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In this edition:

- Boone scores first TD of Season
- Blaze lose to Rattlers 63-62
- Blaze defense shakes the Rattlers with 2 first half TDs
- Whittaker on fire in 1st half

I waited until this afternoon to see if I could get some photos from the game, but there were none posted anywhere, so this edition will be without photos. Sorry.

Boone gets First TD of the season in losing effort

Aaron Boone caught his first TD of the season in the second quarter on an 8 yard pass from Joe Germaine. This made his 29th career TD as an Arena player. During the game he led the Blaze in receptions with 7 and had 50 yards receiving. He has now broken the 100 reception mark for his career and 1200 receiving yards for his career.

The Defense shakes the Rattlers in the First Half

The biggest story of the first half was the defense as E.J. Burt sacked Rattler QB Lang Campbell and then forced a fumble which Vaka Manapuna picked up and ran in for a 5 yard TD. In the second quarter, Reggie Doster intercepted a Campbell pass and ran it in 8 yards for a score.

Whittaker rolls in the first half

Wide receiver Huey Whittaker had a heyday in the first half with an end around run for a TD and two long receptions of 40 and 29 yards for TDs, scoring 3 TDs in the first half. He had already chalked up 83 receiving yards on 3 receptions by the end of the half.

The Blaze led throughout most of the first half and had a 42-35 lead at half time.

Second half is back and forth battle

The second half turned into a back and forth battle, as the Rattlers intercepted a pass that led to a TD and then fought back to tie the game. Throughout the third and fourth quarters both teams went back and forth with touchdowns. J'Sharlon Jones came into the second with powerful performances, catching 3 passes for 30 yards and 2 TDs as well as running back a kickoff return 54 yards to the Arizona 2 yard line. Whittaker then ran in for his second rushing TD and 4th TD of the game with about 6 minutes left in the game. Steve Videtich had a rare extra-point miss to give the Blaze a 6 point lead. But with 57 seconds left the Rattlers tied the game on a TD pass and then took the lead 63-62 after a successful extra point kick by Witczak.

With 20 seconds left in the game, Germaine completed two passes to Jones to get the Blaze down to the Arizona 21. Videtich attempted a FG from the 25 with 9 seconds left and missed, thus allowing the Rattlers to pull off the win at 63-62.

Boone-o-Meter Stats for 2008 thru March 1:

Game 1: Arizona at Utah

Passes caught: 7

Yards: 50

Longest reception: 12 yard pass in 2nd Q.

Touchdowns: Arizona at Utah, Germaine 8 yd pass to Boone (2Q)

First downs: 1

Tackles: 0

AFL Career Stats thru March 1, 2008

Passes caught: 105

Total Yards: 1218

Longest Reception: 40 yards

Receiving Touchdowns: 28

Rushes: 1
 Rushing Yds.: 4
 Kick returns: 5
 Kick Return Yds: 61
 Kick Return TDs: 1 (9 yds in 2007)
 Tackles: 7

Following is the 2008 Utah Blaze Schedule. Note that the June 9 game will be
 televised nationally on ESPN.

Date	Visitor	Home	Time	TV	Radio
3/1	Arizona Rattlers - 63	Utah Blaze - 62			Blaze 0-1
3/9	Utah Blaze	Cleveland Gladiators	10:30	TBA	1320 KFAN
3/14	Utah Blaze	Orlando Predators	5:30	TBA	1320 KFAN
3/21	Columbus Destroyers	Utah Blaze	7:00	TBA	1320 KFAN
3/29	Georgia Force	Utah Blaze	7:00	TBA	1320 KFAN
4/5	Utah Blaze	Philadelphia Soul	5:00	TBA	1320 KFAN
4/12	Utah Blaze	Los Angeles Avengers	8:30	TBA	1320 KFAN
4/18	San Jose SaberCats	Utah Blaze	7:00	TBA	1320 KFAN
4/25	Utah Blaze	New Orleans VooDoo	6:30	TBA	1320 KFAN
5/3	Kansas City Brigade	Utah Blaze	7:00	TBA	1320 KFAN
5/10	Colorado Crush	Utah Blaze	7:00	TBA	1320 KFAN
5/17	Utah Blaze	San Jose SaberCats	8:30	TBA	1320 KFAN
5/24	Chicago Rush	Utah Blaze	7:00	TBA	1320 KFAN
6/1	Utah Blaze	Grand Rapids Rampage	12:00	TBA	1320 KFAN
6/9	Los Angeles Avengers	Utah Blaze	8:00	ESPN	1320 KFAN
		WEEK 16 BYE			
6/21	Utah Blaze	Arizona Rattlers	8:00	TBA	1320 KFAN