



**Saturday, March 29, 2008**

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

In this edition:

- Boone has career highs in receptions and yardage
- Blaze lose record fifth in a row to Georgia 70-49
- Boone remains #1 in AFL in passes caught after wk 5
- Blaze travel to Philadelphia next Saturday
- Updates on Jesse and Jason Boone

**Boone has career night despite Blaze  
loss to Georgia Force**

Aaron Boone continued to sizzle and extend his lead as the league's leader in receptions with a career high 14 receptions. AirBoone also had an AFL career high 170 yards as well as 2 TDs. Finally, he doubled his first down output for the season by bringing in 10 first downs, also a career high.



Aaron Boone nabs a pass against Georgia

This was Boone's third 100+ yardage game of the season and his 5<sup>th</sup> in a row with at least one TD this season. It is his third game with at least two.

### Blaze lose record fifth straight

Miscues and another poor 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter showing lead to another loss by the Blaze. It became obvious from the first Blaze possession that the force defense was out to put a stop on the Blaze. On Utah's second play from scrimmage, Germaine sent a pass to Aaron Boone against the wall. Boone had control, but rather than being tackled, he lost the ball as Georgia's Stephen Cason went straight for the ball and stripped it away from Boone and took it in 15 yards for a touchdown to make the score 14-0. The Blaze fought back and were finally able to tie the game at 21-21 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. But the Force defense played tough and stopped the Blaze in 4. By halftime the score was Georgia 35, Utah 28.

The Blaze have seemed to establish that they the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter belongs to the other team as they again went scoreless and allowed the Force to extend their lead to 49-28 by the end of the quarter.

In attempt to turn the tide in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, Blaze Head Coach Danny White called for a couple of onside kicks, but both failed and the Force also turned those into TDs.

Huey Whittaker had another big game as he hauled in 11 passes for 161 yards and 4 touchdowns. AirBoone led all receivers in both receptions and yardage with career highs in both. He also scored 2 TDs. Despite these performances and another big performance by QB Joe Germaine, it just wasn't enough as the Blaze fell 70-49, for one of the worst defeats in franchise history.



Blaze QB Joe Germaine threw 31 completions for 356 yards and 7 TDs in another losing effort

### **Boone will remain #1 in AFL in receptions after 5 weeks**

After five weeks, Aaron Boone will continue to lead the league in receptions with 53. Last week he was tied with Cleanord Saintil of San Jose, but this week he will be in sole possession of first place. And with his 170 yards in the game against the Georgia Force, Boone moves 6<sup>th</sup> in league in total yards. Teammate Huey Whittaker jumped to second in the league with 616 yards after a 161 yard performance against the Force.



AirBoone flies high to catch a TD pass against Columbus on March 21

### **Winless Blaze to travel to unbeaten Philadelphia on Saturday**

The Utah Blaze face a stiff challenge next week as they travel to Philadelphia to take on the Soul. This will be Aaron Boone's first trip back to Philadelphia since being traded by the Soul in 2006.

The game will be broadcast live and can be heard via the internet at The Fan Super Sports Network (<http://www.thefansports.com/>). The game will air at 7:00 PM (EST).

### **Updates on Jesse Boone and Jason Boone**

A number of AirBoone Express subscribers have asked for updates on Aaron's younger brothers Jesse and Jason. I will try to provide updates as they are available.

Currently, Jesse completed his first year as a backup center for the Oakland Raiders. He was signed by the Raiders on August 1, 2007 as a Free Agent. He was on the practice squad but later moved up to the full time roster as a reserve. As of March 23, 2008, Jesse was listed as third on the depth chart at Center and 6<sup>th</sup> on the depth chart at Guard.

Jesse gained some big respect from Raiders players and coaches during pre-season boot camp in August 2007 after fearlessly taking on all-pro defensive tackle Warren Sapp in practice. An article about the Raiders

([http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi\\_qn4176/is\\_20070817/ai\\_n19471325](http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_qn4176/is_20070817/ai_n19471325)) noted the following about the incident:

*Most stunning moment: First-year center Jesse Boone joined the Raiders early on in camp. A few days later, he called out veteran defensive tackle Warren Sapp as tempers flared during a one-on-one blocking drill.*

*"You got a problem with me?" Boone asked Sapp. When Sapp confirmed the obvious, Boone said, "Buckle it up, and let's go."*

*At that point, Boone and Sapp went at each other before being separated by teammates. Sapp waited until practice ended and then attacked Boone head-on.*

What was not noted is that Sapp tried to attack Jesse from behind his back after practice by swinging his helmet at Jesse's head. A couple of other Raider players alerted Jesse and he just barely had time to move enough to be missed.

Jason finished his senior year at the University of Utah with injuries and did not play much. But, he was still able to participate in the NFL Combines, which he did on March 10 of this year. No Utah Ute players were invited to the combines. On March 12 he was interviewed by the Salt Lake Tribune:

*Utah didn't have any players invited to the NFL combine so Monday's performance was their best chance to get noticed. The draft is April 26-27. "It's so stressful, it's not fun at all," said lineman Jason Boone, who probably felt the most pressure since a knee injury prevented him from playing in the 2007 season. "It's zero fun. Once it's over with I'll be very happy. You only get one shot and you have to make the best of it." Boone said he still hasn't recovered from the torn anterior cruciate ligament he suffered before the season began, estimating he was about 90 percent. "I hope the scouts realize I'm not going 100 percent and it's a scary thing if I were," he said. - Lya Wodraska, The Salt Lake Tribune*

A number of NFL Draft Scout sites have Jason in the Top 30 prospects for Offensive Guards.

### **Boone-o-Meter Stats for 2008 thru March 29:**

#### **After 5 games**

**Passes caught: 53**

-Arizona at Utah 7

-Utah at Cleveland 10

-Utah at Orlando 12

-Columbus at Utah 10

-Georgia at Utah 14\* (AFL Career High)

**Total Yards: 546**

-Arizona at Utah 50

- Utah at Cleveland 127
  - Utah at Orlando 117
  - Columbus at Utah 77
  - Georgia at Utah 170\* (AFL Career High)
- Longest reception:** Mar. 15, 2008 45 yd reception in 3Q vs. Orlando\*
- This is his longest AFL career reception

**Touchdowns: 8**

- 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)
- Utah at Orlando, Germaine 45 yd pass to Boone (3Q)
- Utah at Orlando, Germaine 5 yd pass to Boone (4Q)
- Columbus at Utah, Germaine 7 yd pass to Boone (2Q)
- Georgia at Utah, Germaine 9 yd pass to Boone (1Q)
- Georgia at Utah, Germaine 11 yd pass to Boone (4Q)

**First downs: 20**

- Arizona at Utah 1
- Utah at Cleveland 2
- Utah at Orlando 5
- Columbus at Utah 2
- Georgia at Utah 10\* (AFL Career High)

**Tackles: 0**

**AirBoone's AFL Career Stats thru March 21, 2008**

Passes caught: 151  
 Total Yards: 1711  
 Longest Reception: 45 yards  
 Receiving Touchdowns: 35  
 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 - 61	Orlando Predators - 69			Blaze 0-3

3/21	<b>Columbus Destroyers - 52</b>	<b>Utah Blaze - 49</b>				Blaze 0-4
3/29	<b>Georgia Force -70</b>	<b>Utah Blaze - 49</b>				Blaze 0-5
4/5	<u>Utah Blaze</u>	<u>Philadelphia Soul</u>	<u>5:00</u>	<u>TBA</u>	<u>1320</u>	<u>KFAN</u>
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
<b>6/9</b>	<b>Los Angeles Avengers</b>	<b>Utah Blaze</b>	<b>8:00</b>	<b>ESPN</b>	<b>1320</b>	<b>KFAN</b>
		WEEK 16 BYE				
6/21	Utah Blaze	Arizona Rattlers	8:00	TBA	1320	KFAN