
From: Office of the President <noreply@m.uidaho.edu>
Sent: Friday, February 20, 2026 6:01 AM
To:
Subject: Idaho's fiercest rivalry returns

Letter from the President



Office of the President, president@uidaho.edu
Feb. 20, 2026

Dear Vandals,

Longtime Vandal football fans will never forget Joel Thomas sprinting into the end zone for a decisive two-point conversion in an overtime victory over Boise State that clinched a Big West championship in 1998. Fifteen years earlier, first-year head coach Dennis Erickson and quarterback Ken Hobart led the Vandals past Boise State and into the postseason for the first time in school history.

After a long hiatus, the Gem State's fiercest rivalry will return to the football field in 2031. The Vandals will meet Boise State on Sept. 6, 2031 in Albertsons Stadium. The U of I last played Boise State in 2010 and many Vandal fans have missed the once-annual meetings with the Broncos.

“When I started as athletic director in 2019, one of the first questions I got was, ‘when are we playing Boise State?’” U of I Athletic Director Terry Gawlik said. “We never gave up working on it.”

In addition to drawing great interest from fans, the Idaho-Boise State game is an economic win for the state. At its peak in the 1990s and early 2000s, Vandal-Bronco games were almost always sellouts. Boise State competes at the Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) level and annually pays for games with other teams at the Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) level, like Idaho. The U of I will receive \$450,000 from Boise State. Keeping that money in state is another great reason to renew the rivalry.

College football schedules are typically mapped out many years in advance. The U of I’s schedule is set through 2031, aside from one opening in 2027 — the result of Big Sky Conference realignment.

Despite the absence of football matchups in recent years, the Vandals and Broncos have tangled in several other sports. On the soccer field, the in-state rivals battled to a 1-1 tie in the P1FCU Kibbie Dome last fall. And the Broncos prevailed in a competitive men’s basketball exhibition game in October.

Boise State may be the home team when the football teams meet again, but Gawlik expects to see plenty of Vandals in Boise.

“We only have so many seats, but we hope Vandals show up in droves,” Gawlik said. “It’s great exposure; it will be a great opportunity for our team and it’s great for the state.”

We’re grateful to Boise State Interim President Jeremiah Shinn and Athletic Director Jeremiah Dickey for the opportunity to schedule Boise State. The game not only provides numerous logistical and economic benefits for our universities and the

state, but also rich memories that build pride in our Vandal Family.

Go Vandals!

C. Scott Green
President



Snapshots

New partnership expands physician training

The U of I and the Spencer Fox Eccles School of Medicine at the University of Utah are working together to expand Idaho's physician pipeline. At the direction of the State Board of Education and the Idaho Legislature, plans are in place to begin developing a regionally based undergraduate medical education program in the Treasure Valley.

[Learn more.](#)

U of I alum helps Vandalize the state

The U of I and the Spencer Fox Eccles School of Medicine at the University of Utah are working together to expand Idaho's physician pipeline. At the direction of the State Board of Education and the Idaho legislature, plans are in place to begin developing a regionally based undergraduate medical education program in the Treasure Valley.

[Learn more.](#)

UI Extension develops course for first responders

A new one-day class designed by UI Extension caters to first responders dealing with livestock that are loose or injured due to accidents on public roadways. The course fills a training gap and will help keep people and animals safe in Idaho's rural communities.

[Learn more.](#)



Vandal tennis player Chetanna Amadike was named Big Sky Conference Men's Tennis Player of the Week after posting four victories last weekend.



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University of Idaho
875 Perimeter Drive
Moscow, ID 83844
info@uidaho.edu

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