Executive MBA
Guest Speaker

Leon Rice
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Now in his fifth season as head coach of the Boise State men’s basketball team, Leon Rice is taking the Broncos to the NCAA Tournament for the second time during his tenure and for the seventh time in school history. Rice became Boise State’s seventh head coach March 26, 2010.

This season Rice led Boise State to its first Mountain West Championship since joining the league in 2011-12. For his efforts he was named 2014-15 MW Coach of the Year by both his fellow coaches and by media that cover the league.

He is the second Boise State head coach to guide the Broncos to multiple NCAA Tournament appearances, and the first to do it in his first five seasons. Under Rice, Boise State made the NCAA Tournament as an at-large selection in both 2012-13 and 2014-15, the only such appearances in school history.

Boise State tied the school record for wins during (25; 2007-08) in 2014-15. The Broncos, the top seed in the Mountain West Tournament, advanced to the semifinals of the league championship. Boise State was predicted to finish second in the Mountain West Preseason Media Poll in 2014-15, the fourth time in Rice’s five seasons that the team outperformed its predicted finish. Boise State also cracked the top 25 in the Associated Press Polls for the first time in school history this year.

Rice eclipsed 100-career victories this season, the fourth head coach to accomplish the feat and the first to do it in his first five seasons. Rice notched his 100th victory in his 161st game, just one game shy of Dye’s school record (160). Entering the NCAA Tournament, the Broncos are 102-62 (.622) under Rice, the best record for a head coach through his first five seasons in school history.

Rice joined the Broncos after spending the previous 11 seasons at Gonzaga, where he had served as the associate head coach with the Bulldogs from 2007-10. The Bulldogs went 291-73 in Rice’s tenure on the Gonzaga staff, including a school-record 29-4 mark in both 2002 and 2006. Rice joined the Bulldogs from Yakima Valley College, where he served two seasons as an assistant coach and one as co-head coach.

Rice received his bachelor’s in physical education from Washington State in 1986 and his master’s in athletic administration, management and program development from Oregon in 1991. After one year of high school coaching, he began his collegiate career as a graduate assistant coach at Oregon in 1989, and then served two seasons as a full-time assistant coach for the Ducks. He was the head assistant coach at Northern Colorado in Greeley for three seasons prior to going to YVC.

Rice and his wife, Robin, have three sons: Brock, Max and Kade.