

bsu football coaches history

BSU Football Coaches History: A Legacy of Leadership and Growth

bsu football coaches history is a fascinating story of leadership, resilience, and evolution that has shaped the Boise State University football program into the powerhouse it is today. From humble beginnings to national recognition, the journey of BSU's football coaches reflects both the challenges and triumphs that come with building a competitive college football team. In this article, we will dive deep into the history of BSU football coaches, highlighting key figures, their coaching philosophies, and the milestones that have defined this dynamic program.

The Early Years: Foundations of BSU Football

Boise State University's football program began in the late 1960s, and the early coaches played a crucial role in laying the groundwork. These pioneers were instrumental in establishing team culture and competitive standards.

The First Head Coaches: Setting the Tone

The first head coach of the Broncos was Tony Knap, who served from 1968 to 1975. Knap's leadership was critical in transitioning Boise State from a junior college program to a four-year institution's team. His focus on discipline and fundamentals helped the team gain respect in the Big Sky Conference. Following Knap, Jim Criner took over and continued to build the program, leading the Broncos to their first national title, which was a landmark achievement for BSU football.

Building a Winning Tradition: The Rise of BSU Football

As the program matured, the coaches who followed played pivotal roles in elevating Boise State football from a regional contender to a nationally recognized program.

Skip Hall and the Transition Years

In the mid-1980s, Skip Hall was at the helm. Though his tenure had its ups and downs, Hall's time was marked by efforts to stabilize the team and recruit talented players. This era was crucial for setting the stage for future success, as it was a period of transition and growth.

Pokey Allen: A Charismatic Leader

Perhaps one of the most beloved figures in BSU football coaches history is Pokey Allen, who coached

from 1990 to 1993. Known for his charismatic personality and passionate coaching style, Allen brought enthusiasm and energy to the program. Under his leadership, Boise State made significant strides in the Division I-AA playoffs, bringing national attention to the Broncos.

The Modern Era: National Recognition and Legendary Coaches

The true turning point in BSU football coaches history came in the late 1990s and early 2000s with coaches who transformed the program into a nationally competitive team, particularly within the FBS.

Dirk Koetter: Laying the Offensive Foundation

Dirk Koetter served as head coach from 1998 to 2000 and was instrumental in implementing an aggressive offensive strategy that would become a hallmark of BSU football. His tenure included developing a high-powered passing game and recruiting versatile athletes, setting up future coaches with a solid offensive framework.

Dan Hawkins: Elevating the Broncos

Dan Hawkins took over in 2001 and led the Broncos through their transition to the FBS level. Hawkins' leadership brought stability and success, including multiple conference championships. His focus on a balanced offense and strong defense helped Boise State compete against traditional powerhouses, earning respect in the college football landscape.

Chris Petersen: The Architect of BSU's Greatest Era

No discussion of BSU football coaches history would be complete without Chris Petersen, who coached from 2006 to 2013. Petersen's tenure marked the golden era for Boise State football, highlighted by undefeated seasons, Fiesta Bowl victories, and a national spotlight rarely afforded to non-Power Five programs.

Petersen was known for his innovative play-calling, meticulous preparation, and ability to develop players both on and off the field. His leadership not only brought trophies but also established a culture of excellence and hard work that still influences the program today.

Recent Years: Continuing the Legacy

Following Chris Petersen's departure, the program has seen new coaching leadership aiming to sustain and build upon the established success.