
5 BYU deficiencies

Posted by Airwolf84 - 2007/11/19 15:15

JaredCowley wrote:

... if anything, BYU is disciplined. The Cougars play assignment-sound, mistake-free football. The only real problem for BYU this season has been Max's fumbles on blindside hits.

Hey Jared, how are ya? I hope life in SoCal is going well. After reading your post, I had to respond. You cited Max Hall getting blind-sided on occasion as BYU's only problem so far this season. However, I think you are overlooking some other deficiencies as well:

1. BYU's running game typically doesn't do much against quality non-conference opponents or against teams with good run defenses. Since starting the season against Arizona and UCLA, BYU has rushed for 1,410 yards in 8 games (176 ypg avg.) Before that, they had 148 total yards against the Cats and Bruins (74 ypg). They may get 100 on the ground vs. Utah and SDSU, but in their bowl game, forget it. FYI... BYU is 2nd against the run in the conference and Utah is 3rd.
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3. The receiving core. Hall's receivers have been a non-factor in several games this year (even Collie).
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Sorry, but I had to point these things out because BYU's only deficiency is not Hall getting blind-sided.

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Re:5 BYU deficiencies

Posted by ammoncougar1 - 2007/11/19 15:24

I have not seen any long ball attempts by Johnson but from what I have heard from two different friends who have, his shoulder isn't 100% and his long ball throws flutter, float and are susceptible to interception. I doubt this will be an issue Saturday. I bet his longest throws will be in the 20 yard range not 40+.

Go Cougs!!!

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Re:5 BYU deficiencies

Posted by kitic77 - 2007/11/19 15:35

Five concerns that I have about BYU:

- 1) Running game. Unga has proven to be the only effective back in running the ball. The only game he was not really effective was UCLA and that due more to touches than ability. If BYU does not show a commitment to the running game (something have been committed too the last several games) then the Cougars will be in trouble.
- 2) Pass Protection. This has gotten better the last several games. I have noticed that Tonga has returned to his blitz picking up self of last year. But Utah is likely to blitz more than we have seen this year. TCU and WYO tried to blitz and we torched them. But the OL has shown the propensity this year to give up big hits, which have led to turnovers. I'm still not convinced the pass protection issues have been solved.
- 3) Max's Shoulder. I don't think we'll know how injured, if at all, the shoulder is before the game. If he's not healthy, BYU could struggle.
- 4) Secondary. Say what you want, but only one team has really attacked BYU's secondary. If Utah attacks them, they could find success. If they find success, BYU could be in a lot of trouble.
- 5) Coaching. Say what you want, but BYU has been the unprepared team in both games under Bronco. Thankfully,

the coaches did figure things out late in the game last year. But I am not sold on the approach Bronco has taken to this game.

Bottom line. BYU has real concerns this week. Thankfully, Utah has a lot as well. They haven't seen a passing attack like we will throw at them. They haven't seen a back as complete as Unga in the MWC (the only other really complete backs are Mack and Hall of AF). They've found solid replacements for their injuries, so their depth could hurt them.

I think it will be a close game. And I think five scores could be enough to win this game. If there is going to be a blowout, I think it will be by BYU. I don't think Utah has enough offense and I think BYU has the best defense in the MWC.

I'm calling my shot:

Utah 17
BYU 35

Re:5 BYU deficiencies

Posted by Phillycougar - 2007/11/19 15:35

Airwolf84 wrote:

JaredCowley wrote:

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Sorry, but I had to point these things out because BYU's only deficiency is not Hall getting blind-sided.

1. BYU did fine against the number 1 run D in the conference, why not the number 3?
2. I agree with you to a point. BYU is lower in punting and in FG% because the teams don't get much real game experience compared to their counterparts on other teams.:laugh:
3. Several games the decision was in the game plan to run the ball much more. Collie was in fact a non-factor in the games he was not hurt and did not play.:laugh: So I agree with you that when hurt Collie was a non factor.
4. That is what I call bad officiating!
5. The Tulsa game was a fluke. Utah will not be testing BYU's secondary as BJ does not have the arm to go deep.

Re:5 BYU deficiencies

Posted by mjk5 - 2007/11/19 15:35

Airwolf84 wrote:

JaredCowley wrote:

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Sorry, but I had to point these things out because BYU's only deficiency is not Hall getting blind-sided.

I agree with 2, 4, and partially 5. However, I think you're misjudging our offensive strategies. Anea is good at taking what the defense gives him. I wouldn't consider our running game weak because they only had 148 yards against AZ and UCLA. Why run if you can pass for 679 yards (between those same two games)? Our offense was COMPLETELY capable in both games. There are only so many minutes in a game. It's not realistic to expect 200 rushing yards per game when we're also getting 350 passing yards.

Concerning our receivers: I'll admit that Hall favored the RBs and TEs more in the first half of the season, but the receivers have been a huge factor in both of the last two games. Hall's passed to 8 and 9 receivers in the last two games and Collie's had over 100 yards in the last 3.

The MOST significant weakness BYU has had all season was our turnover margin. And that has also changed over the last four games. If not for our excessive early season turnovers, we would be 10-0 regardless of our penalties and kicking game.

Re:5 BYU deficiencies

Posted by OremMan - 2007/11/19 15:39

Airwolf84 wrote:

JaredCowley wrote:

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Sorry, but I had to point these things out because BYU's only deficiency is not Hall getting blind-sided.

1. BYU rarely relies on its running game to be the bulk of the offense. Close to 100 yards rushing is enough to keep defenses honest and open up the pass game.

2. I am also concerned about the kicking game.

3. I disagree with your analysis on the wide-outs. They really haven't been needed. A BYU offense relies heavily on tight ends and backs receiving short passes. Some days the long ball works well, some days it doesn't. I believe the trend (most recent games) shows that the wide-outs are getting more involved more involved.

4. Penalties are also a concern. Those 4-penalty games the Cougs had a couple games back were nice. I hope they do keep things under control.

5. Bryan Johnson is nowhere near the throwing quarterback that Paul Smith is. He is one of the best QBs in the country this year. His experience and a gimmicky, though very effective, game plan beat BYU. I truly do not believe that Bryan Johnson can beat us through the air and truly, the secondary has played effectively as a unit.

I think turnovers are the key to the game. Keep Utah from getting easy scores off turnovers and I think the Cougs will be fine.

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Re:5 BYU deficiencies

Posted by harlinestillopen - 2007/11/19 15:42

Usually I just ignore these, but I think this could actually end up in decent football conversation.

I respectfully disagree with your add ons airwolf.

Defensive secondary WAS a concern after the Tulsa game. Its not that they haven't been tested since, its Bronco changed some things and now they aren't getting beat.

Penalties. There have been a few to many penalties, but it is a young team, and the number as decreased dramatically. I would say that is a minor problem though.

The receiving core.... I'm in shock with your logic here wolfy. Austin Collie is one of the best Deep threats in the Mtn west. Michael Reed and Matt Allen are also very good receivers. I love Michael Reed! He's fast, and has great hands, I wish they'd use them more! Pitta (and even george) are stepping it up big time. Harvey Unga is Hall's release valve, and has been picking up HUGE YAC lately. I know your oppinion about this, I just don't understand your logic.... at all.

Kicking game is a problem. I heard Bronco say that he didn't feel comfortable kicking it outside the 25 yard line. THAT IS TERRIBLE! BUT, I'd rather them go for it on fourth down once in awhile, and from the 45-25 is a great place to.

BYU's running game is nothing to worry about. Unga is a freaking freshman. Give him a break for not rushing 100 yards against AZ (pretty good D) and UCLA. Although, its not like it was his fault, in both those games, ESPECIALLY UCLA, we abandoned the run.

BYU is FINE. People need to realize that this is a FREAKING YOUNG team. who is going to win an outright MWC (again) and will not have lost a MWC game in 2 freaking years! This team is going to be good! seriously, look at these players Unga Freshman. Hall, Collie, Pitta, Sophmores. Reed Junior. and without looking up our whole O line. Only Sete won't be returning. Our Defense will need help, but Our Offense will be putting up PLENTY of points next year.

Sorry wolfy, your wrong

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Re:5 BYU deficiencies

Posted by Short_Changed - 2007/11/19 16:14

The only team Unga struggled against this year was NM. He never really got going, averaging just 3.75 yards per touch. Statistically Harvey's best games have been vs UCLA(8.88 yards per touch), AZ(8.08 yards per touch), and Eastern Wash.(8.08 yards per touch).

Another interesting thing is that Harvey's lowest yardage output (71 yards on just 8 touches) this year was against UCLA. If we had given him the ball more that game I think we would have won and we'd be sitting pretty with a good shot to go to a BCS bowl. I'm still dumbfounded by his lack of touches vs UCLA, especially with how he played vs AZ.

Anywho, give Harvey the rock all day, baby!

Re:5 BYU deficiencies

Posted by Pwride - 2007/11/19 16:14

Saying that Unga had a bad day against Arizona (like 194 total yards and 2 touchdowns) is just plain wrong. Why run the ball when you can toss it 5 yards to Unga who is going to take it 30+ yards?

Re:5 BYU deficiencies

Posted by BoiseBlue - 2007/11/19 19:25

Airwolf84 wrote:

5. Defensive secondary. BYU HAS NOT been tested in its secondary since the Tulsa game and we know what the Golden Hurricane did to it.

Sorry, but I had to point these things out because BYU's only deficiency is not Hall getting blind-sided.

I was really worried about the Utes going long on us as well, considering the problems we had in pass coverage with them the past two years. I found it interesting to check out Brian Johnson's game log on ESPN. His longest pass completion of the year was just 38 yards vs. Utah St. In FIVE of the nine games he's played in this year, he hasn't had a completion over 28 yards long. I'm not sure if its because his arm isn't 100%, as someone said earlier, or if the U has gotten away from the long ball as part of thier game plan. Anyway, I'm beginning to think that maybe we'll be okay - not because our secondary's great, but because Utah isn't set up to exploit it.

Re:5 BYU deficiencies

Posted by Buckshot - 2007/11/19 19:33

Why do so many fans on this site focus on the negative--whether it be real or imagined? What happened to the strength of the fanbase that gave other teams (especially the pukers) no respect and had confidence in our team? Of course we can find things to worry about but I can give you 50 reasons why BYU will win.

Let's have some faith and killer instinct for the game on Saturday. I know we are better team and look forward to a Cougar victory.

Re:5 BYU deficiencies

Posted by Raiderboy - 2007/11/19 19:35

Airwolf84 wrote:

JaredCowley wrote:

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Since you thought this was brilliant enough to post twice. I'll respond to it a second time.

1. Absolutely not, as has been pointed out numerous times.

2. Yes

3. Yeah. Collie was a non-factor when he was hurt. Which may have been in the games which you are referring to, which BYU still won. It's not a weakness. Especially recently.

4. BYU is third in the conference in yards penalized per game, behind TCU and Utah.

5. Tulsa is the number 1 team in the nation in total offense, by a large margin. Utah is 73rd. BYU is 19th.

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Re:5 BYU deficiencies

Posted by CougarPeasant - 2007/11/19 20:48

And countering those deficiencies:

1. Best offense in the MWC. This includes best pass offense and best scoring offense.

2. Best defense in the MWC. This includes the best run defense and the pass defense would be better if it wasn't for the fact that BYU has led all the conference games and forced the opponent to pass to try to come from behind. And, one of the top scoring defenses.

3. The separation between the top and bottom teams in the special teams stats is only a couple of yards, statistically irrelevant. BYU doesn't miss PATs. Payne has kicked 34 in a row.

4. BYU doesn't give up sacks, leading the conference in fewest sacks allowed.

5. Most importantly, BYU has Bronco for its head coach. 'Nuff said.

=====

Re:5 BYU deficiencies

Posted by MajorCougar - 2007/11/19 21:16

CougarPeasant wrote:

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Bam, bam, thank you, Ma'am...

Well said.

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Re:5 BYU deficiencies

Posted by raidingtombs - 2007/11/20 03:04

Airwolf84 wrote:

JaredCowley wrote:

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AZ game Unga=15 carries for 67 yards average 4.5ypc
UCLA game Unga=5 carries for 28 yards average 5.6 ypc

Airy just because Unga wasn't established as the main RB and BYU hadn't moved to a more balanced offense doesn't mean we couldn't have run the ball against those defenses. I think a 4.5 and a 5.6 ypc average is quite good. Don't look at the total yards look at the yards gained. AZ Unga got a handful of reps but Fui did as well and Fui has not played well this year, if Unga got Fui's reps he would have broken a 100 yards on the day easily. In the UCLA game he had 5 carries and ran all over them with those 5 carries. Oh in in their bowl expect Unga to get over 100 yards.

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Agreed.

3. The receiving core. Hall's receivers have been a non-factor in several games this year (even Collie).

Don't be fooled by our WR lower stats. We use a lot of different players in the passing game. We have Collie when we want him and we have Pitta and we have Unga, Tonga, Reed, Allen, Fui, and the list goes on, just because we don't key on one WR or even two and that is it doesn't mean they are a non factor, you leave Collie aloe with just any CB and he will go the distance.

4. Penalties. BYU is once again dead last in the conference in total penalties. Is that "discipline"?

Agreed, that Wyoming game those refs sure didn't want BYU to win.

5. Defensive secondary. BYU HAS NOT been tested in its secondary since the Tulsa game and we know what the Golden Hurricane did to it.

BYU has not been tested because BYU has not allowed teams with fast WR to exploit their defesne like Tulsa did. It is called playing soft in the secondary. We give the oposing team the short game but our fast LB can usually handle that and we prevent the long ball. It is hard to get deep on a team that plays farhter back. Also you seem to neglect to mention that BYU usually gets game film on their oposing team so as to prepare a game plan for that game. Last I checked it is easier to be prepared on defense when you have at least some idea what the oposing team is going to throw at you.

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