

Late rally falls just short for Braves

Mello brings Boise back from 20-7 deficit with giant-sized running game

By Bruce Smith
Matchup

Friday night's season finale for Boise High was different than any of the Braves' previous games.

Except one item ... the Braves didn't win.

Timberline running back Kellen Copeland made the most of his touches, running 37 yards for one touchdown and catching a 27-yard pass for another as the Wolves won this battle between cross-town rivals 20-14 in a 5A SIC game at Bronco Stadium.

The contest, the late game of a doubleheader that also featured Borah-Capital, started late and didn't end until almost midnight. Boise, which got on its bus and returned to school almost immediately afterward, had a long night.

"The bus ride was somber," said Boise coach Bob Clark, whose team finished 0-9. "We played just as hard as them (the Wolves), but we shot ourselves in the foot. We sat in the locker room and it had a finality about it. Nobody left the locker room for about an hour.

"It was their last moment together," he added. "It was pretty somber. It always is after that last game."

Timberline improved to



Brett Walton takes a rare break after playing both ways for much of the game.

3-6 afterward, but also missed the playoffs. Afterward, coach Kirk Copeland called the win a proud moment for his team.

"We're starting to build something," he said. "It has been about six years since this team won three 5A games."

And this win wasn't locked up until the clock struck zero.

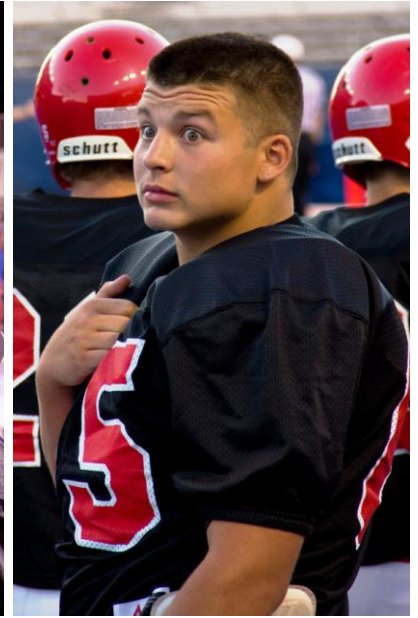
Boise, which had been ahead in only other previous

game, celebrated loudly when Matt Mello scored on a 5-yard run in the first quarter. Mello, a sophomore, had his career-best night with 183 yards on 27 carries. The Braves finished with 241 yards on the ground, easily a season high.

Boise's problem was its passing attack was at its season low. Quarterback Tanner

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BOISE FOOTBALL: Timberline 20, Braves 14

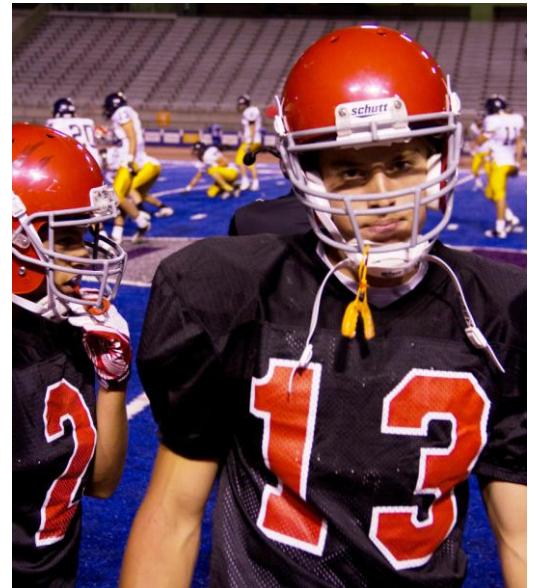


TOP LEFT: Andrew Allison, Alex Flock and Larry Evans get some advice from assistant coaches XXXXXXXXXX and XXXXXXXXXX.

TOP RIGHT: Austin Sword.

LOWER MIDDLE: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

LOWER RIGHT: Louis Grempe and Tanner Gustavsen.



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Gustavsen, the team’s season-long gunslinger, completed just 5 of 29 passes and, after awhile, the Braves gave up throwing the ball. Fortunately, their double tight-end formation worked and Mello and Brett Walton were often able to move the chains – unless penalties occurred.

Timberline rallied to take a 14-7 lead into halftime. Both teams were able to move the ball, but silly penalties, including several personal-foul flags, littered the field at key times. It especially hurt the Wolves, who were penalized 15 times.

Copeland’s second touchdown gave Timberline a 20-7 advantage in the fourth quarter. The Braves, however, made the game interesting by moving the ball 69 yards on 11 running plays.

“We looked at the clock and kept plugging along and - by golly - we did it, Clark said. “We wanted to get down there and scored. We just wanted to have a shot at the end.

Jaren Kahowai’s suffocated a Timberline punt in the last seconds, giving Boise the ball at the Timberline 40 with just a few seconds left, but the Braves couldn’t take advantage.

GAME SUMMARY

Timberline	0	14	6	0	-	20
Boise	7	0	0	7	-	14

- B – Matt Mello 5 run (Travis Browndyke kick)
- T – Cooper Harris 24 run (Chris Sutherland kick)
- T – Kellen Copeland 37 run (Sutherland kick)
- T – Copeland 27 pass from Grant Hruby (kick blocked)
- B – Mello 5 run (Browndyke kick)

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING: Timberline – Copeland 11-69, Harris 11-61, Jack Tate 3-10, Hruby 3-9, Riley Smith 1-17. Boise – Mello 27-183, Brett Walton 7-40, Tanner Gustavsen 10-18.

PASSING: Timberline – Hruby 14-24-1-125 yards. Boise – Gustavsen 6-29-1-73 yards.

RECEIVING: Timberline – Jace Walters 3-31, Smith 3-27, Jackson Reed 3-20, Copeland 2-25, Tate 2-15, Don Hill 1-12. Boise – Louie Grempe 2-30, Andrew Allison 2-12, Skyler Rowe 1-21, Cameron Mayne 1-10.