

# Sports

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## RECRUITING IN A PANDEMIC

# Heading toward a dream

Louisiana Tech women's soccer inks Carson High's Rabideau

By Carter Eckl  
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There's nothing easy about flying to a new state, or moving nearly 2,000 miles away from home to keep pursuing your dream.

Carson High's Madison Rabideau plans to do just that next year after signing her Letter of Intent last week to continue her soccer career at Louisiana Tech.

Rabideau, who has been playing soccer since she was 5, said her family is one of her support systems.

When she heads to Ruston, Louisiana, the outgoing Senator said the closest family she will have nearby would be about a three-and-a-half hour drive away.

"The distance will be hard because me and my family are so close. Throughout my soccer career, they've always been there," said Rabideau.

### THE STEPS TOWARD THE DECISION

Nothing about visiting and figuring out recruitment visits – or even talking with coaches – has been easy in 2020.

When not donning the royal blue and white, Rabideau has been playing club soccer in Reno due to the lack of high school competition.

Competing with and against the best players in the area has built the Senator senior into who she is on the soccer field.

It's also helped shape her



JEFF MULVIHILL, JR./INSTAIMAGE.COM

Carson High's Madison Rabideau looks to move the ball upfield during her junior season with the Senators. Rabideau officially penned her commitment to Louisiana Tech women's soccer last week.

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## MOUNTAIN WEST RANKINGS

# Pack holds top spot

By Joe Santoro  
For the Nevada Appeal

The Boise State Broncos aren't going away.

The Broncos, coming off an eye-opening 51-17 loss to BYU the previous week, dismantled the Colorado State Rams 52-21 last Thursday to hold onto the No. 2 spot in this week's Nevada Appeal Mountain West football rankings.

The Nevada Wolf Pack (4-0 overall, 4-0 in league play) remained on top of the rankings with a 27-20 victory over the New Mexico Lobos. There were no changes to the top five spots in the rankings as San Jose State San Diego State and Fresno State, all winners last weekend, remain ranked No. 3 through 5.

Boise State (3-1, 3-0) blocked three Colorado State kicks and returned all three for touchdowns. Avery Williams blocked two punts and fell on one of them for a touchdown.

"Every time he's on the field you know a play is always going to be made," Boise State linebacker Riley Whimpey said. "He's just got a blue-collar mindset."

Williams' block (and touchdown) of a Rams' punt gave Boise State a 7-0 lead.

"Special teams play has always been my thing," Williams said. "We knew with the scheme (Colorado State) had, I could come off the edge, use my speed and go get one."

"We needed to be aggressive," Boise State coach Brian Harsin said.

The Broncos' Kekaula Kaniho also returned a blocked field goal 91 yards for a touchdown. Quarterback Hank Bachmeier returned from a two-game absence and completed 16-of-28 passes for 202 yards and a five-yard touchdown pass to Riley Smith. Bachmeier is 36-of-56 for 470 yards, four

RANKINGS, A13

## NFL

# Raiders' defense steps up to challenge during 3-game streak

By Josh Dubow  
AP Pro Football Writer

LAS VEGAS— Coach Jon Gruden challenged the Las Vegas defense a few weeks ago after it was picked apart for 45 points in a loss to Tom Brady and Tampa Bay.

The unit has responded the past three weeks and is a big part of the team's three-game winning streak that has the Raiders in the thick of the AFC playoff race, headed into a showdown against Kansas City.

The Raiders intercepted four passes, recovered one fumble, and completely flummoxed Drew Lock in a 37-12 victory on Sunday over the Denver Broncos.

"Them boys went crazy," running back Josh Jacobs said. "It was fun celebrating them doing good and just seeing them make plays. You just see them have fun and flying around and not think too much. So hopefully we can translate that into next week."

Las Vegas held Cleveland to six points in a bad-weather game in Week 8, made a stop in the end

zone at the end of a win over the Chargers last week, and then delivered one of the franchise's best defensive performances in years against the Broncos.

The Raiders had their first four-interception game since 2008 and first game with five takeaways in seven years. A much-maligned group in recent years is starting to perform better.

Over the past three weeks, the Raiders rank in the top five in takeaways (7), passer rating against (68.1) and points allowed (14.7 per game).

"We didn't make any huge changes," safety Jeff Heath said. "I think we know the plan a little bit, but really, we're just playing better. It's just what it comes down to. It's not about the plan, it's not about who we're playing, it's not about the conditions. You got to play good, you just got to do your job. Play in and play out for the entire game."

### WHAT'S WORKING

Running game. The Raiders have rushed for at least 150 yards in three straight games for just the second time in the past 10

seasons after running 41 times for 203 yards and four TDs. Jacobs ran for 112 yards and two scores. Devontae Booker added 81 yards and two TDs, making them just the second Raiders duo to both reach 80 yards and two TDs in a game. Tyrone Wheatley and Napoleon Kaufman did it in 1999 vs. Tampa Bay.

### WHAT NEEDS HELP

Penalties. The Raiders have cleaned up their penalties this

RAIDERS, A13