

Sachse’s field goal in OT leads No. 21 Broncos past Wyoming

BOISE, Idaho -- With Boise State clinging to a three-point lead in overtime against Wyoming, Broncos linebacker Riley Whimpey had a chance to seal the game with an interception in the end zone.

But, he dropped the ball.

Two plays later on third down, Whimpey blitzed and stuffed Wyoming running back Xazavian Valladay in the backfield, forcing a 37-yard field goal attempt that fell short -- a game-ending miss.

It was that kind of night for the No. 21 Broncos, who rallied and escaped with a 20-17 overtime victory over the Cowboys.

“When things aren’t going our way, we keep our heads up and have that one-play mentality,” Whimpey said. “Going all the way back to Florida State and being able to come back in the second half and get the win in that game. This team has an amazing mentality to be able to put our heads down and work and eventually come out on top.”

With the win, Boise State (8-1, 4-0, No. 22 CFP) keeps its New Year’s Day bowl hopes alive as the Group of 5 representative despite playing without injured starting quarterback Hank Bachmeier. Bachmeier was expected to play, but remained on the sidelines due to an undisclosed injury he suffered against San Jose State last week.

Chase Cord, making his second start of the season, threw for 190 yards and a touchdown to lead the Broncos offensively.

Wyoming (6-3, 3-2), now 0-7 against the Broncos in Boise, failed to hold onto a halftime lead for the second time this season. The Cowboys also squandered a 14-6 advantage at the intermission against San Diego State in a 26-22 loss.

The Cowboys were also without their starting quarterback, Sean Chambers, who went out for the season with a knee injury in Wyoming’s previous game against Nevada. Tyler Vander Waal finished 15-of-23 passing for 160 yards.

“We hung with a top 25 team in the country and led the majority of the game,” Vander Waal said. “There were plenty of positive things to take away but dealing with the loss right now is a little bit overwhelming.”

Wyoming led 10-7 at halftime and 17-10 going into the fourth quarter before Boise State tied the game late in the fourth on a 5-yard run by Khalil Shakir, forcing overtime.

In the extra period, Boise State’s drive stalled at the 11 before Sachse made his kick.

Wyoming could only muster five yards on its first three plays of overtime and Cooper Rothe attempted a 37-yard field goal that fell short to the right.

Boise State struggled offensively and had problems stopping Wyoming, which ground out yards through short runs and passes. But the Broncos hung around long enough to land a knockout blow.

While Boise State coach Bryan Harsin was pleased with the victory, he wasn’t satisfied with the way the Broncos won.

“This game was about our team finding a way and coming together,” Harsin said. “It’s part of a team sport where a group of guys go out there and find a way to get it done. . But we need to do a better job of helping those guys get opportunities to go out there and create.”

THE TAKEAWAY

Wyoming: The Cowboys have played gritty this season and appear to be in good shape to finish strong with Vander Wall returning to the helm where he started last season.

Boise State: The Broncos survived, but will need Bachmeier back healthy when they hit the road for their final two conference games against Utah State and resurgent Colorado State.

POLL IMPLICATIONS

Boise State could possibly move up after a couple losses by teams just above them.

Final	1	2	3	4	OT	T
WYO	0	10	7	0	0	17
BSU	7	0	3	7	3	20

Scoring Summary -----

First Quarter	WYO	BSU
BSU TD 2:05 Akilian Butler 5 Yd pass from Chase Cord (Eric Sachse Kick)		
12 plays, 92 yards, 7:10	0	7
Second Quarter	WYO	BSU
WYO TD 4:57 Tyler Vander Waal 3 Yd Run (Cooper Rothe Kick)		
7 plays, 47 yards, 2:50	7	7
WYO FG 0:01 Cooper Rothe 39 Yd Field Goal		
10 plays, 30 yards, 2:59	10	7
Third Quarter	WYO	BSU
BSU FG 9:18 Eric Sachse 40 Yd Field Goal		
8 plays, 59 yards, 3:01	10	10
WYO TD 2:35 Xazavian Valladay 21 Yd Run (Cooper Rothe Kick)		
4 plays, 36 yards, 1:56	17	10
Fourth Quarter	WYO	BSU
BSU TD 5:37 Khalil Shakir 5 Yd Run (Eric Sachse Kick)		
10 plays, 57 yards, 5:24	17	17
Overtime	WYO	BSU
BSU FG Eric Sachse 28 Yd Field Goal		
5 plays, 14 yards	17	20

Team Stats	WYO	BSU
First Downs	15	15
Passes for First	7	9
Rushes for First	8	5
Penalties for First	0	1
Third Down Efficiency	7-17	4-12
Fourth Down Efficiency	0-1	0-0
Total Yards	283	285
Total Plays	67	59
Avg Gain Per Play	4.2	4.8
Net Yards Rushing	123	91
Rushes	44	28
Yards Per Rush	2.8	3.3
Net Yards Passing	160	194
Comp-Att	15-23	20-31
Yards Per Pass	7.0	6.3
Times Sacked	3	2
Yds Lost To Sacks	-17	-9
Interceptions	0	1
Punts	7	6
Punt Average	33.9	41.2
Penalties	4	4
Penalty Yards	40	40
Fumbles	0	1
Fumbles Lost	0	1
Time of Poss	32:28	27:32

Individual Stats

RUSHING							
WYOMING	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Xazavian Valladay	37	124	3.4	1	21		
Tyler Vander Waal	7	-1	-0.1	1	6		
BOISE ST	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
John Hightower	2	38	19.0	0	22		
George Holani	11	30	2.7	0	6		
Chase Cord	10	15	1.5	0	8		
Khalil Shakir	2	5	2.5	1	5		
Andrew Van Buren	3	3	1.0	0	5		
PASSING							
WYOMING	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Tyler Vander Waal	15	23	160	7.0	0	0	58.0
BOISE ST	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Chase Cord	19	30	190	6.3	1	1	47.5
John Hightower	1	1	4	4.0	0	0	40.8
RECEIVING							
WYOMING	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Josh Harshman	6	48	8.0	0	11		
Raghib Ismail Jr.	3	37	12.3	0	18		
Austin Conway	1	22	22.0	0	22		
Xazavian Valladay	2	21	10.5	0	19		
Gunner Gentry	1	14	14.0	0	14		
Ayden Eberhardt	1	12	12.0	0	12		
Jackson Marcotte	1	6	6.0	0	6		
BOISE ST	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Khalil Shakir	7	70	10.0	0	26		
John Hightower	2	46	23.0	0	43		
George Holani	5	31	6.2	0	10		
Akilian Butler	3	22	7.3	1	14		
John Bates	1	9	9.0	0	9		
Garrett Collingham	1	8	8.0	0	8		
CT Thomas	1	8	8.0	0	8		