

HB Arnett's
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As a subscriber, you are allowed to access our new blog. You can view it by going to www.cougar-sportsline.blogspot.com

Just a reminder that we are now sending the newsletter via two separate email accounts to help solve distribution issues that many subscribers experienced last year. That means you may receive two identical letters. If that is the case, please just discard the extra.

TCU CONVERTED BY BYU FOR 27-22 WIN

BYU still has a way to go in converting TCU in theology, but when it comes to third downs, the Cougars certainly produced in a 27-22 win.

BYU set the tone early for this game by converting a third-and-10 on their opening scoring drive to take a 7-0 lead. Max Hall also converted a third-and-10 during that same 50-yard drive when he took off for a 20 yard gain.

It didn't stop there. The Cougars converted 13 of 20 third-down attempts.

While Max Hall had his best day as a Cougar scrambling for some much-needed gains, he also turned in a very productive passing performance.

Hall completed 26-44 passes for 305 yards and one touchdown. He also had one interception.

That was a nice performance against the Frogs, who were the Mountain West Conference's leading pass defense going into the game.

Austin Collie led all Cougar receivers with 109 yards on just 4 catches, but it was tight end Dennis Pitta that was the go-to guy in the receiving department.

He had 7 catches for 88 yards that included some great grabs on critical third downs.

BYU rushed for 112 yards on 34 carries. Harvey Unga was once again the leading rusher for the Cougars with 64 yards on 16 carries.

Defensively, BYU had some lapses, but were large when it counted. It never counted more than when TCU had gashed the Cougar defense for a 94-yard drive late in the fourth quarter and set themselves up for another game-winning drive in the closing minutes.

Didn't Happen

That didn't happen, thanks to the BYU defense. The Cougars turned up the intensity and pressure

and blitzed four consecutive times to seal the win.

The defense also had several nice stands in the first half when they had to defend short fields and held the Frogs to field goals instead of touchdowns.

The Cougars are now 7-2 overall and 5-0 in MWC play.

LOGIC AND LARAMIE DON'T MIX WELL

Logically, BYU should have little trouble in getting another MWC win this Saturday against Wyoming in Laramie.

After all, the Cowboys are in full melt-down mode coming off a 50-0 trouncing at Utah last week and losers of four of their last five games.

We have been around long enough, however, to know that logic and Laramie don't mix.

When it comes to Wyoming vs. BYU football games - especially those played in Laramie - anything can happen and usually does.

Logic is what Las Vegas odds makers are using when installing BYU as an early 11.5 point favorite over the Pokes.

Logically, there is no way a 7-2 BYU can lose to a 5-5 Wyoming football team.

Of course, logically, in Laramie, the moon should only be seen in the sky. Logic, however, doesn't limit the locations where we have seen the moon in Laramie.

Want more logic? Logically it should be cold, windy and snowing in War Memorial Stadium on a Nov. 17 day in Laramie.

Weather Forecast

The long-range weather forecast for game day in Laramie now calls for a balmy 55 degree day, with partly cloudy skies and a 10% chance of precipitation.

Where logic should actually hold up in Laramie is on the line of scrimmage.

That is where this game will be won despite any and all weather conditions, any and all wild and woolly Wyoming fans and despite Pokes players and coaches wanting to avenge the 55-7 humiliation delivered to them last year in Provo.

Revenge is best served when you can control the line of scrimmage. The Pokes were unable to do that last week against Utah and only managed 122 yards of total offense and gave up 505 to the Utes.

It is important that Max Hall, Harvey Unga, Dennis Pitta and Austin Collie all have productive days, but it won't happen unless the logic holds up in BYU's offensive line.

Wyoming actually has some offensive weapons. They have a couple of good running backs in Wynel Seldon and Devin Moore. Where the Pokes have faltered during their losing trend is in the passing game.

We expect Wyoming to play hard and be competitive early. If BYU becomes too generous with turnovers while the Pokes are playing hard, it could get really interesting.

If the Cougars can avoid excessive turnovers, this should be another win for BYU.

We call it BYU 31 Wyoming 17.

NAMES AND GAMES

BYU Basketball Wins Big in Opener

BYU opened its basketball season against Long Beach State last Saturday night in California.

The LBSU acronym for the Cougars' opening opponent is appropriate. After a 74-34 whipping deliv-

ered by the Cougars, it could stand for Lose Big State University.

BYU got out of the gate early. They had first-half leads of 12-2, 27-4 and 32-6.

The Cougars took a 36-12 advantage into halftime.

Lee Cummond led all scorers with 15 points. He also led with 33 minutes played. Trent Plaisted only logged 19 minutes, but he did score 12 points.

BYU returns home to play Idaho State on Wednesday, Nov. 14. They follow that up with another home game against Jacksonville on Friday, Nov. 16.

The only players on the current roster who didn't see the floor against Long Beach were those who will be redshirting.

You can add juco point guard Lamont Morgan to the redshirt list. Dave Rose has decided to save a year of eligibility for Morgan and hope that he can more efficiently use him as a point guard next season after Ben Murdock is gone.

Morgan joins walkon Matt Pinegar and freshman James Anderson, the 7-0 center, as the current walkons in the program.

With Morgan on the shelf for this year, that means that the point guard duties will be handled by Murdock and freshmen Michael Lloyd and Nick Martineau.

Drive Chart and Dementia

Give BYU offensive coaches credit. They have put together a balanced offense with both a good passing game and a good ground attack.

While they are smart enough to figure out that they need to run the ball, against TCU, it appeared to us that they had a two-quarter brain freeze in trying to figure out who their productive running backs were.

It is just our opinion, but you don't have to have a PhD in pigskin to see which backs on the Cougar roster can produce and which are drive killers.

The drive chart of running plays for BYU against TCU is certainly no doctorate dissertation, but it does delineate the first two quarters of coaching brain freeze quite nicely.

1st Quarter...Semanoff 2 yd loss; Tonga 2 yd gain; Unga 15 yd TD; Tonga no gain; Unga 8 yd gain; Unga no gain.

2nd Quarter...Vakapuna 3 yd gain; Semanoff no gain; Tonga 1 yd gain; Unga 4 yd gain; Vakapuna no gain; Vakapuna no gain; Vakapuna no gain.

3rd Quarter...Unga 3 yd TD; Unga 2 yd gain; Unga 6 yd gain; Unga 4 yd gain; Unga 1 yd loss; Unga 3 yd gain.

4th Quarter...Unga 1 yd gain; Tonga 7 yd gain; Unga 1 yd gain; Unga 5 yd gain; Unga no gain; Unga 7 yd gain; Unga 6 yd gain; Tonga 7 yd gain.

BYU's new mantra for football is Tradition, Spirit and Honor. How about this one? Tradition, Spirit, Honor and hand the ball to your best running back.

Dancing With The Stars

Max Hall is starting to dance with the former BYU quarterback stars.

The good ones of days gone by could all throw the football, but they really shined when they were able to use their feet and move out of the pocket and make plays.

That is what we have seen Hall start to do. He was good while staying in the pocket and taking hits, but now he is better because he doesn't have the do or die mentality of a pocket passer.

Against CSU he started to slide either right or left when the protection was breaking down. It bought him more time and enabled him to make more plays.

Against TCU, he stepped up in the pocket with the outside rush coming at him. That also allowed him to make more plays by completing passes and especially by taking off downfield when he saw it open up.

Hall had a great day passing, but his best two plays were sprinting downfield when there was nobody in front of him.

Hall has proven that he has a pocket presence. Now he is starting to show that he can slide, glide and step up in the pocket when it breaks down.

That should be a very scary thought for opposing defenses remaining on the BYU schedule this year and the following two seasons.

Gooch Gone

Being a BYU safety this season has turned out to be a hazardous job.

BYU lost Dustin Gabriel and David Tafuna to season-ending injuries before the season started.

Now they have lost Quinn Gooch.

The senior safety suffered a torn ACL against TCU last Thursday. Team doctors and Gooch are still weighing their options, but surgery appears to be a done deal.

If, for some stanger-than-fiction reason, he doesn't have surgery and wants to play with the injury and is allowed to, don't expect him to be any where near the level he was.

BYU's options for replacing Gooch are using backup Kellen Fowler. He replaced Gooch after the injury.

Another option and one we find more viable is to see Bronco Mendenhall move a corner, probably Ben Criddle to that spot.

BYU actually has some decent depth at corner and could afford to move Criddle or Kayle Buchanan to safety. With Andre Saulsberry and Brandon Howard, Mendenhall would still have three corners to finish the season.

Soccer Shoots Back

A couple of weeks ago, we took a shot at the BYU women's soccer team. Our basic observation was that this Cougar program was a perennial contender until it counted. They couldn't win the big games, especially against Utah.

The women have fired back. Actually it was more like a barrage of bullets as BYU captured the MWC soccer tournament last week which they hosted in Provo.

Despite being seeded third in the tourney, BYU defeated TCU 2-0, beat #2 seed San Diego State 2-0 and bested #1 seed UNLV 2-1 to take home the tourney championship.

The win not only gave the Cougars a trophy, but also gave them the MWC automatic bid to the upcoming NCAA tournament.

Disrespect, Guarantees and Too Much Testosterone

It is still a week away but we will bring up Utah anyway. In the Ute's 50-0 blowout of Wyoming last week, they attempted an on side kick in the third quarter while leading 40-0.

That brought on countless charges of being accountable, being classless and even a few extra hand signals from the Wyoming sideline which had nothing to do with calling plays.

In our opinion, the most overused word in sports these days is disrespect, as in "They disrespected us."

That is just an euphemism for "We have too much testosterone and don't know what to do with it."

Players and coaches these days are looking for any and all opportunities to be offended.

Paybacks are also very selective. They normally only occur when you have clearly superior players..

We actually think Kyle Whittingham is a very good coach and quite frankly has a very good football team.

We can't say that about his memory. It apparently isn't that good.

We base that on the accountability he required of Joe Glen, Wyoming's coach, for guaranteeing a win against his Utes last week.

The same scenario occurred a year ago when BYU qb John Beck guaranteed a win over the Utes the week before the showdown game.

There were no on side kicks or running up the score against Beck.

Paybacks and accountability only work when your players are better than those you are trying to pay back. Beck had Harline and other players with whom he could back up his guarantee. Joe Glen didn't. Whittingham is now 1-1.

BYU Men's Remaining 2007-2008 Basketball Schedule

Wed Nov 14...Idaho State at Provo, 7 pm, No TV
Fri Nov 16...Jackson State at Provo, 7 pm, No TV
Tue Nov 20...Hartford at Provo, 7:30 pm, No TV
Fri Nov 23...Louisville at Las Vegas, 7 pm, No TV
Sat Nov 24...North Carolina or ODU at Las Vegas, TBA, No TV
Sat Dec 1...Portland U at Portland, 8 pm, No TV
Wed Dec 5...Weber State at Provo, 7:30 pm, No TV
Sat Dec 8...Michigan State at Salt Lake, 2 pm, TV-Versus
Wed Dec 12...Lamar at Provo, 7 pm, TV-Mtn
Sat Dec 15...Pepperdine at Provo, 7 pm, TV-Mtn
Fri Dec 21...Southern Utah at Provo, 6:30 pm, TV-Mtn
Sat Dec 29...Boise State at Boise, 7 pm, No TV
Thu Jan 3...Loyola Marymount at Provo, 7 pm, TV-Mtn
Tue Jan 8...Wake Forest at Winston-Salem, 5 pm, No TV
Sat Jan 12...Colorado State at Provo, 4 pm, TV-Mtn
Tue Jan 15...UNLV at Las Vegas, 9 pm, TV-Mtn
Sat Jan 19...Utah at Salt Lake, 2 pm, TV-Versus
Wed Jan 23...San Diego State at Provo, 6 pm, TV-Mtn
Sat Jan 26...New Mexico at Provo, 4 pm, TV-Mtn
Wed Jan 30...Air Force at Colorado Springs, 7 pm, No TV
Sat Feb 2...Wyoming at Laramie, 2 pm, TV-Mtn
Wed Feb 6...TCU at Provo, 7 pm, No TV
Wed Feb 13...Colorado State at Fort Collins, 7 pm, No TV
Sat Feb 16...UNLV at Provo, 7 pm, TV-CSTV and Mtn-delayed
Wed Feb 20...Utah at Provo, 8 pm, TV-Mtn
Sat Feb 23...SDSU at San Diego, 9 pm, TV-CSTV and Mtn delayed
Tue Feb 26...New Mexico at Albuquerque, 8 pm, TV-Mtn
Sat Mar 1...Air Force at Provo, 7 pm, No TV
Wed Mar 5...Wyoming at Provo, 8 pm, TV-Mtn
Sat Mar 8...TCU at Fort Worth, 8 pm, TV- Mtn

Mar 12-15....MWC Tournament, Las Vegas, TBA
TV: Mtn, Versus and CSTV

BYU Women's 2007-08 Television Schedule

Sat Dec 15...UCLA at Provo, 4 pm, TV-Mtn
Sat Jan 19...Utah at Provo, 7 pm, TV-Mtn
Tue Feb 5...TCU at Fort Worth, 8 pm, TV-Mtn
Tue Feb 19...Utah at Salt Lake, 8 pm, TV-CSTV and Mtn delayed
Tue Feb 26...New Mexico at Provo, 6 pm, TV-Mtn
Wed Mar 5...Wyoming at Laramie, 6 pm, TV-Mtn
Sat Mar 8...TCU at Provo, 5:30 pm, TV-CSTV and Mtn delayed
Mar 12-15....MWC Tournament, Las Vegas, TBA
TV: Mtn, Versus and CSTV

TELEVISION TIMETABLE

BYU vs. Wyoming

Saturday, Nov. 17 at Laramie
Kickoff: Noon Mountain Time
TV: Mtn

BYU vs. Utah

Saturday, Nov. 24 at Provo
Kickoff: Noon Mountain Time
TV: Mtn, Versus, and CSTV

BYU vs. San Diego State

Saturday, Dec. 1 at San Diego
Kickoff: 4:30 pm Mountain Time
TV: Mtn

BYU vs. Michigan State

Saturday, Dec. 8 at Salt Lake
Tipoff: 2:00 pm Mountain time
TV: Versus