



Tuesday, May 16, 2006

By David Kravetz

[AirBooneExpress@photofabrications.com](mailto:AirBooneExpress@photofabrications.com)

Visit Aaron's website and journal @ [www.aaronrboone.com](http://www.aaronrboone.com)

Visit the Brigade Website @ [www.kcbrigade.com](http://www.kcbrigade.com)

## AirBoone Makes AFL All-Rookie Team!!

Breaking news: Aaron Boone was named to the Arena Football League All-Rookie Team today. Following is the article courtesy of the Arena Football League:

NEW YORK – The Orlando Predators and New York Dragons led all AFL teams with two players each on this year's All-Rookie Team the League announced today.

Orlando placed OL/DL **GREG WHITE** and WR/DB **JAVARUS DUDLEY** on the squad joining New York's OL/DL **DELBERT COWSETTE** and DS **DAHNEL SINGFIELD**.

San Jose SaberCats OS **BEN NELSON**, who played in just 11 games this season, posted 1,405 receiving yards, just six yards shy of the highest total by a rookie in AFL history.

Los Angeles Avengers QB **SONNY CUMBIE** took over the starting reigns in Week 5 and threw 59 touchdowns on the season, the seventh-highest rookie total ever.

Following is the 2006 AFL All-Rookie Team:

### POSITION

Quarterback

Fullback/Linebacker

Offensive/Defensive Lineman

Offensive/Defensive Lineman

Offensive/Defensive Lineman

**Wide Receiver/Linebacker**

Wide Receiver/Defensive Back

Offensive Specialist

### PLAYER, TEAM

Sonny Cumbie, Los Angeles

Anthony Dunn, Colorado

Khreem Smith, Chicago

Greg White, Orlando

Delbert Cowsette, New York

**Aaron Boone, Kansas City**

Javarus Dudley, Orlando

Ben Nelson, San Jose

Defensive Specialist  
Defensive Specialist  
Kicker

Dahnel Singfield, New York  
Chris Brown, Georgia  
Todd France, Philadelphia

## A Review of Aaron Boone's First AFL Season



Aaron Boone completed his first season in the Arena Football League as a team leader with the Kansas City Brigade. For the second week this season he was selected as the Sprint Offensive Player of the Game for Kansas City.

Aaron was one of last week's AFL leaders in a number of areas:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> in receiving yards
- Tied for 1<sup>st</sup> in receptions
- Tied for 1<sup>st</sup> in TD receptions
- 2<sup>nd</sup> for total TDs
- Boone's photo was the photo used on the AFL site for week 16's Top Performances

In a short 7 weeks of AFL play at Kansas City, AirBoone accomplished a number of noteworthy items:

- Finished the season as the team leader with 19 touchdowns
- Finished the season as the team 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



Some of other firsts for Aaron Boone this season:

- While at Philadelphia, he played defense for the first time since high school. For the season he had 4 solo tackles, 4 assists and 1 blocked pass
- In the final game against Utah he ran his first rushing play of the season for 4 yards. He came within inches of scoring a touchdown.
- Boone returned 4 kickoffs for a total of 52 yards for an average of 13 yards per return. His longest was 21 yards. He had not returned a kickoff since high school
- Boone scored 5 TDs in two games this season. The last time he scored 5 TDs in a game was as a sophomore wide receiver at Snow College.
- He may have set a record for the most family and friends at a game during the Utah game on May 12. There were over 100 AirBoone fans at the Delta Center cheering him on, along with the Brigade. Radio commentators for the Utah Blaze commented on this numerous times.
- Boone scored on extra point plays twice during the season

There may be more coming for Aaron in the next couple of weeks:

- Though his chances of getting AFL Rookie of the Year are very slim, there is still the possibility that he may be selected to the AFL All-Rookie Team
- There is still a possibility that he could win one of the Kansas City Brigade Team Awards

What now for the AirBoone? In the next few weeks, Boone will be busy on a number of fronts. He is currently in contract negotiations with the Kansas City Brigade to re-sign for next season. At the same time, he is still hoping to accomplish his ultimate dream of playing for a team in the NFL. He is planning on tryouts with at least two teams in the coming weeks (which will be detailed in later AirBoone Express editions as these tryouts take place).



Also, Aaron will be in Atlanta over the next couple of weeks to participate as an extra in the filming of the movie "We Are...Marshall", which stars Matthew McConaughey (People Magazine 2005 "Sexiest Man Alive") and Matthew Fox (from "Lost"). The movie is about a plane crash that claims the lives of members of the Marshall University football team and some of its fans. The team's new coach (McConaughey) and his surviving players try to keep the football program alive. Many of the football players in movies such as this movie and "The Longest Yard" and others typically have AFL players as extras. As more information about this is available, it will be included in a future edition of AirBoone Express.

## Aaron Boone in the news:

The Kansas City Star had a Season in Review Article on May 12. In this article they make mention of Aaron Boone a couple of times:

### Team MVP

The easy answer is **Jerel Myers (above)**. And he's worthy, entering the final game with 115 catches for 1,193 yards and 16 touchdowns, all team highs. **But Aaron Boone's six games were more productive on average, and besides, should the MVP of a 3-12 team really be based on stats?** The choice here is B.J. Cohen, the team's unquestioned leader who helped the coaching staff maintain order during a crazy inaugural season.

### Best play

**Boone had a Tecmo Bowl-moment on a 9-yard pass-and-catch at Nashville. Boone was immediately wrapped up by a Kats defender, and officials ran over and appeared close to blowing the play dead. Boone, though, fought through that tackle and two others on his way to a 39-yard touchdown.** Chris Sanders gets special mention for knocking Colorado defensive specialist Rashad Floyd back 5 yards on a touchdown run.

The Kansas City Brigade review of the Utah game had the following items about Boone:

The anticipated onside kick bounced into the stands to give the Brigade possession at the Utah 11 yard line. **Philyaw immediately went for the end zone and hit Boone on an out route, for his fifth touchdown of the game,** for a quick strike and another lead. Hoambrecker's extra point was blocked, though, so Kansas City's edge remained at six with 00:53 left in the game.

Kansas City faced an uphill battle after the ensuing kickoff as backup center Kyle Rasmussen was ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct. The offense did not lose focus, though, and a veteran move beat the Utah defense. **In the red zone, the Brigade had to rush to the line of scrimmage as the play clock wound down. Philyaw noticed a Blaze defender playing way off his man and quickly snapped the ball and flipped it to Boone, who beat the defender and two others to stretch the ball across the goal line for a four-yard touchdown.**

The Blaze took advantage of a turnover-on-downs to take a 21-14 lead, but Philyaw and the offense came back onto the field unfazed. A series of short passes to the outside took the Brigade into the red zone, where the offensive line gave Philyaw enough time to make a play. **He threw a rocket in the end zone in the only place Boone could grab it for another four-yard touchdown.** Hoambrecker's extra point tied the game at 21 late in the first half.

- Aaron Boone, who was a famed high school and junior college player in Utah, had over 100 family and friends in the audience and gave all of his touchdown catches to them. He tied a career-high and a Brigade single-game record with five touchdown catches and led the team with 19 on the season.
- Sam Simmons and Aaron Boone each had their first rushes of the year

The Deseret News of Salt Lake City wrote an article about Aaron, which was included in the last edition of AirBoone Express. Comments were also made

about Boone in the Salt Lake Tribune after the game and KSL Television in Salt Lake interviewed him (hopefully this video will be up on Aaron's website in the next few days). The Provo Daily Herald had the following on the morning of last Friday's game:

**Returning home:** There will be a football homecoming for Kansas City offensive specialist Aaron Boone in tonight's game. Boone, who was born in Provo, will play football competitively in the Beehive State for the first time since playing for Snow College in 2000.

Boone, who played football at Millard High School in Fillmore, has played in NFL Europe and in a handful of NFL preseason games prior to joining the AFL. In 2005 while playing for the Berlin Thunder, he led NFL Europe in receptions and was second in receiving yards and touchdowns.

After competing collegiately for two seasons (2001-02) in the SEC at Kentucky, Boone signed with the Dallas Cowboys in April 2003. Since then, he has also signed with the NFL's Chicago and Carolina and made a TD reception in a preseason game for the Panthers last season.

Boone started this year's AFL season with Philadelphia, but was traded to Kansas City in March. He was named the league's Rookie of the Month for April, when he led all rookies with 13 touchdowns. He finished the month with 48 receptions for 550 yards, and he set franchise records for receptions (13), yards (157) and touchdowns (5) in an April 5 win over Los Angeles.

Finally—on a different note...here is a nice photo of Aaron's brother Jesse that was taken during the Cincinnati Bengals Rookie mini-camp which was held last week in Cincinnati. You can also see Jesse Boone on the Bengals website at: [http://www.bengals.com/team/player.asp?player\\_id=117](http://www.bengals.com/team/player.asp?player_id=117)



**Jesse Boone (60) at Bengals Mini-Camp**  
(photo courtesy of Wire Image)



**Jesse Boone**  
(photo courtesy of Cincinnati Bengals)

