

Salt Lake City

Overcast

32°

[Weather](#) | [Traffic](#)

Deseret News

SEARCH DESERETNEWS.COM

GO

Site Web: powered by **YAHOO!** SEARCH



HOOPS PICKS
ENTER CONTEST

IT'S DIY WITH TAX PROS BY YOUR SIDE.

Get It Right.SM

File for FREE ▶



- [Home](#)
- [Utah](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [Life](#)
- [Entertainment](#)
- [LDS Newsline](#)
- [Movies](#)
- [Multimedia](#)
- [Opinion](#)
- [Business](#)
- [World & nation](#)
- [Blogs](#)
- [Obituaries](#)
- [Classifieds](#)

Utah Blaze are reborn in new league

By **Wade Jewkes**
Deseret News

Published: Wednesday, Jan. 27, 2010 12:51 a.m. MST

25 comments

[f](#) [F](#) [t](#) [E](#) | [E-MAIL](#) | [PRINT](#) | [FONT + -](#)

Page: [1](#) [2](#) [Next >](#)

WEST VALLEY CITY — And the name is (drum roll please) ... the Utah Blaze!

Ownership of Utah's latest arena football team announced at a press conference Tuesday that the familiar moniker will be put to use once again. The rebirth of the Blaze marks the return of arena football to Utah — this time competing as a member of the newly formed Arena Football 1 League. The Blaze will play their home games at the E-Center.

Team owner Dave Affleck announced that the new league had purchased the assets of the now-defunct Arena Football League, including things like trademarks, logos, etc. Several teams from the old league joined together in forming a new 15-team AF1 League, which opens play on April 9.

AFL veterans form the nucleus of the Blaze organization, with Steve Videtich named as general manager and Ernesto Purnsley as head coach. They have 13 years and 12 years experience, respectively, in arena league football.

In order to make this team (and league) viable, Affleck is hoping to learn from mistakes in the past.

"League offices were spending a lot of money ... (on unnecessary items). Everyone now is in a more conservative mode," said Affleck.

Story continues below



He and Videtich both mentioned that player salaries have been lowered.

"Player salaries are one-third lower, but the players have been coming back in droves," Videtich said.

Purnsley concurred. "We are bringing in quality guys," he said. "Our goal is to win a championship."

Players who will be joining the Blaze for their inaugural season include Arena Football League veteran Aaron Boone, American Indoor Football Association standouts Mike Affleck, Akamu Aki and Scott Thomsen, former University of Utah standouts Jason Boone and Derek Richards and former Utah State standout Brian Soi.

Aaron Boone, a wide receiver, prepped at Millard High School in Fillmore, Utah, and played collegiately at Snow Junior College and the University of Kentucky. He also played briefly in the NFL and NFL Europe. Most recently, Boone played for the AFL's Utah Blaze and recorded more than 1,500 receiving yards in 2008.

Affleck, a quarterback, prepped at Timpview High School in Provo and finished

Latest updates Most popular Most commented

- Trial set for 1984 gas station murder 9:10 p.m.
- Man pleads guilty to selling pills 9:09 p.m.
- Prosecutor: man tried to run down cop 9:07 p.m.
- Man accused of abusing infant son 9:05 p.m.
- Man faces charges in death 9:03 p.m.
- Judge OKs auction of 210 vehicles 9:01 p.m.
- Native Hawaiians close to own govt 8:18 p.m.
- Family law judge faces election 8:16 p.m.
- Jewish retiree defends Pope Pius 8:11 p.m.
- Skier dies after hitting tree 8:04 p.m.



USU blog: Live vs. NMSU

Follow along all game as I type in notes and observations from the WAC...



Blog: 10-day trial

Ten days is not much time to evaluate anyone.



Blog: Fotu out for season

Official word from the Utah sports information office: "Utah senior..."

Latest comments

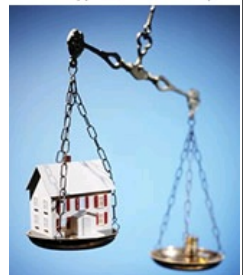
BYU QB battle to highlight practices

Hey Coach said:

Coach, I'll be an offensive lineman for spring ball. I'm 5'9" 170 lbs, but I...

A D V E R

ModifyUtah.org
Life Happens, We Can Help



LOAN MODIFICATION

- Save your Home
- Stop Foreclosure
- Save Money
- See if you qualify

Get Started!



up his collegiate career at Utah State. Last year he guided the Utah Valley Thunder of the AIFA to an 11-4 record and a berth in the playoffs. He led the AIFA in passing efficiency at 109.6. He was second in the league in passing yards (3,037) and was third in touchdown passes (58). He also rushed for 15 touchdowns.

Page: [1](#) [2](#) [Next >](#)

Recent comments

[25 comments](#)

The wife and I were thrilled when we heard that Blaze football was...
PACKFAN | Jan. 28, 2010 at 11:23 a.m.

Has noone heard of the RMFL? GO SHOCK! This Blaze team is going to be...
real football | Jan. 28, 2010 at 1:05 a.m.

I'm not sure I know him. What is his background in the business...
Tom Affleck? | Jan. 27, 2010 at 6:40 p.m.

 [Add your comment](#)

A D V E R T I S E M E N T		
Online College Degrees Get your AA, BA, Masters or PhD at a Top Online School. CollegeDegreeNetwork.com/Degrees	Compare Top CD Rates Spread Your Savings Around. Compare Rates From FDIC www.Bankrate.com	Become A Police Officer SWAT, K9, Narcotics, CSI & More. Online Degrees For Police Public-Service.com/PoliceCareers

Ads by Yahoo!

deseretnews.com: [Home](#) | [Subscription services](#) | [Contact us](#) | [FAQ](#) | [Feedback](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Purchase photos](#) | [RSS](#) | [Privacy policy](#)

Deseret News



Deseret Media Companies
enr.com | dnc.com

A D V E R T I S E M E N T	
 Enter to WIN a Classic FORD MUSTANG! 	