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## BLAZE NOTES: Free agent Boone happy at home

By Jay Drew  
The Salt Lake Tribune  
Salt Lake Tribune

Article Last Updated: 02/16/2007 12:35:10 AM MST

Of all the teams the Utah Blaze could have chosen to scrimmage earlier this week, the Kansas City Brigade probably would have been at the bottom of free-agent acquisition **Aaron Boone's** list. After all, Boone bolted the Arena Football League's other 2006 expansion franchise in the offseason to join his hometown team.

It wasn't as bad as he thought it might be, though, the former Millard High, Snow College and Kentucky star said after Utah's practice at Eccles Fieldhouse on Thursday.

"It was different," he said. "It was good to see some familiar faces and catch up with some people, but Utah's my home."

Did he catch any flak for jumping ship?

"Just from the owners," he said.

Boone was one of Utah's key offseason pickups, along with linebacker Frank Carter, lineman Steve Konopka and defensive back Clarence Lawson, after playing in just seven games for the Brigade last year. He caught 66 passes for 748 yards and 19 touchdowns for K.C. after he was traded from the Philadelphia Soul midway through the season, and was listed as the fifth-best free agent available by one AFL expert.

"The [Kansas City] players understood," he said. "Everyone is in the same boat. If you can be home and still play, that's where you want to be. . . What better opportunity than to play professional football in your home state?"

With training camp fully into its second week, Boone said he is still learning coach Danny White's system, one that that fellow receivers such as Siahia Burley, Orshawante Bryant and Justin Skaggs have been playing in for years.

"I am picking their brains," he said. "I am watching everything they do. I feel like there's a lot of room for improvement in my game. I want to get better and better."

For the first time since he returned home from an LDS Church mission, Boone was not at a college or NFL camp last fall. He spent the time coaching receivers at Timpanogos High in Orem, and was proud that his team put up 27 points on eventual state champion Bingham in the playoffs.

"I love coaching," he said. "I can see myself coaching some day."

### Scrimmage recap

Aside from a couple of turnovers in the red zone, the Blaze looked fine in their final scrimmage with the Brigade on Tuesday, White said.

"It was so early in camp that nobody really dominated," he said. "Our veterans against their veterans, it was a toss-up. It is going to be an even match with all [19] teams this year, I think. It will all come down to execution, as it should."

### Quarterback quest

The Blaze released second-year quarterback Tali Ena, a New Mexico product, after practice Thursday morning and activated kicker Steve Videtich. On the practice squad most of last season, Ena played in just one game and completed two passes for 30 yards and a touchdown.

His release leaves the club with three quarterbacks in camp: Joe Germaine, Jason Gesser and Travis Cole. White said Germaine is the starter, and Gesser and Cole are battling for the backup spot. The loser of that race will be relegated to the practice squad.

### Close to home

The current Blaze roster includes six former Utes: Lawson, Garrett Smith, Kautai Olevao, Jesse Boone, Lewis Powell and Richard Seals.  
*drew@sltrib.com*

**When:** March 3

**Opponent:** New Orleans VooDoo

**Where:** EnergySolutions Arena, 7 p.m.

**Tickets:** utahblaze.com or (801) 257-3111