

HB Arnett's

COUGAR SPORTSLINE

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COUGARS AND CUPS

When it comes to sports, my three favorite events are the Ryder Cup, Breeders' Cup and World Cup. In my opinion, they are sports at its ultimate and highest level and better than anything the NBA, NFL or MLB can, or ever will, produce.

When it comes to sports, in my estimation, those "Cups" are as good as it gets.

I have, however, also seen a few of less-than-spectacular specimen cups when it comes to athletic contests.

The latest was in Albuquerque this past weekend when BYU was listless and lucky enough to come away with a 24-19 win over hapless and winless New Mexico.

After watching that sub-par specimen, the question for Cougar fans might be: Is the "cup" board really that bare on defense?

No need to wait for the analysis to come back from the lab on this one. BYU won a game it should have lost if not for three missed and one blocked field goals by the New Mexico kicker.

Which brings up the question, is the Cougar football cup half full or half empty?

Based on what was on display at Albuquerque, the easy answer would be half empty.

Current Record

Based on the Cougars' current record of 8-2 we could also easily make a case for a cup half full.

The final verdict on the status of this 2009 BYU football cup will be determined in the next two weeks in Provo when the Cougars face Air Force and Utah to close out the regular season.

We have seen BYU football this season at full faucet, with water overflowing the Cougar cup in great games against Oklahoma and Wyoming. We have also seen the Cougars torture their fan base with "waterboarding" performances against Florida State and New Mexico.

When it come to how the Cougars finish out the year against the Falcons and Utes, we will go with the Beach Boys who sang, *When some loud braggart tries to put me down and says his school is great, I tell him right away, Now what's the matter buddy, ain't you heard of my school, It's number one in the state, rah, rah, rah, be true to your school.*

For this optimistic tune to turn out right for the Cougars in their quest beat Utah in two weeks and be number one in the state, the BYU defense will have to start playing more like Brian Urlacher of the Chicago Bears and less like Brian Wilson of the Beach Boys.

Lyrics and Lines

Here are the actual lyrics and lines from the game against the Lobos.

As poorly as the defense played, BYU didn't have a great day offensively either. The Cougars couldn't run the ball with only 41 yards rushing on 23 carries.

Max Hall did complete 21-of-31 for 314 yards. He also had one interception, but threw two touchdown passes.

Defensively, the Cougars allowed New Mexico to run 81 plays and had a hard time getting the Lobos off the field.

The bright spot for the Cougar defense was their 5 sacks, three of which helped preserve the win when New Mexico had a chance to win the game on their last possession.

BYU looks vulnerable for their last two games against Air Force and Utah after what they showed or didn't show against New Mexico last week.

But as the Beach Boy tune says, the Cougars are still on track to be number one in the state.

Sing it with me now. Rah, rah, rah, be true to your school.

We go Beach Boys with BYU against Air Force this coming Saturday in Provo and call it BYU 31 Air 24.

COUGARS GO JAZZ IN SEASON OPENING WIN OVER BRADLEY

BYU opened their 2009-10 basketball season with a 70-60 win over Bradley last Friday night in the Marriott Center.

They looked an awful lot like the Utah Jazz in doing it.

No, BYU doesn't have NBA talent, but they displayed the same Jazz blueprint in this season-opening win.

Both teams have outstanding point guards who carry their teams.

The Jazz have Deron Williams. BYU has Jimmer Fredette.

It was Fredette who put the Cougars on his back to make sure Dave Rose's return to the court from a trying summer of health issues was successful.

The junior preseason Mountain West Conference player of the year led all scorers with 25 points and countered every charge from Bradley with either a big basket or big production from the foul line. After missing his first two free throws in the first half, Fredette reeled off 12 consecutive makes.

The Jazz and BYU both have players who, when they are good are very good, and when they aren't, they are the cause of more hair pulling by fans than a New Mexico women's soccer player in a fit of rage.

The Jazz have Carlos Boozer. You hate him, and then you love him when he plays at the top of his game.

BYU has Jonathan Tavernari. You pull your hair out when he hoists up half-court threes and goes 0-7 in doing so. You love him when he connects on his next four long-distance shots.

Non-Stop Shooting

Neither Boozer nor Tavernari know when to stop shooting.

Tavernari showed both sides of his game against Bradley. He was clueless and scoreless in the early going, but got his game in gear and under control later in the game to end up with 13 points.

Both the Utah Jazz and the BYU Cougars have been looking for a post presence that can produce on the defensive and offensive end of the court for what seems like decades.

Based on what we have seen of the Jazz this year and what we saw of the Cougars in the opener

against Bradley, the search continues.

BYU got 5 points from the post against the Braves.

Both the Jazz and Cougars have some hope, however. The Jazz get the New York Knicks first round draft selection this coming spring. It is almost assured of being a lottery pick. If there is a big guy available, the Jazz will take him.

Based on the early looks of new freshman Brandon Davies, BYU fans may feel like they hit the lottery also.

BYU hasn't had a big man with as much athleticism and potential in a very, very long time.

Until the Jazz and Cougar hopes for a big man actually pan out, thank goodness for Deron Williams and Jimmer Fredette.

The Cougars' next game will be Tuesday in Provo against Idaho State.

BYU'S BASKETBALL RECRUITING CLASS

BYU and Dave Rose announced the addition of two new basketball signees to their program last week.

Neither was a surprise.

Years ago in recruiting, you might be able to sneak in a player that nobody knew of, but not anymore.

We first started hearing about Kyle Collinsworth, a 6-6 guard, when he was in the seventh grade and before he had even enrolled at Provo High School.

We knew that BYU was already on to Chris Collinsworth, Kyle's older brother and current Cougar serving an LDS mission in Australia, when the Cougar staff started watching Chris when he was a freshman at Provo.

Our sources told us then that Chris would be a Division I player, but they also said that he had a brother in Springville in the 7th grade that would really be something.

Turns out they were right.

We found out about Winder, a 6-3 guard, only two months ago. For us, he was an internet find. We were looking for something else and found his web site and other links that told us that BYU had offered him.

Big Fish

If you go by who else was trying to reel these guys in, Collinsworth was the big fish.

He has been a national recruit for the past two summers based on his play on the AAU circuit.

Winder made his recruiting noise this past summer with some nice play on that same circuit.

Here's the deal with Collinsworth. He can play the 1,2 or 3 spots.

Where he is the biggest mismatch is when he plays the point.

He is not extremely athletic, but he can get to the rim whenever he wants and against whoever is guarding him.

Speaking of guarding, that is the weakness in his game. Opposing guards can't guard him and keep him from penetrating because of his size, smarts and proven ability, but the question is can he keep other guards, especially those with superior quickness from doing the same?

Regardless, there was a reason that BYU made an all out recruiting effort for this kid beginning three years ago.

Rose's Remarks

Here is what Dave Rose says about Collinsworth.

"We're excited with the addition of Kyle Collinsworth to our program," BYU head coach Dave Rose

said. "He was a national recruit who is a terrific competitor and an extremely versatile player. An athlete with the skill level to play multiple positions, Kyle is a talented scorer, a productive rebounder and a proficient distributor. he's a key part of a state championship Provo High School program and plays for a highly respected high school coach, Craig Drury. Kyle has also enjoyed tremendous success at the AAU level competing for Utah Pump 'N Run.

Here is what scouting services say about Collinsworth.

From Jerry Meyer at Yahoo Sports: A physical wing player, Collinsworth has a knack at getting to the rim and either finishing or drawing fouls. Although he is just an average outside shooter, Collinsworth is a high-level passer off the dribble. Defensively, he doesn't have the quickest feet, but Collinsworth has physical strength and is a good rebounder.

Another Take

Here is another scouting take from Scout.com.

Collinsworth is a strong wing with a good basketball body. He showed a high basketball IQ by displaying the ability to read the defense at the NBPA Top 100 Camp. He understands how to pass and cut and fill a vacated area on the floor in order to help him get open. He sprints the wing in transition and likes to attack off the dribble from the wing or along the baseline where he can finish around the rim with either hand after he lifts the defender with a terrific shot fake. Collinsworth is a good ball handler and passer. He can see over smaller defenders and make the right pass. He didn't look to shoot the open jumper but preferred to drive. Collinsworth seemed to struggle at times with the speed of the game and when he had to defend athletic swing players. Collinsworth is a good, not great athlete and has good upside.

Collinsworth was recruited by Virginia, USC, ASU, Gonzaga, Kansas, Stanford and all in-state schools.

Words on Winder

Here is what Rose said about Winder.

"He's a versatile guard and a terrific athlete. Anson is a very capable scorer and takes pride in being an excellent defender and rebounder. He will flourish in our transition game."

Here is what scouting services say about him.

"Winder possesses a nice frame with long arms and overall solid length for the 2-guard position. He is a Division I sleeper who needs some polish in terms of skill development. He plays with great effort at both ends and thrives in transition where he can attack the rim. His frame allows him to draw contact and finish as well. He is a streaky player who plays in spurts and needs to be more consistent. He can knock down the 3, but his shot is streaky and a tad flat in its trajectory." Windsor was recruited by Nevada, Portland and Idaho.

BYU also indicated what we already knew when they released their announcement of early signing news. Chris Collinsworth and Nick Martineau will be returning for next season after serving LDS missions.

One More Signing

Dave Rose has signed a new five-year contract as coach of BYU that will take him through the 2013-14 season. The new deal replaces the contract Rose signed in 2007.

QUARTERBACK QUEUE

Max Hall...With the win over New Mexico, Hall tied Ty Detmer for most wins as a BYU quarterback

with 29 victories. Hall has three games remaining, including a bowl game, to surpass Detmer.

Riley Nelson...Did not play against New Mexico.

James Lark and Jason Munns...Both will be back from missions for next season.

Jake Heaps...Defeated South Kitsap HS 63-14 in first round of state playoffs. Heaps threw for 301 yards and 7 touchdowns in the first half. He didn't play the last two quarters.

Tanner Mangum...Season is over for the sophomore from Timberline HS in Boise.

Alex Kuresa...Kuresa's junior season came to an end with a 38-21 loss to Timpview in the state semi-finals. He completed 27/42 passes for 375 yards against the T-Birds.

TELEVISION TIMETABLE

Football

BYU vs. Air Force

Saturday, Nov 21 at Provo

Kickoff: 1:30 pm Mountain Time

TV: CBS C

BYU vs. Utah

Saturday, Nov 28 at Provo

Kickoff: 3:00 pm Mountain Time

TV: The Mtn and CBS C

Basketball

BYU vs. Idaho State

Tuesday, Nov 17 at Provo

Tipoff: 7:30 pm Mountain Time

TV: none

BYU vs. Hawaii

Friday, Nov 20 at Honolulu

Tipoff: 10:00 pm Mountain Time

TV: KFVE (local only in Hawaii)

BYU vs. Southern

Tuesday, Nov 24 at Provo

Tipoff: 7:00 pm Mountain Time

TV: none

BYU vs. Weber State

Friday, Nov 27 at Provo

Tipoff: 7:30 pm Mountain Time

TV: The Mtn

BYU vs. Utah State

Wednesday, Dec 2 at Logan

Tipoff: 7:00 pm Mountain Time

TV: the CW30 (local only in Utah)

We have had several subscribers ask for us to publish the entire basketball schedule, so here is the rest of it with current television plans.

Dec 5, San Francisco at Salt Lake, 7 pm, TV: BYUTV and KJZZ
Dec 8, Arizona State at Provo, 8 pm, TV: The Mtn
Dec 12, Fresno State at Fresno, 8 pm, TV: none
Dec 17, Wagner at Provo, 7 pm, TV: BYUTV
Dec 19, Eastern Washington at Provo, 7 pm, TV: BYUTV
Dec 22, Nevada (Reno) at Las Vegas, 8:30 pm, TV: BYUTV
Dec 23, Nebraska or Tulsa at Las Vegas, TBA, TV: BYUTV
Dec 28, Arizona at Tucson, 7 pm, TV: Fox Sports
Jan 2, Eastern New Mexico at Provo, 7 pm, TV: none
Jan 6, UNLV at Provo, 8 pm, TV: The Mtn
Jan 9, UTEP at El Paso, 7 pm, TV: CBS C
Jan 13, Air Force at Colorado, 6 pm, TV: The Mtn
Jan 16, CSU at Provo, 4 pm, TV: The Mtn
Jan 20, Wyoming at Provo, 6 pm, TV: The Mtn
Jan 23, SDSU at San Diego, 8 pm, TV: The Mtn
Jan 27, New Mexico at Albuquerque, 8 pm, TV: The Mtn
Jan 30, Utah at Provo, 7 pm, TV: The Mtn
Feb 2, TCU at Provo, 7 pm, TV: The Mtn
Feb 6, UNLV at Las Vegas, 2 pm, TV: Versus
Feb 13, Air Force at Provo, 4 pm, TV: The Mtn
Feb 17, CSU at Fort Collins, 6 pm, TV: The Mtn
Feb 20, Wyoming at Laramie, 4 pm, TV: The Mtn
Feb 24, SDSU at Provo, 7 pm, TV: CBS C
Feb 27, New Mexico at Provo, 2 pm, TV: Versus
Mar 3, Utah at Salt Lake, 7 pm, TV: CBS C
Mar 6, TCU at Fort Worth, 4 pm, TV: The Mtn
Mar 10-13, MWC Tourney at Las Vegas, TBA, TV: The Mtn, Versus and CBS C

All times are Mountain