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Sports

Field creates colorful exchange between UNH, Boise State

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By Chris Hunn, Register Staff

NEW HAVEN — Boise State is ranked among the nation's best in Division I college football. The University of New Haven, a Division II program, is making a comeback to the gridiron this season after a five-year absence.

But the two schools are more closely linked than it may seem. When New Haven hosted Bentley Saturday in its home opener, the Chargers joined the Broncos as the only colleges in the nation to play on a blue turf.

Though New Haven's isn't just blue.

"We have a blue and gold field, which was originally our intent," New Haven athletic director Debbie Chin said. "Those are our school colors. We don't have the same colors as Boise State."

There have been multiple discussions between Boise State and New Haven for the past year after Boise State initially contacted New Haven, expressing concerns with the Chargers' color — or colors — of choice for their field.

"Since 1986, the blue field has been an iconic symbol for Boise State University and Boise," Boise State director of trademark licensing and enforcement Rachel Bickerton said in a statement. "It is recognized near and far as the home of Broncos. We consider the blue turf to be part of our identity, and we place great value on that uniqueness."

The two schools have plans to reach a licensing agreement in the near future. New Haven's vice president of finance George Synodi could not comment on the agreement because it has not yet been finalized. He did say New Haven will not have to pay any money to Boise State and confirmed Boise State did not take any legal action against New Haven.

Bickerton said Boise State is in the "process" of applying for a registered trademark for its blue field. Bickerton said New Haven is the only university that is opposing Boise State's trademark application, but would not confirm if Boise State had any similar situations with other schools in the past.

New Haven's field is made by the company Sprinturf. Boise State's is made by Field Turf.

"We expect to reach an agreement to protect both of the universities and their assets," Synodi said. "We've made a big investment in the field and need to protect that. We understand they feel the same way."

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