

BOISE STATE BRONCOS

Mountain West



College Football's Favorite Cinderella Returns

Unless you're a college student or younger, it's quite possible you remember exactly where you were when Boise State used the famous "statue of liberty" play to defeat Oklahoma in the 2007 Fiesta Bowl. The Broncos finished that season at 12-0 and were permanently cemented as a darling of college football. Chris Petersen coached for several more seasons and stacked up more huge victories over the likes of Oregon, Virginia Tech, Georgia and more. He went undefeated again in both 2008 before falling in the Poinsettia Bowl to TCU and ran the table in 2009 with a 14-0 record. An overtime loss that featured a couple of painful missed field goals gave the Broncos their only loss of the 2010 season and possibly cost Boise State a chance to actually appear in the BCS Championship game. Bryan Harsin stepped in when Petersen took the Washington job and Boise State barely skipped a beat. No, they didn't have an undefeated season but the Broncos still claimed victories against the Power 5 and Harsin had double-digit wins in all but one of his full seasons and made six appearances in the Mountain West Championship game, winning three of those games.

As good as Boise State has been, they've been overshadowed somewhat by other "Group of 5" schools including UCF's undefeated season of 2018, Cincinnati's Playoff berth in 2021, and Tulane's miraculous turnaround season in 2022. It's been almost a decade since the Broncos appeared in a BCS or New Year's Six bowl game and head coach Andy Avalos wants to see that change in his third year at the helm. He guided the Broncos to another division title but the Broncos ultimately fell to a red hot Fresno State team in the championship game. Harsin's offenses routinely scored more than 30 points per game and totaled over 400 yards and the Broncos haven't hit either mark in Avalos' first two years, but there's reason to believe that changes with nine returning starters on offense.

Hank Bachmeier returned as starter at quarterback last season but was knocked out of the opener against Oregon State with an injury. Freshman **Taylen Green** was thrown into the fire but performed admirably against a Beavers team that eventually won 10 games, throwing for 155 yards and running for 102 more. Bachmeier returned to the field the following week but after a wildly disappointing 13 for 34, 93-yard game against UTEP he was benched and he transferred out of the program just a few days later. Bachmeier's inconsistencies ended up being a blessing in disguise for the Broncos who were able to give Green more playing time and they quickly realized how dynamic he was as both a passer and a runner. The Broncos finished 8-2 with Green as the starter including a Frisco Bowl victory over North Texas and was named the Mountain West Freshman of the Year!


Almost all of Green's weapons return in 2023. That includes the ever-dangerous **George Holani** at running back who posted his second 1,000-yard season. **Ashton Jeanty** added 821 yards and 7 touchdowns and Green added 586 and scored 10 of his 24 total touchdowns on the ground. The top four pass catchers are back including **Latrell Caples** (51 receptions, 549 yards) and **Billy Bowens** (32 receptions, 462 yards). The offensive line allowed seven sacks in the first three games but then allowed only seven sacks over the last eleven games and should be another "plus" unit for Avalos led by **Cade Beresford**.

Defensively, the Broncos have been stout which doesn't come as a huge shock given Avalos' defensive background as a former Boise State linebacker. Only five returners are back but leading tackler and second-team All-Mountain-West linebacker **DJ Schramm** is one of them. The Broncos had 30 sacks on the season but need better consistency and had only one sack combined in their three losses. **Dimitri Washington** led that category with 4.5 last year and his presence is needed even more this season. Boise's pass defense was tremendous and returns the playmaking **Rodney Robinson** at safety.

The Bottom Line: Boise State has a real chance at double-digit wins again this season but they'll have to navigate a brutal September. Road trips to Washington, San Diego State, and Memphis are all notable and the home opener against UCF will be far from a cakewalk. If, however, the Broncos emerge from September with a 4-1 record they'll have a shot to run the table in the conference (like they did in 2019) and should be favored in every game. An 11-1 Boise State would almost certainly be a New Year's Six team (short of an undefeated team in another "Group of 5" conference). I see Boise State tripping up somewhere along the way but predict they reach yet another Mountain West title game.

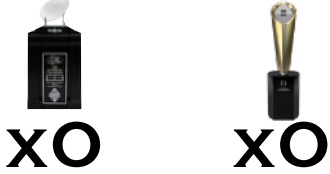
Projection: 9-3 (2nd in Mountain West)

2022 Statistics

Points Scored	Rush Yards	Pass Yards	Turnover Margin
29.5	196.5	190.6	+3
74th in FBS	28th in FBS	111th in FBS	52nd in FBS
Points Allowed	Rush YDS Allowed	Pass YDS Allowed	
19.5	124.8	167.7	
15th in FBS	31st in FBS	5th in FBS	

BOISE STATE BIO

National Championships - 0



Mountain West Championships: 4
(Last: 2019)

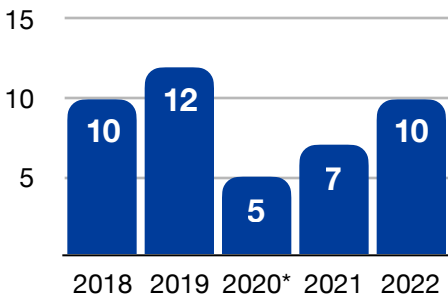
Location: **Boise, ID**

All-Time Record: **264-78**

2022 Results: **10-4**
Won Frisco Bowl













Head Coach: **Andy Avalos**
3rd Year (17-9)

5-YEAR WIN TREND



Albertsons Stadium (36,387)

2023 Boise State Schedule

Week	Date	Team
1	Sat, Sept 2	 @ Washington
2	Sat, Sept 9	 vs. UCF
3	Sat, Sept 16	 vs. North Dakota
4	Fri, Sept 22	 @ San Diego St.
5	Sat, Sept 30	 @ Memphis
6	Sat, Oct 7	 vs. San Jose St.
7	Sat, Oct 14	 @ Colorado State
8	Bye Week	
9	Sat, Oct 28	 vs. Wyoming
10	Sat, Nov 4	 @ Fresno State
11	Sat, Nov 11	 vs. New Mexico
12	Sat, Nov 18	 @ Utah State
13	Fri, Nov 24	 vs. Air Force

Conference Games in Bold

KEY GAMES

Sat, Sept 2: @ Washington - The Broncos head to Seattle for the "Chris Petersen bowl", if you will. This matchup, claimed by Washington in the 2019 Las Vegas Bowl, will be a fascinating battle of strength on strength as Washington's high powered passing attack squares off against Boise State's strong pass defense (ranked #5 in the nation last season).

Sat, Sept 22: @ San Diego State - The Aztecs have won the last two meetings including a 2021 matchup that gave SDSU a spot in the MW title game.

Sat, Nov 25: vs. Air Force - The Broncos have won five of six games in the series but this game could be the most high stakes game yet. The Falcons and Broncos could be playing to host the title game.

KEY PLAYERS

Taylen Green - QB

Green was pulled into his first college football action against a very stingy defense on the road against Oregon State and he immediately showcased his skills. He promptly ripped off a 74-yard run and demonstrated his track speed and completed 67.9% of his passes against the Beavers. That performance was a microcosm of what was to come the rest of the season. He threw for over 2,000 yards and ran for 586 more with an astounding 7.2 yards per carry! With another offseason to develop his throwing, Green is as dangerous a quarterback as you will find in college football.



George Holani - RB

A healthy Holani was a welcome sight for Boise State last year. He had career bests in carries (221), yards (1,157) and touchdowns (10) and he is also a major factor in the passing game. He topped 100 yards six times and there should be plenty more of those games in store for the conference's best running back in 2023.



2022 RESULTS (10-3)

@ Oregon State (L 17-34)
 @ New Mexico (W 31-14)
UT-Martin (W 30-7)
 @ UTEP (L 10-27)
San Diego State (W 35-13)
Fresno State (W 40-20)
 @ Air Force (W 19-14)
Colorado State (W 49-10)
 BYU (L 28-31)
 @ Nevada (W 41-3)
 @ Wyoming (W 20-17)
Utah State (W 42-23)
 Fresno State (L 16-28)
North Texas (W 35-32)



RECRUITING

2023 Class Ranking

68th

(Via 24/7 Sports)