

HB Arnett's

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IN NCAA PARLANCE, BYU HAD A GREAT BODY OF WORK

As they like to say in seeding teams for the NCAA tournament, you can't judge a team by one late-season loss, but have to take into consideration their season-long body of work.

That certainly applies to BYU and their just completed basketball season.

Despite a season ending 84-72 second-round loss to Kansas State to end the 2009-10 season, BYU turned in a great body of work this year.

That work included accumulating the most wins ever in a BYU basketball season. The Cougars finished at 30-6 over all.

There was also a NCAA first round win, something that hadn't been done by a BYU basketball team for the last 17 years. And it wasn't just any long-time-coming win; this one was a 99-92 double-overtime thriller against Florida.

The BYU basketball body also bulked up in the national respect arena. The Cougars had a nice ranked run nationally during the regular season. It's been a while since you could find BYU scores in the Top 25 category.

While every team would love to have a "Hoosiers" ending to their season by winning it all, the reality of college basketball is that only one team gets that story-book ending.

While the Cougars didn't have a "Jimmy Chitwood" culminating climax to their story, they did have Jimmer Fredette. He produced enough scene-stealing moments in the BYU movie this season to be worth the prices of admission all by himself.

College basketball, however, is not a feel-good movie. It is a documentary which almost always details the cold hard facts of the sport.

The teams with the best players usually win.

As Kansas State proved, BYU had some very good players, but the Wildcats had better.

That shouldn't diminish the excitement and accomplishments of this BYU team.

They were good. They were exciting and they certainly were entertaining. We know a special season when we see one. What Cougars basketball fans saw this year was special.

We can't wait for the sequel.

Good, Better and Best

We remember hearing a talk about choices we make in life. The speaker categorized our choices and options we have as good, better and best.

Good, Better and Best also applies to guards.

In BYU's 99-92 two overtime win versus Florida last Thursday, Michael Loyd, Jr. was good. His 26 points off the bench for BYU kept the Cougars in the game and gave them a chance for a win.

Florida's Kenny Boynton, was better. His 27 points almost won the game for the Gators and probably would have if he hadn't fouled out of the game.

Jimmer Fredette was the reason Boynton fouled out and based on the BYU junior and his 37 points and clutch baskets made in the second overtime, he was the best guard in the game.

In the season finale against Kansas State on Saturday, Denis Clemente of K-State was a good guard. He scored 19 points. Jimmer Fredette of BYU was a better guard based on his 21 points, but Jacob Pullen, the other Wildcat guard, was clearly the best guard in the game. He lit up the Cougars for 34 points and was one of the defensive reasons that Fredette was basically held in check.

There are many who believe that NCAA post-season success is based on good guard play. We certainly buy that.

On the other hand, without at least decent play in the front court in the scoring, defense and rebounding department, it is hard for even great guards to carry a team on their shoulders.

BYU's front line was certainly good enough to compete in Mountain West Conference play, but against Florida and Kansas State, they were beaten by better and best front court players on the Gator and Wildcat rosters.

Good low post play is still required for a team to be a better or even best team.

When glancing at the 16 teams still playing in the NCAA tourney, the surprise shouldn't be that St. Mary's, Northern Iowa and Cornell are still playing, but that a big reason they are playing is because they all have productive post players.

None of those post players were highly recruited or would be considered blue chip athletes. All they do is produce.

BYU, under Dave Rose has been a good team. This year they were a better team, bordering on a best team. To make the transition to a best team, it appears to us that they need to get better post players or develop the post players already in the program to the next level of play.

Cornell, St. Mary's and Northern Iowa either all lucked out and stumbled on to productive big men, or they did a great job of developing big men that most name programs deemed not good enough at the time of their recruitment.

We like this BYU coaching staff. They are good. With Brandon Davies returning in the post for his sophomore year and beyond, we will see if this staff can go to the next levels of better and best by how Davies progresses and develops.

GOOD, BETTER AND BEST ALSO APPLIES TO SPRING FOOTBALL

After one week of spring drills, it is no secret that most of the public and media attention is focused on the three-man quarterback race.

Riley Nelson, James Lark and Jake Heaps all have had their moments during the first week of practice.

Who cares? We don't. This quarterback derby is interesting, but to us it is not riveting.

Here's why.

It is not a choice between quarterbacks that are ordinary, competent and just okay.

All three are good. BYU, in our opinion, could win a lot of football games over the next few seasons with either of the three.

For BYU football coaches, they are faced with a choice of good, better and best.

Quite frankly, there has been nothing significant to show any separation between the three competitors.

We aren't going to lose any sleep over this battle. BYU coaches will choose the quarterback that they think gives BYU a chance to be the best football team they can be.

And even if they make a mistake and choose the wrong guy, BYU will still have a very, very good quarterback running the offense. That is what happens when you have three talented quarterbacks competing against each other.

Of more concern to us is the defense.

The defensive backfield is always going to be what it has been. It will never be the strength of a BYU defense. This year will be no exception.

What has us interested is how the front seven shakes out.

This spring, there simply aren't enough quality bodies participating to get an accurate read on who will be playing and contributing.

Quite frankly, we don't expect that to happen until a full and healthy roster is available in fall practice.

Here is the current **Spring Football Roster**.

Num.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Pos.	Class	Hometown	Years Rostered				
20	<u>Lee Aguirre</u>		5-9	204	DB	Sr. El Monte, CA / Fullerton College	2009	2010			
72	<u>Nick Alletto</u>		6-6	329	OL	Sr. Parker, CO / Ponderosa HS	2004	2007	2008	2009	2010
56	<u>Famika Anae</u>		6-5	260	OL	Fr. Provo, UT / Timpview HS	2010				
11	<u>Ross Apo</u>		6-4	190	WR	Fr. Arlington, TX / The Oakridge School	2010				
29	<u>Luke Ashworth</u>			6-2	196	WR	Sr. Provo, UT / Timpview HS	2005	2008	2009	2010
43	<u>Jordan Atkinson</u>			6-3	243	LB	Sr. Martinez, CA / Diablo Valley JC		2009	2010	
5	<u>Brandon Bradley</u>			6-0	200	DB	Sr. Tallahassee, FL / Lincoln HS		2006	2007	2008 2009
2010											
75	<u>Braden Brown</u>			6-6	250	OL	So. Salt Lake City, UT / Highland HS		2008	2009	2010
87	<u>Rhen Brown</u>	5-10		187	WR	So. Summerville, SC / Lone Peak HS	2009	2010			
60	<u>Terence Brown</u>			6-3	340	OL	Jr. Summerville, SC / Summerville HS		2005	2008	2009 2010
79	<u>Thomas Bryson</u>			6-5	230	DL	Fr. Layton, UT / Layton HS	2010			
26	<u>Robbie Buckner</u>			5-10	175	DB	So. Ashdown, AR / Ashdown HS		2006	2009	2010
4	<u>O'Neill Chambers</u>			6-2	210	WR	Jr. Harmony, FL / Harmony HS	2008	2009	2010	
12	<u>Stephen Covey</u>			5-11	188	WR	Jr. Provo, UT / Timpview HS	2005	2008	2009	2010
10	<u>JJ Di Luigi</u>	5-9		198	RB	Jr. Canyon Country, CA / Canyon HS	2007	2008	2009	2010	
25	<u>Corby Eason</u>	5-8		174	DB	Jr. Columbus, GA / Erie CC	2009	2010			
89	<u>Matthew Edwards</u>			6-3	206	TE	Jr. N. Salt Lake City, UT / Woods Cross HS			2008	2009
2010											
77	Garrett Eskelsen			6-4	213	DL	So. Ballwin, MO / Parkwa West HS		2010		
16	<u>JD Falslev</u>	5-8		173	WR	Fr. Logan, UT / Sky View HS	2009	2010			
27	<u>David Foote</u>	5-11		212	RB	So. Washington, UT / Pine View HS	2009	2010			
28	<u>Landon Fowler</u>			5-11	184	DB	So. Kaysville, UT / Davis HS	2009	2010		
48	<u>Jameson Frazier</u>			6-2	201	LB	Jr. Draper, UT / Alta HS	2008	2009	2010	
54	<u>Ryan Freeman</u>			6-2	280	OL	Jr. Orem, UT / Orem HS	2006	2009	2010	
98	<u>Romney Fuga</u>			6-1	295	DL	Jr. Huntington Beach, CA / Edison HS		2006	2009	2010
18	<u>Jray Galea'i</u>	6-0		193	DB	Fr. Laie, HI / Kahuku HS	2009	2010			
83	<u>Spencer Hafoka</u>			6-0	196	WR	Jr. Kahuku, HI / Kahuku HS	2008	2009	2010	
32	<u>Mike Hague</u>	5-10		223	RB	Jr. Salt Lake City, UT / Brighton HS	2006	2009	2010		
76	<u>Braden Hansen</u>			6-6	300	OL	So. Sandy, UT / Alta HS	2006	2009	2010	
9	<u>Jake Heaps</u>	6-2		205	QB	Fr. Issaquah, WA / Skyline HS	2010				
56	<u>Connell Hess</u>	6-0		210	LB	So. Boise, ID / Capital HS	2010				
2	<u>Cody Hoffman</u>			6-4	200	WR	Fr. Crescent City, CA / Del Norte HS		2009	2010	
51	<u>Shane Hunter</u>			5-10	236	LB	Sr. Idaho Falls, ID / Snow College		2008	2009	2010
6	<u>McKay Jacobson</u>			5-11	192	WR	Jr. Southlake, TX / Southlake Carroll HS		2006	2009	2010
17	<u>Landon Jaussi</u>			6-5	210	DB	Sr. Wylie, TX / Southern Virginia		2007	2008	2009 2010
95	<u>Kalama Kaluhiokalani</u>			6-0	250	DL	So. Kaneohe, HI / Kamehameha HS		2010		
33	<u>Bryan Kariya</u>	6-0		214	RB	Jr. Kaysville, UT / Davis HS	2005	2008	2009	2010	
3	<u>James Lark</u>	6-2		219	QB	So. St. George, UT / Pine View HS		2006	2007	2010	
31	<u>Aveni Leung-Wai</u>			6-1	220	LB	Jr. Aiea, HI / Grossmont JC	2010			
7	<u>Brian Logan</u>	5-6		176	DB	Sr. Fremont, CA / Foothill College	2009	2010			
84	<u>Devin Mahina</u>			6-6	225	TE	Fr. Upland, CA / Upland HS	2010			
19	<u>Matt Marshall</u>	5-10		171	WR	Jr. Salt Lake City, UT / Skyline HS	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
13	<u>Carter Mees</u>	5-11		192	DB	So. St. George, UT / Pine View HS	2006	2009	2010		
47	<u>Zane Mendenhall</u>			5-9	190	RB	Fr. Alpine, UT / Lone Peak HS	2010			
35	Zed Mendenhall			6-0	245	RB	So. Alpine, UT / Lone Peak HS	2006	2010		
30	<u>Zeke Mendenhall</u>			5-11	203	DB	Sr. Alpine, UT / Snow College	2009	2010		
82	<u>Mike Muehlmann</u>			6-4	227	TE	Fr. American Fork, UT / American Fork HS			2009	2010
13	<u>Riley Nelson</u>	6-0		207	QB	Jr. Logan, UT / Utah State	2009	2010			
68	<u>Austin Nielsen</u>			6-0	233	LB	So. Glendale, AZ / Sandra Day O'Connor HS			2006	2009
2010											
44	<u>Brandon Ogletree</u>			5-11	222	LB	So. McKinney, TX / McKinney HS		2008	2009	2010
12	<u>Paul Olsen</u>	5-11		195	DB	Fr. American Fork, UT / American Fork HS		2010			
38	<u>Mitch Payne</u>	6-2		210	K	Sr. North Ogden, UT / Weber HS	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
50	<u>Remington Peck</u>			6-4	240	DL	Fr. South Jordan, UT / Bingham HS		2009	2010	
1	<u>Jordan Pendleton</u>			6-2	228	LB	Jr. South Jordan, UT / Bingham HS		2007	2008	2009 2010
86	<u>BJ Peterson</u>	6-3		206	WR	Sr. Salt Lake City, UT / Brighton HS	2007	2008	2009	2010	
90	<u>Matt Peterson</u>			6-5	255	DL	So. Bluffdale, UT / Riverton HS	2009	2010		
41	<u>Matt Putnam</u>	6-6		255	DL	Jr. Brigham City, UT / Box Elder HS	2007	2008	2009	2010	
36	<u>Joshua Quezada</u>			5-11	210	RB	Fr. La Habra, CA / La Habra HS	2010			

55	<u>Matthew Relei</u>	6-0	203	LB	Fr.	<u>Sonora, CA / Sonora HS</u>	2009	2010		
78	<u>Houston Reynolds</u>	6-2	303	OL	Fr.	<u>Provo, UT / Timpview HS</u>	2009	2010		
70	<u>Matt Reynolds</u>	6-6	329	OL	Jr.	<u>Provo, UT / Timpview HS</u>	2007	2008	2009	2010
22	<u>Andrew Rich</u>	6-3	223	DB	Sr.	<u>Ogden, UT / Snow JC</u>	2008	2009	2010	
94	<u>Jordan Richardson</u>	6-3	275	DL	So.	<u>Idaho Falls, ID / Bonneville HS</u>		2006	2009	2010
37	<u>Vic So'oto</u>	6-3	265	DL	Sr.	<u>Carlsbad, CA / Carlsbad HS</u>		2005	2006	2007 2008 2009
<u>2010</u>										
73	<u>Jason Speredon</u>	6-5	313	OL	Sr.	<u>West Valley City, UT / Granger HS</u>		2006	2007	2008 2009
<u>2010</u>										
99	<u>Riley Stephenson</u>	6-0	183	K/P	So.	<u>St. George, UT / Pine View HS</u>		2009	2010	
30	<u>Malosi Te'o</u>	5-10	203	RB	Fr.	<u>Laie, HI / Kahuku HS</u>	2009	2010		
24	<u>Steven Thomas</u>	5-11	176	DB	Jr.	<u>Chino Hills, CA / Chino Hills HS</u>		2007	2008	2009 2010
62	<u>Marco Thorson</u>	6-3	321	OL	Jr.	<u>Ramona, CA / Ramona HS</u>	2005	2009	2010	
46	<u>Masi Tuitama</u>	6-2	215	LB	So.	<u>Oxnard, CA / Pacifica HS</u>	2008	2009	2010	
71	<u>David Tuitupou</u>	6-5	254	DL	So.	<u>Orem, UT / Mountain View HS</u>		2008	2009	2010
23	<u>Travis Uale</u>	6-2	195	DB	Jr.	<u>Hawaii Kai, HI / Kamehameha HS</u>	2008	2009	2010	
45	<u>Harvey Unga</u>	6-0	237	RB	Sr.	<u>Provo, UT / Timpview HS</u>	2006	2007	2008	2009 2010
3	<u>Kyle Van Noy</u>	6-4	209	LB	Fr.	<u>Reno, NV / McQueen HS</u>	2010			
93	<u>Simote Vea</u>	5-11	245	DL	Jr.	<u>Hau'ula, HI / BYU-Hawaii</u>	2009	2010		
49	<u>Jadon Wagner</u>	6-4	264	DL	Jr.	<u>Lethbridge, Alberta / LCI</u>	2007	2008	2009	2010
74	<u>Brad Wilcox</u>	6-7	265	OL	Fr.	<u>Edmond, OK / North HS</u>	2010			
18	<u>Richard Wilson</u>	6-2	238	LB	Fr.	<u>Spanish Fork, UT / Spanish Fork HS</u>		2009	2010	