

[SUBSCRIPTIONS](#)

[ARCHIVES](#)

[OBITUARIES](#)

[HOME TOURS](#)

Snow's Boone signs with Kentucky

01/04/2001

By **DICK HARMON**

The Daily Herald

PROVO -- The University of Kentucky may be in trouble with the NCAA, but that isn't discouraging Snow College All-American Aaron Boone from leaving for Lexington today.

Boone signed a letter-of-intent to play for Kentucky in December and will enroll as a Wildcat receiver this week so he can participate in spring drills.

"I know the school has been investigated, but I've talked to coach Hal Mumme and (fired recruiting coordinator) Claude Bassett and they've explained to me exactly what's going on," said Boone, a former Provoan who attended Sunset Elementary and Dixon Junior High before playing prep ball at Fillmore.

Boone was one of the top-recruited junior college receivers in the country this past fall after hauling in 81 catches for 1,505 yards and 19 touchdowns.

At 6-3, 205 pounds, his brother Jesse Boone (6-6, 300) is an offensive lineman at Utah.

Aaron received recruiting attention from 65 schools before narrowing his choices to North Carolina State, Iowa, Colorado, Georgia Tech and Kentucky.

A lifelong BYU fan, Boone wanted to play at BYU, but the Cougars would not have a scholarship available until fall and Boone wanted to enroll at a Division I school immediately.

His father, Coley Boone, lives in Provo. Aaron used to deliver The Daily Herald as a kid before his family moved from Utah County in 1993.

"I would have liked to have played at BYU, but I had to go where they wanted me right now and Kentucky fit that bill."



TODAY'S HERALD

[Valley & State](#)
[Nation & World](#)

[Sports](#)

[CougarBlue](#)

[Entertainment](#) **new!**

[Business](#)

[Family & Living](#)

[Opinion](#)

[Milestones](#)

[Education](#)

[Obituaries](#)

[Past Week](#)

MORE LOCAL

[New Utah](#)

MARKETPLACE

[Classifieds](#)

[Create an Ad](#)

[Financial Calculators](#)

[Subscribe!](#)

[Service Directory](#)

PHOTOGRAPHY

[Daily Herald Photos](#)

FORUMS

[Community Talk](#)

[Religion](#)

[U - Review](#)

EXTRAS

[TV Listings](#)

[Movie Showtimes](#)

[WebRadio](#)

SERVICES

[Contact Us](#)

[About Us](#)

[Work at The Herald](#)



Filtered Web Search



Boone said BYU assistant coach Mike Empey recruited him hard, but it appeared other BYU coaches didn't want to give a mid-year scholarship.

"I did talk to coach Gary Crowton on his fourth day at BYU, but he was going off what the plan was before he came and he told me they'd like me to walk-on for now and get a scholarship in the fall.

"It was the principle of the thing. I felt I did everything I could this year to prove myself. I'm still a big BYU fan and I'm going to cheer for them this season and I'll be anxious to see how Crowton does. I don't want my situation to be perceived as anti-BYU.

"I had to do what was best for me and sign at Kentucky."

BYU signed three JC players in December from Ricks College. Two of those players received mid-year grants-in-aid. They were All-American tight end Spencer Nead and offensive lineman Ryan Keele. A third Ricks player, defensive lineman John Denney, will receive a scholarship next fall.

BYU is holding scholarships for returning missionaries that include Colorado running back Logan Deans and defensive linemen Ifo Pili and C.J. Ah You. BYU wants cornerback Jernaro Gilford to also come in this week.

"I'm excited to be playing in the SEC in a 75,000-seat stadium against rival Tennessee and our first league game is in the Swamp against Florida.

"I'm also excited to be playing with Kentucky's passing offense, which ranked second nationally this past year."

Boone said Kentucky's NCAA violations will not deter him and he believes any sanctions will be tempered by the fact Kentucky reported itself to the NCAA.

"Basically there was a situation where some recruits were given some coats to wear while at a game and they took them with them which is wrong.

"Also, there is a situation where some recruits were taken to breakfast and someone had to be reimbursed for that after paying for it at the time, which was wrong.

"I talked to (former BYU coach) coach Bassett and he denies everything about improper checks (to a Tennessee high school coach) and he explained to me what that was all about. I believe him, his son was my host on my recruiting visit."

Dick Harmon, executive sports editor, can be reached at 344-2547 or dharmon@heraldextra.com.