant Hedrick carried the torch in the early to mid-2010s. Both had moments of brilliance but also faced challenges maintaining the high standard set by predecessors. Their tenure showed how important depth and development are in sustaining a competitive program.

During this period, Boise State continued to emphasize a balanced attack, requiring quarterbacks to be multi-dimensional—capable of making plays with their arm and legs. The program's offensive innovation continued, although it sometimes struggled with consistency at the QB position.

Recent Standouts: Innovators and Dual-Threat QBs

More recently, Boise State quarterbacks like Brett Rypien and Hank Bachmeier have carried on the tradition in diverse ways. Rypien, who played from 2016 to 2019, was known for his strong arm and leadership. He left Boise State as one of the school's all-time leading passers and brought a professional-style approach to the position.

Hank Bachmeier, a dual-threat quarterback, demonstrated the evolving nature of Boise State's offense. His mobility and arm strength reflected the growing trend in college football toward quarterbacks who can extend plays and create opportunities outside the pocket.

Boise State QB History and NFL Impact

One of the most compelling aspects of Boise State's quarterback legacy is how several QBs have transitioned to professional football. While Boise State may not produce first-round picks like some powerhouse programs, their quarterbacks have proven capable of carving out successful careers.

- **Kellen Moore:** Perhaps the most famous Boise State QB in the NFL, Moore had a brief playing career before becoming a highly respected NFL coach, currently serving as an offensive coordinator. His cerebral approach to the game translates well to coaching.
- **Brett Rypien:** Signed as an undrafted free agent, Rypien has shown promise in the NFL as a reliable backup and spot starter, exemplifying Boise State's ability to develop pro-ready talent.
- **Others:** Over the years, Boise State QBs have had opportunities in the NFL and other professional leagues, reflecting the program's reputation for producing disciplined, coachable players.

What Makes Boise State Quarterbacks Unique?

If you look closely at Boise State QB history, a few themes stand out that help explain why the program consistently develops standout signal-callers:

1. Emphasis on Football IQ

Boise State quarterbacks are known for their intelligence on the field. The program prioritizes reading defenses, understanding complex schemes, and making quick, smart decisions. This emphasis helps quarterbacks succeed against top-tier competition.

2. Adaptability and Versatility

From the early days of Bart Hendricks to the dynamic play of Hank Bachmeier, Boise State QBs have had to be versatile—able to pass, run, and improvise. This adaptability helps the Broncos stay competitive even when facing physical mismatches.

3. Coaching and System Fit

Boise State's coaching staff has a knack for designing offensive schemes that fit their quarterbacks' strengths, rather than forcing players into rigid systems. This player-first approach has been crucial in attracting and developing quality quarterbacks.

Looking Ahead: The Future of Boise State QB History

As Boise State continues to compete at a high level in the Mountain West Conference and beyond, the future looks bright for their quarterbacks. Recruiting efforts focus on athletes who not only possess physical skills but also the mental toughness and adaptability that have become Boise State trademarks.

With evolving offensive trends in college football—such as increased use of RPOs (run-pass options), spread concepts, and mobile quarterbacks—Boise State is well-positioned to continue innovating. Their QB history shows a willingness to embrace change and develop talent, making the Broncos a program to watch for emerging quarterback stars.

In the end, Boise State QB history is more than just a list of names and stats—it's a testament to how a

program can build a culture around smart, versatile, and resilient quarterbacks that drive team success year after year. Whether it's the dramatic wins, record-setting performances, or NFL transitions, the story of Boise State quarterbacks remains a rich and evolving chapter in college football.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who was Boise State's starting quarterback during their 2007 Fiesta Bowl victory?

Taylor Tharp was the starting quarterback for Boise State during the 2007 Fiesta Bowl victory.

Which Boise State quarterback set the school record for most passing yards in a single season?

Kellen Moore set the school record for most passing yards in a single season at Boise State.

How many seasons did Kellen Moore play as Boise State's starting quarterback?

Kellen Moore played as Boise State's starting quarterback for four seasons, from 2008 to 2011.

Who succeeded Kellen Moore as Boise State's starting quarterback?

Joe Southwick succeeded Kellen Moore as Boise State's starting quarterback.

Which Boise State quarterback was known for leading the Broncos to an undefeated regular season in 2010?

Kellen Moore led the Boise State Broncos to an undefeated regular season in 2010.

Has any Boise State quarterback been drafted into the NFL?

Yes, several Boise State quarterbacks have been drafted into the NFL, including Kellen Moore and Ryan Dinwiddie.

Who was the Boise State quarterback during their transition to the Mountain West Conference?

Joe Southwick was the Boise State quarterback during their transition to the Mountain West Conference in

2011.

Additional Resources

Boise State QB History: A Legacy of Innovation and Athletic Excellence

boise state qb history is a compelling narrative of strategic evolution, remarkable talent, and sustained success that has helped define one of college football's most dynamic programs. Since its inception, Boise State University has carved out a distinctive identity, largely driven by the performances and leadership of its quarterbacks. This article delves into the history and development of the Broncos' quarterbacks, shedding light on how the position has evolved, the standout players who have left an indelible mark, and the unique offensive philosophies that have shaped the program's reputation.

The Evolution of Boise State Quarterbacks

Boise State's journey in college football began in the late 1960s, but it wasn't until the 1990s and early 2000s that the quarterback position truly became synonymous with the program's success. Early quarterbacks laid the groundwork, but it was under coaches like Dirk Koetter and later Chris Petersen that Boise State quarterbacks flourished, benefiting from offensive schemes that emphasized versatility, quick decision-making, and athleticism.

The Broncos' offense, often characterized by innovative spread formations and a balanced run-pass attack, has consistently demanded quarterbacks who are both mentally sharp and physically capable. This blend has resulted in quarterbacks who can extend plays, execute high-tempo offenses, and consistently put up impressive statistics. The history of Boise State QBs reflects this hybrid skillset approach, making their development a case study in adapting to modern college football trends.

Notable Boise State Quarterbacks Through the Years

Several quarterbacks have defined Boise State football over the decades, each contributing to the program's growing prestige and competitive edge.