

WEEK THIRTEEN

UTAH STATE AT BOISE STATE

Boise State beats Utah State, gets Mountain West title shot

BOISE, Idaho -- Boise State has a chance for a conference title and maybe even a big bowl game.

Brett Rypien threw for 310 yards and a touchdown, Alexander Mattison rushed for 200 yards and three scores, and the No. 21 Broncos beat No. 14 Utah State 33-24 on Saturday night.

Boise State (10-2, 7-1), which has won seven straight since losing to San Diego State on Oct. 6, will host Fresno State for the Mountain West championship next Saturday in a rematch from last season.

"When you get in these moments, you get more confidence and you know you're capable of doing it," Boise State coach Bryan Harsin said. "Our defense had its backs against the wall and our offense went out and supported them. And when our offense had its back to the wall, our defense supported them. And that's what this team is all about."

Utah State (10-2, 7-1) had its 10-game winning streak snapped and had its hopes dashed of earning a berth to one of the New Year's Six bowls."We didn't have enough when it mattered most," Utah State coach Matt Wells said. "We continued to battle and found a way back into it. But obviously we couldn't make a play at the end."

The Broncos relied on a bend-but-don't-break defense as the offense struggled to land a knockout blow in a tight game throughout. In a see-saw affair early, the game seemed to turn in Boise State's favor after a big gamble by the Aggies.

Trailing 10-7 early in the second quarter, Utah State faked a punt on fourth-and-1 from its own 34 on a direct snap to tight end Dax Raymond. But Boise State, which had its defensive unit on the field, stuffed Raymond at the line of scrimmage."We've been holding that play for a while and that was confirmed the first two times they punted," Wells said. "We thought it was there, but they just made a better play. And that's on me."

Boise State promptly responded with a scoring drive that took seven plays and overcame a pair of personal fouls, culminating on a 1-yard run by Mattison.Despite a 363-yard passing performance by Jordan Love, Utah State never seemed to find a rhythm on offense.

The Aggies stayed within striking distance late in the fourth quarter after Gerold Bright took a screen pass from Love and raced 83 yards for the touchdown.

But Boise State drove right back down the field, scoring on another 1-yard run by Mattison to ice the victory.

Wells was emotional when talking what he said in addressing his team after the game.

"I sure didn't have a speech prepared for that," Wells said. "I didn't think about it one minute. I was very confident coming into the game. There's a lot of hurt and pain in that locker room -- and I think that's reflective of how much they've put into this in preparation since January. But we have a good year and we've got another game left."

BUILDING A CASE

Boise State is one of only three teams to beat two ranked opponents in November, joining Alabama and Ohio State. It also is the only team from the Group of Five schools to beat six bowl-eligible teams this season, one more than UCF.

HE SAID IT

On a 34-yard scoring drive in the first quarter, Boise State had to overcome two questionable personal fouls, prompting a comical response from Harsin afterward: "We overcame a lot tonight," Harsin said in a thinly veiled reference to the penalties. "It was like WWE. It was meant to be close. That was just going through my mind for some reason."

RARE AIR

With his 310-yard passing performance, Rypien surpassed Georgia's Aaron Murray and Texas' Colt McCoy on the Division I career passing yardage leaders and sits 15th overall.

THE TAKEAWAY

Utah State: The Aggies weren't consistent on the road this season and it finally caught up with them. However, Love is only a sophomore and the future is bright for Utah State in the Mountain West.

Boise State: The Broncos have yet to put together four solid quarters since early in the season, but they continue to find a way to win in close games down the stretch. While this hasn't been Harsin's strongest team, it has been resilient and could be a formidable foe in a New Year's Six bowl should Central Florida stumble next week and open the door for the Broncos.

POLL IMPLICATIONS

Utah State: The Aggies will slide but shouldn't fall all the way out of the rankings after losing a relatively close game to another ranked team.

Boise State: The Broncos may move up a couple of notches but there isn't much room to climb, as most of the teams directly in front of them won over the weekend.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
USU	7	7	0	10	24
BSU	7	10	3	13	33

Scoring Summary -----

FIRST QUARTER		USU	BSU
USU	TD 11:14 Jalen Greene 9 Yd pass from Jordan Love (Dominik Eberle Kick) 9 plays, 75 yards, 3:46	7	0
BSU	TD 2:35 Alexander Mattison 2 Yd Run (Haden Hoggarth Kick) 7 plays, 39 yards, 3:07	7	7
second Quarter		USU	BSU
BSU	FG 14:45 Haden Hoggarth 23 Yd Field Goal 6 plays, 70 yards, 1:51	7	10
BSU	TD 10:09 Alexander Mattison 1 Yd Run (Haden Hoggarth Kick) 7 plays, 34 yards, 3:16	7	17
USU	TD 7:34 Ron'quavion Tarver 12 Yd pass from Jordan Love (Dominik Eberle Kick)9 plays, 75 yards, 2:35	14	17
third Quarter		USU	BSU
BSU	FG 7:09 Haden Hoggarth 27 Yd Field Goal 4 plays, 49 yards, 1:41	14	20
fourth Quarter		USU	BSU
USU	FG 14:53 Dominik Eberle 45 Yd Field Goal 7 plays, 58 yards, 1:25	17	20
BSU	TD 7:23 Garrett Collingham 1 Yd pass from Brett Rypien (Two-Point Pass Conversion Failed) 14 plays, 75 yards, 7:30 17	17	26
USU	TD 3:12 Gerold Bright 83 Yd pass from Jordan Love (Dominik Eberle Kick)6 plays, 85 yards, 1:25	24	26
BSU	TD 0:04 Alexander Mattison 1 Yd Run (Haden Hoggarth Kick) 6 plays, 75 yards, 3:08	24	33

Team Stats	USU	BSU
First Downs	18	20
Total Yards	425	509
Total Plays	66	77
Avg Gain Per Play	6.4	6.6
Net Yards Rushing	62	199
Rushes	19	45
Yards Per Rush	3.3	4.4
Net Yards Passing	363	310
Comp-Att	29-47	23-32
Yards Per Pass	7.7	9.7
Times Sacked	1	3
Yds Lost To Sacks	-7	-17
Interceptions	1	0
Punts	5	5
Punt Average	30.4	43.0
Penalties	8	7
Penalty Yards	72	69
Fumbles	1	0
Fumbles Lost	1	0
Possession	17:55	42:05

Individual Stats

RUSHING

USU	Rush	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
5 Darwin Thompson	11	61	5.5	17	0
8 Gerold Bright	5	8	1.6	4	0
87 Dax Raymond	1	0	0.0	0	0
10 Jordan Love	2	-7	-3.5	0	0
BSU	Rush	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Alexander Mattison	37	200	5.4	59	3
21 Andrew Van Buren	2	7	3.5	4	0
4 Brett Rypien	6	-8	-1.3	7	0

PASSING

USU	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
10 Jordan Love	29	47	363	7.7	3	1	143.4
BSU	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
4 Brett Rypien	23	32	310	9.7	1	0	163.6

RECEIVING

USU	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
11 Aaren Vaughns	7	107	15.3	37	0
8 Gerold Bright	1	83	83.0	83	1
1 Ron'quavion Tarver	6	76	12.7	42	1
21 Jalen Greene	8	47	5.9	9	1
87 Dax Raymond	2	22	11.0	13	0
16 Jordan Nathan	3	17	5.7	11	0
12 DJ Nelson	1	6	6.0	6	0
19 Deven Thompkins	1	5	5.0	5	0
BSU	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
6 CT Thomas	6	89	14.8	34	0
8 Sean Modster	5	81	16.2	51	0
7 A.J. Richardson	4	77	19.3	44	0
85 John Bates	2	35	17.5	30	0
81 Akilian Butler	2	15	7.5	10	0
Alexander Mattison	3	12	4.0	12	0
Garrett Collingham	1	1	1.0	1	1