

Lions' coaching legend lives on

25 years later, Pankratz still follows the team, and likes what he sees

By Kevin Warnock
Matchup

The rejuvenation of the Borah football program in 2011, led by new coach Darren Corpus, resulted in bigger crowds being drawn to Lion games. One man, however, has been behind them all along.

And once, he was even in front of them. For 20 years, De Pankratz headed the Borah football program until 1986 and was easily the most well-known high school mentor in Idaho. Now in his early 80s, he enjoys watching the games from high up in the stands. Former players frequently came by to shake his hand and get his view of the play.

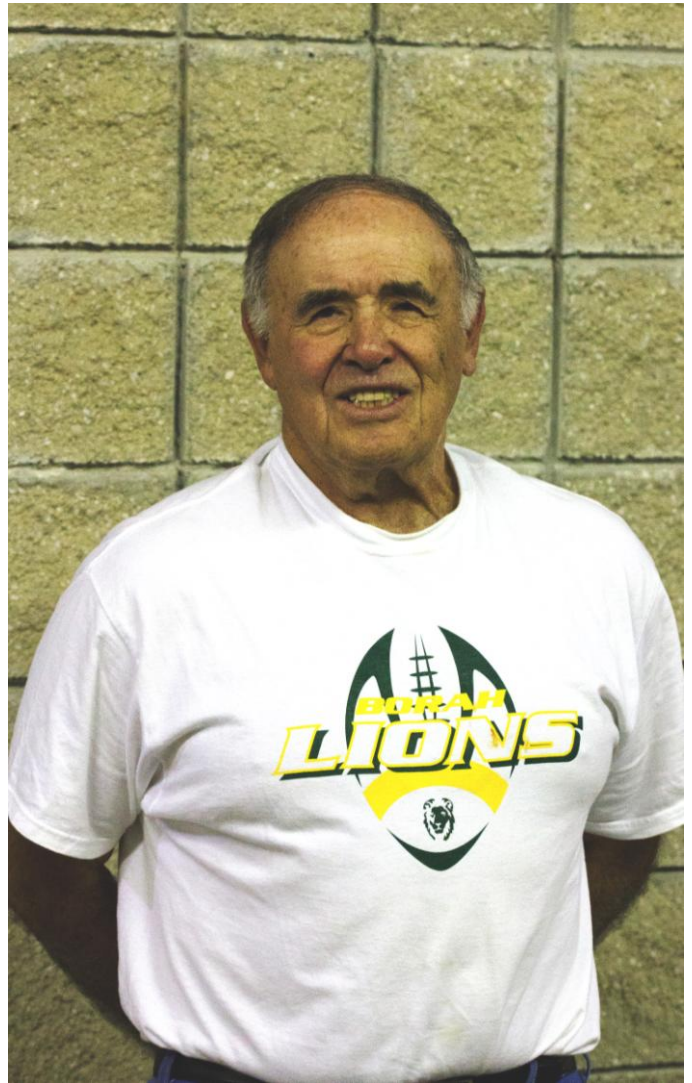
It's a view he wasn't bashful about sharing, his passion not diminishing with age. Asked if he has much interaction with the present staff, he quipped "I try to stay away because I'm obnoxious."

Pankratz, however, doesn't stay away from games, being aided by a son-in-law. After an impressive 186-36 record during his career, he was very pleased with the direction Corpus had the team moving.

"He's going to be a heckuva coach. I've watched his practices," Pankratz said. "He's got the support of parents and that's great. And he's not going to lose good athletes transferring; that's the most important thing."

Of the quarterback position, Pankratz loved what he saw in Braden Corpus' game.

"I look for him to be a halfback or fullback in college, however. His dad was my fullback and he was a damn good one. His son is a fine athlete and Darren was a fine athlete too. He's going to be a



De Pankratz is easily the most-successful football coach in Borah history, and liked the progress the Lions made in 2011. fine coach."

Reflecting on a critical early season loss at Meridian, Pankratz' memory was not at a loss. He used a word that rhymes with "brewed" vociferously.

"They beat Meridian. The refs took it away. I was on the 30 yard line, and the guy (Ben Tukacovic) was right there. The guy (Tukacovic) fell in the end zone, they pushed him out. He was way across. And he was over-ruled by a guy from way across the field and behind!"

Still fit as a fiddle, Pankratz works out regularly. Look for him next year in the orange-back seats at Bronco Stadium, right around midfield. If you don't see him initially, just wait until kickoff.

You'll hear him loud and clear.