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## Broncos haul in first '08 commit

Boise State landed its first football commitment for 2008 by waiting to make a scholarship offer.

Unlike many other schools that were courting Westlake Village (Calif.) Oaks Christian wide receiver Chris Potter, the Broncos refused to make a decision without making sure he was a good fit for the program.

"Until we get to know what you're about and know something about your character, we're not going to make a blanket offer, even though athletically you're in that class," is what the Broncos told the prospect, Potter's father, Dana, said.

"What really impressed us is that they do their homework with each of these guys."

Said Chris: "A lot of schools will base it off of the highlight reel. They weren't just going to base it off the film. They were going to come, meet you and make sure you fit in. When they did offer me, I knew that was a school that I could fit into."

Potter called Boise State head coach Chris Petersen and wide receivers coach Brent Pease on Friday to declare his intentions. Potter, who said he is 5-foot-10 and 170 pounds, will play quarterback for Oaks Christian this season after starting at wide receiver during his first three years in high school.

Notre Dame's Jimmy Clausen, considered by many the No. 1 quarterback recruit in the country last year, played quarterback at Oaks Christian the last three years. The Lions have won 46 consecutive games.

"If he was at any other high school in Southern California, he would have started (at quarterback)," Oaks Christian coach Bill Redell said.

Potter's future, however, is at wide receiver. He's caught 118 passes in his career, including 49 last year. Redell said four Division I players played at wide receiver in Oaks Christian's spread-it-out offense. Potter also punts, holds on kicks and returns punts for the Lions.

"He's really quick. He can catch the ball in a crowd. He's a great team player, a great character kid. He's an outstanding prospect," said Redell, who has sent 68 players to Division I football programs during his coaching career.

Potter said he had offers from Troy and Colorado State. Dana Potter said Colorado, Oregon and San Diego State were also interested. Redell said Mississippi and Kentucky offered.

"It's hard to say who was going to (offer) and who might have," Chris Potter said.

A potential flood of offers is one reason Potter decided to make his commitment. He visited Boise State in April and again in late May.

"He was actually starting to get quite a few offers and he is kind of a people pleaser and the idea of telling some people no was kind of hard for him," said Dana Potter, who coaches quarterbacks at Oaks Christian. "I knew he wanted to get it over with."

Dana Potter was a standout high school player in Southern California, sharing player of the year honors with USC standout Anthony Davis as a senior. He went to Nebraska before finishing his career at Cal State Northridge. He also coached future NFL star John Elway in high school.

Chris Potter said people still stop him in restaurants to rave about his father's playing abilities.

And after dealing with the national attention that accompanied Clausen last year, Potter is growing accustomed to the spotlight himself.

"It's definitely been fun, especially for us underclassmen. It was neat to see how the older guys were being evaluated and getting scholarships. It's something that really motivated us," Potter said. "And now that it's happening for us, it's real exciting."

Among those older guys was offensive lineman Cory Yriarte, who signed with Boise State in February. Yriarte will be a freshman this fall. The former teammates spoke after Boise State's thrilling Fiesta Bowl victory.

"One day, we're going to be in that same situation and be a part of something great," Potter said.

Commitments are non-binding until players sign a letter of intent in February.