

HB Arnett's

COUGAR SPORTSLINE

801 372 0819

hbarnett@fiber.net and hbarnett@xmission

PO Box 50424 Provo, Utah 84605

Vol. 28, Issue 19, December 10, 2007

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

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.

REBOUNDING IS WHAT BYU NOW NEEDS

Rebounding is the key word after BYU's 68-61 loss to Michigan State last Saturday in Salt Lake City. BYU was beaten physically and statistically in the rebounding department by MSU.

It was especially apparent on the offensive glass where the Spartans were continually getting extra scoring chances.

Rebounding is also what BYU will most likely have to do in the polls. Despite the loss to No. 9 ranked Michigan State on a neutral (in name only) floor, we expect the Cougars to fall out of the national rankings, despite a good 7-2 overall record for the season.

Trent Plaisted led BYU with 19 points and 8 rebounds. Sam Burgess had 15 points for the Cougars, but nobody had enough rebounds to offset the Michigan State rebounding machine.

It didn't help the Cougar cause that down the stretch with the game still in the balance, BYU missed several front ends of 1-and-1 free throw opportunities.

That is just like a turnover.

Lee Cummond didn't miss a shot in the game. He just didn't get enough of them because of foul problems that limited him to only 20 minutes of action. Before fouling out in the second half, the junior wing had two field goals, one three-point shot and made two free throws. Everything he shot went in the basket.

BYU certainly had plenty of chances to win this game. They held a 10-point lead at the intermission, but shot only 28 percent in the second half. MSU, meanwhile, was shooting 67 percent from the floor in that same period.

BYU simply couldn't make enough baskets when they had open shots late in the game.

BYU now returns to a slate of winnable games beginning this week with Lamar on Wednesday and Pepperdine on Saturday. Both contests will be played in Provo.

ROSE DIDN'T LOOK DEEP ENOUGH ON THE BENCH

When BYU was going through its late-game scoring drought in Saturday's loss to Michigan State, BYU coach Dave Rose was looking down his bench to find somebody who could provide some needed offensive punch.

He didn't look far enough. Had he glanced at the first row behind the bench, he would have seen two kids that could give him the needed scoring lift he was looking for.

Of course he would have been looking one and two years too early.

Compliments of BYU, three local basketball recruits that BYU has been all over for the last few years, were seated right behind the BYU bench during the MSU-BYU game at The Energy Solutions area.

BYU might as well have put them in the team huddle. They were seated that close.

Tyler Haws, Kyle Collinsworth and Brandon Davies were all there watching the Cougars take on the Spartans.

The big fish for 2009 is still Haws. The 6-4 junior guard from Lone Peak HS in Highland, UT, continues to show by his play this year that he will be an impact player at the next level.

22.6 a Game

After 5 games, he is averaging 22.6 points per game. That doesn't sound spectacular for a D-1 high school recruit, but Haws is averaging that on a team that has 5 D-1 recruits on the same roster.

If you have never seen Haws play, and that should include most of you who live outside of Utah, you will get a chance on Dec. 28-29.

Lone Peak will participate in the second annual T Mobile Invitational High School Basketball Tournament held in Albuquerque this year.

The Knights will meet Centennial HS of Roswell, GA on Friday, Dec. 28 and depending on whether they win or lose, will face either perennial national power, St. Anthony of New Jersey or La Cueva of New Mexico. St. Anthony is coached by prep coaching legend Bob Hurley Sr.

All games are to be televised live on Versus. The Lone Peak vs. Centennial game is set to tip off at 12:30 pm Mountain Time.

Another Year

Go another year in the future and the guy BYU has zeroed in on and reportedly already offered is Kyle Collinsworth, the younger brother of current Cougar Chris Collinsworth. He is only a sophomore and won't sign with anybody until 2010.

BYU and other programs are recruiting him because of his basketball skills and growth plates.

Last year as a frosh, he was a 6-1 guard. This year, as a sophomore, he is a 6-4 wing player. There are some who think he will top at somewhere between the 6-10 and 7 foot range. With his guard skills already intact, if he gets that big, the recruiting pressure will come from all over.

Davies is a 6-7 junior. He and Collinsworth are teammates at Provo HS. He has some skills and athleticism to accompany those skills.

BYU is also showing increased interest in another junior 6-4 guard. That would be C.J. Wilcox of Pleasant Grove HS. He is leading the state in scoring with 27.0 points per game. He also has been offered by BYU.

Former Cougar

He is the son of former Cougar basketball player, Craig Wilcox. The elder Wilcox was recruited out of Georgia by Tony Ingle when Ingle was an assistant coach for Roger Reid.

Speaking of Georgia, BYU is back in the Peach State recruiting again. They are after 6-10 Jeremy Olsen out of Collins Hill HS in Suwannee. He is LDS and also only a junior this season. He is averaging around 15 points and 10 rebounds a game for the Screaming Eagles.

One player who has already signed with BYU this past November is Charles Abouo. He is a 6-6 wing who played high school basketball last year at Logan HS in Utah and is currently at Brewster Academy, a prep school in New Hampshire.

Brewster has six players that have already signed with Division I programs and plays a very tough and talented schedule. Abouo is averaging around 15 points per game.

There may be some who are thinking that BYU's future basketball recruiting looks a little provincial with all the local recruits that BYU is pursuing.

There have been times when we have thought that way also, but this isn't one of those times.

We have seen all of these kids play. They are for real. The state is just loaded with legitimate Division I talent for the next couple of seasons.

TIMPVVIEW TOTALS

There are some high school coaches in Utah that refer to the football program at Timpview High School as the University of Timpview. That is in reference to the Division I talent the Thunderbirds put out on a regular basis and will continue to produce.

If you find it hard to believe that a high school in Utah County could be that good, chew on this for a while.

Of the 22 starters on offense and defense for BYU next season, six of those 22 players could be from Timpview.

How about Harvey Unga, Dallas Reynolds, Matt Reynolds and Luke Ashworth on offense? On the defensive side of the ball, you could very well have Eathyn Manumaleuna at tackle and Scott Johnson as a starting safety.

There is more coming from Timpview. BYU will sign two additional players in February when linebackers Michael Alisa and Kevan Bills ink letters of intent.

There are two more safeties coming on board the following year when Craig Bills and Jray Galea'i honor their existing verbal commitments. And yes, we expect Galea'i to be back at Timpview next season.

He played as a sophomore at Timpview, then played at Kahuku HS in Hawaii this year and should end up back in Provo for his senior campaign.

The best prospect in Utah for next year is also at Timpview. That would be Xavier Sua' Filo. He is a 6-3, 280 pound defensive lineman who is getting recruiting pressure from Big 12 and SEC schools. Tui Crichton is an offensive lineman from Timpview that will also be a Division I prospect that BYU has offered.

RECRUITING PAYDAY JUST TWO MONTHS AWAY

Here is the current commitment list for BYU Football. Letter of Intent can be signed in early February.

Michael Alisa, LB, 6-2, 225, Timpview HS, UT
Kevan Bills, LB, 6-3, 235, Timpview HS, UT
Atem Bol, WR, 6-2, 205, Bell HS, TX
Jerry Bruner, LB, 6-3, 225, Evergreen HS, WA

Coleby Clawson, LB, 6-3, 225, Snow College, UT
Cameron Comer, DB, 6-1, 180, Springville HS, UT
Spencer Hadley, DB, 6-2, 210, Connell HS, WA
Tevita Hola, DL, 6-1, 310, Snow College, UT
Austin Holt, TE, 6-5, 235, Bingham HS, UT
Tolu Moala, LB, 6-1, 230, El Camino CC, CA
Jake Murphy, WR, 6-5, 215, American Fork HS, UT
Garrett Nicholson, DB, 5-10, 180, West HS, UT
Seta Pohahau, RB, 6-0, 200, Aragon HS, CA
Iona Pritchard, LB, 6-1, 225, Bingham HS, UT
Brock Stringham, OL, 6-6, 280, Mountain Vista HS, CO
Jessie Taufi, OL, 6-5, 320, Long Beach CC, CA
Shiloah Te'o, DB, 5-11, 190, Kahuku HS, HI
Masi Tuitama, LB, 6-2, 205, Pacifica HS, CA
Daniel Sorensen, DB, 6-1, 200, Colton HS, CA
Justin Sorensen, K, 6-2, 215, Bingham HS, UT
Michael Yeck, OL, 6-8, 265, Keller HS, TX

All of the current commits for BYU are LDS with the one exception of Garrett Nicholson.

BIG FISH STILL LEFT IN THE POND

BYU had two of the bigger fish locally they were hoping to land get away recently when Sausan Shakerin and David Kruger opted to commit to Utah. Shakerin, who is not LDS, is a big-time talent and is out of Alta HS in Sandy. He is a running back.

Kruger has some nice size to go along with his talent. He is a defensive lineman.

BYU didn't have the right bait to land these two. Both have family connections at Utah.

There are still some very big fish still swimming in BYU's recruiting pond and Cougar coaches are still aggressively fishing.

Some think that the big fish are just nibbling, but we expect to see a couple of these lunkers landed.

Here are the biggest three fish left to lure.

O'Neil Chambers, WR, 6-3, 205, Harmony HS, St. Cloud, Florida...He is not LDS, but the connection here is his high school coach. Tyler Anderson is a former BYU receiver. Chambers made a visit to Provo this summer during one of the Cougar camps. He will be coming back again on Jan. 11 for an official visit. He will make an official visit to Florida the following weekend. He has already visited Purdue in September. Iowa State, Houston, Maryland, Purdue, South Carolina, Mississippi State and BYU have all offered. As of the first of December, Chambers said that his top three are BYU, Purdue and Florida. The interest in the Cougars and Boilermakers is early playing time.

Uona Kavienga, LB, 6-0, 225, Leuzinger HS, Lawndale, CA...This big-time playmaker will be part of the Jan. 11-12 recruiting weekend and will make an official visit to Provo despite giving a verbal commitment to UCLA last March. This guy is the marquee LDS recruit. He has offers from UCLA, USC, Arizona, Georgia Tech, Oklahoma, Utah and BYU. With the coaching changes at UCLA, BYU looks to be back in the picture.

Hamani Stevens, OL, 6-2, 280, Hemet HS, CA...This top-rated LDS center, like Kavienga, was a UCLA commit early, but is no longer interested in UCLA. He has already made four official visits. They include trips to Michigan State, ASU, Colorado and most recently, Oregon. He will visit BYU officially Jan. 11.

NAMES AND GAMES

Big Receivers...It probably is too early to claim it as a solid trend, but it appears that BYU has been targeting bigger receivers in its recruiting efforts.

There are still some receivers who are in the under six foot category in the program, but most of those guys were recruited either before Bronco Mendenhall took over or in his first season as coach.

There will still be some smaller receivers recruited, but they will have to be exceptional. The best example would be McKay Jacobson.

This year BYU has two receivers committed and is hoping for a third. Atem Bol is 6-2, Jake Murphy is 6-4 and O'Neil Chambers, whom BYU hopes to sign is 6-2.

Last year BYU signed two receivers in Marcus Matthews and Jordan Smith. Both are 6-4. Next year the Cougars top wide out prospect is Brett Thompson, a 6-3 receiver from Oak Ridge HS in California.

COUGAR TALES...As was expected, UCLA fired Karl Dorrell and DeWayne Walker will act as the interim coach for the Bruins when they take on BYU in the Las Vegas Bowl on Dec. 22.

Walker will get the maximum effort from his players, especially on defense.

Ben Olson could end up being the starting quarterback for UCLA when the two teams meet.

You remember Olson, don't you? He was the LDS qb prospect that BYU fans knew about when he was a sophomore and were so excited about when he finally signed with the Cougars out of high school.

Now it's time for a Ben Olson rerun.

There is a new LDS sophomore quarterback that has BYU and Cougar recruiting junkies excited.

That would be Jake Heaps, a 6-2, 185 pound quarterback from Skyline HS in Washington. He just led his Spartans to the Washington 3A football championship.

Along the way, he picked up two scholarship offers. The first was from BYU and two weeks later, Tyrone Willingham, who is still the coach at UW, despite some who thought he would be let go this year, offered Heaps a scholarship.

Willingham had plenty of opportunities to see Heaps play this season because his own son plays on the same team.

The MWC All Conference team was announced last week. BYU landed Max Hall, Dennis Pitta, Ray Feinga, Dallas Reynolds, Jan Jorgensen and Bryan Kehl on the first team. Austin Collie and Kelly Poppinga were All-MWC second-team selections.

Harvey Unga was selected to the second team, but he did grab MWC Freshman of the Year honors.

The BYU women's volleyball team reached the final eight of the NCAA tournament this past week with a win over Middle Tennessee State. They were unable to make it to the Final Four when No. 1 ranked Penn State swept the Cougars in three straight games.

Exclusive LDS Fraternity Expands By One...Holding a job as an LDS Division I head football coach is a pretty exclusive club. It just got a little bigger this past week when Ken Niumatalolo was named the head coach at Navy.

He replaces Paul Johnson who took the head job at Georgia Tech. Niumatalolo was the assistant head coach and offensive line coach at Navy under Johnson.

He worked two stints at Navy. He was the offensive coordinator under Charlie Weatherbie. When that staff was fired, he worked at UNLV for three years and resurfaced at Navy.

Niumatalolo also joins an even more exclusive coaching club at the Division I level. He, along with Gary Crowton, are the only returned LDS missionaries to be D-1 head coaches.

Other current LDS head football coaches at the Division I level include Bronco Mendenhall, Kyle Whittingham of Utah and J.D. Brookhart of Akron.

According to the Navy press release announcing his appointment, it is believed that Niumatalolo is the first Polynesian head coach in NCAA Division I-A history and the first Samoan collegiate head coach on any level. Niumatalolo is a native of Laie, HI and a University of Hawaii graduate. He played qb for the Warriors and graduated in 1989.

TELEVISION TIMETABLE

BYU vs. Lamar

Wednesday, Dec. 12 at Provo
Tipoff: 7:00 pm Mountain Time
TV: Mtn

BYU vs. Pepperdine

Saturday, Dec. 15 at Provo
Tipoff: 7:00 pm Mountain Time
TV: Mtn

BYU vs. Southern Utah

Friday, Dec. 21 at Provo
Tipoff: 6:30 pm Mountain Time
TV: Mtn

BYU vs. UCLA

Saturday, Dec. 22 at Las Vegas
Kickoff: 6:00 pm Mountain Time
TV: ESPN