

WEEK FOURTEEN  
FRESNO STATE AT BOISE STATE

BOISE, Idaho -- Ronnie Rivers didn't find many open holes while running the ball for Fresno State in a snowy Mountain West championship game.

And he didn't have one on his final run Saturday night. But it didn't matter.

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Rivers took an option pitch and shredded a tackler before scampering into the end zone to give No. 24 Fresno State a 19-16 overtime victory over No. 19 Boise State for the Bulldogs' first conference title since 2013.

His score came after Haden Hoggarth hit a 23-yard field goal on Boise State's opening possession of overtime.

Fresno State (11-2, No. 25 CFP), which was 1-11 two years ago before Jeff Tedford arrived to right the ship, has completed its return to college football relevance and seems poised to challenge Boise State for conference supremacy in the near future.

Boise State (10-3, No. 22 CFP) was victimized again on a big stage by its special teams, missing a 42-yard field goal and having an extra point blocked late in the fourth quarter that sent the game to overtime.

Rivers' game-winning touchdown set off a wild celebration with Fresno State players sliding across the snow-covered field and making snow angels. And after losing all nine games the Bulldogs had previously played on the Broncos signature blue turf, the celebration was a long-awaited one.

Tedford shook his head when asked about finally leading Fresno State to a win on the blue turf.

"The blue turf thing again?" Tedford asked with a smirk. "I don't know how many times I have to say it -- and the field wasn't even blue tonight, it was white -- it doesn't matter what color it is, you're playing a good football team and a well-coached team.

"Our players had another opportunity to come here and play a great football team and come away with the victory. It's hard fought and rewarding."

When Tedford arrived at Fresno State -- a program that built a national reputation on former coach Pat Hill's mantra to play "anybody, anywhere, anytime" -- the program was a shell of its former self.

But one of the first recruits Tedford pursued was Rivers, whose father Ron Rivers starred at Fresno State in the early 1990s and played six seasons in the NFL, and Tedford coached there as an assistant.

"It was hard sledding tonight running the football, but he just kept battling for yards and made that count in the end," Tedford said of Rivers, who finished with 63 yards.

Boise State's seven-game winning streak ended, and both teams' dreams of crashing the New Year's Six bowl games died when UCF beat Memphis to complete a perfect season.

"We've played (Fresno State) four times now and they've done a good job of getting themselves ready to play every time," Boise State coach Bryan Harsin said. "Congratulations to Fresno. We just came up short. And the bottom line is that's what it comes down to-and we didn't do that tonight."

With the temperature in the 30s and a constant mix of snow and rain falling, the teams struggled to sustain anything offensively.

An opportunistic Fresno State struck first, turning Brett Rypien's fumble into a touchdown when Marcus McMaryion hit Michiah Quick on a 15-yard strike,

Rypien atoned for his mistake by driving Boise State and hitting Sean Modster on a 10-yard scoring play to tie it.

The Bulldogs cobbled together a 13-7 lead on Asa Fuller's field goals in the second and third quarters.

With 8:01 left, Boise State's Alexander Mattison ripped off a 34-yard run, muscling his way into the end zone with a defender draped on his back. However, Hoggarth's extra point attempt was blocked by Matt Boetang, leaving it tied.

McMaryion was 20 of 32 for 170 yards and one touchdown, and Rivers led the Bulldogs on the ground with 63 yards. Mattison rushed for 200 yards and a touchdown on 34 carries for the Boise State. Rypien threw for 125 yards, completing 15 of 31 passes with one touchdown.

Boise State's last overtime game at home was a 69-67 victory over Nevada on Oct. 14, 2007.

POLL IMPLICATIONS

Fresno State: The Bulldogs won't move up much but could gain a spot or two after a few teams ahead of them lost this weekend.

Boise State: The Broncos aren't likely to remain in the polls, but should have a chance to finish ranked with a win in their bowl game.

Final	1	2	3	4	OT	T
FRES	7	3	3	0	6	19
BSU	7	0	0	6	3	16

Scoring Summary -----

	FRES	BSU
<b>FIRST QUARTER</b>		
FRES TD 9:03		
Michiah Quick 15 Yd pass from Marcus McMaryion (Asa Fuller Kick)		
3 plays, 20 yards, 1:08	7	0
<b>BSU TD 1:56</b>		
Sean Modster 10 Yd pass from Brett Rypien (Haden Hoggarth Kick)		
15 plays, 75 yards, 7:07	7	7
<b>SECOND QUARTER</b>	FRES	BSU
FRES FG 3:20		
Asa Fuller 44 Yd Field Goal		
10 plays, 51 yards, 3:32	10	7
<b>THIRD QUARTER</b>	FRES	BSU
FRES FG 11:07		
Asa Fuller 38 Yd Field Goal		
9 plays, 43 yards, 3:53	13	7
<b>FOURTH QUARTER</b>	FRES	BSU
BSU TD	8:01	
Alexander Mattison 34 Yd Run (Haden Hoggarth PAT blocked)		
7 plays, 87 yards, 3:09	13	13
play		
<b>OVERTIME</b>	FRES	BSU
BSU FG		
Haden Hoggarth 23 Yd Field Goal		
6 plays, 19 yards	13	16
<b>FRES TD</b>		
Ronnie Rivers 1 Yd Run		
5 plays, 25 yards	19	16

Team Stats	FRES	BSU
First Downs	14	22
Total Yards	288	350
Total Plays	65	86
Avg Gain Per Play	4.4	4.1
Net Yards Rushing	118	225
Rushes	33	55
Yards Per Rush	3.6	4.1
Net Yards Passing	170	125
Comp-Att	20-32	15-31
Yards Per Pass	5.3	4.0
Times Sacked	2	2
Yds Lost To Sacks	-6	-17
Interceptions	0	0
Punts	8	8
Punt Average	40.1	39.1
Penalties	6	6
Penalty Yards	50	50
Fumbles	2	1
Fumbles Lost	2	1
Possession	23:58	36:02

Individual Stats

RUSHING

FRES	Rush	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
20 Ronnie Rivers	17	63	3.7	16	1
6 Marcus McMaryion	6	40	6.7	29	0
33 Josh Hokit	6	11	1.8	5	0
2 Michiah Quick	2	3	1.5	5	0
7 Derrion Grim	1	3	3.0	3	0
<b>BSU</b>	<b>Rush</b>	<b>Yds</b>	<b>Avg</b>	<b>Long</b>	<b>TD</b>
22 Alexander Mattison	40	200	5.0	34	1
6 CT Thomas	2	18	9.0	14	0
4 Brett Rypien	12	6	0.5	9	0
34 Robert Mahone	1	1	1.0	1	0

PASSING

FRES	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
6 Marcus McMaryion	20	32	170	5.3	1	0	117.4
<b>BSU</b>	<b>Comp</b>	<b>Att</b>	<b>Yds</b>	<b>Y/A</b>	<b>TD</b>	<b>Int</b>	<b>QBRat</b>
4 Brett Rypien	15	31	125	4.0	1	0	92.9

RECEIVING

FRES	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
2 Michiah Quick	3	45	15.0	18	1
16 Jared Rice	5	44	8.8	16	0
3 KeeSean Johnson	6	40	6.7	32	0
7 Derrion Grim	4	19	4.8	12	0
1 Jamire Jordan	1	18	18.0	18	0
20 Ronnie Rivers	1	4	4.0	4	0

BSU	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
8 Sean Modster	4	45	11.3	17	1
85 John Bates	1	29	29.0	29	0
7 A.J. Richardson	5	21	4.2	9	0
6 CT Thomas	2	16	8.0	10	0
16 John Hightower	1	8	8.0	8	0
34 Robert Mahone	1	5	5.0	5	0
86 Chase Blakley	1	1	1.0	1	0