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SCOUTING REPORT: Aaron Boone

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SAN ANTONIO - He's a mid-20's rookie looking to make a statement

during Cowboys training camp, but certainly not to be confused with the much-celebrated 20-something cornerback Terence Newman.

He's Aaron Boone, a 25-year-old former high school quarterback who moved to wide receiver after his freshman season at Snow College, where he had been like the sixth-string quarterback behind the likes of former Oklahoma quarterback Josh Heupel at the junior college.

But, Boone's story began well before tiny Snow College.

After graduating from Millard Fillmore High School (Utah), Boone, a member of the Mormon Church, traveled to Peru on a two-year mission trip. The mission was a lifelong goal according to Boone and something he had to save for all through high school to accomplish.

"To me, it was the greatest two years of my life so far," Boone said. "It was a foundation for what I am today and what I want to be the rest of my life. When else in your life are you going to be able to walk in to the house of complete strangers and talk about things you love, God."

Boone said he learned a lot in those two years, lessons that he is using even as he fights for a spot on the Cowboys roster. He traveled to Peru to teach the Word of God, but, as he puts it, the teacher learned the most from children, teenagers and adults. He spoke with millionaires and drug lords, and even witnessed gang fights and death while in Peru. But, the work ethic he learned during the rigorous work, he says, has helped him to grow as a person.

During his two seasons at Snow, following his mission trip, Boone turned into a solid receiver, grabbing enough attention for the University of Kentucky to recruit him into its program following his MVP performance in the Dairy Bowl.

"It was definitely an adjustment," Boone said. "I was an option and passing quarterback. We were state champions and I was all-state quarterback and though I was the next best thing. Then I went to junior college and got put in my place as sixth-string quarterback. So, I switched to receiver and the only way that I've learned to get better is to work. People out here know how to work and that's why they are playing professional football."

In his senior season at Kentucky, Boone led the Wildcats with 41 catches for 706 yards and 10

Name:	Aaron Boone
Position:	Wide Receiver
Height/Weight:	6-2, 204
College:	Kentucky
Experience:	Rookie
How Acquired:	FA-03
Hometown:	Fillmore, Utah

Camp Photoboard

PHOTOBOARD



See a few shots of the Dallas Cowboys Training Camp.

Scouting Report

AARON BOONE



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Quick Hits

Temperature: 72 degrees (Alamodome)

Today's Attendance:

AM - 2,185

PM - 2,462

Total - 26,315

What's Up - The Cowboys are scheduled to practice outdoors at the Spring Sports Complex at Burbank High School Wednesday morning from 9-11, barring any bad weather. They will hold their second practice inside the Alamodome in the afternoon from 3-5. Following Bill Parcells press conference, join Mickey Spagnola and Nick Eatman for a 30-minute chat on DallasCowboys.com Wednesday afternoon.

You Don't Say

"It's like a relationship with a woman. Things are going to be good some days, things are going to be bad (other days). You iron out the good things. Some things you're going to like about a woman, some things you're not. You mix it together where you're both on the same page."

-- Cowboys quarterback Quincy Carter on a player's relationship with his head coach.

Who's Hot!

touchdowns. He finished his Kentucky career third on the school's all-time receiving list with 16 touchdown catches.

Now with the Cowboys, Boone has exhibited the type of pass-catching ability and route-running ability to add his name to the battle for backup receiver positions. He has become the "sleeper" of the receiving corps here in San Antonio. Most of the talk with regard to receivers has surrounded Joey Galloway, Antonio Bryant, Terry Glenn, Randal Williams, Ken-Yon Rambo and Reggie Swinton, but Boone has quietly gone about his business, catching everything that comes his way.

"I have two goals," Boone said. "One, my goal right now is to make this team and two, to find my role and be the best role player I can be to help the team. I'm not expecting to go out and beat Joey Galloway this year. My realistic goals are to work hard and contribute. Whatever it is, I want to do the best possible job at it that I can. Ultimately my goal is to play in the NFL."

That's not far-fetched, even for a rookie free-agent just a few years removed from Snow College.

"He's a great kid with a great work ethic, which is key," receivers coach John McNulty said. "He draws attention to himself in positive ways which helps. He's a tough kid and will do whatever you ask him to do. As a rookie, you have to show up on the tape doing something good, whether it's laying out for the ball or whatever."

To achieve his goal, Boone likely will have to show he can play special teams. Much like Williams last season, Boone has the kind of ability the coaching staff wants to see out of a receiver, but is still enough of a project that he will have to make the team as a special teams player and gain seasoning as a receiver throughout the year.

And for a guy who will travel all the way to Peru to achieve a goal, persevering through training camp learning the nuances of being an NFL wide receiver should be a piece of cake.

Kickers: Billy Cundiff and Ola Kimrin each made 9-of-10 field goal attempts in Tuesday's two practices. Both were 5-for-5 in the morning and 4-for-5 in the afternoon. Cundiff was just short from 48-yards out, and Kimrin missed from 53-yards.

Who's Not?

Zuriel Smith: The rookie wideout had a rough practice Tuesday morning, failing to field a punt that resulted in a near 20-yard loss of yardage. He also had to run a lap around the field when he didn't know the play that was being called in the huddle after being prompted by Coach Parcells for an answer.

Play of the Day

Safety Tony Dixon did a nice job of executing the tip-drill during the afternoon practice, nicely locating the ball while in the air after a deflection. Quincy Carter threw a pass too low over the middle, allowing linebacker Markus Steele to get his hands on it, tipping it up into the air. Dixon ran up to make the interception before Joey Galloway could run back to the football.

The Situation

During the afternoon practice, Parcells had the defense working on calling timeouts at crucial times in games when the clock must be conserved - such as at the end of either half. Following a play, the defense would look toward the sideline, and depending upon Parcells' signal, it would call a timeout if so signaled by the head coach. In some instances, Parcells would have the quarterbacks purposely throw an incomplete pass, testing the defense's reaction. He wanted to make sure the players knew not to waste a timeout when the clock was already stopped due to the incompletion.

Hi Mom!

So far there's not much verve for carousing after work hours out here. We've been punching the clock twelve hours a day, rising at 7 a.m. and finishing up after supper with practices each morning and afternoon. But it's all worth it. You never know what you'll see next, from nemesis confrontation between Bill Parcells and Rowdy to Larry Allen's 335-pound frame getting pancaked to the turf by a defensive lineman. Not sure, but I thought I felt the ground shake. Things aren't taking shape just yet, but we'll get a better idea of where the Cowboys stand after Saturday's scrimmage with Houston.

Rob Pilla