

# BOISE STATE BRONCOS



LB BEN WEAVER

## POSITION OUTLOOK FOR 2016

**QUARTERBACKS** - In 2014 returning starter Grant Hedrick had 4 int's vs AF. Rfr Ryan Finley led 2 td drives (12-25-161-2-1) creating some talk about taking over but he had just 2 more pass att's after that. Hedrick had BSU's 4th most single season passing yards (3696, 71%, 23-14, 592 rush). Last year the unit had just 5 games of FBS experience (0 st). Finley started the first 3 (1-4 ratio) but then was OFY vs Idaho St. Tommy Stuart (PS#317JC) hit 9-13-69 in the 1H but they took the RS off true frosh Brett Rypien (PS#24). He led 3 td's on 3 drives with the #1's & the job was his. He had 321 yds in his first start at UVA, 339 vs CSU, 469 vs UNLV and 503 vs New Mexico finishing with 3,353 (63.6%, 20-8). The latter two were MW & Boise frosh records. TY Finley transferred. Rypien was the first true frosh to play QB here s/Tony Hilde in '93. He broke all of Kellen Moore's HS passing records in the state of Washington. Will he break Moore's amazing pass stats here?

**RUNNING BACKS** - Boise has produced a 1,000 yard rusher for 7 straight years (5 diff RB). In '14 Jay Ajayi, topped Ian Johnson's single season school rushing mark ('06) with 1,823 (5.3) and a school record 2,358 all-purp (#3 rec, #5DC MIA). Devan Demas (PS#125) had 173 (6.9) and Jeremy McNichols (nicknamed McWeapon) averaged 13.9 yds per touch (rush, rec, KR) in '14. LY they added rfr Cory Young ('5'10" 200, PS#120, 90 yds, 5.3 LY) and his brother, Stanford transfer Kelsey Young (PS#29). McNichols led in rushing in 11 games (miss Utah St, 1337, 5.6, #4 rec). He scored Boise's F/6 td's of '15 (BSU rec). He had his first 100 yd gm Wk 5 and then topped 100 every game he played until the bowl (BSU rec 40 touches vs WY). Demas (fastest on t 4.38) was #3 (171, 5.9) while Ryan Wolpin ('5'8" 191 Jr) was #4 with 155 (6.2). This year they lose Kelsey Young (#2, 511, 5.1) but are much more experienced and McNichols is one of the MWC's top RB's.

**RECEIVERS** - In '13 both Matt Miller and Shane Williams-Rhodes were on track to break Jeremy Childs' record of 82 rec's in a season. SWR was injured and came up 5 short (702, 9.1) but Miller broke the record w/88 (1140, 13.0). In '14 both returned. Miller had 461 (16.5) in just 5 before being OFY. SWR was #1 in rec's (68) and #2 in yds (585, 8.6, #3 rush). Thomas Sperbeck (just 5 rec true) led w/877 (17.2). After Boise's top TE only had 7 rec in '13, Jake Roh had 35 in '14. In '15 Sperbeck became Rypien's main target and set the school record with 1,412 (16.0, 281 vs NM). SWR was #2 in rec w/63 (524, 8.3) while Chaz Anderson (deep threat) was #2 in yards w/578 (13.8). TE Roh was #5 (357, 10.8). This year they lose SWR (6 st), TE Holden Huff (10 st, 243, 13.5) and TE Jake Hardee (3 st, 2 rec). The Sperbeck/Anderson/Roh trio is the best in the MW.

**OFFENSIVE LINE** - Boise had a remarkable streak of nine 1st Tm MW LT's in 10 yrs but in '14 their LT (Rees Odhiambo, missed 5 sts) was "only" 2nd Tm & C Marcus Henry earned 1st Tm. Despite their least exp'd O-line of the decade, Boise had their best ypg rush (214) s/'06 and avg'd 4.9 ypc (best s/'10) but their 28 sks all'd was their most s/'04. LY the line ret'd intact (96 car sts ret) and surprisingly the numbers dipped (191, 4.5, 31 sk). Odhiambo was 1st Tm MW despite missing the last 5, starting a new streak. TY they lose Odhiambo (8/25, #3DC SEA), 1st Tm MW Henry (13/39) and Jerhen Ertel (5 gm). They add in Auburn transfer Will Adams (PS#199). While the Broncos lose a pair of key starters, they have 96 career starts back again and could improve on '15's below expectations numbers.

**DEFENSIVE LINE** - In '15 BSU had their deepest and most experienced D-line since 2010 (104, 2.9, 49 sk) including DE Kamalei Correa (12 sk as true). My computer (pg 43) had them improving to 102 ypg rush and they just missed (108, 3.2, 33 sk). This year they lose DE Tyler Horn (13 st, 42 tkl, 4 sk), NT Armand Nance (13 st, 31 tkl, 3.5 sk), 1st Tm MW DE Correa (13 st, 39 tkl, 7 sk, #2DC BAL), DT Justin Taimatua (12 st, 25 tkl, 2 sk), DT Deuce Mataele (12 tkl) and DT Robert Ash (4 tkl). While 5 of the top 10 are back, they lose all 4 starters. They do play their 2nd string (Orange line) 30-40% of the snaps but that unit produced 12.5 sks in '14 and just 3.5 in '15.

**LINEBACKERS** - In 2014 Tanner Vallejo earned 2nd Tm MW (#1 tkl'r). Last year this unit lost their #9 tkl'r but ret'd their #1, #3, #4 and #8 tkl'r's plus Mercy Maston (4 st, 44 tkl '13, '13, '14) and Texas A&M transfer Kameron Miles (PS#26). My computer projected them to improve from 26.8 to 21.5 and they did even better (20.2). This year they lose their best coverage LB in Tyler Gray (7 st, t-#5 tkl'r, 3 pbu, 8 tfl) and NB Maston (1 st, #12 tkl'r). All 3 starters return (#1, #3 & #5 tkl'r's) making this one of the top LB units in the country.

**DEFENSIVE BACKS** - From '01-'12 Boise's avg finish in my PDR was #17. They had to replace a 1st Tm (#2DC) and 2nd Tm MW CB in '13 and shockingly fell to their lowest finish s/'96 (#72). In '14 the unit returned intact (#44, 57.4%, 18-22). Six different DB's had missed a combined 12 games by midseason. Only 2 of '13's starters kept their jobs in 1st Tm MW Darian Thompson (#2 tkl'r, #3DC NYG) and 2nd Tm MW Monte Deayon (#7 tkl'r). Last year they lost their SS. I said the experienced secondary should help Boise get back to their normal spot and they did (#22, 53.5%, great 14-22 ratio). This year they lose the MW's career int leader (19) in FS Thompson (11 st, #2 tkl'r, 8.5 tfl) and CB Deayon (10 st, #10 tkl'r, 17 car int's). VHT Dylan Sumner-Gardner (PS#19) was OFY after 4 starts last year and returns. They have 8 of the top 10 back but may be down a notch with the loss of two 1st Tm MW DB's.

**SPECIAL TEAMS** - From '99-'11 Boise finished in the top 32 of my STR 12 of 13!! Shockingly they dropped to #106 in '12 and #64 in '14 (#12 '13). P Sean Wale (PS#27) avg 42.0 (38.0 tm net) in '14 and 42.0 (36.9 net) in '15. They had to replace their solid K (16-21 FG, 65 TB #1 NCAA) a ssn ago but Tyler Rausa filled those large shoes well with 56 TB on 95 KO and 25-30 FG's (3 miss 50+). The return game was average & they moved up a spot to #63. This year they lose their top PR's & KR's but will move up the rankings with two solid specialists.

**COACHES** - In '14 Bryan Harsin (bcp QB here '95-'99) who was OC here ('06-'10), became the HC in Boise. He was also the Texas Co-OC for 2Y then the HC at Arkansas St in '13. The New Co-OC's are Zak Hill, the 7 yr EW pass gm-coor/QB cch & 11th yr BSU cch Scott Huff (OL cch L6Y). New DC Andy Avalos (LB here '01-'04) has been on staff coaching DL & LB's since 2012. Kent Riddle is the 3rd yr ST cch, having coached with Harsin here previously ('01-'05) and as ST cch at A-St in '13.

**THIS DECADE 04-15 (BL09) #6** - Boise St won 8 WAC Titles and went a remarkable 75-5 (94%) in WAC play (+161 ypg). They have had four Top 10 AP finishes (#5 '06, #4 '09, #9 '10 and #8 '11). In '12 they moved to the MW and lost 2 games in a season for the first time s/'07. I did not have Boise included in my Preseason Top 25 in '13 (tough schedule) which upset a few Broncos fans. They started #19 AP. BSU had the fewest DD losses over the previous 10 years (5) but suffered 3 in '13 and their 50 game Oct win streak ended with a loss at BYU. They went to a bowl for the 12th straight year but had 5 losses (most s/'98). In '14 Chris Petersen moved on and Boise rated a +3.5 in my Stock Market Indicator. I called for the return of the DD win season. Boise blew out Utah St 50-19 to finish the highest ranked of the non-Power 5 teams. It was their first outright title in any conf s/'09 (that is very surprising). Boise led Arizona 31-17 at half in the Fiesta Bowl and won 38-30 to finish 12-2 (#16). Last year they were a surprising 9-4 but are still #6 overall this decade (64-15 81%).

**2015 ANALYSIS 9-4** - Last year the Broncos returned 17 starters from a 12-2 team that finished #16. They drew a -.25 in my Stock Market Indicator but they were the preseason favorite to land the Group of 5 bowl bid. They faced former HC Petersen at home in the opener in front of the 2nd largest crowd in school history and led 16-0 but only won 16-13. In a letdown situation with a young QB making a first road start in a hostile place (Provo at BYU), Boise still led 24-14 into the 4Q but allowed a 4th&7, 35 yd TD pass with :45 left and then an IR TD and lost 35-24. They blew out their next 4 foes by an avg of 51-6 including road wins at Virginia & Colorado St. The Broncos were -7 in TO's and were blown out at Utah St 52-26 (most pts allowed by Boise in reg ssn s/1963). They got back on track with 2 easy wins but then as over a 4 td home favorite were upset by New Mexico (never led). They led Air Force by 10 in the 2Q but then trailed by 21 in the 3Q and watched Falcons steal their Mountain Division crown after a 2nd straight home upset loss. They beat San Jose St on the road and then destroyed Northern Illinois in the bowl (65-33 yd edge).

**ALSO ON ROSTER:** RB Jake Shaddox 5'11" 203 Fr TE Jake Knight 6'4" 230 So  
QB Anthony Uppshaw 5'11" 180 So WR Garrett Collings 6'4" 202 Jr LB Hayden Israelson 6'0" 180 Fr

## PHIL'S FORECAST

**OFFENSE** - Boise has 8 returning starters on offense including their QB and my computer (pg 43) calls for them to top the 39.7 & 39.1 ppg that they have put up the last 2 years. Boise's offense had 108 ypg more than their opp's allowed last year which was #14 in the country. This is the best offense in the MW.

**DEFENSE** - The defense has just 5 returning starters after bringing back 8 each of the last 2 years (5 of the top 12 tkl'r's). Last year's defense held opp's to 80 ypg below their season avg which was #16 in the country. The back 7 is loaded but all 4 starting DL's (biggest ? on the team) must be replaced.

**2016** - Just like last year, Boise looks like the most talented team in the MW coming in, but last year they did not even play in the Title game. LY they were -4 net upsets (pg 24) had 2 net close losses and were #2 in the MW at +143.6 ypg. They are more experienced than LY (#26 Experience Chart pg 29) and have the Stock Market indicator pointing up. This could be a bubble bursting year for the MW as 6 of my 9 sets of power ratings call for a 12-0 season. They have two Pac-12 teams early in the year including a strong Washington St team but they could still be favored in all 12 games. A win in the MW Title game (vs a potential 12-0 SDSU) could have them in the playoff conversation at the end of the year. Now how will the Broncos handle this years high expectations?

## OFFENSE

### JERSEY # IN BLUE

## 2016 PROJECTED STARTING LINEUP

### JERSEY # IN BLUE

## DEFENSE

**QB 4 BRETT RYPIEN SO.** 6-2 199 PS#24. L/10 st, 3350 (63%, 20-8), MW Fr POY, 1st Tm MW LY. 3 Thomas Stuart ('5'11" 196 Jr) PS#317JC. 9 gm, 114 (67%, 1-0) LY. Jake Constantine is PS#120.4. Cam Humphrey ('6'1" 174 Fr).  
**RB 13 JEREMY MCNICHOLS JR.** 5-9 205 PS#130. 9 gm, 159 (9.4), 393 KR (12.7). 14. 12 st, 1337 (5.6), 460 rec (9.0), 2nd Tm MW LY. 26 Devan Demas ('5'8" 175 Sr) PS#125. 14 gm, 173 (6.9) '14. 13 gm, 171 (5.9) LY.  
**WR 82 THOMAS SPERBECK SR.** 6-0 175 PS#257.8 gm, 40 (8.0) true. 8st, 877 (17.2) '14. 13 st, 1412 (16.0), 1st Tm MW LY. 81 Akilian Butler ('5'10" 175 So) PS#119. 10 gm, 21 (10.5) as true LY. Bubba Ogbebor is PS#159.  
**WR 6 CHAZ ANDERSON SR.** 5-10 186 PS#123.4 st, 456 (21.7) '14. 11 st, 578 (13.8) LY. 28 AJ Richardson ('6'0" 205 So) PS#194. 13 gm, 113 (11.3) LY. Julian Carter is PS#203. Taylor Pope ('6'0" 183 Sr). Austin Cottrell ('6'2" 206 Jr).  
**WR 80 CEDRICK WILSON JR.** 6-3 190 PS#152JC. IFS. 8 Sean Modster ('5'11" 187 So) PS#191. 8 gm, 39 (13.0) LY. 9 Bryan Jefferson ('5'11" 188 Jr) PS#234. 83 David McKinzie ('6'0" 173 Jr). 89 Brock Barr ('6'3" 202 Jr).  
**TE 88 JAKE ROH JR.** 6-3 235 PS#37. 11 st, 408 (11.7) '14. 8 st, 357 (10.8), 2nd Tm MW LY. 87 Alec Dhaenens ('6'3" 244 Jr) PS#32. 1 st, 4 rec LY. 86 Chase Blakeley ('6'4" 235 So) PS#22. Matt Pistone ('6'3" 242 rfr).  
**C 59 MASON HAMPTON JR.** 6-3 290 14 gm '14. 13 gm last season. 67 Garrett Larson ('6'4" 282 rfr). PS#254. Donte Harrington ('6'2" 320 Fr) PS#383. LS 42 Matt Cota ('6'1" 179 Jr) PS#233. DNP LY.  
**RG 70 STEVEN BAGGETT SR.** 6-3 290 PS#346. 2 st '13. 13 st RG '14. 13 st LY. 79 Eric Quevedo ('6'4" 297 rfr) PS#520. 60 Kellen Buhr ('6'1" 282 Sr). 1 gm '13. 12 gm '14. 13 gm LY. 75 Kole Bailey ('6'5" 285 Fr) PS#184.  
**LG 73 TRAVIS AVERILL SR.** 6-3 299 PS#121. 3 st RT, 9 gm '13. 14 st '14. DNP opener. L/11 st last season.  
**52 Andrew Tercek ('6'1" 281 Jr) PS#124. 2 gm '14. 5 gm last season. Austin Dixon ('6'6" 265 Fr) PS#360.**  
**RT 66 MARIO YAKOO SR.** 6-4 320 PS#253. 1 st RG, 13 gm '13. 14 st RG '14. 12 st (F/2LG, 10 RT), HM MW LY. Will Adams ('6" 300 Sr) PS#199. 38 gm bkp Auburn L3Y. Trans. elig immed. Andres Preciado ('6" 285 So).  
**LT 74 Archie Lewis Jr.** 6-4 295 5 st (ALT, 1RT), 11 gm '14. 8 st, 13 gm LY. 77 John Molchon ('6'5" 310 rfr) PS#285. Ezra Cleveland ('6" 305 Fr) PS#166. 68 Dan Urquhart ('6'7" 324 Sr) DNP LY.  
**K 49 TYLER RAUSA SR.** 5-9 183 PS#236JC. 1 gm, 1-1 PAT '14. 25-30 fg (L/51), 59-61 PAT, 56 TB/95 KO, 1st Tm MW last season. Joel Velazquez ('6'0" 230 Fr) PS#29. 93 Max O'Rourke ('6'1" 160 rfr).

**DE 94 SAM MCCASKILL SR.** 6-3 270 PS#286. 13 st, 26 tkl, 4 tfl '14. 13 gm, 17 tkl LY. 91 Durrant Miles ('6'5" 260 So) PS#194. 11 gm, 3 tkl as true LY. 53 Sam Whitney ('6'1" 234 rfr). 50 Sawyer Shields ('6'1" 241 rfr).  
**NT 48 DAVID MOSE SR.** 6-3 285 PS#250. 5 gm, 3 tkl LY. Daniel Auelua ('6'2" 275 Jr) PS#198JC. 39 tkl, 9.5 tfl at JC LY. 92 Paul Semons ('6'3" 266 So) 1 gm, 1 tkl LY. Austin Silsby ('6'3" 248 Jr). Lui Sonatone ('6'1" 230 Fr).  
**LB 56 ELIOT HOYTE SR.** 6-4 285 4 gm, 4 tkl '13. 14 gm, 16 tkl, 3.5 sk '14. 1 st, 13 tkl LY. Curtis Weaver is PS#134. Jabari Watson is PS#166. Emmanuel Fesillas is PS#188. 54 Matt Locher ('6'2" 252 rfr) PS#242.  
**STUD 33 GABE PEREZ JR.** 6-4 236 PS#138. 26 gm, 58 tkl, 14.5 tfl F2Y. RS (shid'r surg) LY. 18 Jabril Frazier ('6'4" 245 So) PS#168. 11 gm, 17 tkl, 2 int LY. 21 LaDarly Blair ('5'11" 188 rfr) PS#185. Brandon Brown ('5'11" 198 Jr).  
**FC 2 JONATHAN MOXEY SR.** 5-10 188 1 st, 12 tkl '13. 13 st, 33 tkl, 7 pbu '14. 13 st, 39 tkl, 10 pbu LY. 27 Donzale Roodie ('5'10" 190 Fr) PS#194. DeAndre Pierce is PS#240. Robert Lewis is PS#299. Garrett Estrada ('5'8" 160 rfr).  
**BS 29 DYLAN SUMNER-GARDNER SO.** 6-1 201 PS#19. 13 gm, 19 tkl '14. F/4 st, 14 tkl LY. 3 Chancellor James ('6'2" 216 Sr) PS#141. 3 st, 36 tkl, 2 tfl '14. 9 st, 55 tkl, 5 tfl, 6 pbu LY. Kekoa Nawahine ('6'3" 190 Fr) PS#363.  
**FS 34 DARREON JACKSON RFR.** 5-11 187 PS#226. 1 gm LY. 37 Cameron Hartsfield ('5'10" 187 Jr) PS#438. 14 gm, 9 tkl '14. 12 gm, 3 tkl LY. 15 Evan Tyler ('6'2" 181 rfr) PS#158. 31 Skyler Seibold ('6'1" 192 So) 13 gm, 5 tkl LY.  
**P 19 SEAN WALE SR.** 6-2 185 PS#27. 10 gm, 21 punts (41.5), 8 in20, 3 fc, 39.6 tm net '13. 66 punts (42.0) L/63, 38.0 tm net '14. 52 punts (42.0) L/60, tm net 36.9 LY. Joel Velazquez ('6'0" 230 Fr) PS#29.



