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[Archives of the AirBoone Express are available on Aaron's website](#)

In this edition:

- Boone scores two TDs in disappointing loss
- Icy weather leaves Blaze cold
- Blaze lose to Cleveland 66-63

I made it to the game in Cleveland and appeared to be the sole representative for the Blaze. As with the Blaze, I had a terrible time getting there. My vehicle was hit by a semi and destroyed on Friday (I was not injured!); I was snowed in 60 miles from the city for two nights as well, but still made it to Cleveland on Sunday morning to get to the game. The Blaze fought valiantly and refused to give up right to the last second of the game.



David "Sumoflam" Kravetz with Aaron "AirBoone" Boone in Cleveland
(photo by Sumoflam Productions)

Boone gets two TDs and over 100 yards in loss to Cleveland

Aaron Boone caught the first TD of the game to start off the Blaze's battle against the Gladiators. By the end of the game, AirBoone had caught 10 passes for 127 yards and 2 touchdowns. Late in the second quarter, he made an amazing catch of an errant throw by Joe Germaine. The throw was underthrown and Boone turned around just in time to grab the ball from behind even though it was meant to go to a different receiver. It turned into a 25 yard reception and a 1st down and eventually led to a Blaze TD.

Aaron's first TD came on the 4th play of the game. It was a 14 yard catch, and Aaron got away from a Gladiator defender and jaunted into the end zone untouched.



Boone gets away from a Gladiator and strolls into the end zone in the first quarter
(photo from Cleveland Plain Dealer)

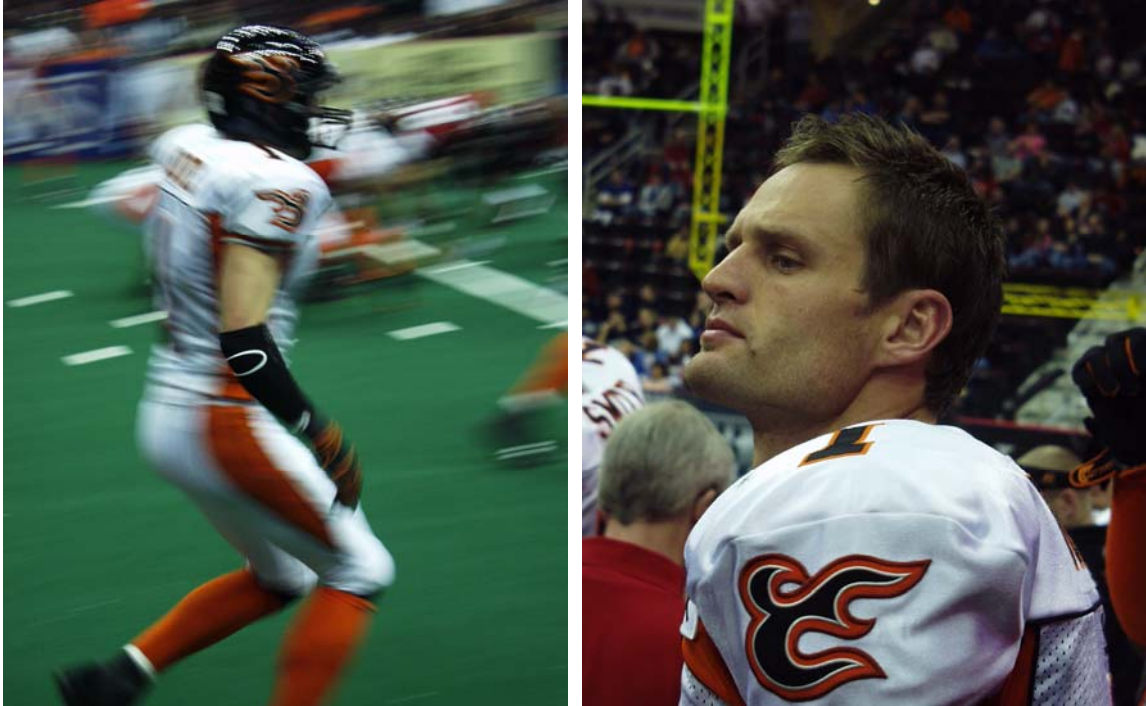
Boone's second TD came in the second quarter when he dove to nab a 26 yard Germaine pass deep in the end zone. That TD led to his 30th career AFL touchdown reception.

Icy weather leaves Blaze in the cold



Sunday headlines tell it all

The biggest story of this game happened long before the game was played. The Blaze flight to Cleveland ended in Chicago as the Cleveland airport was closed down due to a massive blizzard that hit on Friday night and continued through Saturday. The team ended up taking buses from Chicago for what would be typically a 5 hour bus ride. It took much longer and the team arrived in Cleveland at nearly 1:00 AM and then this was compounded by Daylight Savings time which rolled the clock forward another hour. 7 hours later the team was in the Quicken Arena preparing for the game.



AirBoone "blazes" on by to catch a pass...He watches on as defense plays
(photos by Sumoflam Productions)

Offense is hounded by the Gladiators, while defense struggles

For the second game in a row, the Blaze offense was rushed hard and struggled to protect Joe Germaine. He threw 2 interceptions and was sacked 2 times. One of the interceptions was returned for a TD. As well, the Blaze fumbled, but got the ball back shortly thereafter on a Cleveland fumble.

Some bright spots

There were some bright spots during the game. The Blaze blocked a couple of extra point attempts by Cleveland. As well, with Tom Pace out, the receivers all pitched in for 100+ yard games. JJ McKelvey caught 11 passes for 131 yards and 3 TDs, while Huey Whittaker had 8 receptions for 116 yards and 3 TDs. New kicker Steve Azar was perfect with 7 PATs in his first game with the Blaze.



Blaze defense lines up...Boone gets ready for another pass play
(photos by Sumoflam Productions)

Blaze fall behind, then fight back

The last quarter of the game started off fairly bleak as Cleveland led 45-36, mainly due to Blaze turnovers, including a late 3rd Q interception. Then, shortly after the 4th quarter began, the Gladiators turned the interception into another TD to lead 52-36. The teams exchanged TDs back and forth until Cleveland led 59-49. The Blaze had a successful onside kick which ended in a TD and made the score 59-56. A second onside kick attempt failed as McKelvey couldn't jump high enough to grab the ball and keep it from going out of bounds. Nonetheless, the Blaze fought to the end. With only a few seconds remaining, they had the ball deep in their territory and tried to get couple of completions, but it wasn't enough.

Boone-o-Meter Stats for 2008 thru March 10:

After 2 games

Passes caught: 17

Yards: 177

Longest reception: Mar. 9, 2008 26 yd reception in 2Q vs. Cleveland

Touchdowns: 3

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

-Utah at Cleveland, Germaine 14 yd pass to Boone (1Q)

-Utah at Cleveland, Germaine 26 yd pass to Boone (2Q)

First downs: 2

Tackles: 0

AirBoone's AFL Career Stats thru March 10, 2008

Passes caught: 115
 Total Yards: 1345
 Longest Reception: 40 yards
 Receiving Touchdowns: 30
 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 - 63	Cleveland Gladiators - 66			Blaze 0-2
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