

HB Arnett's ***COUGAR SPORTSLINE***

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BYU'S FOOTBALL RECRUITING CLASS IS A CULT CLASSIC

BYU football fans need to face reality when it comes to recruiting.

Just like movies, forget the reviews and previews. The only thing that matters is the box office.

BYU is never going to be among the stars and bars of Park City's Sundance Film Festival.

Mostly what Bronco Mendenhall and his coaches are going to produce in recruiting is a cult classic; never highly touted, but highly eclectic, efficient and Mormon.

Like most underrated cult classics, BYU's recruiting classes don't draw rave reviews, but they just keep on producing at the box office and in the win column.

There will be a few star cameo appearances in every year's recruiting production. This year those stars are Tanner Mangum and Troy Hinds, but both will be at least three years removed from the marquee of this class before they actually see the field. Chalk that up to serving LDS missions.

In the state of Utah, if you had to give out awards for recruiting, Utah would get the Oscar...for best foreign film. That means that it comes with subtitles.

The subtitles to the annual BYU-Utah recruiting battles in this film are that Utah can admit many players that BYU can't admit to school. Even so, Utah has had a distinct advantage over BYU for the last decade when it comes to recruiting defensive lineman. They did it again this year.

Subtitles or not, BYU has been subpar to Utah in recruitment of defensive linemen. This year was no exception.

BYU signed 17 players to letters of intent last Wednesday. They also announced another 12 players that will be returning from LDS missionary service.

Like most Cougar recruiting classes, because of the comings and goings of LDS missions, nobody will really know how it turns out for at least 4 years. Regardless, we are often asked to give our evaluation of a BYU recruiting class. We give this one 5 Stars.

This has nothing to do with how this recruiting class compares to Utah's class or other classes procured by the top teams in the country.

We give it five stars because we see at least five guys that will make an immediate impact either this season or next.

Here they are:

Taysom Hill...We stick by our assessment of the true freshman quarterback via Stanford. He is Riley Nelson on steroids; Bigger, faster, stronger and just as elusive. Probably a better arm also. The key will be what coaches want to do with him. Do they redshirt him to not waste a year of eligibility or do they let him see some action this year so that in 2013, they are not stuck with a starting quarterback who has never seen the field at the collegiate level.

Bronson Kaufusi... Like Hill, it will be a case of this year or next. Kaufusi is in our opinion, the most talented football player BYU has recruited in the last five years. He has the biggest NFL upside. He can be a beast at defensive end for the Cougars, but if he bulks up, he could be a millionaire NFL offensive lineman.

Craig Bills...We know it sounds provincial, but Timpview HS in Provo not only gave BYU Kaufusi, but Craig Bills also. He won't be back from his mission in time for spring ball, but he will be back on the field at safety for BYU this fall. He is a poster child for what Mendenhall wants in his safeties. He hits, plays fearlessly and is cerebral. It doesn't hurt that he also has some physical talent.

Jamaal Williams...He has a good high school running back resume and BYU is planning on that resume in rejuvenating a nondescript running game. Timing is everything and in Williams' case, he will be joining the Cougars this fall when the running game will need help. Of all the new incoming freshmen, he is the most likely to see the field the soonest.

Brett Thompson...BYU has re-tooled their wide receiver mold. They are looking for bigger and more athletic receivers. Thompson showed glimpses of that mold before missionary service. We see him as a player who will see the field this fall alongside Cody Hoffman and Ross Apo.

When it comes to BYU football recruiting and movies, if you want stars, head to Park City or to the internet. You will likely be disappointed with both if that is what you need to validate your passion for BYU football.

We have been around the recruiting scene long enough to have fallen victim to hype and hysteria in February before. What really matters is what happens in October on the field.

It takes a consistent string of "Cult Classic" classes to be a good football program. This is a nice Cult Classic class that will produce wins and success on the field.

Below is BYU's official press release of this year's football recruiting class. The recruits are listed alphabetically.

Phillip Amone...Linebacker, 6-0, 230, Orlando, FL, Dr. Phillips High School

2011 All-Metro West Conference ... team captain and defensive MVP ... had 50 tackles in four games, including a season-high 16 tackles in the third game of the season before tearing his ACL in

October of his senior year ... as a junior totaled 128 tackles, 5 sacks and an interception ... led high school team to 45-4 record in career ... helped school win 36-straight regular-season games ... in state title game junior season ... principal's honor roll ... National Honors Society ... has seven brothers and sisters ... also recruited by Florida Atlantic, Duke, Miami, North Carolina, Georgia Tech, Purdue, Indiana and Wisconsin ... coached by Rodney Wells

Dylan Collie...Wide Receiver, 5-11, 175, El Dorado Hills, Calif., Oak Ridge HS

First-team All-Metro, First-team All-League, and Offensive MVP ... as a senior caught 47 passes for 660 yards and 8 touchdowns and rushed 42 times for 179 yards and 3 touchdowns ... caught nine passes for 164 yards and three touchdowns in roughly just one half of work in one game senior year ... also played quarterback part of senior year due to injuries and passed for 345 yards and five touchdowns ... had at least 100 receiving yards and 2 touchdowns in each his playoff games ... caught 42 passes for 543 yards and 8 touchdowns his junior year ... brothers Zac and Austin both played wider receiver for BYU, along with father Scott ... recruited by Oregon, Washington, UCLA, Utah and Washington State ... coached by Eric Cavaliere

Matthew Hadley...Defensive Back, 5-11, 190, Connell, Wash., Connell High School

Rushed for 2,516 yards and state-record 47 touchdowns as a junior while also scoring three more touchdowns on defense and special teams ... finished high school career with 6,881 rushing yards and scored a state-record 746 points ... had 168 rushing yards and three touchdowns, including scoring runs of 70 and 40 yards, in state title game as a senior ... won two 1A state titles (2009, 2011) ... 1A Player of the Year (2009, 2010) ... Played running back and defensive back ... had 2,162 rushing yards as a senior ... coached by Zach Fife

Micah Hannemann...Defensive Back, 6-1, 190, Alpine, UT, Lone Peak HS

5A First Team All-State in 2011 ... honorable mention All-State in 2010 ... won 5A state title in 2011 ... helped Lone Peak to 25-2 record in two years ... recorded 58 tackles, two sacks, six pass breakups and forced one fumble as a senior ... also caught 35 passes for 526 yards and eight touchdowns ... brother, Jacob, will also play defensive back for BYU ... also recruited by Southern Utah, Utah and Utah State ... coached by Tony McGeary

Taysom Hill...Quarterback, 6-2, 210, Pocatello, Idaho, Highland HS, *mid-year enrollee

2008 5A All-Idaho Player of the Year as a senior after quarterbacking Highland to its first state title since 2002 ... listed as the 30th-best quarterback prospect in the nation coming out of high school in 2009 by Scout.com and Rivals.com ... listed as the top recruit in the state of Idaho by Rivals.com ... led Highland to the Idaho State 5A championship as a senior ... Idaho's Gatorade High School Player of the Year as a senior ... first team all-state selection also earned all-region and conference player of the year accolades ... completed 166-of-258 passes (64.3 percent) and threw for 2,269 yards and 18 touchdowns as a senior ... also rushed for 1,491 yards and 24 TDs, averaging 10.2 yards per carry and 124.3 rushing yards per game ... holds school single-season and career records for total offense ... also lettered in basketball and track and field ... older brother Jordan played defensive tackle at Arizona State and other brother Dexter played quarterback at Scottsdale (Ariz.) Community College, Northern Iowa and Dixie State (Utah) ... served LDS mission to Sydney, Australia ... originally committed to Stanford before mission ... also recruited by Arizona, Washington State, Boise State and Utah ... coached by Gino Mariani

Troy Hinds...Outside Linebacker, 6-5, 235, Kaysville, Utah, Davis HS

Rated No.1 recruit in Utah by 247Sports ... Four-star recruit by Rivals.com, rated the No. 14 defensive end and No. 2 overall prospect in state of Utah and No. 2 in the state by ESPN ... four-star recruit by Scout.com, ranked the No. 23 overall defensive end ... 5A All-State selection all four years

of high school ... Maxpreps All-American ... All-Region MVP and All-Area MVP ... led team in sacks as sophomore (8.0), junior (7.5) and senior (9.0) ... led team in tackles sophomore (96) ... led Davis to a league title in 2009 and 23-9-1 record in three years ... recorded 7 tackles, one sack and caught a 39-yard touchdown pass in a 14-10 victory over Syracuse as a senior ... forced four fumbles as a senior ... also lettered in basketball and track ... also recruited by Arizona, Arizona State, Cal, Georgia Tech, Colorado, Michigan, Nebraska, Notre Dame, Oklahoma Stanford, UCLA, Utah and Washington State ... coached by Ryan Bishop

Austin Hoyt...Offensive Line, 6-7, 260, Jackson, Calif., Argonaut High School

2011 Cal-Hi All-State First Team ... 2011 League MVP, 2011 All-Area Second Team Defense, 2010 First team All-League ... ranked the No. 12 defensive end in the west and No. 78 overall player in California by Scout.com ... recorded 70 tackles, 2 sacks and scored two defensive touchdowns (1 fumble recovery and 1 interception return) as a senior ... also caught 10 passes for 325 yards, 4 touchdowns and caught a 2-point conversion at tight end ... recorded 109 tackles, 5 sacks, 2 blocked kicks and recovered a fumble as a junior while catching 8 passes for 111 yards and one touchdown at tight end ... Academic All-League in 2010 and 2011 ... was student-body president as a senior Honor roll all four years of high school also was All-League in basketball in 2010 and 2011 ... also recruited by Utah, Air Force, Oregon, Oregon State, Washington, Washington State, UCLA, Arizona, Army, Harvard and Utah State ... coached by Rich Davis

Marques Johnson...Defensive Lineman, 6-2, 310, Los Angeles, Calif., El Camino CC
*mid-year enrollee

First-team All-League, Second-team All-City ... Team captain and lineman of the year ... led El Camino to a No. 2 ranking in sacks (38), pass defense (176.5 ypg) and scoring defense (19 ppg) and No. 3 in total defense (288.5 ypg) ... recorded a team-high 14.5 tackles for loss for minus-38 yards, four sacks, forced one fumble and recovered one fumble ... earned Scholar Baller Award ... has three brothers and sisters ... also recruited by Indiana, Washington State and Texas Tech ... coached by Ruffin Patterson

Theodore King...Defensive Line, 6-3, 235, San Jose, Calif., Valley Christian School

All-Area First Team, All-Mercury honorable mention, All-League honorable mention ... led team to a conference title as a junior and a second-place regional finish ... participated in Nike SPARQ combine in Oakland and named to All-Combine squad with a 90.24 rating (sixth among defensive players)... also recruited by Fresno State, Nevada, Oregon State, Sacramento State and San Jose State ... coached by Mike Machado

Jherremya Leuta-Douyere...Linebacker, 6-1, 235, Garden Grove, Calif., Servite HS

First-team Trinity League ... First-team All-Pac 5 ... 2011 Trinity League Defensive MVP ... team co-captain ... won state title as a sophomore ... played linebacker, defensive end, fullback and offensive guard in high school ... rated No. 5 fullback in the nation by Scout.com ... also recruited by Oregon State, Colorado, Hawaii and UCLA ... coached by Troy Thomas

Tanner Mangum...Quarterback, 6-3, 195, Eagle, Idaho, Eagle HS

Rated No. 1 prospect in the state of Idaho, No. 3 overall quarterback in the nation and No. 59 overall prospect by Rivals.com ... rated No. 15 quarterback by Scout.com ... Co-MVP of Elite 11 Camp ... MVP of the Under Armour All-America Game ... participated in The Opening, a five-day Nike football event and was named to the 7on7 All-Tournament team after leading his squad to the championship game ... 5A Southern Idaho Conference Offensive Player of the Year ... All-State ... completed a

school-record 268 of 393 passes for 3,885 yards and 35 touchdowns as a senior ... set a single-game school record completing 37 of 53 passes for 469 yards and six touchdowns ... threw for 874 yards and 10 touchdowns before missing most of his junior year with a an injury ... Academic All-Conference all of high school ... ESPN lists him as "an efficient, technically consistent pocket passer that is an above average athlete as well" ... older brother, Parker, also played football at BYU while sister, Meredith, played soccer at Boise State ... also recruited by Arkansas, Boise State, Oregon, Oregon State, Stanford, Utah and Washington State ... coached by Paul Peterson

Ammon Olsen...Quarterback, 6-3, 198, Draper, Utah, SUU, *mid-year enrollee

Utah's 5A Most Valuable Player and Gatorade Player of the Year honors as a senior while leading Alta High School to the 2008 state title ... completed 193 of 306 passes (63.1 percent) for 3,209 yards and 36 touchdowns and ran for 860 yards and another 11 scores as a senior while leading his team to four second-half comeback wins ... member of back-to-back state championship teams in 2007 and 2008 as well as three consecutive region title teams ... exceptional athlete was also a three-year letterman on the AHS basketball team, earning Region 2 MVP honors as a senior ... Attended Southern Utah University as a freshman in 2009, playing in six games while completing 57.1 percent of his passes (8-of-14) for 115 yards and two touchdowns ... added 44 yards rushing on 10 carries (4.4 ypc) ... served an LDS mission to Mexico City ... coached in high school by Les Hamilton

Butch Pau'u...Linebacker, 6-0, 220, Anaheim, Calif., Servite HS

First-team All-State, First-team All-County and First-team All-Orange County while picking up Trinity League Defensive Player of the Year honors ... one of six ESPNHS Cal-Hi Sports All-State Multi-Purpose First Team selections in 2011 as a LB/TE ... No. 19 overall middle linebacker and No. 51 overall prospect in California on Rivals.com ... No. 21 overall middle linebacker on Scout.com ...Earned MVP linebacker honors at the LA Nike Camp in 2011 ... played in state championship game in 2010 ... helped team to CIF titles in 2010 and Trinity League titles in 2010 and 2011 ... also played basketball ... also recruited by Colorado, Utah, Washington, Iowa State, Nebraska, Oregon, Oregon State, UCLA and Washington State ... coached by Troy Thomas

Steven Richards...Defensive Line, 6-4, 240, Sandy, Utah, Alta HS

5A All-State honorable mention (2011) ... All-Region First Team selection (2011) ... recorded 30 receptions for 393 yards and four touchdowns as a senior at tight end ... led Alta to a 9-2 record, league title and regional runner-up finish ... as a junior caught 28 passes for 336 yards and one touchdown ... does a great job of catching the ball with his hands, shows surprising quickness and moves after the catch, and knows how to get open ... also recruited by Utah State, Stanford and UCLA ... coached by Les Hamilton

Rhett Sandlin...Linebacker, 6-3, 225, Sandy, Utah, Alta HS

Rated No. 59 at the safety position and seventh-best prospect in Utah by Rivals.com ... 5A All-State honorable mention (2010, 2011) ... All-Region First Team selection (2010, 2011) ... Utah Elite 33 Tanoa Bowl ... as a senior, led team to 9-2 record, league title and regional runner-up finish ... totaled 84 tackles, 3.0 sacks, five pass deflections, two forced fumbles and two fumble recoveries as a senior at linebacker ... played safety and linebacker as a junior and totaled 117 tackles, four pass breakups, two forced fumbles, 1.5 sacks, one fumble recovery and one interception ... 3-year starter and four-year letter winner ... also recruited by Stanford, Oregon State, Washington, Wyoming and Utah ... coached by Robert Stevens

Josh Weeks...Wide Receiver, 6-4, 200, Show Low, Ariz., Show Low HS

Maxpreps All-American (2009, 2010) ... 2011 AzFCA All-State ... selected to play in 2011 Semper Fi All-American Bowl ... AZ Republic All-Arizona (2009, 2010, 2011) ... set six 3A Arizona high school

records in career and is Arizona's all-time leader in career receptions (187) and receiving yards (3,851) and receiving touchdowns (46) ... played multiple positions as a senior and rushed 130 times for 1,161 yards and 13 touchdowns, caught 38 passes for 540 yards and 5 touchdowns and threw for 527 yards and 8 touchdowns ... as a junior caught 73 passes for 1,561 yards and 20 touchdowns ... had 47 receptions, 1,223 yards and 15 touchdowns as a sophomore ... won 2010 3A state championship ... also ran track and won the 2011 400-meter state title ... National Football Foundation Scholar Athlete of the Year (2011) ... also recruited by Florida, Florida State, Nevada, North Carolina, Arizona, Arizona State and Ohio State ... coached by Randy Ricedorff

Jamaal Williams...Running Back, 6-1, 193, Fontana, Calif., Summit HS

League and CIF offensive MVP ... First-team All-CIF, First-team All-League ... CIF Championship as a senior with a 13-1 record and league title ... had 141 rushes for 1,252 yards and 22 touchdowns as a senior ... also recorded 13 receptions for 254 yards and 1 touchdown ... rushed 93 times for 717 yards a junior with 11 touchdowns ... assistant coach was Tony Crutchfield, former BYU defensive back ... also recruited by Boise State, Arizona State, Utah, Idaho, San Diego State, UCLA and Oregon ... coached by Tony Barile

Sawyer Powell, Linebacker, 6-2, 205, Richland, Wash., Richland HS

Enrolled in school in January, is gray shirting this spring, but will not receive scholarship or listed as a recruit until after serving an LDS mission.

Returned missionaries announced as part of signing day list.

Terrance Alletto, 6-3, 287, OL
Trevor Bateman, 5-9, 178, DB
Craig Bills, 6-1, 209, DB
Tui Crichton, 6-3, 357, OL
Jacob Hannemann, 6-1, 190, DB
Bronson Kaufusi, 6-6, 240, DL
Mitch Mathews, 6-6, 202, WR
Remington Peck, 6-4, 240, DL
Russell Tialavea, 6-3, 266, DL
Brett Thompson, 6-3, 216, WR
Fono Vakalahi, 6-foot-3, 335 pounds, OL
Brad Wilcox, 6-7, 265, OL

New signees leaving for missions before enrolling at BYU

Phillip Amone
Micah Hannemann
Troy Hinds
Tanner Mangum
Steven Richards
Josh Weeks

BYU BASKETBALL BEGGING FOR SOME CONSISTENCY

Dave Rose and his BYU basketball crew notched two wins last week in staying in the hunt for one of

the top two spots in the WCC standings.

The first win was a beauty. The Cougars played one of their best games of the season in defeating Gonzaga in Provo 83-73.

It gave BYU a boost in their aspirations for a NCAA postseason invite.

Two days later Portland almost took away that hope by making BYU look like anything but a NCAA tourney team. Actually it was BYU making themselves look average at best. Regardless, the Cougars came away with a 79-60 win over the Pilots.

BYU is now 20-6 overall and 8-3 in West Coast Conference action. That currently puts the Cougars at third place in the league standings. They are tied with Loyola Marymount in that spot. See complete standings below the Television Timetable.

TELEVISION TIMETABLE

BYU vs. Pepperdine

Saturday, Feb 11 at Provo

Tipoff: 4:00 p.m Mountain Time

TV: BYUtv

BYU vs. San Francisco

Thursday, Feb 16 at San Francisco

Tipoff: 8:00 p.m. Mountain Time

TV: ESPNU

BYU vs. Santa Clara

Saturday, Feb 18 at Santa Clara

Tipoff: 5:00 p.m. Mountain Time

TV: ESPNU

West Coast Standings

TEAM CONF OVERALL

Saint Mary's	11-0	22-2
Gonzaga	8-2	18-4
Brigham Young	8-3	20-6
Loyola Marymount	8-3	15-9
San Francisco	5-6	15-10
San Diego	4-7	9-14
Portland	3-8	6-18
Pepperdine	2-10	8-15
Santa Clara	0-10	8-15
Expanded Standings		