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Boone excited to be playing with Blaze

By [Loren Jorgensen](#)

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The Kansas City Brigade finished with the worst record in the Arena Football League last season, but there was a major bright spot at the end of the year — the play of rookie receiver Aaron Boone.

Boone was back in Kansas City preparing for the 2007 AFL season this week, but that wasn't good news for the Brigade. Boone was on the Utah Blaze's side of the field instead of with his former Brigade teammates when the two teams scrimmaged at Kemper Arena in preparation for the upcoming season.

"I enjoyed being in Kansas City," said Boone, a Utah native who had 66 catches for 748 yards and 19 touchdowns in just the final seven games of the 2006 season for the Brigade. "It was good to see familiar faces and catch up with some people (in Kansas City), but Utah is my home."

Kansas City wanted to keep Boone around following his breakout final half of last season, but the former Millard High star chose to instead sign as a free agent with the Blaze. Boone's younger brother, former star Ute lineman Jesse Boone, also signed with the Blaze in the offseason.

The Boones and the rest of the Blaze returned to Salt Lake City after three days of workouts in Kansas City. They resumed practices on Thursday at the Eccles Fieldhouse at the University of Utah in preparation for their season opener March 3 at the EnergySolutions Arena against the New Orleans VooDoo.

"It was good to compete against somebody else," said Blaze coach Danny White of his team's workouts with the Brigade. "When you are competing against yourself, when the offense does good, the defense does bad ... So you have to line up against somebody else to see where you stand up."

So how did the Blaze stand up in Kansas City?

"We were fine," White said, "but it was so early in camp that I don't think anybody really dominated anybody. We were looking at a lot of young guys and so where they."

Siaha Burley, Utah's top receiver from a year ago when the team went 7-9 as an expansion franchise, feels the Blaze are well ahead of where they were last year in training camp.

"We set the tone last year for this year and Coach White made some key acquisitions in the offseason and, man, it's coming together," said Burley. "We are definitely looking to make some noise this year."

The Blaze currently have 38 players on their roster, which will have to be pared down to 24 by Feb. 24. It won't be easy for White and his assistant coaches to make decisions about his receivers.

"We've got seven quality receivers for five spots," White said.

Boone figures to be one of the keepers, however.

"He'll be fine," said White of Boone. "He's one of those guys that athletically has got it all. He's a playmaker, it's just a matter of him getting comfortable with the terminology."

Boone, who has been in training camps in the NFL and starred in the NFL Europe before joining the AFL last season, knows all about the business of professional football.

"There is never security in football," said Boone. "You've got to come out everyday and compete. It's a job that millions want to have. I look at it like that. I've got the chance of a lifetime, so every day when I suit up, I've got to make the most of it."

VIDETICH REPORTS: Blaze kicker **Steve Videtich** has joined the team and will practice today. Videtich is the AFL's all-time leading scorer as a kicker. To make room for him on the roster, backup quarterback **Tali Ena**, who spent last season on Utah's practice squad, was released. That leaves three quarterbacks in camp — starter **Joe Germaine** along with **Jason Gesser** and **Travis Cole** fighting for the backup spot. White said that he will likely keep three QBs — two on the active roster with one on the four-man practice squad.

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