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Ex-Cat goes Hollywood

Aaron Boone has been a junior-college superstar, a Southeastern Conference standout and an NFL journeyman.

Now the former University of Kentucky wide receiver now has a new title to add to the list: Movie star.

Sort of.

Boone isn't exactly a star, but he's on screen in the new **Matthew McConaughey** movie "We Are Marshall," which opens Dec. 22.

The film, based on the true story of the 1970 Marshall football team, which lost 75 team members in a plane crash.

Boone is listed as a stuntman in the film, not an actor. His role was simply to play football, though the former wideout did so out of position.

"Guys on that team weren't quite as big," said the 6-foot-2, 207-pound Boone. "So I played defensive end, a little bit of left tackle and some linebacker – I was all over the place."

Boone found his way to the big screen thanks to playing in the Arena Football League, which has become a hot spot for football casting directors. A former teammate of Boone's in Kansas City had been cast in the **Mark Wahlberg** vehicle "Invincible," and was asked to recommend other football players when "We Are Marshall" was casting.

"It was a lot of fun," Boone said.

In March, Boone returns to his day job as an Arena Football receiver. In October, he signed with the Utah Blaze. Last season, he was named to the AFL's All-Rookie team after catching 66 passes for 748 yards and 19 touchdowns with the Kansas City Brigade.

"I've been bouncing around all over – NFL, NFL Europe – and I had shoulder surgery last season when I was with the Panthers," Boone said. "NFL teams get a little worried about you once you get hurt, and so I moved to Arena Football, and I kind of feel like I've found a home."

Boone also has a home on the internet at www.aaronboone.com.

posted by Brett Dawson at 11:19 AM

About Me



BRETT DAWSON
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For as long as I've wanted to cover sports, I've wanted to cover them at The Courier-Journal, the paper I grew up reading and the one that helped foster my love for college sports. As a kid, I devoured every word written about Kentucky, Louisville and Indiana, and in college, I imagined what it might be like to someday be the guy writing them. It took some time and seasoning before I was ready for this job, though, and that came in Champaign, Ill., where I spent five years covering University of Illinois men's basketball. That was a fantastic opportunity – not only because it afforded me the chance to cover big-time college sports on a daily basis, but because it opened the door for me to return home and fulfill a longtime dream of working at The Courier-Journal. There's been a long line of talented, hard-working folks on the University of Kentucky beat here, and there are big shoes to fill. The non-stop nature of the beat means there's news every day. But a good friend once told me that demanding as this job is, it beats working for a living, and he couldn't be more right.

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Got a question about UK sports?

Brett will respond to selected e-mails each week. Check back here to read his responses.

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