

HB Arnett's **COUGAR SPORTSLINE**

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BASKETBALL BRIEFS

Rogers to Make Official Visit...Dave Rose and his top assistant, Dave Rice, both made an official in-home recruiting visit with juco wing Stephen Rogers this past Saturday.

It must have gone well because Rogers now says that he will make an official campus visit to BYU next week. Official letters of intent can start to be signed this Wednesday, April 14.

Rogers will be making an official visit to New Mexico this weekend. He originally said that he would make his college decision after his trip to Albuquerque. Now he is saying he won't do anything until after his trip to Provo. It will be a choice of BYU, Utah State or New Mexico.

A lot of people are saying that BYU has come out of nowhere in the recruitment of Rogers. Not us.

BYU has had a recruiting relationship with the 6-8 Rogers since he was in high school. Dave Rose went down to watch him play in Arizona in February.

Here is the college chronology of Rogers to date. After graduating from Mountain View HS in Mesa, Arizona, he signed with the University of San Diego when Brad Holland was the head coach.

Instead of enrolling at USD, he left for an LDS mission to Cleveland. When he returned, Holland had been canned and Bill Grier, the current Torero coach, didn't honor the scholarship.

Rogers, enrolled at ASU and redshirted in 2008-2009 for coach Herb Sendek. He left after one year, citing differences with the coaching staff.

Last season he played at Mesa Community College and was named the ACCAC player of the year.

According to at least one media report, Rogers says that in the recently completed in-home visit with BYU's Rose, the Cougar head coach told Rogers that he sees him as a player to take over Jonathan Tavernari's role, which is a shooter that can spread the floor with his outside range.

It will be interesting to see if Steve Alford, the New Mexico coach, tells Rogers on his visit to

Albuquerque this weekend if he equates Rogers with Tavernari.

You may remember that Alford used a less-than-complimentary word in describing Tavernari to his face in a post-game meet and greet. That comment was caught on camera and Alford got the meaningless MWC rebuke and reprimand.

Frequent Flyer Miles and Fredette...There is still no official word on a potential BYU basketball game to be played in New York to allow the high-scoring senior-to-be guard to play close to his Glens Falls hometown.

Originally, a game against Penn State in Albany appeared to be in the works and some say it is still being negotiated, but is contingent on clearing a date in mid December.

Now there are other reports that a game in Glens Falls itself may come to fruition, with a matchup against Vermont.

INTRIGUE, MYSTERY AND MACHINATION

I watched the movie Ghostwriter this past weekend.

Basically the plot revolves around a CIA connection with the British Prime Minister that is discovered by the ghost writer of the Prime Minister's memoirs.

I liked the movie except for the finale which was a real thud, literally.

The movie had plenty of intrigue, mystery and machination. So does the current BYU quarterback battle.

The movie didn't have a happy ending. For two of the current three BYU quarterbacks, there also won't be a happy ending.

While there may be intrigue and mystery as far as the fan base is concerned about which quarterback will emerge as the starter on opening day in September, we guarantee that things are much clearer for the Cougar coaching staff.

They know what they have and what they will use.

That brings us to machinations.

Despite talk about how this QB race will be decided in the fall, I would be surprised if the Cougar coaching staff doesn't already have strong ideas of how it will end.

The key this spring, in my opinion, was about keeping all quarterbacks engaged, encouraged and matriculated in school when fall comes around.

The coaching staff does a lot of preliminary game planning for opponents during the summer before fall camp starts. For that to really work, the coaches have to have a very, very good idea already of whom they will have at quarterback so they can game plan around his set of skills.

When it comes to movies, mystery and machinations, I don't think it was coincidental that BYU's media information department released the complete spring passing statistics of the three quarterbacks competing for the starting job.

Here they are.

Riley Nelson completed 29-of-51 passes for 389 yards and 5 touchdowns.

James Lark completed 27-of-46 passes for 253 yards and 0 touchdowns.

Jake Heaps completed 62-of-105 passes for 774 yards and 7 touchdowns.

You can bet that those stats weren't released without running it by Bronco Mendenhall.

I can't remember any other time after the conclusion of spring football drills that stats like that were ever released publicly.

You don't have to be a ghost writer or genius to write the conclusion of this story. There will be plenty of feel good fluff stories penned between now and September, but as far as I am concerned, the final chapter is set in stone.

You don't have to be a CIA analyst to figure it out. BYU is a passing offense. Jake Heaps is a passer. Story closed.

Stadium Snapshots

Here are just a few observations from last Saturday's final practice session which was open to the public.

A year after the installation of a new grass surface in LaVell Edwards Stadium, the turf in the stadium is still not right. Big divots are still being produced. That also happens when I chunk my four iron while playing golf.

Eventually, you have to admit that big chunks of grass being displaced indicates that I am not that good of a golfer and that LaVell Edwards stadium doesn't have a good surface. Time has not improved my golf swing and it apparently hasn't improved BYU's stadium turf.

All spring we heard that BYU wouldn't be scrimmaging much or holding a spring game because they only had 6-7 healthy offensive linemen.

During warmups for the final practice session last Saturday, we counted at least 15 offensive linemen thumping and thudding with each other.

Maybe a more accurate statement would be that BYU only had 6-7 offensive linemen this spring healthy enough and good enough to hold meaningful scrimmages.

PLAYER COMPARISONS

There were plenty of new or inexperienced BYU football players on parade this spring. They remind-

ed us of other players we have seen play.

Jake Heaps...Think Kellen Moore of Boise State, but with a much stronger arm.

Riley Nelson...Remember Bradley Van Pelt of CSU. Nelson is a smaller and less physical version. Average passer, great runner and team leader.

James Lark...Like Brett Ratliff of Utah a few years ago, it will take injuries to other quarterbacks for Lark to see the field this fall. When and if he does, like Ratliff, we expect Lark to deliver.

Josh Quezada...He will never have as many carries as DonTrell Moore had at New Mexico, but Quezada will have a great career at BYU. Like Moore, he isn't a break away back, but he moves the chains and scores touchdowns between the tackles.

Kyle Van Noy...Has similar athletic abilities and talent as Utah's Stephenson Sylvester.

Cody Hoffman and Ross Apo...Still way too early to tell if this pair of young receivers can be play makers, but physically they remind us of Malcolm Floyd of Wyoming, only not quite as tall. Great size and athleticism.

Uona Kavienga...The transfer from USC can't see the field for another season, but he reminds me of Beau Bell of UNLV. He may be the closest thing to a dominant BYU middle linebacker Cougar fans have seen since Rob Morris. He is not as big as Morris, however.

Devin Mahina...Too raw and too fresh from mission to make any comparisons.

Brandon Ogletree...Looks like he could be the next Shay Muirbrook. Small, but big, big motor.

Thomas Bryson...Athletically and physically looks like he could be the next Ryan Denney, but has a long way to go to prove it on the field.

SPRING SPORTS

Volleyball...The BYU men's volleyball team is on a tear. The Cougars racked up their 10th consecutive win last weekend by defeating Cal Baptist 3-0.

The Cougars are now 20-7 on the year and 14-6 in MPSF play and are ranked as the No. 2 team nationally.

If BYU can defeat Cal State Northridge this coming weekend in Provo, they would finish as champions of the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation. Northridge beat BYU earlier this year in California.

Capturing the MPSF title would also allow the Cougars to host some post season tournament games and give them a great chance to make the NCAA Final Four.

Baseball...The Cougars dropped two of three games against New Mexico last week. The series was played in Albuquerque.

BYU is now 14-16 overall and only 4-5 in Mountain West Conference play. They have a big week of

baseball coming up this week.

Vance Law's Cougars will host Kansas State in Provo in single games on Tuesday and Wednesday and then get a second chance at the TCU Horned Frogs.

The three-game series in Provo includes single games on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. The Frogs took two of three games from BYU in Fort Worth in March.

The TCU-BYU games will be broadcast live on BYUTV. First pitch is at 6:00 pm Mountain Time on Thursday and Friday. The Saturday game starts at 1:00 pm.

Softball...The BYU women improved their season record to 26-8 and 2-0 in league play with a two-game sweep of Utah last Friday and Saturday in Provo.

The Cougars beat the Utes 4-1 on Friday and came back for a 6-5 win on Saturday. Utah is now 17-20 and 0-2.

The next appearance for the Lady Cougars on BYUTV will be later this month when they face CSU on April 29 and New Mexico April 30 and May 1.