
Talent gap at BYU vs top ten

Posted by Tom Trails - 2008/01/03 11:07

There is a big talent gap between us and the top ten. Obviously Bronco knows this and realizes that we need more speed to play with the big big boys.

I do think we can play with anyone in the 15-25. I read where some dope felt we would play with and possibly beat USC. I hope that belief isn't more pervasive among cougar fans, because it is ludicrous. Above average defenses vs. Utah and UCLA held us to 17 pt. Team speed of the BCS bowl teams would kill us.

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Re:Talent gap at BYU vs top ten

Posted by ND/BYU - 2008/01/03 11:19

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BYU is a very good and disciplined team, but you are right they cannot consistently play and beat the big boys. For some reason people here seem to think being able to play close with the top teams is good enough, it is not. BYU has a long ways to go unfortunately. That being said BYU is moving in the right direction and has a chance to become more athletic. I too find it funny when people discuss beating USC or beating LSU....it would be great but we are no where near that yet.

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Re:Talent gap at BYU vs top ten

Posted by ammoncougar1 - 2008/01/03 11:20

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I agree with almost everything you said. The two disputes I have are number one, we wouldn't get run in a BcS game if we had the good fortune of playing a team like Pitt of 2004 or Illinois of this year. BSU's win over OSU has been the most impressive "non-BcS" v. BcS teams to date. Each team and conference got their cash and a some publicity.

Number two, I think with the direction the team is headed that we will see top 10 more than once every 6-8 years. I think our speed will improve as we continue get better athletes buying in to the system. I think we will start to get some great kids who can abide the code and make a name for themselves as BYU's name comes back to the forefront!

Go Cougs!!!

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Re:Talent gap at BYU vs top ten

Posted by phillips14 - 2008/01/03 11:23

Speed, speed, speed. What about sound team skills? Yes speed can kill, but not if you bottle it up. We don't know how this team would do against a top teir team because we do not have the chance to play one. UCLA just matches up well with us that is why the game was so close. Last year before the Vegas bowl all we heard was speed, speed, speed. I am not saying that BYU would beat the upper tier teams, but they would compete.

=====

Re:Talent gap at BYU vs top ten

Posted by KYCoug - 2008/01/03 11:24

Tom Trails wrote:

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I agree, Something June Jones said about Hawaii that somewhat applies to us, he said we have a couple of guys that can keep up with their speed but not 11. That's the problem. That dosen't make them unbeatable but definatly more of a challenge. I see more and more speed coming into our program and I think we are on track to some great things. We are definatly a top 25 team and getting better each year. Lets just not talk NC for a bit yet.

=====

Re:Talent gap at BYU vs top ten

Posted by MajorCougar - 2008/01/03 11:41

1) Our 1's and MANY of our 2-deep would be able to play on any team in the country. (Maybe not at the same level). The problem comes in when you get beyond the 2's. THAT'S where the big dropoff happens. A key injury is hard to replace. This is thanks to the current BCS system. The recruits follow the \$\$\$ and the recognition, just like anybody else does.

2) We can compete with USC, AND could beat them on any given Saturday. They looked VERY MEDIOCRE (yes, they had injuries) against AZ and Stanford. Playing them 10 times would be a challenge, but you've got to add WHERE the games would be played at. If half were in LES, I like our chances... seriously.

Remember, we competed with a VERY GOOD USC team even during our dark years. Who's to say we couldn't

compete AND BEAT them. It's the lack of depth (see #1) that makes the difference.

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Bingo, you got it. People want to discuss recruiting and joining a BCS conference being the key. Yes it will help but it would not change our personel too much. BYU would consistently recruit LDS kids or kids who would abide by the honor code. Joining a BCS conference would not give us speed overnight, but may help getting better mid-tier talent. People are crazy if they think we can recruit with USC. Honestly for a non-LDS kid who would want to come to live in Utah and play for a Mormon school if they could play for USC, Michigan, ND, Florida etc. Bronco is the right guy and we need to expect to outcoach and be more disciplined and work harder then other teams. No matter what most of you say we will never have the athletes top to bottom as BCS conferences.

Sometimes people believe that having the opportunity to join a conference with an automatic bid is the silver bullet, it is not. Sure our recruiting would improve a bit, but we would still lack the talent top schools get. The key is to win the games we play and try to schedule one top team every year. Every few years if we win the games we should and get the one upset that the nation pays attention to then we will be in business. As long as we beat only mid to lower tier teams we will not gain respect, we will never be on the level of consistently being a top national team (top ten)....even top teams struggle (ND and Michigan this year, and USC prior to Carrol starting 6 or 7 years ago).

Re:Talent gap at BYU vs top ten

Posted by Ygridiron4ever - 2008/01/03 11:41

My old, narrow-minded self coming through, but I dont think BYU will ever be a perrenial top 10 team. I just think there are too many trade offs to make that kind of committment; trade offs BYU is not likely to make - and probably should not. I also doubt that there are enough players with that kind of talent who want to come to a place like BYU to keep the stables stocked like they are at top 10 programs. When BYU really gets rolling in the next few years, it should be able to get five to ten top players at any one time, but not 30!

I am very happy with a top 25 ranking eight years out of ten, a top 15 four years out of ten, and a top 5 finish twice in ten years!

That being said, I fully support (and believe) Bronco if he says he can do better than that!

Re:Talent gap at BYU vs top ten

Posted by mormonrasta - 2008/01/03 11:57

Tom Trails wrote:

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I was thinking that watching WVU play last night. They looked lightning fast. Just like Florida in '06, Texas in '05, USC in '04. When they are on top of their game, BYU in its current state cannot compete. Not a knock on BYU, they can be as fundamentally sound as possible, but you can't tackle what you can't catch. Speed creates bad angles and really tests fundamentals.

HOWEVER, Pittsburgh (a team I would venture to be every bit as "not fast" as BYU) absolutely shut WVU down on the road when WVU had everything to play for. College football is funny that way. Speed kills, but if it is not consistent, who cares?

In terms of National Championship aspirations you playoff people are kidding yourselves. It is more realistic for BYU to win a National Championship by finishing 1 or 2 in the BCS rankings and beating a supreme team in one game with everything on the line versus having to do it 3 or 4 times at the end of the grueling season.

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Re:Talent gap at BYU vs top ten

Posted by ND/BYU - 2008/01/03 12:18

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I hate to disagree, but I do with point 1. I do not think our 1's and 2's could play with any team in the country. Maybe we could compete with, but we would not beat most of the top 15 teams in the country. Sure we could beat any team on any given Saturday, but most teams in the country could say that. To really believe we can consistently beat USC and other top teams is just silly. To say BYU is not where they need to be and we are doing the best we can with the talent we have but to say we can beat USC as many times as they beat is silly. To be honest BYU may win one of 10...or even maybe two of ten; but if we played USC or other top teams I do not think it would be close.

NC talk is just silly. I love this board because there is good banter, but to talk about BYU in the same breath as being comparable to other top programs is laughable. We can discuss fundamental and coaching, but that only goes so far, I love BYU but need to be realistic.

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Posted by Yndian - 2008/01/03 12:27

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I thought MajorCougar meant that our 1's and 2's had the talent to make it onto any of the top teams in the country (because of talent/hard work), though maybe not as first-string players (judging by his use of "on," not "with.") Not that they could consistently beat them.

Re:Talent gap at BYU vs top ten

Posted by craigocarson - 2008/01/03 12:28

ND/BYU wrote:

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I'd prefer to decide that on the field...ask Jim Harbaugh and Stanford about USC
We'd lose a best of 5 against USC or LSU, but who wouldn't?

Would I be afraid to play either teams in a bowl game next winter? Heck no, bring it on
Talent only goes so far, then you need coaching (ask Charlie Weis about losing with talent)

Re:Talent gap at BYU vs top ten

Posted by ND/BYU - 2008/01/03 12:40

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I agree talent only goes so far, but BYU does not have the talent it needs to play with the top tier teams (just look at ND same coaching and you lose Quinn top WR's, RB, half the o-line and replace them with true freshman and you saw the spectacular results TIC). So we could beat some top 25 teams, we should we are a top 25 team ourselves. My point is we would not be as competitive as people think with top teams. We need to focus on beating the Tulsa's of the world before we discuss beating USC and playing for an NC.

Re:Talent gap at BYU vs top ten

Posted by imuakahuku - 2008/01/03 12:53

So all the athletes that BYU signed would be faster if they had chosen the BCS team (USC, Texas, or Oregon for instance) instead? So Big Ben Olsen was the fastest and best thing out there and BYU got him. So that made BYU favored to win the NC the next season?

It doesn't matter how many stars follow your name if you are only playing for the name on your back. And a handicap for all those top 10 teams is that they will get that lightening fast player such as Ginn or Bush but then they only have that player for a year or two then they have to find another Ginn or Bush. Meanwhile, the players at schools like BYU generally keep their players for four or five years giving them way more experience. It comes down to a coach that can get his players to perform at a very high level on demand and who adjusts to what his opponent is doing.

As for finishes, I would like to see TOP 10 every year. Top 15 is settling for less as far as I am concerned. There are six BCS confs. One champ from each makes 6. Three other teams from the six and that would put BYU at 10. But BYU is very close to any of the top teams in the BE, B10, and ACC. (Please don't tell me about how good WV looked. BSU was blowing out OK last year too! OK evidently can't win the big game anymore.)

BTW, who are we consitently worse than?

1. USC
2. Texas
3. Florida
4. Oklahoma
5. Ohio State
6. West Virginia
7. VT

- 8. Gorgia
- 9. LSU
- 10. Michigan
- 11. BC

I already have problems with this list.

My 2 cents.

Re:Talent gap at BYU vs top ten

Posted by timmyboy - 2008/01/03 12:55

I agree that BYU, this year, could not play and consistently beat most (if not all) of the Top 10 teams. But to say that they would not beat them sometimes demonstrates a fundamental misunderstanding of college football.

College football is all about matchups and "any given Saturday." Simply put, BYU's offense does not match up well with very physical defenses. I don't think the problem is speed defenses. Both UCLA and Utah play very, very physical.

Let's look at the AP Top 10 prior to the bowls. Obviously, this is pure speculation, but here's my opinion. Do you have any fundamental disagreements with this?

1. Ohio State - BYU would win 10% of the time.
2. LSU - BYU would win 7% of the time.
3. Oklahoma - BYU would win 35% of the time.
4. Georgia - BYU would win 10% of the time.
5. Virginia Tech - BYU would win 35% of the time.
6. USC - BYU would win 20% of the time.
7. Missouri - BYU would win 35% of the time.
8. Kansas - BYU would win 50% of the time.
9. Florida - BYU would win 40% of the time.
10. Hawaii - BYU would win 75% of the time.\

After all, Stanford would only beat USC probably 2% of the time. However, their 2% arrived this year. Same thing goes with Kentucky and Arkansas over LSU.

That's why I really like the AccuScore thing. It gives you a percentage chance of winning, not just a line on who wins.

Re:Talent gap at BYU vs top ten

Posted by ND/BYU - 2008/01/03 13:03

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Who said BYU would not sometimes beat them? Anyone can win sometimes, look at App State.

Re:Talent gap at BYU vs top ten

Posted by mormonrasta - 2008/01/03 13:15

imuakahuku wrote:

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Bottom line, top 15 teams usually beat at least a couple of top 25 teams a year. BYU has beaten 1 in the last DECADE. BYU is in a fantastic position, but it still has a way to go to get into perennial top 15 status.

The talent pool BYU draws from is still thin making it difficult to be a top 10 or 15 team every year. What we need to do is increase the talent pool (i.e. get more converts!!!). The Church needs to send the best missionaries to California, Texas, and Florida instead of Jamaica like they do now.

Re:Talent gap at BYU vs top ten

Posted by Knucklehead - 2008/01/03 13:28

ND/BYU wrote:

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I think the point to the contrary is just as valid...

Who can play and consistently beat the big boys?

Did Illinois consistently play and beat the big boys this year? (Southern Cal, Missouri)

Did LSU? (Arkansas, Kentucky)

Did Missouri? (Oklahoma, twice)

Did Kansas? (Missouri)

Did Southern Cal? (Stanford, Oregon)

How about West Virginia? (South Florida, Pittsburgh)

Oklahoma (Colorado, West Virginia, Texas Tech)

Nobody can play and consistently beat the "big boys" in college football. This year proves that.

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Posted by mormonrasta - 2008/01/03 13:52

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Consistently beat does not mean never lose to. Missouri and Kansas do not consistently get in the top 10 or 15. They are having 1 great season and will likely fall to mediocrity.

=====

Re:Talent gap at BYU vs top ten

Posted by Gunk - 2008/01/03 14:10

On the topic of speed, might I remind everyone what one "speedy" UCLA player did to our offensive line. Now, having to up against 3 equally speedy players every down would wreak havoc on our current o-line, not to mention quarterback. Top 10 teams just don't have 1 speedy guy.

=====

Re:Talent gap at BYU vs top ten

Posted by ND/BYU - 2008/01/03 14:43

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Oklahoma (Colorado, West Virginia, Texas Tech)

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Not to be negative, but who have we beat in the past 5 or 10 years that is a top tier quality school....not just bowl eligible, I am talk top 10 or 15? All the teams you mentioned had quality wins this year, not once in the past 5 years. I know BYU has not had the opportunities that the other schools have had due to a weak schedule, but I doubt they would have the record they have with similar schedules.

=====

Re:Talent gap at BYU vs top ten

Posted by cougarfan87 - 2008/01/03 14:56

imuakahuku wrote:

BTW, who are we consistently worse than?

1. USC
2. Texas
3. Florida
4. Oklahoma
5. Ohio State
6. West Virginia
7. VT
8. Gorgia
9. LSU
10. Michigan
11. BC

I already have problems with this list.

My 2 cents.

All of the above except BC.

Re:Talent gap at BYU vs top ten

Posted by cougarfan87 - 2008/01/03 15:03

timmyboy wrote:

I agree that BYU, this year, could not play and consistently beat most (if not all) of the Top 10 teams. But to say that they would not beat them sometimes demonstrates a fundamental misunderstanding of college football.

College football is all about matchups and "any given Saturday." Simply put, BYU's offense does not match up well with very physical defenses. I don't think the problem is speed defenses. Both UCLA and Utah play very, very physical.

Let's look at the AP Top 10 prior to the bowls. Obviously, this is pure speculation, but here's my opinion. Do you have any fundamental disagreements with this?

1. Ohio State - BYU would win 10% of the time.
2. LSU - BYU would win 7% of the time.
3. Oklahoma - BYU would win 35% of the time.
4. Georgia - BYU would win 10% of the time.
5. Virginia Tech - BYU would win 35% of the time.
6. USC - BYU would win 20% of the time.
7. Missouri - BYU would win 35% of the time.
8. Kansas - BYU would win 50% of the time.
9. Florida - BYU would win 40% of the time.
10. Hawaii - BYU would win 75% of the time.\

After all, Stanford would only beat USC probably 2% of the time. However, their 2% arrived this year. Same thing goes with Kentucky and Arkansas over LSU.

That's why I really like the AccuScore thing. It gives you a percentage chance of winning, not just a line on who wins.

Three Points:

1. Beating Florida 40 percent of the time is a little crazy, but I get your point. The point is BYU could beat a top ten team once in a while--Miami in 1990, Pitt in 1984 for example. But that does not make BYU a top 10 team.
2. I will also say, good call on whoever said BYU would have less of a chance with a playoff. That is absolutely right. For a basketball corollary, how many National Championships has BYU won running through the NCAA brackets? It would be similar in football.
3. Who cares? Can you only root for a team if they are national championship contenders year in and year out? Or do you root for a team because you like what they stand for, are proud of what they do with what they have got, enjoy the underdog status with which they play knowing that this might be the game they take down a big boy, and enjoy the exciting style of football they play?

Re:Talent gap at BYU vs top ten

Posted by Gunk - 2008/01/03 15:07

cougarfan87 wrote:

timmyboy wrote:

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Well said. With two MWC championships I think it's easy for us to get a little ahead of ourselves.

Re:Talent gap at BYU vs top ten

Posted by ND/BYU - 2008/01/03 15:17

cougarfan87 wrote:

timmyboy wrote:

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Exactly! To be a fan you do not need to be unrealistic. BYU is a solid program and it is not a slap in the face to admit we are not a top program.

I agree about the playoff. BYU needs a year they go undefeated and have a huge win (ala 1990 over Miami) and hope the stars align and they make it to the championship game. That is getting ahead of ourselves and BYU just needs to beat the teams they play in 2008.

=====

Re:Talent gap at BYU vs top ten

Posted by Hengst - 2008/01/03 15:31

I think BYU lacks depth and quickness at certain positions to be able to consistently compete with the top 10 this year.

They need to be a little quicker on the o-line, and Max Hall would have to be able to throw it to people other than collie and pitta.

I think the defense could probably hold it's own, but would eventually be worn down. Also, I don't think BYU has the team speed right now to compete with a team like West Virginia or USC (those would be really bad match ups for BYU).

Hopefully next year and the year after BYU will be that good, but I don't think they were this year.

=====

Re:Talent gap at BYU vs top ten

Posted by ctcoug - 2008/01/03 15:36

I don't post much but I completely disagree with the opinions of many on this thread. I can't believe that people are still spewing the same garbage. Here are a few of the particular points that I disagree with.

We struggled to beat UCLA and UCLA is only mid Pac 10 so we would struggle to beat the better teams.

1. Lets remember how young BYU's offense is. This was our rebuilding year, we did no look over powering against New Mexico, Utah, TCU, Arizona, UCLA and others. BYU did just enough to win. They were much better offensively last year and will be much better next year.

2. Look at UCLA's last 4 games. The opposing team scored: 24 Arizona St., 0 Oregon, 24 USC, 17 BYU
I don't see the disparity in ability between BYU and the top of the Pac 10 teams offenses. We scored one less touchdown than USC.

3. BYU played against one of the best DE in the country, very few teams even have 1 linemen that good, let alone three.

Bigger and Fast translates into better

1. So why don't we just rank each recruiting class and then name the national champion based on that. I admit that speed and size do help, there are so many other factors that you are leaving out. Intelligence, understanding of football philosophy, execution, durability, reliability, leadership, ability to play within a system...

2. Every time the little guy wins people agree that size and speed aren't everything, but when the little guy loses, people forget. We don't need nor will we get the fastest and biggest players, we need the players that will thrive in our system.

There is a huge gap in talent between BYU and other BCS schools

1. At most positions I say we stack up just fine with the BCS schools. QB, WR, TE, RB (We don't have the great back that some schools have, but we have a back that fits our system as well as any) DL, LB

The secondary and the kickers are not as talented as other schools. Possibly the LB could use some more speed. So tell me where is the "Huge" talent gap.

=====

Re:Talent gap at BYU vs top ten

Posted by ctcoug - 2008/01/03 15:42

This year BYU probably is a top 25 team, but certainly not top 10, but next year should be fun.

=====

Re:Talent gap at BYU vs top ten

Posted by Knucklehead - 2008/01/03 15:59

BYU/ND wrote:

Not to be negative, but who have we beat in the past 5 or 10 years that is a top tier quality school....not just bowl eligible, I am talk top 10 or 15? All the teams you mentioned had quality wins this year, not once in the past 5 years. I know BYU has not had the opportunities that the other schools have had due to a weak schedule, but I doubt they would have the record they have with similar schedules.

We can only beat the teams that we play. I have said this before in other areas of the website and you can look it up yourself. We have beaten the following teams the last time we played them...

- (1) Everyone in our conference (four 2007 bowls teams in that group)
- (2) Washington
- (3) Washington State
- (4) Arizona
- (5) Arizona State
- (6) UCLA
- (7) Oregon
- (8) Texas
- (9) Texas A&M
- (10) Oklahoma
- (11) Kansas State
- (12) Colorado
- (13) Mississippi State
- (14) Georgia Tech
- (15) Miami
- (16) Wisconsin
- (17) Michigan
- (18) Virginia

We are 2-1 in the last three against:

- (19) Cal

We are 1-1 in the last two against:

- (20) Oregon State
- (21) Penn State

The last two times we played:

- (22)Ohio State we lost by 3 and 7 points respectively.

Finally the last time we played

(23) Georgia (granted these are the Hershel Walker Bulldogs so that is a long time ago) we lost by 3 in Georgia.

Look, I'm not saying that we would have beaten Southern Cal this year, but I am saying that half of the BC\$ Bowl teams wouldn't have done that either.

Can we consistently compete, absolutely! Can we consistently beat BC\$ teams? see above.

=====

Re:Talent gap at BYU vs top ten

Posted by etyotx - 2008/01/03 16:05

I think this has been a down year in more ways than one. This is the kind of year where no team really deserves a NC (and nobody clearly deserved the Heisman-except maybe McFadden). I think teams like Illinois and Ohio State don't deserve to be in the top 15. It's a shame they both get paid 17 million despite their sever inadequacies. The NC game is going to be a joke.

BYU might not beat the USC's and LSU's of the world right now, but I like our chances against the OSU's, Illinois', Kansas' and VT's of the world.

=====

Re:Talent gap at BYU vs top ten

Posted by ColoradoBlueZone - 2008/01/03 16:35

Talent= Wins!!! What are you, the BCS committee? What a bunch of crap! Case and point- Michigan. They have all the talent on paper but they are bunch of unmotivated morons. Sure, they beat Florida because of EMOTION and HEART. Something they hadn't done earlier in the year.

College FOOTBALL is a game of heart and passion. It is about 30 percent talent. Sure talent does help but it is not everything. That is why I always give BYU a chance against the big boys. They almost always show passion (except against UCLA in the Vegas Bowl.)

Those who believe talent is everything should go be an analyst with Lou Holtz and ESPN. SHOW SOME RESPECT for the non-BCS teams.

No one can compare talent, that is why we play the game. Leave it on the field and let get a playoff system. :angry:

=====

Re:Talent gap at BYU vs top ten

Posted by buzzard - 2008/01/03 17:07

What everyone seems to forget is that for several years, ending about 20 years ago, BYU WAS a perennial top 10 team. Year in, year out. We beat other top 10 teams, we had 1st team All-America players most every year. Back then, we knew that going against the best teams in the country was an opportunity, not a cause for trepedation. That is the standard that we mustaspire to.

What has changed? The pool of players is as good as ever, I can think of only two circumstances that have changed to our disadvantage, though both can be overcome.

-The BC\$ system really does make the rich richer and the poor poorer. But how many kids who would have come here 20 years ago now won't? A few, but not enough to make a big difference. We overcome this obstacle by crashing the BC\$ and winning the game, so that the really top tier talent can see that BYU is an attractive alternative.

-Yewtah. When we were having our first "Golden Age" in the 70's and 80's, they sucked. Bad. If you were a good player in Utah and wanted to go to a school with a quality program while staying in state, Yewtah was simply not an option. If Jimmy Mac was coming out of Roy H.S. today, does BYU still get him, or does he end up at the Yew?

I think that reestablishing this superiority is even more important than getting into the BCS, because it has a larger impact on a larger number of recruits that we have a realistic shot at. Besides, getting and keeping the Yew under our thumb where they belong would be so satisfying, maybe even more than being regular visitors to the BC\$.

Re:Talent gap at BYU vs top ten

Posted by ND/BYU - 2008/01/03 17:10

Knucklehead, to have your argument be relevant please also attach the ranking and record of the team the year we beat them. Please write the all the teams that we beat that finished in the top 15 over the past 5 years. Most teams have a laundry list of teams they recently beat. I love BYU but to realistically put them in the same category of top teams I cannot. Several people said recruiting and talent do not matter too much, please look at the recruiting rankings and the results the next several years. It is not always correlated but it is more than not. For example had about 3 horrible years of recruiting and when several big athletes leave and the low ranking classes are there to fill in they are horrible. BYU can overcome this, that does not mean we are there yet but are going quickly in the right direction.

=====

Re:Talent gap at BYU vs top ten

Posted by buzzard - 2008/01/03 17:16

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=====

Re:Talent gap at BYU vs top ten

Posted by mormonrasta - 2008/01/03 17:18

Knucklehead wrote:

BYU/ND wrote:

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- (9) Texas A&M
- (10) Oklahoma
- (11) Kansas State
- (12) Colorado

- (13) Mississippi State
- (14) Georgia Tech
- (15) Miami
- (16) Wisconsin
- (17) Michigan
- (18) Virginia

4. That's the number of teams on that list we beat them when they finished the season ranked (Miami '90, Kansas State '96, Arizona State '97, and UCLA '83).

BYU is 14-27 against the 20 winningest programs of all time. That includes Michigan, ND, Texas, OSU, Alabama, Oklahoma, USC, Georgia, Georgia Tech, Washington, Colorado, Penn State, and Texas A&M.

They have 0 wins against those teams when they have finished in the top 25. Is that poised to be competitive? I don't think so. It doesn't mean they can't get there, but that's a long way to go.

Re:Talent gap at BYU vs top ten

Posted by PlayoffDude - 2008/01/03 17:19

BCS access-wise, I believe that BYU is in a stronger position being outside a BCS conference than joining the PAC 10 or Big 12. BYU could not dominate the Big 12 or the PAC 10 like we do the Mountain West right now. A couple of solid non-conference wins, and an undefeated BYU will definitely receive BCS love.

Remember, Hawaii went undefeated BUT had an extremely weak schedule. The WAC finished with 6 of its 9 teams having losing records....and Idaho and Utah St. fighting with Duke and friends for the bottom. The MWC is a much tougher conference (as ranked by the computers) than the WAC. Thus, an undefeated MWC champ will always outrank an undefeated WAC champ.

Case in point, JUST FOR ILLUSTRATION PURPOSES, if BYU had beaten UCLA and Tulsa this season, the BCS computers would have loved an undefeated BYU and probably would have placed BYU in the #1 spot. The WAC Champ will never reach that ranking, unless they were to beat 2 or 3 top ranked BCS schools in non-conference play.....

I think BYU will be in a fine situation to improve its recruiting simply by winning games and exhibiting the an attractive and honorable tradition. BYU will never compete with USC, Michigan, etc. for most recruits, but BYU should be able to compete with the Arizona, California, Oregon, Texas Tech -types of college football if we keep up the winning tradition.

Re:Talent gap at BYU vs top ten

Posted by PlayoffDude - 2008/01/03 17:41

ColoradoBlueZone wrote:

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No one can compare talent, that is why we play the game. Leave it on the field and let get a playoff system. :angry:

Also, see West Virginia 48, Oklahoma 28.

Did you notice how much BIGGER the Oklahoma WR's, RB's, LB's, and lines were than West Virginia? Oklahoma has

consistently out-recruited West Virginia for years. But the Mountaineers were playing with serious passion, after all that Rodriguez left in his wake, they really had something to prove. How many 50+ runs and passes did they have? They were on a mission.

I know many will declare, but West Virginia has so much speed! All I have to say is that Oklahoma has just as much speed as West Virginia, probably more speed and size at more positions. But you can't compare the 6'5 250 WR/TE from Oklahoma and the 5'10 180 lbs WR from West Virginia and postulate who will win. You HAVE to play the game!

Can you imagine what would happen this year if you just stuck to the traditional bowl matchups and then had a 4-team playoff from there?

USC beats Ohio State 42-24 in the Rose Bowl!
LSU trounces Hawaii in the Sugar Bowl!
Georgia escapes a 4th quarter comeback against Virginia Tech in the Orange Bowl!
West Virginia embarrasses Oklahoma at the Fiesta Bowl!

Then USC v. Georgia and LSU v. W. Virginia meet up in two semi-final games(a double header!) at the Rose Bowl!!! You don't think those games would generate some serious excitement (and ticket sales and media revenue!!!!)??!!!

Are you telling me that adding 3 extra football games total that would affect only 4 teams would make that much of a difference to the "professionalism" of college football???

Get over it BCS Conference Presidents and Chancellors! For crying out loud, keep the same BCS conference-bowl affiliations, revenue-sharing, etc. The system is in place and it would be so EASY to just extend the season by three games.....

=====

Re:Talent gap at BYU vs top ten

Posted by Mars - 2008/01/04 04:05

Remember, Hawaii was a Top Ten team.

So is BYU, according to Vegas. And I trust them more than the biased coaches and the ignorant sportswriters.

=====

Re:Talent gap at BYU vs top ten

Posted by ND/BYU - 2008/01/04 06:48

buzzard wrote:

What everyone seems to forget is that for several years, ending about 20 years ago, BYU WAS a perennial top 10 team. Year in, year out. We beat other top 10 teams, we had 1st team All-America players most every year. Back then, we knew that going against the best teams in the country was an opportunity, not a cause for trepedation. That is the standard that we mustaspire to.

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Just out of curiosity, please send data to back-up your claims. You mention 20 years ago, please mention the years we finished in the top 10 and to you what is a "perennial top ten team"? Finishing back to back in the top 10 or finishing 7 out of 10 years in the top 10 or 15? Sure we had top 10 finishes, but we were hardly an ND, USC, Michigan. What top 10 teams did we beat that finished in the top 10 or for that matter top 25 that were out of conference.

I agree with the rest of your post.

=====

Re:Talent gap at BYU vs top ten

Posted by Ygridiron4ever - 2008/01/04 07:38

ND/BYU wrote:

buzzard wrote:

.....BYU WAS a perennial top 10 team. Year in, year out.....

...please mention the years we finished in the top 10....

I wish I had the ability to go back over the last 25 years or so and make a chart that lists the highest rank BYU achieved in each year and the rank with which BYU finished. for example:

Year: 1984

highest rank: 1

rank at end of year: 1

Anybody out there have the time and means to produce such a chart?

=====

Re:Talent gap at BYU vs top ten

Posted by ND/BYU - 2008/01/04 07:55

Ygridiron4ever wrote:

ND/BYU wrote:

buzzard wrote:

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Scroll down on the link:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BYU_Cougars_football#Rankings_-_Top_25_finishes

BYU was in the top 25 for years, but I would not say they were a top ten program 20 years ago.

I would be more interested to see what out of conference teams we have beat over the past 20 years that were ranked at years end.

Also thought this was interesting, ranking by decade:

http://cfbdatawarehouse.com/data/div_ia/mountainwest/brigham_young/rankings.php

Do not agree with the weighting and believe BYU would be higher. I thought 80-89 would be justify a higher ranking then 23, but I guess it makes sense since we were only ranked 5 of those years and the average ranking of us when we were ranked was 14.2 then you lump on the years we were not ranked and that would get us to about 23.

=====

Re:Talent gap at BYU vs top ten

Posted by mormonrasta - 2008/01/04 08:20

ND/BYU wrote:

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1997- 13-10 ASU AP final ranking 14 (My favorite BYU game of all time)
1996- 19-15 Kansas State AP final ranking 17
1992- 30-17 Penn State USA Today final ranking 25 (not ranked in the AP)
1990- 28-21 Miami AP final ranking 3

That's the list. But that's OK. Bronco is laying the groundwork for greatness. He has reestablished respectability, proved he could consistently win the conference, proved he could win bowl games, and proved he could win with different players.

Now he needs to prove he can win nonconference games on the road and beat ranked nonconference foes. Another challenge I'm confident he will meet.

=====

Re:Talent gap at BYU vs top ten

Posted by ND/BYU - 2008/01/04 08:23

mormonrasta wrote:

ND/BYU wrote:

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Thank you. I agree that we are in a great spot to move up. For some reason people want to prove we are a top 10 or 25 team when we should be focused on moving forward. I agree Bronco is laying the groundwork for something special and consistent success.

P.S. My favorite game was the 1990 Miami game, best BYU game I ever attended hands down.

=====

Re:Talent gap at BYU vs top ten

Posted by Ygridiron4ever - 2008/01/04 08:31

Thanks ND/BYU and Mormonrasta for the links and data. One game I'll not soon forget was the Texas A&M game - Because I was there. A&M were ranked pretty high when BYU beat them in the Pigskin Classic with a late TD from Sarkisian.

=====

Re:Talent gap at BYU vs top ten

Posted by MountainMD - 2008/01/04 08:46

Tom Trails wrote:

There is a big talent gap between us and the top ten. Obviously Bronco knows this and realizes that we need more speed to play with the big big boys.

I do think we can play with anyone in the 15-25. I read where some dope felt we would play with and possibly beat USC. I hope that belief isn't more pervasive among cougar fans, because it is ludicrous. Above average defenses vs. Utah and UCLA held us to 17 pt. Team speed of the BCS bowl teams would kill us.

That being said, we overachieved this year and are a legit top 25 team, tho probably not a top 15 team. That's OK. This is where we should be. We are not going to be in the top 10 year in and out. I think if we compete yearly for the MWC and win it at least every 2-3 yr, finish in the top 25 at least every other year, go bowling every year, and about once every 6-8 yr compete for a spot in the top 12, given our handicaps (honor code, lack of AA athletes, etc) if we can accomplish that and run a clean program, we should be happy.

But amigos, there is a huge talent gap between us and the big boys. They would run us off the field this year. Our offense is not a juggernaut. Our kicking is poor. Our depth is poor. Our speed is average at best. Bronco no doubt knows this. We need those athletes to take the next step. With the talent we have, we might luck out and be a Hawaii with a great record, but we'd be run in a BCS game. I want to get us there, but I dont want to get embarrassed.

Who are the "Big Boys"? We don't have the speed to play with a Kansas? Where did they all of a sudden find such a fast team? Were they too fast for us in many years of the last 2 decades while they were turning in horrible preformances.

Arizona has been in the national championship chase in the recent past - we don't score 50 on this type of team; but we certainly aren't out of our league. Have they misplaced their "Big Boys"?

Is BYU consistently better than top 25 or a top 10 teams? Obviously, not. Would I love our team speed to be better? Obviously, so. However, I doubt Bronco is thinking that he and the team aren't ready for your "Big Boys". The program is still building, but will get there. Anyone planning on getting worked hasn't watched enough college football. Any given weekend...

Re:Talent gap at BYU vs top ten

Posted by BigTex - 2008/01/04 09:04

In highscool you often get programs without a ton of talent beating more talented teams because there is certainly a coaching gap between the have's and the have-nots.

Because at the college and NFL level there is nolonger large gaps between many coaching staffs (ofcourse there are your exceptions...see UCLA) the gap between teams is more acurately measured in talent ie: speed.

But let's get one thing straight. Although BYU would not consistently beat the best teams in the country, under the current leadership, BYU would never get beaten the way Hawaii was.

Re:Talent gap at BYU vs top ten

Posted by ND/BYU - 2008/01/04 09:06

MountainMD wrote:

Tom Trails wrote:

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He is discussing the top teams, not one off good years such as KS or bottom dwells in BCS conferences (or even wins over top programs in their down years). I think we can beat anyone on any give weekend, but not consistently enough to think we could be one of the top teams in the country if we were in a BCS conference. Sure AZ was in a BCS conference but they were not good, and when did they compete for an NC? 1994 SI named them preseason number 1 but they ended up #20, finished 8-4, and lost to Utah in the Freedom Bowl.

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Re:Talent gap at BYU vs top ten

Posted by Knucklehead - 2008/01/04 09:23

ND/BYU Wrote:

Knucklehead, to have your argument be relevant please also attach the ranking and record of the team the year we beat them. Please write the all the teams that we beat that finished in the top 15 over the past 5 years.

ND/BYU, thank you for letting me know how I can make my argument relevant, TIC. Let me turn the tables, we don't have the final top 25 poll out yet so we will have to look at the top 25 that came out in week 14.

Ohio State is going to play in the BC\$ Championship game, right? How many teams did Ohio State beat this year that are currently in the top 25?

Answer: One, Wisconsin and they were beaten by Tennessee in their bowl game.

How many teams that are currently in the top 25 did Kansas beat in order to get into the Orange Bowl?

Answer: Zero

How about Southern Cal? How many teams did they beat in the current top 25 to get into the Rose Bowl?

Answer: One, Arizona State and we all watched them get worked in the Holiday Bowl.

Is beating one team that ends the season ranked in the top 25 is enough to qualify you as a big boy yourself?

=====

Re:Talent gap at BYU vs top ten

Posted by Knucklehead - 2008/01/04 09:30

MountainMD asks:

Who are the "Big Boys"?

That is the million dollar question for all of the people who say that we can't play with them.

The other question that isn't answered is how do we get to play them on an even playing field? Everyone knows the Big Ten and SEC won't play a home-and-homes series with BYU. No SEC "Big Boy" has ever set foot in LES (only Mississippi State and they must not be a Big Boy because we are 1-1 against them) and only Penn State from the Big Ten has ever come to Provo (we are 1-1 against them in our last two as well).

Re:Talent gap at BYU vs top ten

Posted by ND/BYU - 2008/01/04 09:40

Knucklehead wrote:

ND/BYU Wrote:

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Answer: One, Arizona State and we all watched them get worked in the Holiday Bowl.

Is beating one team that ends the season ranked in the top 25 is enough to qualify you as a big boy yourself?

What is your point? So USC, Ohio State etc did not have huge wins thus they are the same as BYU? Lets try to be logical, TIC. You can point out examples this year, but please make a case for BYU not trying to knock other schools in BCS conferences. I would love to hear an educated argument for BYU that I can use....not well OSU did not beat anyone either so we must both be top schools. It is simple you need to show a rational argument that we can use with non-BYU fans to have it make sense. I do not see rational as to why BYU should be considered a top team at this point. See previous posts on the ranked teams we have beat, not many. Any rational person could rip your argument to shreds with no talk of ranking or positioning.

Do you think beating ND this year would have helped BYU's cause? No, you could say well BYU beat a traditional top team but who cares if ND was horrible. The list you made needs to be quantified, again who cares if BYU beat OK in 1994 when OK was bad and had just had their coach fired. That does not mean we would have beaten them all other years. The proof should be we can BEAT top teams.

My argument is not to knock BYU, but I personally want to show they deserve to be lumped into the top teams category but I cannot logically see how to do it. The key is to keep winning and beat some high quality teams as they come along.

Re:Talent gap at BYU vs top ten

Posted by mormonrasta - 2008/01/04 09:46

Knucklehead wrote:

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Answer: One, Arizona State and we all watched them get worked in the Holiday Bowl.

Is beating one team that ends the season ranked in the top 25 is enough to qualify you as a big boy yourself?

Fantastic points.

This is why it's critical for BYU to consistently beat top 25 teams. Teams like Ohio State and USC get the benefit of the doubt because of their track record.

Ohio State beat Miami (when they were good), Notre Dame (when they were good, uh, um, ranked), Michigan, and Texas in the last 4 years. So when they have a good season like this one only beating 1 legit top 25 team the voters give them the benefit of the doubt.

I believe this is how BYU won the NC in '84. Because voters were not voting on what they thought of BYU on the merits of '84 alone. They were voting on a PROGRAM having a great season. A PROGRAM that was undefeated and was given the benefit of the doubt because they proved the previous season they could beat a ranked Pac-10 champion (UCLA), a legit top 15 team (Air Force), and won a bowl game within a 11 game winning streak in '83.

Voters viewed '84 as a mere extension of '83 and ranked them #1. If BYU was 6-5 in '83 there would be no championship in '84.

=====

Re:Talent gap at BYU vs top ten

Posted by Knucklehead - 2008/01/04 09:47

Mormonrasta wrote:

Now he needs to prove he can win nonconference games on the road and beat ranked nonconference foes. Another challenge I'm confident he will meet.

How many currently ranked nonconference teams did the teams playing in this year's BC\$ games beat to qualify for the BC\$?

Kansas: Zero
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Oklahoma: Zero
West Virginia: Zero
Illinois: Zero
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Well we can schedule more teams out of conference who will end up being ranked at the end of the year you say? How do we do that? How do we know four years in advance who will be ranked at the end of year X?

Better questions are how do we get programs to play on an even playing field by coming to LES and how the teams we

play to stay ranked by the end of the year after they get beaten by a lowly BYU team in the eyes of the biased media?

Re:Talent gap at BYU vs top ten

Posted by cougarfan87 - 2008/01/04 09:52

My true Big Boys list (i/e-teams that would only get beaten by teams from Non-BCS conferences and sucky BCS foes less than 25% of the time) broken down by conference:

Caution, entering extremely subjective zone...

Pac-10

USC. Sorry, no one else qualifies under the definition supra.

The Huskies, and Washington State have had moments of big boyishness in the past, but certainly would not be considered so now.

Big 12

Texas

Oklahoma

For illustrative purposes, I will mention the Nebraska team of the 70s-90s. They do not qualify anymore.

Big 10

Michigan (I know Appalachian state makes this hard to swallow, but traditionally, Michigan has been a college football power).

Ohio State

Big East

I can't think of one either

ACC

Ditto.

Florida State and Miami from about seven years ago would have been classified as big boys. They, like Nebraska, have fallen from grace.

SEC

Florida

LSU

Georgia

In the past, Alabama and Auburn would have been considered Big Boys, but they have fallen a long way as well.

Re:Talent gap at BYU vs top ten

Posted by ND/BYU - 2008/01/04 09:53

Knucklehead wrote:

Mormonrasta wrote:

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Better questions are how do we get programs to play on an even playing field by coming to LES and how the teams we play to stay ranked by the end of the year after they get beaten by a lowly BYU team in the eyes of the biased media?

What is your solution? Also how many of the teams listed lost to Tulsa type opponents? Maybe one or two. The key is those teams had a track record for years and HAVE beaten top teams in the past? Why are you comparing out of conference schedules? To do this you would need to assume the MWC and the other conferences are comparable. BCS teams can have weaker non-conference schedules when your conferences include top teams. I don't agree with it, but playing in the SEC in my mind can help be an indicator as to the quality of the team. The WAC stinks so there was no indication whether Hawaii was good or bad, although we could all make conclusions.

=====

Re:Talent gap at BYU vs top ten

Posted by Knucklehead - 2008/01/04 09:59

ND/BYU wrote:

No, you could say well BYU beat a tradational top team but who cares if ND was horrible. The list you made needs to be quantified, again who cares if BYU beat OK in 1994 when OK was bad and had just had their coach fired. That does not mean we would have beaten them all other years. The proof should be we can BEAT top teams.

I would say to them...Why don't you identify your top teams and then justify to me why they should be called top teams? Why don't they quantify it?

How is BYU's AD going to know who is going to be ranked at the end of 2009? How does BYU get those teams to play on an even playing field?

Its a self-fulfilling prophecy when you come from a smaller conference. If you beat the "Big Boys", then the "Big Boy" must not be big anymore or was having a down year and therefore the win doesn't count.

Both UCLA and Arizona would have been considered better teams this year had the MWC not hung two losses on each team. UCLA would have finished the season 8-5 and Arizona 7-5 had BYU, New Mexico, and Utah not hung losses on them.

Its a mathematical reality that the combined record of the opponents of any undefeated team is going to be proportionally lower to reflect the winning percentage of the undefeated team.

=====

Re:Talent gap at BYU vs top ten

Posted by Knucklehead - 2008/01/04 10:04

ND/BYU wrote:

Also how many of the teams listed lost to Tulsa type opponents? Maybe one or two.

At the risk of losing credibility (because I know losing to Tulsa doesn't look good especially considering they put more points on our defense than any other defense all year), here's an answer to your question with a question.

How many SEC, BIG TEN teams played back to back nonconference games on the road?

If that Tulsa game were in LES would we have won it?

=====

Re:Talent gap at BYU vs top ten

Posted by Knucklehead - 2008/01/04 10:08

Mormonrasta & ND/BYU its been fun, but I have to go make a lunch for 56 missionaries at a zone conference, thanks Mr. Stake President. You get a day off work and you end up working.

Catch you on another thread.

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Re:Talent gap at BYU vs top ten

Posted by jaga97 - 2008/01/04 10:14

BYU could easily finish in the top 10 next year. If that happens than we can claim to be 1 of the big boys until proven otherwise. This year we proved that we are not there by losing to Tulsa and UCLA. We are currently better than most BCS schools and definate top dog for non BCS.

We can beat anyone at LES as long as we keep the grass long or ice it over. :)

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Re:Talent gap at BYU vs top ten

Posted by ND/BYU - 2008/01/04 10:25

Knucklehead wrote:

ND/BYU wrote:

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Agreed it is difficult for the AD. BYU needs to win for several years and get some PR and then win when they have a chance to beat a top team. Other then that sign up top teams to play, playing ND would be huge because it would give TV exposure and no matter how big a pesismist you are regarding ND they will be ranked at least once or twice in the times BYU would play them. No matter if Weis is the coach or someone else they will be ranked between 2009-12 based on the young talent they have coming in, tough not to eventually win. That is an example of something I would do as AD, trust me he could have made the ND games work if he wanted to bad enough and was willing to be flexible.

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The only requisite for qualifying for a BCS game is a fantastic regular season record. Tradition doesn't matter, conference doesn't matter, regular season opponents do not matter (Hawaii and Kansas are perfect examples).

The requirements are different for national championships.

Their "Big Boy" wins all came in conference and until someone decides to invite BYU into their conference there is nothing BYU can about that.

Well we can schedule more teams out of conference who will end up being ranked at the end of the year you say? How do we do that? How do we know four years in advance who will be ranked at the end of year X?

Better questions are how do we get programs to play on an even playing field by coming to LES and how the teams we play to stay ranked by the end of the year after they get beaten by a lowly BYU team in the eyes of the biased media?

You're right. For BCS teams access to really good i.e. ranked teams comes in conference play. That's not fair. And also those same really good teams typically won't come to Provo on a home and home basis. That seems like it's not fair.

There is a couple things that BYU could do:

1. Expand their stadium to seat 90-100,000 people and fill it. This will generate enough revenue for teams like Nebraska, Ohio State, Tennessee, and Auburn to travel. They do travel, but only to other large venues. BYU's stadium and thus their stadium revenue is not competitive with the Michigan, Tennessee, Florida, and Ohio State's of the world.

But quite frankly this option is not realistic.

2. Play the great teams at their venues! Play 2 for 1 (2 at Alabama; 1 in Provo). Play a one and done like Utah is doing with Michigan. National Championship type teams can win these games on the road. So what if Michigan doesn't come to Provo.

BYU could schedule these games if they wanted to. These teams are not as hard to identify as people think. You know Florida, Tennessee, Georgia, Michigan, Ohio State, Penn State, Oklahoma, Texas, and USC are going to be really good. There are 10-20 other teams that have a dang good track record of being really good like Florida State/Miami/Notre Dame.

If BYU were national championship worthy their standard schedule would be:

Game #1 Home 1-AA team
Game #2 @BCS power
Game #3 Home vs Pac-10 team (away alternating years)
Game #4 Away vs. Wac team (home alternating years)

But BYU is NOT a national title contender yet. Not even close. All BYU has to do is schedule themselves to get into BCS games, win those, and then look to what they have to do to become a national title contender.

Re:Talent gap at BYU vs top ten

Posted by jaga97 - 2008/01/04 11:18

mormonrasta wrote:
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So your saying next year BYU's schedule matches a national championship run. Game #2 would be a stretch in calling Washington a BCS power but they could be very good next year with a more experienced good quarterback. Games 1,3,and 4 will likely match your schedule exactly.

I think next years conference schedule will be our toughest challenge. Away games Air Force, Utah, TCU, Colorado State.

=====

Re:Talent gap at BYU vs top ten

Posted by mormonrasta - 2008/01/04 12:16

jaga97 wrote:

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Sure, if they had beaten BC in '06, and made it to a BCS game this year, then next year's schedule would position them for a national championship run.

Unfortunately, Bronco hasn't won a nonconference road game in his career. In addition to that BYU hasn't beaten a ranked nonconference opponent since '97. Therefore, the accomplishments of BYU in MWC haven't been put into it's proper context considering the shortcomings of the program thus far.

There are many steps that need to take place before worrying about a national championship and the scheduling considerations to get us there.

=====

Re:Talent gap at BYU vs top ten

Posted by ColoradoBlueZone - 2008/01/04 17:31

To everyone who is debating this subject-- THIS IS EXACTLY WHY WE NEED TO GO TO A PLAYOFF SYSTEM. Everyone who is pleading their case on this thread sounds like Holtz, May, Herbstreit, Kiper and Corso. All have good arguments but all have their opinions flawed as well. The BCS is flawed from the get go because it is human-opinion based. There is no use comparing BYU to other teams. That is why we play the game. To see who is better on the field, not on paper.

PLAYOFF SYSTEM, PLEASE COME SOON!!! I can't handle this talent debate any longer!!

=====

Re:Talent gap at BYU vs top ten

Posted by craigoscarson - 2008/01/05 02:10

ND/BYU wrote:

Knucklehead wrote:

Mormonrasta wrote:

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Tulsa would have beaten Hawaii, Boise State and about 3/4 of the bowl eligible teams this year. A young BYU got trapped in a gamethey never considered possible. We disrespected Tulsa and they caught us at the right time with 2 weeks to prepare for us. It was my worst nightmare (outside of ever losing to Utah) at the beginning of the season. If we're going to schedule team, it needs to either be a name team from a big conference (even if they stink like Washington) or do what Kansas, Ohio State, Hawaii, etc. etc. etc. have done and schedule a patsy for a W that helps guarantee a bowl and a winning record. Until teams like Ohio State stop doing it, we're not being hypocrites by playing a 1_AA (ask Michigan).....

Re:Talent gap at BYU vs top ten

Posted by Mars - 2008/01/05 02:29

I doubt Bronco loses his non-conference road game at Utah State next year... :huh:

Re:Talent gap at BYU vs top ten

Posted by byuphil - 2008/01/05 11:44

phillips14 wrote:

Speed, speed, speed. What about sound team skills? Yes speed can kill, but not if you bottle it up. We don't know how this team would do against a top teir team because we do not have the chance to play one. UCLA just matches up well with us that is why the game was so close. Last year before the Vegas bowl all we heard was speed, speed, speed. I am not saying that BYU would beat the upper tier teams, but they would compete.

As I recall, early in the year UCLA was considered as having one of the best defenses in the country, if not the best. Did that change over the course of the year. As I recall, just about every defensive player for UCLA was considered a pro prospect. We should have scored more the first game. Not too shabby really. And what about BYU's offense? Pretty dang good IMO.

Re:Talent gap at BYU vs top ten

Posted by scott715 - 2008/01/06 09:31

You bring a good reason to schedule Notre Dame, the national tv coverage. Maybe we need to get a permanent deal to play them ever year. Good exposure and competition that would make our players better. You have to play talented teams to improve. You don't get any benefit playing Div 2-AA teams.

Re:Talent gap at BYU vs top ten

Posted by bball - 2008/01/06 10:31

A little too much credit is given to speed. Granted, nobody turns down speed when they can get it in a recruit, but other factors are equally important; assignment soundness, leverage (defense), skills, discipline, scheme, etc. Speed is probably a little more important in football than it is in basketball, baseball, soccer, etc, but it isn't everything.

I was intrigued during the BYU vs Utah broadcast and the LV Bowl broadcast that the announcers kept harping on the speed of the BYU defense. I thought we didn't have much speed. The fact is BYU has good overall team speed. Our linebackers are as fast as anybody. Our corners, runningbacks and receivers are probably not quite as fast as the fastest in college football. Still, if the blocking is there, even a step slower runner is going to get yardage. If receivers run good routes, they will get open.

The slowest part of our defense is probably our down linemen. I love these guys, they are tough, smart, well coached, but they are not the fastest linemen in college football. Still, in watching the bowl games this year, it's been fascinating to see offensive coaches use the speed of opposing down linemen against them. They get up field so fast that a void is created behind them and teams are now slipping a receiver into that void and picking up good yardage. The BYU down linemen don't vacate that area of the field, but tend to hold their ground--thus good defense against the run, good defense against the pass, and overall good team defense.

And I take issue with the notion that Utah's defense kept our scoring down--not so. A bogus pass interference on Collie took 7 points off the board. Unga's dropped pass took 7 points off the board. The true score should have been about 35-10.

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Re:Talent gap at BYU vs top ten

Posted by PlayoffDude - 2008/01/07 14:55

Also, remember that neither Beck, Harline, nor Brown were regarded as "speedy" at their respective positions last year. Spacing, positioning, and timing can be just as or even more effective than speed.

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Re:Talent gap at BYU vs top ten

Posted by imuakahuku - 2008/01/07 15:06

I remember in H.S. one of our receivers was very fast. The only problem was that if you threw him the ball he would drop it. He had hands of stone. So speed don't mean a thing if it's all you have.

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Re:Talent gap at BYU vs top ten

Posted by SLCreder - 2008/01/07 15:13

Mars wrote:

I doubt Bronco loses his non-conference road game at Utah State next year... :huh:
Like many fans, I hope this will be the last trip to Logan for BYU, and the contract is adjusted to force the 2010 game scheduled for Logan to Provo. The Utes should do the same thing and force Utah State (a Big Sky should be school) to play any and all games in Rice-Eccles. the disparity between these programs is now about as great as it can get, and I don't see it getting any better. BOTH BYU and Utah lose money by playing in Logan, yet could provide Utah State with a much needed cash infusion.:laugh:

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Re:Talent gap at BYU vs top ten

Posted by ND/BYU - 2008/01/07 15:16

I guess we will all see tonight if speed and athleticism make a difference. LSU is supposed to be fast and athletic, OSU is disciplined and will pound the ball I agree that there is more then speed, but if you get a well coached, experienced, disciplined team with speed you be better off. IMHO you can improve speed but cannot teach someone to be fast, you can coach a player to improve his fundamentals but cannot coach his to run a 4.4 40.

Look at the top teams that are there every year, they have two things in common athleticism (speed) and good coaching in a good program. I think BYU can be there every few years as their players mature, but to expect BYU to reload on a national level...I don't see it. We should dominate the MWC every year.

People talk about recruiting, it is huge whether people believe it or not. Most recruits do not pan out, but the more highly ranked 4 and 5 star athletes the more opportunities you have to win. There is a direct correlation to recruiting and wins...I am not saying it is perfectly correlated but it anyone that can read can see that there is a correlation.

Re:Talent gap at BYU vs top ten

Posted by huskercougar - 2008/01/07 15:53

imuakahuku wrote:

I remember in H.S. one of our receivers was very fast. The only problem was that if you threw him the ball he would drop it. He had hands of stone. So speed don't mean a thing if it's all you have.

Did you go to Orem High? Was his name Rod Wilkerson, the one that played for BYU? :laugh: :(We used to call him 50/50.

Re:Talent gap at BYU vs top ten

Posted by SLCreder - 2008/01/07 15:58

scott715 wrote:

You bring a good reason to schedule Notre Dame, the national tv coverage. Maybe we need to get a permanent deal to play them ever year. Good exposure and competition that would make our players better. You have to play talented teams to improve. You don't get any benefit playing Div 2-AA teams.

Besides 8 MWC games scheduled each year, I think BYU should focus on scheduling games out of the league with at least two in the PAC-10, one home, one away. California, Oregon and Washington remain big recruiting territories for BYU, especially for LDS kids, and BYU no doubt isn't any different than the Arizona schools were back in the 1970s and seeking to move up.

I like the idea of playing Utah State most years, but as I pointed out in my post above, it is a money losing proposition to play in Logan and feel if we're to continue to play Utah State, the game should ONLY BE PLAYED IN PROVO.

For the 4th non-league game BYU and Tom Holmoe should focus on getting a home and home date with a Big-12 team such as nearby Colorado, or possibly one of the Texas schools. Keep in mind that back in the late 1980s BYU did a home and home date with Texas and won both games. BYU also has a series lead against A&M (2-1). If any other league should be scheduled I would opt for the ACC since BYU has many alumni living in the mid-Atlantic region around Washington, DC and Baltimore as well as much of northern Virginia. BYU split a series with UVA just a few short years ago, but also should look seriously at going home and home with Virginia Tech and Maryland. I also wouldn't rule out a series with one of the North Carolina schools. BYU can play with top 25 caliber teams now unlike during the Crowton era where they weren't very good.

I think this sort of policy will aid BYU in recruiting as much as anything. I think that playing 1-AA schools will only hinder BYU more than help in the long run. Sooner or later however BYU (& Utah for that matter) must find a way to make the PAC-10 look at them more seriously as a viable expansion option for an 11th and 12th schools. I think it can happen unlike some on these boards. Both the Cougars and Utes are the largest college athletic programs associated with research caliber schools not affiliated with a BCS league in the west. Sooner or later something will have to give.

Re:Talent gap at BYU vs top ten

Posted by UliUli79 - 2008/01/07 16:58

huskercougar wrote:

imuakahuku wrote:

I remember in H.S. one of our receivers was very fast. The only problem was that if you threw him the ball he would drop it. He had hands of stone. So speed don't mean a thing if it's all you have.

Did you go to Orem High? Was his name Rod Wilkerson, the one that played for BYU? :laugh: :(We used to call him 50/50.

I played with Rod at Orem... He wasn't a wide reciever in high school, he played outside linebacker. Caught a rb from behind in semi-finals that saved the game for us. He never had good hands, but incredible speed. Remember Tyler Anderson? That's who coached Rod's speed. Orem's 4X400 relay team broke all kinds of records that year thanks to him.

That being said, I know it was a joke husker, just wanted to set the record straight.

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