

Sports

BOISE STATE FOOTBALL

Broncos roll over Lobos

By Glen Rosales
Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Any talk of a trap game did not get much attention from No. 23 Boise State in practice this week.

The Broncos went out and played against a struggling New Mexico team as if a huge game was not looming on their schedule next week against No. 14 Utah State.

"This week, it was all about New Mexico," Broncos coach Bryan Harsin said. "We can control how we play the game and we did."

Sean Modster caught a career-best three touchdowns passes to lead Boise State

to a 45-14 victory over New Mexico on Friday night.

"It felt good to come out here and do what needed to get done," Modster said. "Our whole mentality was to get in and get out."

The Broncos (9-2, 6-1 Mountain West) took advantage of three turnovers by the Lobos (3-8, 1-6) that they turned into 24 points.

Modster finished with a career-high nine catches for 129 yards. Broncos quarterback Brett Rypien was an efficient 17 for 27 for 222 yards and the three scores, while running back Alexander Mattison added 145 yards and a touchdown.

The Broncos came into the game looking to break Modster open, Rypien said.

"He got some looks but at other times, it depended on what they were giving us," he said. "He just did a good job of winning the one on ones. I think our other guys are going to be hungry now that Sean had three touchdowns. I'm sure there are some other guys in that room who are going to want some red zone action as well."

Boise State limited the Lobos to 262 total yards and one touchdown, with the other touchdown coming on a punt return.

"I thought our defense

did a fantastic job," Harsin said. "They did move the ball because they're good and they have multiple ways they can attack you. We can tackle better. But our defense holding them to seven points is hard to do."

The Broncos took control of the game quickly, going 65 yards in 2:22, with Rypien hitting Modster from 15 yards out. By the end of the first quarter, the lead was up to 14-0, and Boise State led 24-7 at halftime.

"We had a hard time stopping them," New Mexico coach Bob Davie said. "Although we did fight, but the three turnovers were big."

PAC-12 FOOTBALL

Utes weather snowstorm, rout Colorado, 30-7

By Amie Stapleton
AP Sports Writer

BOULDER, Colo. — It was the No. 21 Utah Utes who weathered this storm, and they have a trip to their first Pac-12 title game to show for it.

Jason Shelley threw for 221 yards and two touchdowns and the Utes mastered the sloppy conditions in a 30-7 rout of Colorado in freezing rain and snow Saturday.

"It doesn't bother us a bit," coach Kyle Whittingham said. "We are up in the mountains in Salt Lake City, so not a problem at all. Our guys handled it very well. It didn't faze them."

So comfortable were the Utes (8-3, 6-3) that several of them warmed up shirtless.

"We're from Utah, so it's not like we don't play in the cold weather, too. It was nothing to us," said linebacker Francis Bernard, who had to step in for star Chase Hansen, who was ejected for targeting.

Buff's senior wide receiver Jay MacIntyre, on the other hand, wasn't accustomed to the foul weather.

"No, not really. This was the first real time" playing a game in snow, he said. "Me and my brother and my friends would go at night to my high school and go play in the snow sometimes. That was fun. But other than that, not really. Not like a real game."

The Utes flew home assured of at least a share of the Pac-12 title.

"It's amazing," Utes kicker Matt Gay said. "I don't think Utah has ever had a Pac-12 title, and we don't like sharing. We did our part and we feel good about that, we're hoping for someone else to do theirs and give us the full reigns of that title."

The Oregon Ducks did just that with a 31-29 win over Arizona State later Saturday night, sending the Utes to their first conference championship appearance since joining the Pac-12 in 2011.

They'll face either eighth-ranked Washington State or No. 17 Washington.

A sixth consecutive loss for the Buffaloes (5-6, 2-6) capped a week in which athletic director Rick George said he hadn't made any decisions regarding coach Mike MacIntyre's employment amid a news report that his job was in jeopardy.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Notre Dame dominates Syracuse to remain unbeaten, in line for playoffs

By Ralph D. Russo
AP College Football Writer

NEW YORK — The band was an Aaron Judge moon shot away from the field, way up in the right-field bleachers of Yankee Stadium.

Still, the Fighting Irish lined up in the end zone/outfield and sang the alma mater — just as they would have at Notre Dame Stadium — after dispatching No. 12 Syracuse and putting themselves a step away from the College Football Playoff.

Ian Book returned to the starting lineup for No. 3 Notre Dame and threw for 292 yards and two touchdowns as the Fighting Irish routed the Orange 36-3 on Saturday to stay unbeaten.

The Irish will head West next week to face struggling rival Southern California, with a spot in the playoff in their grasp.

"I don't know that if we win our last game that we're going to the playoffs, but that's not in our control," coach Brian Kelly said. "What we can control is how we prepare. If we do a good job there and win our game then we would have won all our games and we'll let people decide who should go to the playoffs."

Notre Dame held out Book from last week's home game against Florida State with a rib injury. He wasn't missed as the Irish (11-0, No. 3 CFP) rolled with Brandon Wimbrush at quarterback.

They clearly wanted to be cautious with Book ahead of their trip to the

Bronx to face high-scoring Syracuse (8-3, No. 12 CFP), averaging 44 points per game. Book, the junior quarterback who took over as the starter four games into the season, looked good as new.

"The ribs feel good," Book said. "Wasn't even thinking about them during the game."

Donning pinstripe uniforms in a tribute to the usual residents of the ballpark, Notre Dame went up 7-0 on its second possession on a 9-yard pass from Book to Dexter Williams.

The Subway Alumni, along with the bridge and tunnel crowd, packed Yankee Stadium on a 45-degree day in the Bronx. The sellout crowd was announced at 48,104.



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