

HB Arnett's

COUGAR SPORTSLINE

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CONGRESSMEN AND COUGARS ARE THE SAME

It never stops. It is a 24/7, 365 days per year activity.

If you are a Congressman, the day you are elected or re-elected, you immediately start to raise money for the next campaign.

If you are a Cougar football coach, the same rule applies. When it comes to recruiting, you are never done. Recruiting is a never-ending process.

Before you announce your latest list of recruits, you have already been working on the next class of prospects.

With the recruiting class of 2009 now in the books, here is a look at BYU's class of 2010 prospects.

Some of the names that appear here are very familiar to BYU fans.

Jake Heaps, QB, 6-2, 195, Skyline HS, WA, BYU has offered. So has Cal, Florida State, North Carolina, Notre Dame, Tennessee and Washington. LDS

Dallas Lloyd, QB, 6-2, 195, Pleasant Grove HS, UT, Has two current offers from BYU and Stanford. The Cardinal are in the lead currently. LDS

Algernon Brown, RB, 6-1, 210, Skyline HS, UT, BYU offered last year and the talented and bruising back committed to the Cougars. LDS

Cameron Roberson, RB, 6-0, 200, Newbury Park HS, CA., The Cougars made Roberson his first offer recently. He racked up big rushing numbers last season with close to 1500 yards and 18 touchdowns. He is not LDS.

Ross Apo, WR, 6-4, 190, The Oakridge School, TX, One of the premiere LDS athletes in this class. Has been to a BYU on an unofficial visit before. He has also unofficially visited Nebraska, earlier this month, LSU, Oklahoma and Texas. Is getting big recruiting interest from Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas, LSU, Tulsa and Oklahoma State. He has current offers from BYU, Nebraska and Tulsa. He says his current top four are Oklahoma, Nebraska, BYU and LSU.

Bronson Kaufusi, DL, 6-6, 220, Timpview HS, UT. Committed to BYU last year as a sophomore. One of the best LDS talents in the coming class. Son of current Cougar defensive line coach Steve Kaufusi.

Also a very good basketball player

Gifford Timothy, OL, 6-6, 280, Middleton HS, DE, We think BYU is a done deal, but he is still shopping and liking the recruiting attention. Is LDS. Has four offers from Rutgers, Maryland, Boise State and the Cougars.

Kona Schwenke, DL, 6-5, 210, Kahuku HS, HI, Is LDS. BYU is his only current offer.

Ricky Heimuli, DL, 6-2, 280, Brighton HS, UT. Has two current offers. From BYU and Utah. Also getting attention from Colorado, Oregon, Oregon State, Stanford, UCLA and Washington. Is LDS.

Zac Stout, LB, 6-1, 215, Oaks Christian Academy, CA. Is LDS and has offer from BYU, Arizona, Oregon State, UCLA and Washington.

V.J. Fehoko, LB, 6-1, 225, Farrington HS, HI, BYU has offered and has also been offered by Texas Tech, his favorite, and where his older brother plays, Cal, UCLA, Utah and Notre Dame, among others. Is LDS.

Joey Owens, LB, 6-3, 215, Pleasant Grove HS, UT, BYU offered earlier this month and Owens snapped it up and committed. A very good athlete with size and mobility.

Sefa Tanoa'i, DL, 6-4, 270, Pleasant Grove HS, UT, BYU has offered, but he is also getting looks from Cal, Utah, Washington State and Washington. Is LDS.

Chris Badger, DB, 6-1, 195, Timpview HS, UT. Was the other starting safety last season opposite of BYU signee Craig Bills. Very athletic. Has offers from BYU, Utah, Stanford, Oregon, Cal, Florida State, Missouri and Northwestern. Is LDS

Rashad Knight, DB, 5-10, 180, Jacksonville Trinity Christian, FL, Has an offer from BYU, Georgia Tech and Illinois. Not LDS.

Here are some other LDS football prospects for the coming year. Depending on how they do at camps and how BYU continues to evaluate them, they also could end up with offers.

Kody Hartley, OL, 6-6, 280, Prosser HS, WA

Taylor Nelson, LB, 6-2, 225, Union HS, Vancouver, WA

LONG RANGE LAUNCHING OF SCHOLARSHIP OFFERS

BYU has already extended two scholarship offers to two Utah prep running backs from the 2011 class.

The most recent was to Bryson McKenzie, a 6-0, 225 pound back from Timpview HS. He will be a junior this coming fall and is LDS and has some BYU ties. Moved to Provo from the Seattle area recently. Rushed for 514 yards last season on just 78 carries for a 6.59 yard per carry average.

BYU has also offered Harvey Langi, a 6-1, 215 pound back from Bingham HS. He rushed for 1373 yards last season on 206 carries for a 6.67 yard per carry average.

SIGNEES' SHOWCASE BEGINS NEXT WEEK

BYU's most recent basketball signees will showcase their skills beginning next week in Salt Lake City

at the E Center during the 4A and 5A state basketball tournaments.

The pairings are still to be determined, but you can catch Tyler Haws, Nate Austin, Ian Harward and Brandon Davies all in action during the tournament.

With Davies you get an extra bonus because his teammate, Kyle Collinsworth, will also be playing on the Provo HS team. He is at the top of BYU's recruiting list for next season.

As of last week, Haws was averaging 23.95 points per game. His teammate, Austin, was averaging 10 points per outing.

Harward, who in our opinion, has made some big strides to the upside this season, is averaging 14.1 points per game for Orem HS.

Davies is currently at 13.67 points per game and Collinsworth is at 16.67 a contest.

COUGARS AT COMBINE

Three BYU Cougars were invited and involved this past weekend at the NFL combine in Indianapolis.

The three were offensive linemen Travis Bright and Ray Feinga and wide receiver Austin Collie.

Here are some of the numbers posted by the BYU trio.

Collie ran a 4.55 40-yard dash, bench pressed 225 pounds 17 times, ran the three-cone drill in 6.78 seconds and the 60-yard shuttle run in 11.42.

Bright racked up 34 bench presses, ran a 5.29 forty and had a vertical jump of 35.5 and a standing broad jump of 9 feet.

The only numbers we found on Feinga were his bench press. He had 30 reps at 225 pounds.

Here is one opinion and analysis of BYU's prospects from CBSSPORTS.com in conjunction with NFL-DRAFTSCOUT.com.

Travis Bright

Rated the No. 311 prospect and projected to be a free agent signee

Overview: While the BYU offense is often characterized as a pass-heavy attack based on the success of junior quarterback Max Hall, the Cougars had the components to be one of the nation's elite inside running teams. Much of the credit is due to right guard Travis Bright. He has the lateral quickness to hold up in the passing game, but his size and explosive upper-body strength are the characteristics that intrigue NFL scouts.

Positives: Naturally large man with little extra weight around the middle...At least adequate initial quickness off the snap...Good initial punch to stun the defender and can latch on to sustain...Powerful run blocker, can generate movement...Aggressive and looks to help teammates if he's not covered and will pancake unsuspecting defenders...Rare weight-room strength: 540-pound bench press...Team captain

Negatives: Lacks the athleticism to block on the move...Lumbers off the line of scrimmage and struggles to break down and hit the moving target...Plays high, negating his strength as a pass blocker...Relies on his strength and size as a pass blocker and struggles to recover if beaten initially with quickness...Medical check on broken leg (which required the insertion of a rod for stabilization) from the 07-08 bowl game.

Austin Collie

Rated the No. 144 prospect and projected to be a fourth or fifth- round pick.

Overview: Collie's early entry into the draft surprised many at first, but it's understandable considering his age (23) DOB 11/11/85, to go along with the fine routes and reliable hands.

Positives: Legitimate NFL build. Muscled up athlete. Faster on the field than his rather pedestrian 40-yard dash time would indicate. Good initial quickness off the snap. Good hand usage and lateral quickness to gain a quick release against press coverage. Sharp, savvy route-runner. Varies his speeds and can sink his hips to generate separation. Good burst laterally. Works his way back to the ball if he sees his quarterback in trouble. Soft hands. Snatches the ball out of the air and is quick to put it away. Can track over either shoulder. Good elusiveness to make the first defender miss and strength to run through arm tackles. Good vision and will cut it back inside. May lack elite deep speed, but good early acceleration. Averaged 26.5 yards per kick return from 2007-2008.

Negatives: Questionable deep speed to challenge over the top. Will be older than most NFL rookies (24) due to his LDS mission. Questionable level of competition. Statistics inflated due to BYU's scheme and defenses keying on TE Dennis Pitta.

Ray Feinga

Rated the No. 206 prospect and to be a sixth or seventh-round selection.

Overview: A highly recruited prep star who turned down the likes of Southern California, Notre Dame and Oregon to play at Brigham Young. Feinga leaves BYU as a two-time first-team All-MWC pick at left guard and a potential middle-round pick. Blessed with great size, surprising balance and long arms, Feinga is more consistent in pass protection than as a run blocker, though he lacks the lateral quickness to fit in every NFL offense.

Positives: Naturally large man...at least adequate initial quickness off the snap to gain an immediate advantage over the defender...Good hand use...Effective initial punch to jolt the defender and has the strength and good hand technique to latch on to the defensive tackles chest plate and turn him away from the ball carrier in the running game...Settles well into pass protection and remains balanced, shuffling his feet to mirror the defender...Good overall power...Can drive defenders off the ball in short-yardage situations...Plays with some nastiness...Four-year starter.

Negatives: Only short-area quickness...Inconsistent hand placement...struggles to recover if beaten off the snap...Lacks consistency as a run blocker and isn't the dominating drive-blocking force his size would indicate...Dominated conference competition, but struggled a bit with the better, quicker athletes in nonconference games.

Dallas Reynolds

Rated the No. 257 prospect and a seventh-round pick or free agent signee.

Overview: Versatile and dependable. Reynolds started 50 games for BYU, spending time at all five line positions. though he earned first-team Mount West accolades at left tackle as a junior, many NFL scouts feel he is suited best at center - the position he played in 2008 and once again earned first-team honors. Reynolds is not a dominant athlete, but he is tough, smart and technically sound enough to earn consideration in the late rounds.

Positives: Versatile. Has played every position along the offensive line. Durable. Fifty-game starter. Good upper body strength to sustain blocks. Good anchor. At least adequate quickness of the snap

and has the long arms and good upper body strength to make the reach block and carry it down the line. Surprising first step to get to the second level. Cognizant blocker who makes the line calls and reacts quickly to surprise blitzes. Reliable shotgun snapper. Plays to the whistle and will hustle down-field to make blocks.

Negatives. At bit heavier than scouts would prefer. Bends at the waist due to only marginal flexibility. Not truly explosive off the snap and relies on his mass to generate movement in the running game. Can get to the second level as a run blocker, but lacks the fluidity and balance to hit the moving target.

PERSPECTIVE

To add a little perspective to the BYU draft hopefuls and their evaluation by CBSSPORTS.com, This same service has Utah's Sean Smith rated as the No. 37 best prospect and as a second-round pick.

Paul Kruger, the Ute defensive lineman, who also came out early for the draft is rated the No. 52 best prospect and also as a second-round pick. Louie Sakoda, the Utah kicker is rated No. 112 as a prospect and as a third or fourth-round pick.

BYU STILL ALIVE MATHEMATICALLY, BUT NOT LIKELY TO GET A PIECE OF CROWN

Thanks to a late comeback against UNLV last Saturday night in Las Vegas, BYU made it a close, but no cigar, game against the Rebels.

The final was UNLV 75 BYU 74.

Now for the Cougars to get a piece of the MWC basketball title, they will have to pull off a huge upset of San Diego State in San Diego this Tuesday and hope that Utah has a total meltdown in its last four games

Dave Rose has never beaten the Rebels in Las Vegas since he took over the head coaching job at BYU.

We look for that string to stand in the MWC tourney in Las Vegas, if somehow, the two teams meet again.

Lee Cummond led BYU with 20 points scored against UNLV and Jonathan Tavernari added a nice 19, but it wasn't enough for the win.

The Cougars are now 20-6 overall and 8-4 in conference action.

They will tipoff against San Diego State on Tuesday at 8:30 pm Mountain Time. The game will be televised on the Mtn.

TELEVISION TIMETABLE

BYU vs. San Diego State

Tue, Feb 24 at San Diego

Tipoff: 8:30 pm Mountain Time

TV: Mtn

BYU vs. Utah

Sat, Feb 28 at Provo

Tipoff: 3:00 pm Mountain Time

TV: CBS C

BYU vs. Wyoming

Wed, Mar 4 at Laramie

Tipoff: 6:00 pm Mountain Time

TV: Mtn

BYU vs. Air Force

Sat, Mar 7 at Provo

Tipoff: 7:00 pm Mountain Time

TV: Mtn