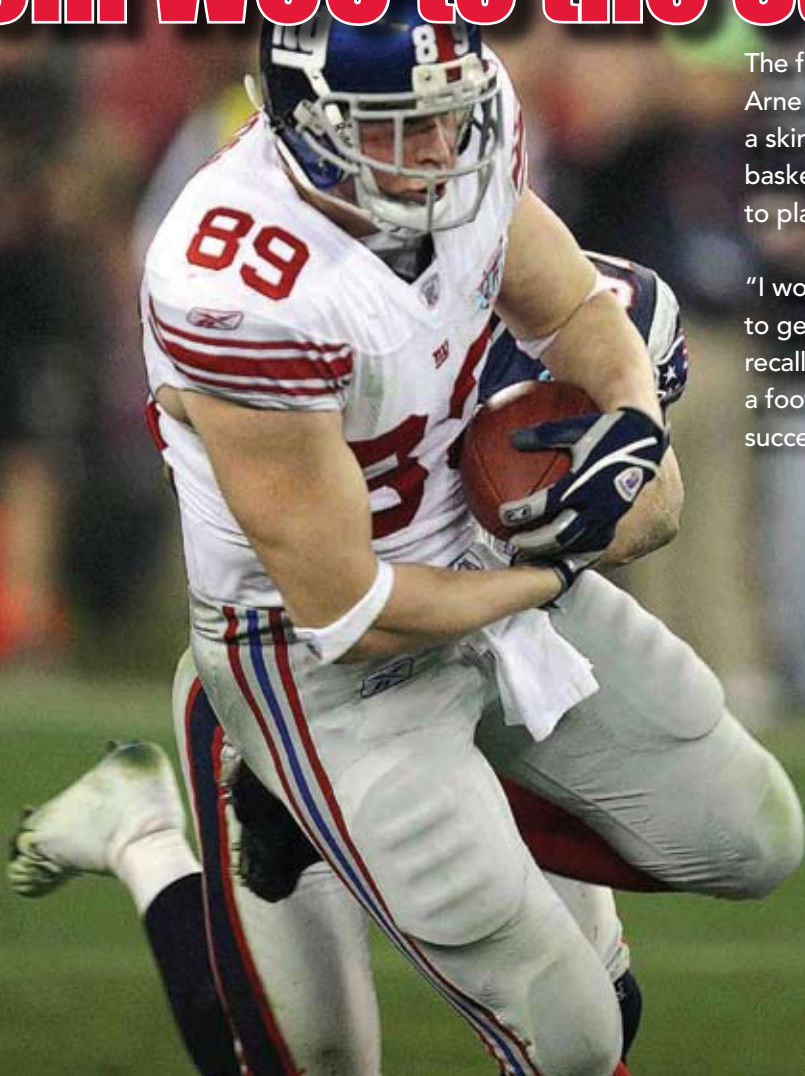


from WOU to the Super Bowl



The first time that Western Oregon football coach Arne Ferguson laid eyes on Kevin Boss, he was a skinny 6-foot-5, maybe 205-pound high school basketball player, who thought that he might want to play college football at WOU.

"I wondered right away if he had the potential to get big enough to play tight end," Ferguson recalled. "And, if he had the right make-up to be a football player because he really had been more successful in basketball."



Kevin's first love is basketball. He spent two seasons on the court in a Wolves' uniform.

Fast forward to Feb. 3, 2008, Glendale, Ariz. Kevin Boss, of the New York Giants, catches a 45-yard pass on the first play of the fourth quarter that jump-starts a Giants drive and flips the momentum of Super Bowl XLII. In one of the greatest upsets in Super Bowl history, the Giants go on to defeat the previously unbeaten New England Patriots, 17-14.

The Kevin Boss story is now familiar to legions of NFL fans across the country and especially to Oregonians and diehard Giants lovers in New York. From Ferguson's first sighting, to an All-American career at Western Oregon, to becoming a fifth-round draft pick, to starting Giants tight end when All-Pro Jeremy Shockey got hurt, to Super Bowl hero....That's the kind of copy that couldn't have been written in Hollywood.

In fall 2006, Boss was catching passes on WOU's McArthur Field in front of 3,000 fans. A little over a year later, 98 million people saw him play in the Super Bowl, the largest television audience for that event in history.

Last year, over 200 people gathered at the WOU football banquet to honor Boss and his teammates on a fine season. Last month, hundreds of thousands of fans saluted Boss and the Giants with a ticker tape parade down the Canyon of Heroes, where the Yankees, astronauts and Charles Lindbergh had previously been feted.

"I didn't want it to end," Boss said. "I wanted to take another lap."

His fans in Oregon didn't want it to end either, and when he returned home a few weeks after the Super Bowl, he was honored at the state capitol in

Salem, in his hometown of Philomath, at a Portland Trail Blazers game and at Kevin Boss Night, celebrated at a Western Oregon men's basketball game.

"I am very excited to get back to Oregon; I've really looked forward to this," Boss told the WOU crowd. "You people have been very supportive of me, and this will always be home."

Kevin Boss, starting rookie tight end, Super Bowl champion New York Giants. You just can't make this kind of stuff up.

■ Russ Blunck

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From WOU to New York (left to right): Boss races 69 yards for a touchdown against Texas A&M-Kingsville at McArthur Field; works out in Florida last winter in preparation for the NFL Draft; and makes a first down catch against the Dallas Cowboys.



Kevin Boss Night

(photo, left) On Feb. 23, 2008, a crowd of 1,370 filled the WOU Physical Education Building for the game against Seattle Pacific. It was the largest crowd at a WOU basketball game since the 1990s.



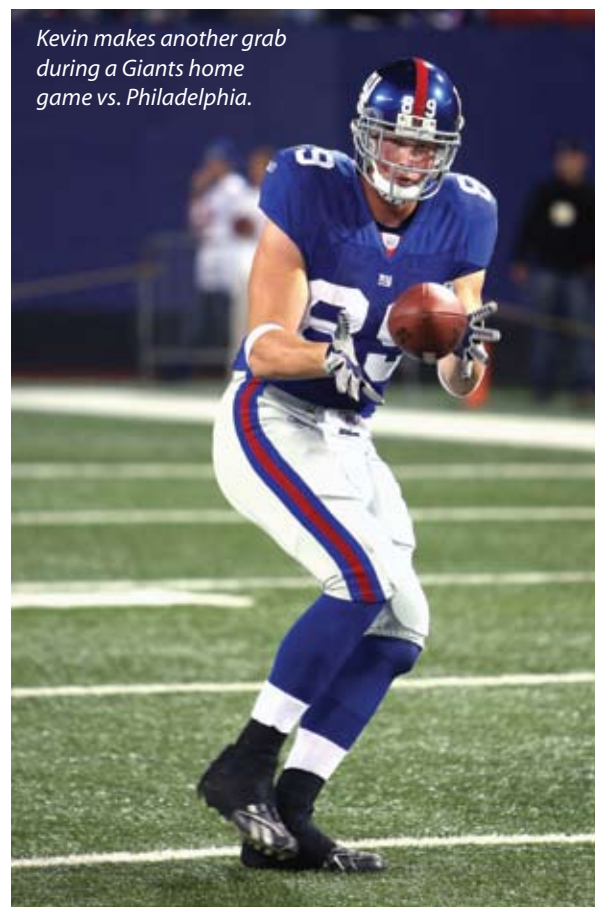
Andy Carson (center) with WOU coaches Ryan O'Malley and son Kellen (left), and Arne Ferguson and son Brooks (right).



Kevin met with Gov. Ted Kulongoski and Oregon Senate President Peter Courtney at the state capitol after the big game.



Kevin makes another grab during a Giants home game vs. Philadelphia.



12

Good Day Oregon

Fox 12 Oregon shot much of their morning show on Thursday, Jan. 31 live from WOU's Physical Education Building. Host Andy Carson interviewed coaches, players, cheerleaders, the dance team, Alternative Spring Break members and others in attendance. The show ran from 5 to 9 a.m.

Native Oregonians who have started in the Super Bowl

Kevin Boss (Philomath, New York Giants)	2008
Stan Brock (Portland, San Diego Chargers)	1995
Pete Brock (Portland, New England Patriots)	1986
Fred Quillan (Portland, San Francisco 49ers)	1985, '82
Andy Maurer (Prospect, Denver Broncos)	1978
Mel Renfroe (Portland, Dallas Cowboys)	1978, '76, '72
Bob Lilly (Pendleton, Dallas Cowboys)	1972, '71

WOU players in the NFL

Kevin Boss, New York Giants	2007
Jeff Charleston, Indianapolis Colts	2007
Brian Crawford, Minnesota Vikings (drafted, injured, DNP)	2001-02