

Too much Mangum dooms Braves

Eagle QB continues his torrid season as Mustangs win easily

By Kevin Warnock
Matchup

At least in the world of academia, one has all semester to process the material before taking the final exam.

How unlike academia athletics can be, where Boise's toughest test all year came early in the season, courtesy of the scheduler. A 58-7 loss to SIC favorite Eagle was the result of a young and rebuilding Brave team facing the talented and experienced arm of BYU-bound Eagle quarterback Tanner Mangum.

Mangum threw for 293 yards and four touchdowns as Eagle built a commanding lead early in the game and was never threatened.

Mangum spent the summer competing in seven-on-seven camps and was awarded the top ranking at the Elite 11 Quarterback Camp in California. Against an inexperienced Big Red secondary, Mangum showed no mercy and no rust.

"Mangum is the real deal," said Boise coach Bob Clark. "As an eighth grader, we knew he was the real deal. It wasn't a surprise he won the Elite 11 Camp. We told our kids, 'hey, if anything, it's a challenge for you to play against a legit-



Brett Walton hangs on to bring down Eagle receiver Jace Johnson after a short gain.

imate D-1 guy.' He's literally the best."

The Mustang defense was on its game too, limiting the Brave offensive attack to just seven points.

However, Brave wide receiver Louis Grempe showed the type of play he would produce his senior season. He had 10 catches on this night, and took a jarring hit after a 15-yard pass from quarterback Tanner

Gustavsen, but he held on after an equally hard landing.

"Grempe is outstanding," Eagle coach Paul Peterson said. "He makes circus catches and is fun to watch. Gustavsen is tough throwing the football."

The 2011 Big Red football campaign was, on paper, going to be a challenge for the sheer lack of bodies. But

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BOISE FOOTBALL: Eagle 58, Braves 7



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the bodies present fought hard, and it was noticeable.

"The Boise High program is one I really respect. They come to play hard every night," Peterson said. "They fought, the players are well-coached and they play with great heart. I tip my hat to those kids. You get their best efforts."

Following a 60-man roster in 2009 and a 55-man team in 2010, back-to-back small freshmen and sophomore classes resulted in a squad with numbers in the thirties.

"We knew going in to the season we'd be a little stretched. We were entering a down cycle with the number of kids playing football," Clark said. "Most people don't realize we have six offensive linemen. On defense we use a three-man front. We have four defensive linemen."

For coaches around long enough to remember long-time NFL signal-caller Jake Plummer roaming the Bronco Stadium turf for Capital High, Mangum is drawing favorable comparisons.

"I still remember the year a kid took off on like this 50-yard route and Plummer threw it straight about four feet off the ground. We had one of our former players boasting of remembering 'tipping one of his (Mangum's) passes just once,'" Clark joked. "And that's a player in his second year of college! Mangum is special. You feel helpless at some point."

As the year would bear out, the Braves would be the first, but not nearly the last, to learn the feeling first hand.

TOP LEFT: QB **Tanner Gustavsen** escapes the hard rush of an Eagle defender while teammate **Zachary Noeker** tries to help.

TOP RIGHT: **Louis Grempe** hangs on to one of his 10 catches on the night, despite the defense from an Eagle defender.

GAME SUMMARY

Eagle	27	24	0	7	- 58
Boise	0	7	0	0	- 7

E – Jason Lane 4 pass from Tanner Mangum (Jace Johnson kick)

E – Marc Cooper 7 run (Johnson kick)

E – Interception return (Johnson kick)

E – Jake Jackson 55 pass from Mangum (kick failed)

E – FG Dylan Sabatos 20

E – Austin Diffey 41 pass from Mangum (Johnson kick)

E – Cooper 40 pass from Mangum (Sabatos kick)

B – Louis Grempe 7 pass from Tanner Gustavsen (Travis Browndyke kick)

E – Jake Erickson 7 run (Sabatos kick)

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING: Eagle – Cooper 4-59. Boise – Gustavsen 6-13, Jace Choate 5-21, Matt Mello 6-10.

PASSING: Eagle – Mangum 17-22-0-293 yards. Boise – Gustavsen 19-41-2-151 yards.

RECEIVING: Eagle – Cooper 6-132. Boise – Grempe 12-100.