



News
Schedule
Stats
Roster
Depth Chart
Coaches

History
Facts
Media
Front Office

LATEST

News
Fantasy Football
Schedule
Team Rosters
Scores
Stats/Leaders
US TV Schedule
Tickets
Shop
Standings

FEATURES

Coaches Profile
History

SHOPPING

NFL shop
Visit Our Sponsors

CONTACT NFL EUROPE

Comments/Email

Big catch

May 6, 2004
By Mike Donnelly
NFL Europe

On the receiving end of several of Berlin's explosive plays this season has been wide receiver Aaron Boone. Last week against Amsterdam, Boone came up with a game breaking 37-yard touchdown reception with under three minutes left in the game to help give his team enough of a cushion to come out on top.



Aaron Boone found the endzone to give the Thunder victory last weekend. photo: photo-stock.co.uk

"It was a good feeling to get that score but all I kept thinking was do not get tackled on the 1," Boone explained. "Normally getting into the end zone has been natural for me but at this level it's more unique."

Allocated by the Chicago Bears, Boone started the season on the Thunder practice squad but he continued to practice hard and proved that he belonged out on the field on game days and was activated in Week 2. He made his first big impact two weeks later against Rhein catching 3 passes for 59 yards, including a 45-yard reception late in the fourth quarter to the Rhein 1-yard line on third down and 25 yards to go that turned out to be the play of the game.

"I've always been at the bottom of the barrel and had to work my way up," Boone said. "I work hard, wait for my chances and it happens. In the game against Rhein I was mad at myself for getting tackled at the 1-yard line because that's honestly never happened to me before in my career. It was great though to make a big catch in a pressure situation."

"We'd like to get the ball more to Boone because he's done well with his opportunites," offensive coordinator Don Eck said. "He's an intelligent player with great hands and runs good routes. He's really earned this and he deserves it."

The Utah native has made a career out of rising to the occasion. He went to junior college before making a splash at Kentucky where he played for two seasons and finished third in Wildcats history with 16 career-receiving touchdowns.

"I trained really hard for my Pro Day at Kentucky and ended up pulling my quad really bad, preventing me from getting any times recorded that day but I think my touchdown statistics alone helped to grab some attention and I soon found myself signing with the Dallas Cowboys," Boone said.

Boone went into the Dallas organization at the same time that Head Coach Bill Parcells was making his NFL return in 2003 and he immediately went to work in the Cowboys summer long program leading up to training camp.

After two weeks of camp, Boone separated his shoulder making a diving catch and it hampered the remainder of his time in camp as he found out when he was released just before the regular season. Boone spent the next year rehabbing and taking advantage of the time to attend to his business ventures.

"I graduated with a degree in international business and a minor in Spanish," Boone added. "Because of that, I've spent a lot of time travelling and importing and exporting goods. I've been to Mexico at least 25 times mostly to sell silver jewelry, have been to China where I spent several months on business finding goods that people back in the states would find interesting and have spent a lot of time in Peru."

Before heading off to college, Boone took on a two-year LDS mission in Peru. It was in Peru where Boone was able to become fluent in the Spanish language. He still uses the language in every possible situation.

"One of our offensive linemen, Rolando Cantu is from Mexico and it's always fun to speak Spanish with him and continue to practice the language," said Boone. "I actually spoke Spanish to a lady on the bus here in Berlin who was Cuban and we were both pleasantly surprised to talk Spanish in Germany of all places."

The NFL Europe experience is one that Boone is taking full advantage of. After all, with his previous international travel experience and appreciation for the game of football, what else could he ask for?

"This situation is perfect for me because I get to see a new culture and new things that can help me down the road in my business ambitions," Boone noted. "But the football experience that I'm getting here is really great. I'm getting good reps and should be able to make an easy adjustment when I get with Chicago in training camp."

Boone's playing alongside a talented receiving corps and knows that for the team to be successful that they must continue to spread the ball around. Sharing the load however, comes as no big task for Boone. He's the sixth child of ten with four brothers and five sisters. Two of his younger brothers who play collegiate football at the University of Utah are both nearly 6'6" tall and weigh around 300 pounds. Boone's brother Jesse, an upcoming junior at Utah, is the starting center while the younger brother Jason, is a red-shirt freshman and on the second team at the tackle position.

"I'm actually the runt of the family because I'm the smallest of the boys but no matter how tough the situation, I stick with it," Boone stated. "On this team we're all different receivers with no superstars and we all make plays. I'm here to be an asset to the team and develop into an all around receiver which includes good blocking and even the ability to do well on special teams because it's those kinds of things that will make me a better option when I get my opportunity in the NFL."

Powered by  SportsLine.com

(c) 1999-2002, World League Licensing LLC. NFL Europe League, NFL Europe shield design and the team marks and logos are registered trademarks of the National Football League and its affiliates. No portion of this site may be reproduced without the express written permission of World League Licensing LLC. World League Licensing LLC and SportsLine take no responsibility for third-party material appearing in any bulletin board or chat sections of this site.
All rights reserved.

Masthead photo © photo-stock.co.uk.