

HB Arnett's

# ***COUGAR SPORTSLINE***

801 372 0819

[hbarnett@fiber.net](mailto:hbarnett@fiber.net) and [hbarnett@xmission.com](mailto:hbarnett@xmission.com)

PO Box 50424 Provo, Utah 84605

**Vol. 29, Issue 24 – January 12, 2009**

[Click Here To Order Or Renew Your Subscriptions](#)

## **WEEKEND BASKETBALL RESULTS INDICATE THAT BYU REALLY IS GOOD**

Based on what we saw this past weekend, BYU really is a good basketball team.

How can you argue with the Cougars tinkering and toying with Colorado State in Fort Collins? BYU completely outclassed CSU with an 86-60 blowout on the Rams' home court.

As they like to say in football, it really wasn't that close.

The Cougars at one point in the game and before both benches cleared, was up by 37 points.

We were impressed and so was Ram head coach Tim Miles. "The biggest thing is when you don't perform well on offense against BYU, they turn into the 1985 Lakers on you and run it right down your throat," said the second-year CSU coach. "In transition, they make 3's, they get to the rim. They're quick and fast, and they just gobble you up. and that's really what they did. We broke down on offense, and they made us pay on the other end."

The win over CSU was not unexpected. After all the Cougars are currently 13-2 and the Rams are now 5-11.

"There's a lot of difference between us and BYU right now, but the greatest difference is they don't get rattled, they don't get down. We do get rattled, we do get down," Miles said.

### **Cumnard**

Lee Cumnard led all Cougars with 18 points. Jimmer Fredette added 15 and Lamont Morgan, Jr. had 11 points coming off the bench.

As bad as CSU is, we were still impressed by BYU forging a 37-point lead on any team, including the Rams on the road.

Our opinion of the Cougars as a basketball team also rose because of a game that didn't involve BYU.

We watched Wake Forest defeat North Carolina 92-89 in Winston-Salem over the weekend.

If a loss can be impressive, BYU's disappointing defeat a week ago to Wake Forest, was just raised a notch in our eyes, and more importantly, in the eyes of people who like to talk about RPI, strength of schedule and NCAA seeds.

In case you have a short memory, BYU had its chances to take down the Demon Deacons, but came up short.

The biggest culprit in the Cougar defeat was Wake Forest guard Jeff Teague. He torched the Cougar defense with 30 points.

## Transcontinental

His torching must be transcontinental. He put up 34 points against North Carolina, a team that many college basketball experts consider the most talented and best team in the land and a lock for another NCAA title.

BYU has struggled to get any national buzz for its basketball program despite Dave Rose putting up three consecutive 20 win seasons.

We find it interesting that the biggest stir the Cougars have made in Rose's tenure has come with a loss...to Wake Forest.

We point to Andy Katz, ESPN's college basketball writer to prove that point.

Katz wrote about Wake Forest and extolled their basketball virtues in reporting on their win over UNC. He talked about how Wake has been building their confidence recently and how that allowed them to take down the mighty Tar Heels.

He correlated the WF confidence with Cougars.

Here is part of what Katz had to say in his article about Wake Forest:

*"The proof has been building for weeks, not just Sunday night in Wake's 92-89 victory, in front of what is arguably one of the best atmospheres in college basketball when the Deacs' tye-dyed student section is amped up like it was on this night.*

*Wake Forest (14-0), one of three undefeated teams remaining with Pitt and fellow ACC rival Clemson, began to make its case in Anaheim, Calif., to start the season, beating a solid UTEP team and then taking out Big 12 contender Baylor. The turning point, though, came when Wake went to BYU. Down eight in the second half in front of 23,000 passionate Cougars fans at the Marriott Center, the Demon Deacons stormed back behind Teague's 30 points and snapped BYU's 53-game home-court winning streak.*

*Katz continued his BYU references later in the same article when he wrote:*

*"The Deacons knew how good they could be at BYU. Every player and coach says that was the game that proved they are a squad to be reckoned with this season.*

*Wake Forest coach Dino Gaudio, who was justifiably praised by William (UNC coach) for keeping the program afloat under tragic circumstances following the sudden death of former coach Skip Prosser in July 2007, said the maturity of the Deacons showed in Provo.*

*"You could see it in their body language when we got down eight, you could see how their heads were up, how they were clapping for each other to get a stop," Gaudio said.*

Are we saying that BYU is as good as North Carolina just because both teams had their late-game chances to beat Wake Forest?

No, but we are saying that from here on in during this basketball season, Wake Forest will be BYU's biggest ambassador for some much needed national publicity and some even more needed help in NCAA tournament seeding.

## TCU AND NEW MEXICO UP NEXT

BYU's recent national cameo appearance with Wake Forest will not mean much if the Cougars can't consistently deliver wins in Mountain West Conference play.

TCU and New Mexico will be the next challenge for the Cougars this coming week.

The Horned Frogs appear to no longer be the door mat they have been in the conference in recent years.

The Frogs and BYU will square off against each other on Tuesday in Provo at the Marriott Center.

The game is set for tipoff at 8:00 pm and will be televised on the Mtn.

TCU is a surprising 11-5 on the year and an even more surprising 2-0 in conference play. The two wins were both at home in Fort Worth against CSU (81-67) and UNLV (80-73).

With new first-year coach Jim Christian, who was hired from Kent State, TCU is currently nursing a four-game winning streak.

New Mexico last played on Saturday when they defeated Air Force in Albuquerque 78-53. They won't play again until they host the Cougars in a matinee matchup on Saturday, Jan. 17.

UNM is currently 10-7 on the year and 1-1 in league play. The MWC loss came at Las Vegas in a close 60-58 nail biter.

This game will be televised live by Versus and tips at 2:00 pm local time.

## BASKETBALL BRIEFS

**HEE HAWS...** Tyler Haws, BYU's biggest recruiting priority this year before he signed on the dotted line with Dave Rose in November, is now going through Timo Time.

Adam Timo is the big-time football recruit who committed to the Cougars as a sophomore. Once a prized recruit is in the bag, they don't get the same ink and praise that they normally would if they were still undecided on their college decision.

It is happening to Haws. Since he signed with the Cougars, his talent and game hasn't changed and is at an extremely high level, but his exposure and press coverage has certainly backed off.

It shouldn't. He is still a big-time player as evidenced by his big-time game last week. Haws and his Lone Peak Knights lit up Brighton 94-72. Big game may be the understatement of this current Utah high school season.

Haws not only scored 33 on the Bengals, but more impressively, he pulled down a school record 19 rebounds. His current and future BYU teammate, Nate Austin, scored 12 in the game.

Brandon Davies, another BYU signee from Provo HS, tallied 16 against Payson last Friday. Kyle Collinworth, whom BYU would love to sign next year, added 14 in the Bulldogs 63-30 win.

Orem HS took Tooele to the wood shed last week with a 61-39 win. BYU signee Ian Harward had 14 points and 13 rebounds in the victory.

DeMarcus Harrison, the LDS prospect who is just a junior this season and plays at Greenwood HS in South Carolina, didn't score any points this past weekend.

He didn't play because he was suspended along with another player for two games for disciplinary reasons by his coach Hob Chandler.

**Something Doesn't Add Up...** For the last few years we have heard BYU basketball coach Dave Rose continually say how hard it is to get good non-conference teams to agree to come to Provo and play the Cougars.

We have bought this line of thinking now for some time, but something doesn't seem to be adding up.

Despite all the supposed difficulties BYU is reportedly encountering in scheduling "name" teams for a game in Provo, Utah doesn't seem to have any problems lining up "name" opponents for trips to Salt Lake.

This year the Utes have Oregon, Cal, Gonzaga and LSU. Remember, we didn't say these teams were any good, just that they were "name" teams.

## FOOTBALL FLUFF AND STUFF

**THEY PAY YOU TO PULL YOUR TEETH?...** I have a daughter who is leaving next month to serve in the Washington D.C. South LDS mission.

Before leaving, she had to get her wisdom teeth pulled and was all set to do it with a local oral sur-

geon.

Then a friend told her about a program in Salt Lake City that would do the extractions and pay you to do it.

Seems they were running tests on some sort of experimental pain medication. You either get a placebo or the new drug.

She jumped at the chance.

The bottom line is that she received the placebo and it hurt like hell-o, but at least she got a nice check.

Jerry Jones, owner of the Dallas Cowboys and ESPN are also running a new experiment in college football. They are sponsoring a Labor Day weekend game to kick off the 2009-10 football season in Jones' new billion dollar stadium in Dallas.

BYU, like my daughter, jumped at the chance to face Oklahoma in a game set for September 5.

Just like pulling teeth, we expect BYU to get a placebo and pummeling and for it to hurt like hell-o, but the check should be very nice and hopefully help alleviate the pain.

**MAXTOR AND MENDENHALL...**Speaking of pain, my computer crashed last week. It was also painful, but thankfully, I have a Maxtor external hard drive.

My essential databases were backed up there. That is why you are still receiving the newsletter this week.

It was a painful and unpleasant two-day process to get back to normal, but because of my Maxtor, I am still in business.

It reminded me of Bronco Mendenhall and his pain and unpleasant end to the football season.

It wasn't pretty and nobody wants to go through it, but the essentials of BYU's program installed by Mendenhall still exist and were backed up with three years of ground work and are easily accessible.

Now he just has to clean up a few details on the desktop and BYU football will be no worse for the wear. Yes, it was still messy and unpleasant, but Mendenhall and his program are still in business despite a blip and burp this year.

The good thing about a computer crash and a disappointing season is that it gets your attention and results in doing things to make sure you don't experience the same thing again in the near future.

**COLLIE OFFICIALLY OPTS FOR NFL...**Austin Collie, BYU's record setting wide receiver, has opted for the NFL draft. No surprise there. As we noted in a previous letter, it is a no brainer. He will be hard to replace, but the return from an LDS mission to Japan of McKay Jacobson could help soften the blow.

## **FOOTBALL RECRUITING ADDS ONE MORE**

After a weekend of hosting currently committed BYU football recruits and others that the Cougars wish would commit, BYU added one more to its list of potential signees.

Kyle Van Noy, a touted 6-4, 215 pound linebacker out of McQueen HS in Reno, has said that he definitely will sign with the Cougars in February.

That brings to 18, the number of prospects that have committed to sign on the dotted line.

They include:

Terry Alletto, OL, 6-3, 260, Ponderosa HS, CO

Trevor Bateman, DB, 5-11, 180, Palm Desert HS, CA

Craig Bills, DB, 6-2, 205, Timpview HS, UT

Tui Crichton, OL, 6-4, 280, Timpview HS, UT

Jray Galea'i, DB, 6-0, 175, Kahuku HS, HI

Anthony Heimuli, RB, 5-11, 225, Mountain View HS, UT

Peni Maka'afi, RB, 5-10, 215, Layton HS, UT  
Mitch Mathews, WR, 6-5, 195, Southridge HS, OR  
Ryan Mulitalo, OL, 6-3, 285, Hunter HS, UT  
Riley Nelson, QB, 6-1, 190, transfer from Utah State  
Remington Peck, TE/LB, 6-5, 215, Bingham HS, UT  
Brett Thompson, WR, 6-3, 210, Oak Ridge HS, CA  
Adam Timo, RB, 6-1, 190, Snow Canyon HS, UT  
Fono Vakalahi, OL, 6-4, 320, Bryan HS, TX  
Kyle Van Noy, LB, 6-4, 215, McQueen HS, NV  
Brad Wilcox, OL, 6-7, 240, North HS, OK  
Richard Wilson, TE, 6-3, 225, Spanish Fork HS, UT

We mentioned in last week's letter that there was some concern that Manti Te'o, the talented and top LDS linebacker prospect from Hawaii, would not be making the trip to Provo.

He did show up and was on campus with other top rated recruits BYU is hoping will sign with them. We still say that is wishful thinking and expect Te'o to sign with USC.

Besides Te'o, Xavier Su'a-Filo, the 6-5, 285 pound offensive lineman from Timpview HS in Provo was in for his official visit.

Also making a visit was L.T. Filiaga, another linebacker prospect from Bingham HS in Salt Lake City.

He will be tripping to Utah, Stanford and Washington before deciding where he will sign.

Also in for a visit was juco corner Dominique Gaisie (5-10, 185 from Mt. SAC in California).

No word on whether BYU offered while he was in Provo this past weekend. He also has trips lined up to visit New Mexico State, Sacramento State and Washington.

While Utah is certainly reaping a recruiting bounce from their past season and Sugar Bowl win, BYU is still trying to hang in there with the Utes on some key recruits.

We expect Filiaga to make a choice between the Utes and Cougars.

BYU is hoping to sneak in the back door and steal a premier LDS recruit from the Utes.

That would be Siosaia Tuipulotu, a 6-2, 275 pound defensive lineman from Euless Trinity HS in Texas.

Despite giving a verbal to Utah some time ago, he is still looking at other schools, including BYU.

We also expect the Utes to be able to hang on to this talented player.

## TELEVISION TIMETABLE

### **BYU vs. TCU**

Tue, Jan 13 at Provo

Tipoff: 8:00 pm Mountain Time

TV: Mtn

### **BYU vs. New Mexico**

Sat, Jan 17 at Albuquerque

Tipoff: 2:00 pm Mountain Time

TV: Versus

### **BYU vs. UNLV**

Wed, Jan 21 at Provo

Tipoff: 8:00 pm Mountain Time

TV: CBS C

### **BYU vs. SDSU**

Sat, Jan 24 at Provo

Tipoff: 7:00 pm Mountain Time

TV: Mtn