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I'm Giving and Grading This Issue as an F

Feminine Forefront...I still occasionally spit on sidewalks and wipe my nose with my sleeve, sometimes even in public, but never when my wife is around. The good news is that I think I'm finding my feminine side and it's helping me become more couth and a better Cougar fan at the same time.

I can thank two BYU women's teams for having an increased interest in BYU women's athletics. As far as eliminating my other etiquette errors, it has been so cold that nothing will even drip or drop from my nose or mouth these days.

The Cougar crew in women's volleyball has advanced to the sweet sixteen of the NCAA tournament. They did it the hard way by beating No. 11 ranked Hawaii last Saturday night in Honolulu. Trust me, that is no easy feat, but the Lady Cougars made it look that way in sweeping the Rainbow Wahine 25-21, 25-17, 25-13. The previous night BYU took 5 sets to defeat Arizona State.

With the win, the Cougar ladies now advance to face USC on Friday on the Trojans home court in Los Angeles. USC is currently ranked No. 6 in the nation. An upset win against USC and BYU would then face the winner of No. 3 rated Washington or No. 14 ranked

Kansas on Saturday. The USC – BYU match will be televised live on Friday on ESPN3 and begins at 8:00 pm MST.

Don't look now, and based on home game attendance figures, very few actually are, but the BYU women's basketball team is undefeated. That is what an 8-0 record means. BYU has yet to lose.

The latest win came in Omaha last week with a 52-51 win over Creighton. The Cougar victory snapped a 15-game home winning streak for Creighton. Next up for BYU is a trip to Ogden on Tuesday to face Weber State.

Felony...Very seldom does the word felony appear in a story or description of BYU sports. BYU is known for the predominantly high character of its athletes in all sports. Sometimes, however, the use of felony is appropriate in a BYU sports story.

Here it is. What happened in the 106-95 loss to UMass last week in Springfield, was felonious. Tyler Haws was basically assaulted across his face by a Minuteman player but Haws and his teammate Eric Mika were both tagged for technical fouls on the play. That action impacted the game with both Haws and Mika sitting for a good portion of the first half with two fouls each.

Fouls and felonies aside, UMass was too quick and too good from beyond the arc for the Cougars to have a legitimate chance at winning this game. The loss moves BYU's season record to 7-3.

Haws led the Cougars with 25 points, Matt Carlino added 23 and Erik Mika posted 18 points.

Next up for Dave Rose and his Cougars is a home game in Provo against Prairie View on Wednesday, Dec 11. That game tips at 7 pm and will be televised live on BYUtv. On Saturday, the Cougars head to Salt Lake City to take on Utah. The game tips at 8 pm MST and will be televised live on the Pac 12 Network.

Fight Hunger Bowl...BYU has been invited to the big post season party of bowl games. The Cougars are going bowling in the Kraft Fight Hunger Bowl in San Francisco on December 27. The invitation was extended weeks ago, but the Cougars were waiting until yesterday to see with whom their dance card would be filled. That officially became Washington on Sunday.

You might recognize the Huskies. They are the team with a PIP coaching staff. Steve Sarkisian, the former BYU quarterback, is now the past coach of UW. He left Seattle for USC and Los Angeles. Chris Peterson is now the present coach of Washington. He left Boise State and was named the new coach of UW. He won't officially begin his coaching duties until after the bowl game. You can bet, however, that he is already on the recruiting trail for Washington.

With Sarkisian and Peterson not involved in the game against BYU, that leaves Marques Tuiaosopo in the middle as the interim coach who will be facing Bronco Mendenhall in this matchup. Tuiaosopo is a former Husky quarterback and the current quarterback coach of UW.

The two teams are not unfamiliar with each other. The UW-BYU series dates back to 1985, when the Cougars beat Washington, 31-3, in Provo. Washington then won four in a row over BYU, winning in 1986, 1996, 1997 and 1998. BYU has won the last three in a row, besting the Dawgs in 1999, 2008 and 2010. The Fight Hunger Bowl will mark the first time that the two will have met in a bowl game.

The Huskies, who are currently scheduled to return to the practice field next Friday, Dec. 13, will depart for San Francisco on Dec. 22. BYU, according to Bronco Mendenhall, will begin practicing for the bowl game on Dec. 19.

The two teams, both sporting 8-4 season records, will square off on Friday, December 27 at AT&T Park in downtown San Francisco. The game is scheduled for a 7:30 p.m. MST kickoff and will be shown to a national audience by ESPN.

Feeling Good... The NCAA bowl game scenario these days is a lot like youth soccer. Everybody gets a trophy. Of the 123 FBS (Division I) teams playing football, 70 will be participating in post season bowl action.

In the good old days, bowl games meant something and the good ones were a football feast to enjoy. You savored the bowl season and the best teams facing each other. At least I used to. Now the feast is over. Bowl season is like going to Costco and snacking on all the demo food items. There are just too many to taste and really enjoy. There are plenty of cheese and crackers to taste, but they never bring out the prime rib for sampling.

You can make your own decision on which bowl games are cheese and crackers and which are prime rib, but here are teams that BYU played this past season that are bowl bound.

Boise State vs. Oregon State - Sheraton Hawaii Bowl; **Utah State** vs. Northern Illinois – S.D. County Credit Union Poinsettia; **Notre Dame** vs. Rutgers – New Era Pinstripe Bowl; **Middle Tennessee** vs. Navy – Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl; **Georgia Tech** v s. Ole Miss - Franklin American Mortgage Music City; **Texas** vs. Oregon – Valero Alamo Bowl; **Wisconsin** vs. South Carolina – Capital One Bowl; **Houston** vs. Vanderbilt – BBVA Bowl... And, two teams that will be on BYU's schedule next season also are making bowl appearances this post season: **UNLV** vs. North Texas – Heart of Dallas Bowl and **Central Florida** vs. Baylor – Tostitos Fiesta Bowl.

If you like your football fix of Cougar football Costco style, then eat up. BYU played 8 bowl teams this past season. That makes for some great public relations fodder for the BYU sports promotion guys. They can get a lot of off season and pre season mileage out of this for next year. The only teams BYU faced this past season that aren't going

bowling are Virginia, Utah, Nevada and Idaho State. BYU whipped UNR and ISU, but lost to UVA and the UofU. In case you are still having trouble with those two losses, I can't explain it, but I can spell it. H-e-i-m-l-i-c-h.

Future...It has become painfully obvious that with the way college basketball games are being called these days and with the lack of defensive game experience that Eric Mika shows, BYU is in desperate need of another productive big man this season. They need somebody else that can spell Mika and Nate Austin when the both get in foul trouble.

So far, Luke Worthington isn't that guy. Because of the need, expect Bronson Kaufusi to show up on the team in January. He is not much of an offensive threat, but he has what BYU needs now in the post: Five more fouls to give. And when he gives those fouls, opponents will know they have been fouled.

But what about next season and post men? Mika will be gone on an LDS mission. Austin will be back but the other two post prospects are not going to be in the same league talent wise as Mika.

Issac Neilson and Ryan Andrus both will bring height to the Cougar table next year, but it would be a huge stretch to say that they will be able to replace Mika in productivity.

Neilson is coming back this month from an LDS mission in Alabama. He is 6-10 and prepped at Mission Viejo HS in California. Andrus is also 6-10 and is currently playing his senior season at American Fork HS.

Andrus is off to a good start to that senior season. He has scored 11, 14, 12 and 16 points in his first four games.

Another recent BYU signee from the same zip code as Andrus is TJ Haws at Lone Peak HS in Highland, UT. In his first four games he has scored 26, 26, 18 and 29 points.

BYU will have plenty of perimeter power next year with all players returning and with the addition of Chase Fischer, the Wake Forest transfer and Jordan Chatman returning from a mission to Taiwan.

Look for Rose to try and mine the juco market this spring to find a forward or post guy to give him some much needed depth for next season up front. Of course, Rose tried to get some jucos last season and came up empty when Sai Tummala of SLCC chose ASU over the Cougars.

Fredette...The rumors keeping coming. They are all the same and involve Jimmer Fredette being traded to Denver, Toronto, Los Angeles, Chicago and Miami. So far, the only place the former BYU scoring sensation has landed is deep on the Sacramento Kings bench.

Sacramento refused to pick up the option on Fredette's contract for next year so he will be a free agent after this current NBA season. Still, unless he can show what he can do at this level of play by actually playing, then the market for Fredette isn't going to be red hot.

His present contract is reportedly in the \$2 million plus range so it's hard to have any serious sympathy for the former BYU scoring machine, but it would be nice to see him actually play meaningful minutes to see if he can really produce and play at the NBA level.

Football Future...Christmas should come early for Bronco Mendenhall, Taysom Hill, Robert Anae and the rest of the Cougar football team. That is because beginning Wednesday, Dec. 18 mid year juco transfers can begin signing letters of intent to enroll at the colleges of their choice.

The official mid-year signing period ends Jan. 15.

The big present BYU is hoping to get wrapped up and delivered during this signing period is Nick Kurtz, the juco wide receiver from Grossmont JC in La Mesa, Calif. Kurtz verbally committed to the Cougars last June, but is still getting a recruiting push from other BCS schools.

Most recently, he entertained USC for a home visit. BYU also has made a final push and home visit. Kurtz is 6-6, 210 pounds and runs a 4.5 forty. Last season, he played in 9 games for the Griffins and had 38 catches for 604 yards and 8 touchdowns. Barring some kind of late recruiting coup by another school, Kurtz should be a Cougar and enrolled in school in January.

BYU Television Timetable

BYU vs. Prairie View

Wednesday, Dec 11 at Provo

Tipoff: 7 pm MST

TV: BYUtv

BYU vs. USC (Women's Volleyball)

Friday, Dec 13 at Los Angeles

Match Start: 8:00 pm MST

TV: ESPN3

BYU vs. Utah

Saturday, Dec 14 at Salt Lake

Tipoff: 8 pm MST

TV: Pac 12 Network

BYU vs. Utah (Women's BB)

Saturday, Dec 14 at Provo

Tipoff: 2 pm MST

TV: BYUtv

BYU vs. Oregon

Saturday, Dec 21 at Eugene

Tipoff: 8:30 pm MST

TV: Pac 12 Network

BYU vs. Utah State (Women's BB)

Saturday, Dec 21 at Provo

Tipoff: 2 pm MST

TV: BYUtv