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By David Kravetz

Lexington, Kentucky

AirBooneExpress@photofabrications.com

Visit Aaron's website and journal @ www.aaronrboone.com

Visit the AFL Website @ www.arenafootball.com

Visit the Blaze Website @ www.utahblaze.com

Archives of the AirBoone Express are available on Aaron's website

In this edition:

- Utah Blaze begin Training Camp begins Feb. 7
- Utah Blaze to be broadcast online
- Utah Blaze schedule and ESPN TV Broadcast Schedule

Blaze start season this weekend

Take on New Orleans Voodoo, March 3

The Utah Blaze kickoff their season this coming Saturday at home against the New Orleans Voodoo at 7 PM MST. This will be Aaron Boone's first game as a member of the Blaze. The game will be broadcast live on 1280 FM "The Zone" in Salt Lake City and will also be shown on Fox Sports Net Utah. For those of us outside of Utah, the game can be heard live on the internet by logging onto <http://www.1280thezone.com> and then clicking on the Listen Online button.



Aaron Boone

Photo by Mike Terry, Deseret Morning News

The AirBoone will be in his second season as an AFL receiver and is looking forward to playing in his home state of Utah after many years of being away.

Aaron participated in the Blaze scrimmage against his former team, the Kansas Brigade. He did not have any receptions during the scrimmage as only 11 passes were thrown. KC Flight Crew (the Brigade's Fan Forum) administrator and AirBoone Express subscriber Scott Soares (aka Brigade Commander), was kind enough to get some photos of the AirBoone during the scrimmage. Here they are:





THANKS BRIGADE COMMANDER!!!

The AirBoone Express will be following the entire season and will keep you posted on Aaron Boone's stats throughout the season. The last week there were a couple of articles about Aaron in the Salt Lake Tribune and the Deseret News. I have included them in this week's edition of the AirBoone Express.

A Review of Aaron Boone's First AFL Season



In 2006 Aaron Boone completed his first season in the Arena Football League as a team leader with the Kansas City Brigade. He was selected as the Sprint Offensive Player of the Game for Kansas City two of his seven weeks of play. In a short 7 weeks of AFL play at Kansas City, AirBoone accomplished a number of noteworthy items:

- Finished the season as the Brigade leader with 19 touchdowns
- Finished the season as the Brigade leader in scoring with 118 points
- Both of the above stats are single season records for the expansion Brigade
- Finished the season as the team leader in receiving yards per game with 106.9 yards per game
- Finished third on the Brigade in total yards with 748
- Finished third on the Brigade in total receptions with 66
- Finished second on the team in avg. yards per reception at 11.3
- Set the Brigade single game total receiving yards record twice - first time on April 1, with 129 yards and then broke his own record on April 9 with 157 yards. At season's end, Boone had three of the top four total game yards for the team all season.
- Set a team record on April 9 with 13 receptions in a game. This was broken a couple of weeks later by fellow rookie Jerel Meyers who holds the record at 14. Boone got 13 receptions in two games and 12 in another.
- Set a team record for the most TDs in a game with 5 on April 9. He matched that total again on May 12 at Utah.
- He was named [Offensive Player of the Game](#) on April 9
- He was named [Kansas City Sprint Player of the Game](#) twice
- He was named the [AFL Rookie of the Month](#) for April
- He was nominated as Offensive Player of the Week on April 9
- His only touchdown against Nashville on April 22 was named the [Brigade Play of the Season](#) by the Kansas City Star

Newspaper articles featuring Aaron Boone

deseretnews.com

Deseret Morning News, Sunday, February 25, 2007

Oh, brother, where art thou?

By Loren Jorgensen

Deseret Morning News

Aaron Boone never got the chance to play football with his "little" brother Jesse while at Millard High in Fillmore. Jesse and his other brother, Jason, were known as "the boys" to Aaron because they were four and six years younger, respectively.

But the past couple of weeks, Aaron and Jesse Boone have been teammates for the Utah Blaze. Aaron is a veteran professional wide receiver and Jesse is a 6-foot-4, 300-pound rookie lineman.

"Eventually you want everybody on the team to feel like your brother, and that's when you have a true team," said Aaron. "But right now I really have my blood brother right there — and that's pretty cool."

Aaron, who, after serving an LDS Church mission and playing at Snow College, became a star receiver for Kentucky in the Southeastern Conference. He's been playing professional football since 2003, with his biggest claim to fame being a top pass catcher for the Berlin Thunder in NFL Europe for two seasons, helping the Thunder to a consecutive World Bowls.

Last year was Aaron's first in the AFL, and it started out in a frustrating manner as he sat on the bench for the Philadelphia Soul. He was then traded to the Kansas City Brigade and did some more bench warming — until there were just seven games left in the season.

Then he quickly became one of the top receivers in the league. In those seven games he had 66 catches for 748 yards and 19 touchdowns. In the season finale against the Blaze, Aaron caught 13 passes for 147 yards and five touchdowns.

"Unfortunately, we know exactly what Aaron is capable of doing," said Blaze coach and general manager Danny White after Utah signed him as a free agent during the offseason. "We know he likes playing at (EnergySolutions Arena) and we are excited to add another weapon to our arsenal."

"I had success last year, but I feel there is a lot of room for improvement in my game," said Aaron, who was named to the AFL's All-Rookie team in 2006. "I need to get better and better."

Shortly after Aaron joined the team from his home state, his brother Jesse — a former All-MWC center from the University of Utah — was signed by the Blaze. During training camp, he quickly found out that the indoor game is different from what he was used to.

"Everybody was telling me it was a different game — even my brother," said Jesse. "But I was thinking 'football is football.' But they were right. It is very different, and I've had to learn different spacing and figure out the way guys play the game ... I've improved every day and that's all I'm trying to do out here."

Getting playing time — and even making the final roster— may be difficult for Jesse, since he is still learning the indoor game and is behind Blaze mainstay Hans Olsen at center. Still, he has high hopes of being on the field with his older brother.

"It's been fun playing with Aaron so far," said Jesse earlier this week. "I played with my other brother (Jason) with the Utes, and now I get to be on the same team with Aaron. I'm expecting to be able to spike a lot of touchdowns this year, because I'm sure if I can hustle down to the end zone, he's going to give me a couple of balls to spike."

Olsen has taken the younger Boone under his wing and has been trying to teach him the tricks of the trade.

"Jesse is starting to pick it up," said Olsen. "He's starting to understand the system. Right now we just need to work on him being versatile. He's starting to really get that center position down. He has a great work ethic and desire to win — and that brings a lot to this team."

deseretnews.com

Deseret Morning News, Friday, February 16, 2007

Boone excited to be playing with Blaze

By Loren Jorgensen

Deseret Morning News

The Kansas City Brigade finished with the worst record in the Arena Football League last season, but there was a major bright spot at the end of the year — the play of rookie receiver Aaron Boone.

Boone was back in Kansas City preparing for the 2007 AFL season this week, but that wasn't good news for the Brigade. Boone was on the Utah Blaze's side of the field instead of with his former Brigade teammates when the two teams scrimmaged at Kemper Arena in preparation for the upcoming season.

"I enjoyed being in Kansas City," said Boone, a Utah native who had 66 catches for 748 yards and 19 touchdowns in just the final seven games of the 2006 season for the Brigade. "It was good to see familiar faces and catch up with some people (in Kansas City), but Utah is my home."

Kansas City wanted to keep Boone around following his breakout final half of last season, but the former Millard High star chose to instead sign as a free agent with the Blaze. Boone's younger brother, former star Ute lineman Jesse Boone, also signed with the Blaze in the offseason.

The Boones and the rest of the Blaze returned to Salt Lake City after three days of workouts in Kansas City. They resumed practices on Thursday at the Eccles Fieldhouse at the University of Utah in preparation for their season opener March 3 at the EnergySolutions Arena against the New Orleans VooDoo.

"It was good to compete against somebody else," said Blaze coach Danny White of his team's workouts with the Brigade. "When you are competing against yourself,

when the offense does good, the defense does bad ... So you have to line up against somebody else to see where you stand up."

So how did the Blaze stand up in Kansas City?

"We were fine," White said, "but it was so early in camp that I don't think anybody really dominated anybody. We were looking at a lot of young guys and so where they."

Siaha Burley, Utah's top receiver from a year ago when the team went 7-9 as an expansion franchise, feels the Blaze are well ahead of where they were last year in training camp.

"We set the tone last year for this year and Coach White made some key acquisitions in the offseason and, man, it's coming together," said Burley. "We are definitely looking to make some noise this year."

The Blaze currently have 38 players on their roster, which will have to be pared down to 24 by Feb. 24. It won't be easy for White and his assistant coaches to make decisions about his receivers.

"We've got seven quality receivers for five spots," White said.

Boone figures to be one of the keepers, however.

"He'll be fine," said White of Boone. "He's one of those guys that athletically has got it all. He's a playmaker, it's just a matter of him getting comfortable with the terminology."

Boone, who has been in training camps in the NFL and starred in the NFL Europe before joining the AFL last season, knows all about the business of professional football.

"There is never security in football," said Boone. "You've got to come out everyday and compete. It's a job that millions want to have. I look at it like that. I've got the chance of a lifetime, so every day when I suit up, I've got to make the most of it."

BLAZE NOTES: Free agent Boone happy at home

By Jay Drew
The Salt Lake Tribune

Of all the teams the Utah Blaze could have chosen to scrimmage earlier this week, the Kansas City Brigade probably would have been at the bottom of free-agent acquisition **Aaron Boone's** list. After all, Boone bolted the Arena Football League's other 2006 expansion franchise in the offseason to join his hometown team.

It wasn't as bad as he thought it might be, though, the former Millard High, Snow College and Kentucky star said after Utah's practice at Eccles Fieldhouse on Thursday.

"It was different," he said. "It was good to see some familiar faces and catch up with some people, but Utah's my home."

Did he catch any flak for jumping ship?

"Just from the owners," he said.

Boone was one of Utah's key offseason pickups, along with linebacker Frank Carter, lineman Steve Konopka and defensive back Clarence Lawson, after playing in just seven games for the Brigade last year. He caught 66 passes for 748 yards and 19 touchdowns for K.C. after he was traded from the Philadelphia Soul midway through the season, and was listed as the fifth-best free agent available by one AFL expert.

"The [Kansas City] players understood," he said. "Everyone is in the same boat. If you can be home and still play, that's where you want to be . . . What better opportunity than to play professional football in your home state?"

With training camp fully into its second week, Boone said he is still learning coach Danny White's system, one that that fellow receivers such as Siaha Burley, Orshawante Bryant and Justin Skaggs have been playing in for years.

"I am picking their brains," he said. "I am watching everything they do. I feel like there's a lot of room for improvement in my game. I want to get better and better."

For the first time since he returned home from an LDS Church mission, Boone was not at a college or NFL camp last fall. He spent the time coaching receivers at Timpanogos High in Orem, and was proud that his team put up 27 points on eventual state champion Bingham in the playoffs.

"I love coaching," he said. "I can see myself coaching some day."

2007 UTAH BLAZE SCHEDULE

WEEK	DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
1	Sat, March 3	NEW ORLEANS VOODOO	7 p.m.
2	Sat, March 10	at Arizona Rattlers	7 p.m.
3	Sun, March 18	at Nashville Kats	2 p.m.
4	Fri, March 23	GRAND RAPIDS RAMPAGE	7 p.m.
5	Sun, April 1	at Las Vegas Gladiators	4 p.m.
6	Fri, April 6	at Austin Wranglers	6:30 p.m.
7	Fri, April 13	LOS ANGELES AVENGERS	7 p.m.
8	Fri, April 20	ARIZONA RATTLERS	7 p.m.
9	Sat, April 28	at San Jose SaberCats	8:30 p.m.
10	Fri, May 4	DALLAS DESPERADOS	7 p.m.
11	Sat, May 12	at Kansas City Brigade	6:30 p.m.
12	Fri, May 18	LAS VEGAS GLADIATORS	7 p.m.
13	Fri, May 25	at Orlando Predators	5:30 p.m.
14	Mon, June 4	COLORADO CRUSH	8:30 p.m.
15	Sat, June 9	SAN JOSE SABERCATS	7 p.m.

16	BYE		
17	Sat, June 23	at Los Angeles Avengers	8:30 p.m.

2007 Arena Football League ESPN TV Schedule:

DATE		TIME	TELEVISION
Sun, March 4	Chicago at Kansas City	12:30 p.m.	ESPN on ABC
	Dallas at New York	12:30 p.m.	ESPN on ABC
Mon, March 12	Los Angeles at Orlando	7:00 p.m.	ESPN2
Thur, March 22	Colorado at Philadelphia	7:00 p.m.	ESPN2
Mon, March 26	Dallas at Orlando	7:00 p.m.	ESPN2
Sun, April 1	Los Angeles at Chicago	1:30 p.m.	ESPN2
Mon, April 9	Georgia at Philadelphia	7:30 p.m.	ESPN2
Mon, March 16	Philadelphia at Dallas	8:00 p.m.	ESPN2
Mon, April 23	Philadelphia at Columbus	7:30 p.m.	ESPN2
Mon, April 30	Philadelphia at Chicago	8:00 p.m.	ESPN2
Mon, May 7	Colorado at Chicago	8:00 p.m.	ESPN2
Mon, May 14	New York at Philadelphia	7:30 p.m.	ESPN2
Mon, May 21	New Orleans at Philadelphia	7:30 p.m.	ESPN2
Mon, May 28	New York at New Orleans	8:00 p.m.	ESPN2
Mon, June 4	Colorado at Utah	10:30 p.m.	ESPN2
Mon, June 11	Los Angeles at Arizona	10:00 p.m.	ESPN2
Mon, June 18	Chicago at Colorado	10:00 p.m.	ESPN2
Mon, June 25	Dallas at Colorado	10:00 p.m.	ESPN2
WILDCARD			
Fri, June 29	Wildcard	7:00 p.m.	ESPN
Sat, June 30	Wildcard	12:00 p.m.	ESPN
Sat, June 30	Wildcard	3:00 p.m.	ESPN
Mon, July 2	Wildcard	10:00 p.m.	ESPN2
DIVISIONAL			
Sat, July 7	Divisional	3:00 p.m.	ESPN
Sat, July 7	Divisional	8:00 p.m.	ESPN
Sun, July 8	Divisional	9:00 p.m.	ESPN2
Mon, July 9	Divisional	7:30 p.m.	ESPN2
CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP			
Sat, July 14	Conference Championship	3:00 p.m.	ESPN
Sun, July 15	Conference Championship	12:30 p.m.	ESPN2
ARENABOWL XXI			
Sun, July 29	ArenaBowl XXI (New Orleans)	3:00 p.m.	ESPN on ABC

* ESPN will broadcast a minimum of three Wildcard games and three Divisional Playoff games listed above