

HB Arnett's
COUGAR SPORTSLINE

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BASKETBALL BRIEFS

BYU POUNDS IDAHO STATE...BYU upped their season record to 6-0 last week with an 85-65 win over Idaho State in Pocatello.

The Cougars had four players score in double figures and were led in scoring by Jonathan Tavernari. He finished the game with 23 points. He also had 6 rebounds, four assists and two steals.

Jimmer Fredette added 19 points, Lee Cummond chipped in 17 and Jackson Emery had his career high in scoring with 15 points.

The win was BYU's second on the road. The first was against Pepperdine. The ISU victory was played in a much more hostile environment.

While the Cougars and Wyoming are the only current undefeated teams in the Mountain West Conference, BYU's wins have all been against teams with lackluster records. The Cougars' opponents are a combined 8-23 (Long Beach State, 3-2; Pepperdine, 1-5; North Florida, 0-5; Rice, 2-3; Cal Poly, 1-4; Idaho State, 1-4).

The competition may be a little stiffer in BYU's next game, but the opponents record won't be any better.

The Cougars will battle Weber State on Wed. Dec 3 at Ogden. The Wildcats are currently 2-3 in the early stages of their season.

The first real test for BYU will be on Saturday when they go up against Utah State in a neutral site game at Energy Solutions Arena in Salt Lake.

The Aggies are 4-0 on the year. The two teams have faced one common opponent. USU routed Cal Poly in Logan 97-57. BYU struggled to put away the Mustangs in Provo 76-64.

Against the Aggies, it will be a different guard line for both teams since they last met.

Utah State, with the loss of Jaycee Carroll, is not as good as they have been in that position and BYU is better at the guard line now. The Cougars have a definite upgrade in that spot with the addition of Jimmer Fredette, Jackson Emery and Lamont Morgan over the tandem of last year which included Ben Murdock and Sam Burgess.

Dave Rose is getting much more consistent scoring and better defense with his new trio of guards.

Both the Weber State and Utah State games will be televised live on BYU TV nationally and on KJZZ locally.

BASKETBALL RECRUITS ON REVIEW

Last Wednesday was a Cougar Chuck-a-Rama.

It was a BYU basketball buffet with all you wanted to see of the most recent crop of Cougar Basketball signees and an appetizer of, hopefully, another future signee.

It all happened at the first annual Beat The Zuke Basketball Challenge, which was sponsored by the local newspaper and featured all high school basketball teams from Utah County playing in a one-day, seven game affair. All games were played at the McKay Center on the campus of Utah Valley University in Orem.

In case you missed it, all of Dave Rose's most recent basketball signees from early in November are from Utah County.

The timing was perfect. It was a one stop, one day chance to check out all four recruits that inked with BYU and also get a glimpse of the Cougar's top recruiting priority for next season.

Here is what we saw:

Tyler Haws...The 6-5 wing from Lone Peak showed why he could have been a Division I wide receiver recruit had he chosen to play football instead of basketball.

In Lone Peak's 59-57 overtime win over Springville, Haws was bumped, bruised, bracketed and beat up. We call it the hug and mug defense.

Fortunately for Haws, the referees call it a foul.

That meant that he went to the free throw line 25 times in the game. He made 21 one of those charity attempts and that accounted for the majority of his game high 35 points.

In case you thinking that the free throw attempts were unwarranted and just another star getting special treatment from referees, you would be wrong.

Haws better get used to it. He will see the same type of physical play from almost every team he faces this year.

To his credit, Haws is not intimidated by that style of defense. He continued to do what made him BYU's top recruiting priority for the last three years.

He has a good mid-range game, but his bread and butter is getting to the front of the rim and finishing or converting from the foul line.

One game doesn't give a good enough outlook on Lone Peak's chances of a three-peat as 5-A state champs, but, in our opinion, unless the Knights can find some consistent points from other positions on the floor, Haws stat line will now read, points, rebounds, steals and stitches.

Haws is not a shake and bake type of guy. He just gets to the rim and makes baskets. He was the best player on the floor and carried his team to their first win of the season.

Nate Austin and Brandon Davies...Both of the recent BYU big guy signees had non descript performances for their teams.

They both had little more than cameo appearances for their respective Lone Peak and Provo squads. You can't play if you can't stay on the floor.

Both Austin and Davies had foul problems that severely limited their minutes.

Size and skill are good assets to have, but not if they are parked on the bench instead of the paint.

Davies had 9 points for Provo and Austin had 5 for Lone Peak.

A better test for both the 6-10 Austin and Davies, 6-9, will be this Friday when Provo will host Lone Peak.

It should be a very interesting matchup of the two bigs and Tyler Haws against Kyle Collinsworth. More on him later.

Ian Harward...This was our first look at Harward, a 6-10 post player for Orem HS. He didn't show on most recruiting radars last year, including ours, because he was injured for almost his entire junior season.

We liked what we saw.

As a matter of fact, we actually were excited. Harward was much better than we anticipated he would

be.

This guy could be the sleeper of the current recruiting class.

He is tall and skinny. We expected that. What we didn't expect was how athletic he is.

This guy can run the floor better than Trent Plaisted. If he ever gets a body like Plaisted, look out. He will have three, and maybe four years to add bulk and strength. He, along with Nate Austin, will play their senior seasons and then depart for LDS missions before enrolling at BYU. Both could also potentially redshirt as freshmen before ever seeing the floor for the Cougars.

Right now he has a body like David Anderson, the current backup center for the Cougars, but appears to have an even bigger wing span than Anderson.

He can move his feet and as we mentioned, can really get up and down the floor.

In our opinion, the upside with this kid is huge.

Meanwhile, the present isn't bad either. In Orem's 80-53 win over Spanish Fork, Harward scored 15 points, had 10 rebounds and 12 blocked shots.

Kyle Collinsworth...He is the next have-to-have recruit on BYU's recruiting board.

We had credible local basketball people tell us about Collinsworth when he was in the seventh grade and playing guard. They were right.

This guy is a player. He has steadily grown and is now a legit 6-7, but still has guard skills.

He scored 21 last week in Provo's opener. He was able to get to the basket and also knock down some outside shots.

If he can consistently knock down those shots at the college level, he will be a big-time player.

There is a reason that schools like BYU, Utah, USU, Washington State, Cal, Stanford and Arizona are recruiting him.

Washington State and BYU look to be the top two contenders. Collinsworth's brother, Chris, signed with BYU last year and is currently serving an LDS mission in Australia.

Speaking of Australia, my wife dragged me to the movie of the same name on Thanksgiving night. She loved it. For me it was a lot like church. It was close to three hours long.

My recommendation is that if you live locally, forget the movie and go see Provo-Lone Peak this Friday at Provo.

The Tyler Haws-Kyle Collinsworth should be worth watching. The Brandon Davies-Nate Austin will be a nice undercard, but the main event will be the battle of the guards.

Since we mentioned that we were tipped off on Collinsworth when he was in the seventh grade, we might as well tell you that we have also been told about another player last year when he was in the seventh grade.

That means he is currently in the eighth grade. You can look for him on Lone Peak's roster next year as a ninth grader.

The name is Nick Emery. Yes, he is the younger brother of current Cougar Jackson Emery and the early reports are that he will be even more talented than his older brother.

That should get your BYU basketball juices flowing.

FLUFF AND STUFF

BYU BOWL GAME...Bronco Mendenhall and his BYU Cougars will resume practicing this week in preparation for their upcoming bowl game.

The problem is that nobody knows for sure just where BYU will be playing, when they will be playing and against whom they will be playing.

That won't be decided for sure until the BCS bowl games are announced this coming Sunday.

While nothing is for sure, there will be only two options for the Cougars.

Most likely they will be making their fourth straight appearance in the Las Vegas Bowl. As of now, it

looks like they will be facing California on Dec. 20.

The less likely option would be for the Cougars to land in San Diego for the San Diego County Credit Union Poinsettia Bowl.

That game is set for Dec. 23 and the Cougars will likely get either Nevada or Fresno State as an opponent.

BUZZING IN BOISE...Okay, it took us four or five years, but we will finally acknowledge that Boise State is a very fine football team. They are for real.

In case you missed it, there has been some buzz in Boise about the Broncos being invited to join the Mountain West Conference. Both BSU and the MWC have denied that there is anything afloat, but it wouldn't be a shock if the Broncos eventually do end up in the MWC.

From our vantage point, even better news for Boise State is that they have a big-time quarterback in redshirt freshman Kellen Moore. The Broncos will be very good offensively for another three years with him at the helm.

After pumping out this newsletter for almost thirty years now, we have developed and cultivated some sources that are extremely credible.

When they tell us something we can almost always take what they say to the bank.

That is why we brought up Moore. He is a player and will get better.

The good news for BYU fans, according to one of our most respected sources, is that new incoming BYU quarterback Riley Nelson will be a more polished Kellen Moore.

Take a look at Moore in the Broncos upcoming bowl game and that should get you excited about Nelson.

Incidentally, this football guru, to whom we refer, has plenty of exposure to both Moore and Nelson in making his evaluation.

Meanwhile back to Boise.

Two weeks ago, we extolled the play of high school sophomore quarterback Alex Kuresa from Mountain Crest High School in Cache Valley.

This week we are now back to extolling the play of freshman qb Tanner Mangum. He is from the Boise area.

He is still in junior high school as a ninth grader, but played at the high school level at Timberline High School.

His season is completed and all the freshman did was throw for 2845 yards and 29 touchdowns. He threw just 8 picks.

BYU is already aware of him.

In our opinion, it was no accident that Parker Mangum was invited back to the team as a walkon this year. He is the older brother of Tanner.

For those who have lost track of the qb recruiting timeline at BYU, here is a quick refresher course.

Riley Nelson will show up this summer from his LDS mission to Spain and a transfer from Utah State.

Jake Heap will be a senior next season and the nation's top rated qb prospect.

Alex Kuresa will be a junior next season and Tanner Mangum will be a sophomore next year.

UTAH UNDERTONES...The painful loss to Utah still lives on. For those who missed it here are a couple of links to check out if you haven't already.

The first is a link to a Salt Lake City radio personality who is a die hard Ute fan, but says she was embarrassed for her school. You can read her comments by [clicking here](#).

The other link is to a You Tube video that is very amusing. You can watch it by clicking on the following link. www.youtube.com/watch?v=k6CROOR2QN8.

Finally, we include an email we received from a subscriber right after the loss to Utah. It demonstrates that despite all the nice efforts of Bronco Mendenhall in restructuring the football program, winning, and especially winning games against Utah, is still how he probably eventually will be judged.

We warn you that this will make some of you mad, but in our opinion, it is a viewpoint that is not uncommon among Cougar football fans. Here's the email.

We all love Mendenhall, but he's been awful against Utah, badly losing against the spread four straight years. When he was favored to win by eleven, in his first game, he lost. This year, he was supposed to lose by seven, but lost by 24. He got whomped against the spread the middle two years as well.

LaVell usually beat the spread against Utah. The BYU/Utah game is telling, because it's the one where both sides should be playing full out, and Mendenhall is losing the one-on-one coaching battle every year. At some point (and we've reached the point) Mendenhall's failure against Utah stops looking random. It looks like he's overmatched in the coaching battle, at least in very big games.

He's good at beating bad teams and teams that are down on their heels (UCLA and Oregon in the bowls, for example). He's not good at beating good teams that are playing well and that care. He always loses those games. That's why BYU, for all of its success in the Mendenhall years, feels like it's failed four years out of four, by national standards. They always lose those couple of crucial games that could make a difference. And those games are winnable.

See, we told you that it would make some of you angry. Our feedback indicates that this email and its tone and tenor also resonates with many other fans, despite the fact that Mendenhall is 2-2 against the Utes and has turned in three straight 10-2 seasons.

ANOTHER CORNER...We expect to see BYU coaches at Rio Tinto Stadium this Saturday.

They likely will be there to take an in person look at Jordan Brown, a 6-2, 180 pound cornerback from Snow College.

The Badgers will be playing Butler CC from Kansas for the Juco national championship.

Brown is a sophomore at Snow and prepped at Box Elder HS in Brigham City.

He was an all WSFL first team defensive selection as a defensive back and finished the year with four interceptions. He ran back two of those picks for touchdowns.

TELEVISION TIMETABLE

BYU vs. Weber State

Wednesday, Dec 3 at Ogden

Tipoff: 7:00 pm Mountain Time

TV: KJZZ and BYUTV

BYU vs. Utah State

Saturday, Dec 6 at SLC

Tipoff: 5:00 pm Mountain Time

TV: KJZZ and BYUTV

BYU vs. Boise State

Wednesday, Dec 10 at Provo

Tipoff: 8:00 pm Mountain Time

TV: Mtn

BYU vs. Portland

Saturday, Dec 13 at Provo

Tipoff: 8:00 pm Mountain Time

TV: Mtn