

WEEK THREE
PORTLAND ST at BOISE ST

Hightower, Bachmeier lead No. 22 Boise St past Portland St

BOISE, Idaho -- Defensive end Curtis Weaver shrugged and smiled wryly when asked about his record-tying performance in No. 22 Boise State's 45-10 victory over Portland State on Saturday night.

"It means something to me," Weaver said of matching the school's single-game record of four sacks. "It's always good but, at the end of the day, the whole D-line played a role in it. But we've got to keep moving forward. We've got the Mountain West conference play now and that's still our goal."

Weaver served as a perfect spokesperson for the Broncos' business-like approach to playing an FCS school for only the third time since 2010. Instead of getting caught looking past the Vikings, Boise State was laser focused. But as focused as Boise State was, it didn't lack for flashy and explosive plays.

John Hightower returned a kickoff 98 yards for a touchdown to get Boise State's scoring started. C.T. Thomas scored the first of two touchdowns on a one-handed snag after getting tipped by his defender. And Stefan Cobbs scored on his first ever catch, racing 44 yards to the end zone and losing his helmet on a hit after he had scored.

Then there was Weaver wreaking havoc in the Vikings' backfield on just about every play in the second half.

"If (Weaver) continues to stay humble and hungry, hopefully good things keep happening," Boise State coach Bryan Harsin said.

Good things have been happening by the boatloads for the Broncos' defense in the second half.

Boise State (3-0) has yet to allow any points in the second half this season, joining Wisconsin as the only two schools to still hold that distinction.

"Protection was a problem for us all night long," Portland State coach Bruce Barnum said. "We had some things work for us early and I was pleased with the start, but we couldn't get them off the field after that first quarter."

Portland State (1-2), which played Arkansas tough in a 20-13 loss in the Vikings' season opener, racked up 159 yards in the first quarter but only 85 over the final three. Last week, Boise State allowed zero yards of total offense against Marshall.

"We haven't talked about it as a team, so it's not a thing yet," Harsin said of his team's second-half shutout streak. "For the whole team, the question has been how do we come out ready to play? The defense was ready to play tonight. We're not a total second half team yet, but we'd like to be a second half team together."

Boise State used its big-play offense early to bury an outmatched Vikings squad. The Broncos had 11 plays from scrimmage go for 20 yards or more, including three touchdowns.

Hank Bachmeier was 16-of-25 passing for 238 yards with a pair of touchdowns and one interception.

THE TAKEAWAY

Portland State: The Vikings were picked to finish 10th in the Big Sky but three weeks into the season look as if they might be more competitive than previously believed in one of the toughest FCS conferences in the country.

Boise State: As one of the top contenders from the Group of 5 teams vying for a New Year's Six bowl game, the Broncos have little margin for error. And after cracking the rankings after an opening week upset of Florida State, Boise State appears poised to fight for that spot all the way through the end of November and has learned it has a freshman signal caller more than capable of getting the team there.

POLL IMPLICATIONS

Boise State shouldn't fall any after manhandling Portland State. And with a couple of teams close to the Broncos in the polls, Michigan State and Maryland, suffering embarrassing losses, Boise State could continue to ascend in the rankings.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
PRST	10	0	0	0	10
BSU	14	14	10	7	45

Scoring Summary -----

FIRST QUARTER	PRST	BSU
PRST FG 10:27 Cody Williams 26 Yd Field Goal		
8 plays, 61 yards, 4:33	3	0
BSU TD 10:12 John Hightower 98 Yd Kickoff Return (Eric Sachse Kick)		
0 plays, 0 yards, 0:00	3	7
BSU TD 4:13 Chase Cord 7 Yd Run (Eric Sachse Kick)		
7 plays, 86 yards, 3:16	3	14
PRST TD 2:25 Mataio Talalemotu 52 Yd pass from Davis Alexander (Cody Williams Kick)		
7 plays, 75 yards, 1:48	10	14
SECOND QUARTER	PRST	BSU
BSU TD 6:18 John Hightower 23 Yd pass from Hank Bachmeier (Eric Sachse Kick)		
5 plays, 77 yards, 2:15	10	21
BSU TD 0:29 CT Thomas 9 Yd pass from Hank Bachmeier (Eric Sachse Kick)		
12 plays, 56 yards, 1:45	10	28
THIRD QUARTER	PRST	BSU
BSU TD 8:53 CT Thomas 33 Yd pass from Chase Cord (Eric Sachse Kick)		
4 plays, 63 yards, 1:45	10	35
BSU FG 5:56 Eric Sachse 33 Yd Field Goal		
7 plays, 29 yards, 2:10	10	38
FOURTH QUARTER	PRST	BSU
BSU TD 12:30 Stefan Cobbs 44 Yd pass from Chase Cord (Eric Sachse Kick)		
4 plays, 73 yards, 1:46	10	45

Team Stats	PRST	BSU
First Downs	12	22
Passes for First	7	12
Rushes for First	3	9
Penalties for First	2	1
Third Down Efficiency	3-14	8-15
Fourth Down Efficiency	0-2	0-1
Total Yards	244	491
Total Plays	63	68
Avg Gain Per Play	3.9	7.2
Net Yards Rushing	111	150
Rushes	39	31
Yards Per Rush	2.8	4.8
Net Yards Passing	133	341
Comp-Att	11-24	21-37
Yards Per Pass	5.5	9.2
Times Sacked	6	3
Yds Lost To Sacks	-30	-19
Interceptions	0	1
Punts	8	3
Punt Average	44.1	35.0
Penalties	12	7
Penalty Yards	95	65
Fumbles	0	1
Fumbles Lost	0	0
Time of Poss	32:35	27:25

Individual Stats

RUSHING							
PORTLAND ST	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Beau Kelly	1	52	52.0	0	52		
Davis Alexander	12	21	1.8	0	13		
Carlos Martin	5	20	4.0	0	8		
Jalani Eason	4	8	2.0	0	6		
Evyn Holtz	7	7	1.0	0	3		
Dante Chachere	2	5	2.5	0	3		
Emmanuel Daigbe	3	0	0.0	0	2		
Sirgeo Hoffman	4	-1	-0.3	0	2		
Team	1	-1	-1.0	0	0		
BOISE ST	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Robert Mahone	6	59	9.8	0	28		
George Holani	6	43	7.2	0	15		
Chase Cord	2	36	18.0	1	29		
Jaylon Henderson	2	13	6.5	0	11		
Andrew Van Buren	2	9	4.5	0	5		
Khalil Shakir	1	4	4.0	0	4		
Danny Smith	3	4	1.3	0	3		
Team	3	-5	-1.7	0	0		
Hank Bachmeier	6	-13	-2.2	0	7		
PASSING							
PORTLAND ST	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Davis Alexander	11	23	133	5.8	1	0	--
Jalani Eason	0	1	0	0.0	0	0	--
BOISE ST	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Hank Bachmeier	16	25	238	9.5	2	1	72.7
Chase Cord	5	10	103	10.3	2	0	99.8
Team	0	2	0	0.0	0	0	--
RECEIVING							
PORTLAND ST	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Mataio Talalemotu	5	78	15.6	1	52		
Davis Koetter	1	20	20.0	0	20		
Beau Kelly	1	12	12.0	0	12		
Emmanuel Daigbe	3	12	4.0	0	10		
Sirgeo Hoffman	1	11	11.0	0	11		
BOISE ST	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
John Hightower	4	79	19.8	1	44		
Khalil Shakir	4	64	16.0	0	25		
CT Thomas	4	61	15.3	2	33		
Akilian Butler	3	58	19.3	0	22		
Stefan Cobbs	1	44	44.0	1	44		
George Holani	2	15	7.5	0	12		
Andrew Van Buren	1	9	9.0	0	9		
Garrett Collingham	1	7	7.0	0	7		
Robert Mahone	1	4	4.0	0	4		