
BYU athlete doesn't attend church--gets kicked out

Posted by cruiser - 2008/02/02 22:25

Most of you know that I'm as blue as anybody, but this really saddens me. Although it has to do with a baseball player, in the bigger picture, you can see how it might affect the football program just four days before loi-signing day.

http://www.sltrib.com/collegesports/ci_8149321

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Re:BYU athlete doesn't attend church--gets kicked out

Posted by OLB - 2008/02/02 22:33

cruiser wrote:

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Ya, I can see how this affects some recruits -- it separates the wheat from the tares. If a recruit knows that attending Church is a real requirement for BYU, and that is a negative in the mind of a recruit, I'm not sure that recruit should really be coming to BYU in the first place.

I think it illustrates to the recruit that just because you have an athletic scholie, you won't get away with living a marginal honor-code lifestyle.

If anything, this story lets potential LOI signees know exactly what they are getting into, so they can't make the case that they "didn't know better."

Cruiser, normally I would defer to you with regards to all things recruiting -- seeing that you are a former player, have gone through that process (and witnessed it countless times). I want the most incredible physical specimens that BYU can get -- but it doesn't do the program any good if that recruit never makes it onto the field because they can't live by the Honor Code.

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Re:BYU athlete doesn't attend church--gets kicked

Posted by Mars - 2008/02/02 22:40

OLB wrote:

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Re:BYU athlete doesn't attend church--gets kicked out

Posted by gordito - 2008/02/02 22:42

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How might it affect the football program?

It's a given that the public won't be given all the details here. Certainly he's not surprised, surely it's not just missing a few Sundays right? I just hope this works itself out and nobody gets bitter.

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Re:BYU athlete doesn't attend church--gets kicked

Posted by cruiser - 2008/02/02 22:50

OLB, the BYU spokesman specifically stated that this is not an honor code violation. This is the result of a bishop (and, according to some, the stake president as well) who decided to make an example of an athlete. This kid was a candidate to become an all-American, and evidently he did go to church, just not where his bishop could see him. The fact that this went all the way to the Quorum of the Twelve indicates that there may have been some question about it, perhaps as to the punishment fitting the so-called crime.

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Re:BYU athlete doesn't attend church--gets kicked

Posted by xarope8 - 2008/02/02 23:11

Something sounds fishy to me. I know I probably don't know everything about it. But with the story I know this kid didn't deserve to be kicked out of school because the bishop thought he wasn't going to church. Geesh!! What about all the nonmembers who don't attend any church?? What a joke!! Cut the kid some slack!

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Re:BYU athlete doesn't attend church--gets kicked out

Posted by cruiser - 2008/02/02 23:15

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Re:BYU athlete doesn't attend church--gets kicked out

Posted by etyotx - 2008/02/02 23:21

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Exactly. Didn't that happen this year with a short-term commit? It seemed like somebody prayed and felt that BYU was the right choice and committed to BYU, only to have ute coaches remind him that he had to do all the hard stuff at BYU

like go to church, live the commandments and go to class. It seems like that was why he decommitted and comitted with the U. I think it was Sealver Siliga (sp?).

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Posted by OLB - 2008/02/02 23:28

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Not attending Church meetings is a violation of the Honor Code. That is why his Bishop/Stake President yanked his endorsement.

The article stated that this was done not by the Honor Code Office, but by his ecclesiastical leaders. There is a difference, and I made that distinction in my post. Your inability to comprehend that is your problem, not mine.

Look at BYU's Honor Code homepage. It states the following:

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"As a matter of personal commitment, students, faculty, and staff of Brigham Young University ... seek to demonstrate in daily living on and off campus those moral virues encompassed in the gospel of Jesus Christ, and will:

Be honest

Obey the law and all campus policies

Live a chaste and virtuous life

Respect others

Abstain from alcoholic beverages, tobacco, tea, coffee, and substance abuse

Encourage others in their commitment to comply with the Honor Code

Observe Dress and Grooming Standards

Participate regularly in church services

Use clean language."

Interestingly, all of the above bullet points are hyper linked except for the one concering Church attendance. Is it possible that BYU pulled it down since this kid was kicked out? Possibly.

So I ask you, what part of regular Church attendance is not part of the Honor Code?

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Wrong. Jenkins stated that the dismissal did not come from the Honor Code Office. Nevertheless, it was an Honor Code violation. If it wasn't an Honor Code violation, why was he kicked out of school? The ecclesiastical endorsement is an intrical part of the Honor Code.

The fact that Church authorities signed off on the dismissal means to me the following two things:

1. There was something else which isn't public.

or

2. Church authorities think its important that all BYU students attend Church meetings regularly -- even star athletes.

The article clearly states that the member of the Twelve was okay with the punishment, which means that any concern about the punishment fitting the crime were unfounded.

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Re:BYU athlete doesn't attend church--gets kicked out

Posted by cruiser - 2008/02/02 23:34

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Exactly. Didn't that happen this year with a short-term commit? It seemed like somebody prayed and felt that BYU was the right choice and committed to BYU, only to have ute coaches remind him that he had to do all the hard stuff at BYU like go to church, live the commandments and go to class. It seems like that was why he decommitted and committed with the U. I think it was Sealver Siliga (sp?).

Sealver committed to us "after praying about it," then decommitted and committed to Utah after talking to the Utah coaches. What they said, exactly, I don't know. But I am aware of another exceptional athlete right now who is hesitating about signing with us on Wednesday because he is afraid he might not do everything right at BYU. Keni Kafusi, who is an active member of the Church and lives in Salt Lake, is being recruited by many of the finest programs in the country but is shying away from BYU because he believes it may be too hard to keep all the rules there. He isn't specific about which rules he is concerned about, but those who know him say he would probably fit in well at BYU should he choose to go there. After reading this article in the Tribune, however, well, you get the picture.

By the way, I have talked to people on the team about this situation, and they say the coaches have already discussed it with them. Some of the players know the stake president and say that he is a "hardliner," for whatever that may be worth. In any event, the players know that they are to keep their ecclesiastical endorsements current. As for nonmembers not attending any church, yes, that happens. I guess, in this regard, the members are held to a higher standard.

=====

Re:BYU athlete doesn't attend church--gets kicked out

Posted by lawman - 2008/02/02 23:37

It's hard to know exactly what happened, but this seems shocking on the surface. He was in his ward on 6 of 13 occasions. The other occasions, he was attending General Conference, attending his home ward in California, attending another ward in Utah, etc.

There was no sin or misdeed apparently. This reminds me of one year where I lived in an off-campus apartment. During the course of the school year, I saw the bishop on 3 total occasions and we spoke for a total of probably about 3 minutes.

Literally! Tithing settlement was about 30 seconds. The third time was at the end of the semester when he saw me in the apartment complex and told me that he'd miss me! (I can't remember if he knew my name or not.)

I tell this story not to criticize that bishop. I actually thought he was a nice guy but I'm just glad that he didn't revoke my ecclesiastical endorsement! I certainly never went and "asked him to give me a calling!" (I'm pretty sure I've never asked any bishop to give me a calling...)

If there is another side to the story, I'd be very interested to hear what it is. Interesting that both the school and the athletic department apparently tried to go to bat for the athlete.

My sense is that once the bishop and the stake president made their decision, there was no way that a general authority could come in to overrule them. It's kind of like where an official makes a bad call that decides the outcome of the game, they don't go back and overturn the result (i.e. Oregon at Oklahoma football a couple of years back).

Re:BYU athlete doesn't attend church--gets kicked out

Posted by OLB - 2008/02/02 23:38

cruiser wrote:

By the way, I have talked to people on the team about this situation, and they say the coaches have already discussed it with them. Some of the players know the stake president and say that he is a "hardliner," for whatever that may be worth. In any event, the players know that they are to keep their ecclesiastical endorsements current. As for nonmember not attending any church, yes, that happens. I guess, in this regard, the members are held to a higher standard.

Kearl is a hardliner, both from an ecclesiastical and academic standpoint. I took his Econ 110 class and was a (brief) member of his stake.

Cruiser, you are right -- non-LDS students are not required to attend religious meetings as often as LDS students. The Honor Code states:

"Those individuals who are not members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are also expected to maintain the same standards of conduct, except church attendance."

http://honorcode.byu.edu/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3585

Re:BYU athlete doesn't attend church--gets kicked

Posted by etyotx - 2008/02/02 23:42

OLB wrote:

Mars wrote:

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Interestingly, all of the above bullet points are hyper linked except for the one concerning Church attendance. Is it possible that BYU pulled it down since this kid was kicked out? Possibly.

So I ask you, what part of regular Church attendance is not part of the Honor Code?
I haven't heard that it is req'd that one only attend his own ward.

FWIW, I was a student in Pres. Kearl's stake about 4 years ago and there were two baseball players (one for UVSC and a Cougar). I know for a FACT that the BYU player only went to our ward four or five times throughout the entire semester I was there (but the UVSC player was there every week). This doesn't really have much to do with anything-it's just interesting.

Also, Kearl can be kind of scary.

=====

Re:BYU athlete doesn't attend church--gets kicked

Posted by mjo - 2008/02/02 23:50

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So I ask you, what part of regular Church attendance is not part of the Honor Code?

How is "regular Church attendance" defined, exactly? 50%? 90%? If the article on the Trib is accurate, they're being way too strict with this kid. If the Bishop was that worried for him, there are better roads to help him become more active than withdrawing his endorsement. I'll make sure to sign the roll tomorrow at Church so I can continue my studies...

=====

Re:BYU athlete doesn't attend church--gets kicked

Posted by gmj81 - 2008/02/03 01:29

I'm pretty sure it's 75%.

I'm on the fence on this one. I wish BYU would give the kid another chance but he knew what he was getting into when he signed the honor code. What athletes have got to realize is that they stand out in everything they do whether they want to or not. If any other student was not attending services, that may or may not go unnoticed. But athletes will always be more visible than other students.

It could just be that they are having many problems with athletes in all sports and Kent just happens to be the one they are making the example out of to scare some sense into all the rest. There are a number of athletes in my ward and only a couple attend regularly. Many times they are gone on Sundays for their sports but in the offseason there is no excuse and they just don't seem to take it seriously.

One thing is for sure, I bet the average attendance of the baseball team is going to skyrocket.

=====

Re:BYU athlete doesn't attend church--gets kicked

Posted by cruiser - 2008/02/03 02:48

There is more information about this situation in Jay Drew's blog. See "Background on dismissal of BYU player saga." <http://blogs.sltrib.com/recruiting/>

On other sites and in the comments section after the initial article, people have suggested that the player, Kent Walton, must have done something else to warrant dismissal from BYU. Here's what the article says about that:

The Waltons reluctantly agreed to meet with me Friday night at Thanksgiving Point. I looked Kent Walton in the eye probably three or four times during the course of our hourlong meeting and asked him again and again: "Are you sure there is nothing more you have said or done -- or not done -- that could have caused you to be dismissed from BYU?"

He answered yes each time.

I called his roommate and teammate, Jake Wortham, and got the same response.

Also, I spoke off the record with several sources affiliated with BYU's athletic department who obviously have to remain anonymous or they could potentially lose their jobs. They are flat-out mystified as to why this is happening. Nobody said one negative thing about Kent Walton.

More and more, this appears to be exactly what it purports to be---a BYU student-athlete getting kicked out of school because he didn't attend church often enough. According to at least one coach, Walton had a great chance at being an all-American this year. According to Walton and his roommate, he went to church at least five times in eleven or twelve weeks, plus he watched general conference.

Have we really gotten to this point? Have we become so concerned with exactness in keeping the laws of the Church that our students at BYU have to account for their Sunday attendance or risk having their academic and athletic careers jeopardized? Are we really willing to tell the world that athletes are not invited to come to BYU unless they are willing to prove their church attendance 75% or even 50% of the time? Can we read the words of Jesus, who routinely criticized the Pharisees yet said to the adulterous woman, "Neither do I condemn thee"---can we read his words and not hesitate to dismiss people from school for not going to church often enough in their own ward?

When I read the words in section 121 of the Doctrine and Covenants, I get a different sense: "No power or influence can

or ought to be maintained by virtue of the priesthood, only by persuasion, by long-suffering, by gentleness and meekness, and by love unfeigned." (41).

These words, which have special significance for many, lead me to be very careful about coercing another person to obedience. Yes, there are rules and regulations and promises and covenants. But there should also be some perspective applied when administering punishments. It seems that Kent was never warned that his lack of attendance was about to get him dismissed from school. It also appears that he was not asked if he had attended sacrament meetings elsewhere. And he was almost certainly not allowed a period of time to improve his attendance in his home ward after a warning. And now, as a result of this, we have a young member of the Church who feels betrayed, a family who is hurting and angry about the actions of local Church leaders, an athletic department that is "mystified as to why this is happening," and a public who is trying to make sense of the whole thing. Soon we may even see our enemies using this as supposed proof of our intolerance and/or foolishness.

As a rule, we do not question the actions of our leaders in the Church. But to their credit, they almost always act in a spirit keeping with Section 121---in love, tolerance, and gentleness. I guess I'm saying that this doesn't seem to measure up to those virtues. If this offends anyone, I apologize. I don't mean to offend anyone. I just wonder if there wasn't a better, wiser way to handle all of this. I guess it's easier for me to put myself in the shoes of the young man, than in the shoes of his leader. And now, as one who loves the Church and BYU and the many good things they stand for, I sorrow for the image of intolerance, pedantry, and harshness that all this brings upon us.

=====

Re:BYU athlete doesn't attend church--gets kicked

Posted by loopycoug - 2008/02/03 06:17

This whole thing is looney. You don't kick a kid out of school (athlete or not) because you don't think he attends his home ward enough. If you have a concern you talk to him and give him chances to change. Never in my life have I asked for a calling. I think the bishop is to do the asking.

I only attend my ward once a month (stake calling) - I hope I don't get kicked off this board.

=====

Re:BYU athlete doesn't attend church--gets kicked

Posted by blue75 - 2008/02/03 07:24

gmj81 wrote:

...One thing is for sure, I bet the average attendance of the baseball team is going to skyrocket.

For the wrong reasons.

If the punishment for not attending church enough was being kicked out, students would be booted right and left. And attendance sheets would be circulated at each meeting.

IMO someone doesn't like Walton and doesn't want to give the real reason why.

=====

Re:BYU athlete doesn't attend church--gets kicked

Posted by jaws84074 - 2008/02/03 07:53

As a member of the LDS church, return missionary and a grown man, I am shocked that this could happen. I agree we all need to obey the rules but this was not justified. The bishop and stake president made a mistake and they should do the right thing and step up and invite this young man back....which will never happen because of pride... this hurts the school, the church and the people involved...the student and his family and friends who will now and always feel betrayed and rejected by the church and school they love, the bishop and stake president who have and will lose the support and trust of some members...even one is too many, the school and church who now can not explain why they have done this to a person supported by everyone else who knows him.

Blindly following leaders of your church or school is wrong, they are still human and they too can still make mistakes and this was one of them.

I hope this can be resolved soon, the student will be back in school, maybe not BYU, but life will go on but I fear the

damage has been done and BYU will be left with another black eye most will just try and pretend never happened....

=====

Re:BYU athlete doesn't attend church--gets kicked

Posted by Cougy_Monster - 2008/02/03 08:22

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That was very well said Cruiser. I appreciate your words and tone.

I have loved the ward and stake Church leaders in my life that have lived section 121. I always respect and sustain the calling of my local Church leaders equally, but I have seen ward members thrive more fully under the direction of some than others.

I guarantee that there are others in the same ward/stake with only 50% attendance. If the bishop truly feels that justifies expulsion from BYU there should be a mass revokation of ecclesiastical endorsements. There is no room in the Priesthood for singling out a high profile young man for the sake of an example.

My Church attendance hovers around 50% due to my work in the hospital...sick people don't take Sundays off. The highlight of my week was seeing how happy a single mother in my ward was when she found out I would be caring for her sick child in the hospital, even though I would miss teaching her other child's primary lesson. There is much more to the gospel than Church attendance.

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Re:BYU athlete doesn't attend church--gets kicked

Posted by 1967cougar - 2008/02/03 08:37

As a 59 year-old lifetime Church member, I've gone through a large gammet of feeling, opinions, etc. regarding the

actions of other "saints" - be they leaders or not. I've pretty well settled into the mode of something an old RM lady once said at her homecoming. She said that she used to worry so much about the actions and sins and things other people would do. And she had an opinion about every one of them. Then one day she realized that Jesus Christ died for the sins of all mankind and that He would be the judge of right and wrong. She concluded by stating that "once I truly realized that He was the judge and I didn't have to judge my fellow man, a great burden was lifted off my shoulders and I was free to spend more time in His service."

Might I suggest that this thread would be better left untouched from here on out. Jesus Christ is the judge. I could go on a lot longer and say much more but it's best to leave it alone. By what measure ye judge, ye shall be judged. I don't want to go through life saying that I was critical or failed to forgive someone. I wouldn't want it coming back on me in the hereafter.

Re:BYU athlete doesn't attend church--gets kicked

Posted by the_other_blackguy@byu - 2008/02/03 08:41

This looks horrible for BYU. When I was there, you really only had to come 25% of the time to be safe. Even if you missed months and months, the bishops I knew would WORK with the individual. It takes major events for a bishop to remove an endorsement. If there is not more to the story, BYU had better right this situation. Freak, there have been people on warning n such who didn't get their endorsements removed. I'm not gonna say anything bad about the bishop because I dn't know the whole story. But there has to be more to it. If there isn't, Duff Tittle and the BYU Athletics PR department are gonna have a big problem on their hands. And not from outsiders. WE (the cougar faithful) should clean our own house. If this is a case of "misunderstanding" or "missteps" it is up to us to clean up and not be FORCED to do so by outsiders.

Let's fix this NOW. (Or get the FULL and TRUE story out there!)
the_other_blackguy@byu

Re:BYU athlete doesn't attend church--gets kicked out

Posted by draider - 2008/02/03 09:16

This is the kind of crap that made me go inactive in the first place i cant stand the double standard. This is one of the dumbest things ive ever seen from a school. The Kessman thing for drinking coffee was bad enough but this is terrible.

Re:BYU athlete doesn't attend church--gets kicked out

Posted by NC-Puma - 2008/02/03 09:41

I love BYU but it's no secret that the BYU environment at times lends itself to pharisee-like behavior. There's a social phenomenon that occurs when a place is near 100% LDS (like BYU) - the focus tends to shift from things that matter (purifying our own heart) to things that don't matter (whether Sue has more than one earring in her ear or whether Jim shaved this morning). This happens on many levels. Having lived in Orem/Provo for much of my younger life, I can say that I wouldn't be surprised if this story is as simple as it appears. I knew plenty of church members whose leadership styles were more exact obedience-driven than charity-driven.

Re:BYU athlete doesn't attend church--gets kicked

Posted by CAFB_04-12 - 2008/02/03 10:54

lawman wrote:

My sense is that once the bishop and the stake president made their decision, there was no way that a general authority could come in to overrule them. It's kind of like where an official makes a bad call that decides the outcome of the game, they don't go back and overturn the result (i.e. Oregon at Oklahoma football a couple of years back).

Are you saying that a GA wouldn't have the nerve to overrule a Stake President if he sensed that a vendetta was being served against an athlete? I would think that a member of the board of trustees (apostle) for the University would have more nerve. Or perhaps the "whole story" justified the removal of the endorsement. I will admit, though, that on the

surface this whole situation appears strange. I still know more people who willingly removed themselves from the University than who were kicked out for Honor Code violations. As an aside, the Honor Code office does offer second chances.

Re:BYU athlete doesn't attend church--gets kicked

Posted by HoosierCougar - 2008/02/03 11:50

This is sad no matter what. Either there is more to the story (sad) or 6/11 gets you kicked out of BYU (sad). I knew plenty of BYU students for whom 6/11 was a valiant effort, and none were athletes. I also knew athletes who would return from road trips in the wee hours Saturday night and come bleary eyed to church early the next morning with lessons read. Any generalizations do more harm than good.

I have an Econ degree from BYU, but never had Kearl. While at school, I heard both positive and negative comments about him. Typical for authority figures.

I googled Wayne Childs because the name rings a bell. He works in the Registrars Office at BYU. On the utefans.net site, they are blasting the "typical hypocrites at BYU" citing that we preach free agency, then impose punitive punishments when agency is used. Um, isn't that what agency is? Choosing the consequences?

Re:BYU athlete doesn't attend church--gets kicked

Posted by detmer4prez - 2008/02/03 12:43

CAFB_04-12 wrote:

lawman wrote:

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The Honor Code Office has nothing to do with this. This was strictly for his mediocre attendance record. From the bishop NOT the Honor Code Office. The entire school is baffled by this.

Re:BYU athlete doesn't attend church--gets kicked

Posted by LaytonCougar - 2008/02/03 13:08

detmer4prez wrote:

CAFB_04-12 wrote:

lawman wrote:

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The Honor Code Office has nothing to do with this. This was strictly for his mediocre attendance record. From the bishop NOT the Honor Code Office. The entire school is baffled by this.

Maybe the team will go on strike and not play when the season starts to show their support.B) I miss a few sundays a year, but attend whenever possible. This is one of the most absurd things I have seen as member of the church and it is simply embarrassing..

=====

Re:BYU athlete doesn't attend church--gets kicked

Posted by bennyhaha - 2008/02/03 13:40

If this is all that is really to this story, this is a total crock of holier than thou Bull SH&%. And for the Stake President to back up a bishop who pulls this crap is even worse. Maybe we are not really hearing the whole story, and I really hope this is the case. Someone in the whole BYU chain of command must have more common sense than this.

=====

Re:BYU athlete doesn't attend church--gets kicked

Posted by the_other_blackguy@byu - 2008/02/03 13:57

Ok guys. It is quite simple. I am ready to start a petition and take this to the "heads" that lead. But before doing so, I want the student to confirm to us that there is nothing else. Because if we push, the truth will come out. One side will be embarrassed...the school for allowing this error or the student for not telling the full story. So, if he is willing to have his past (at the Y) studied in depth, and has nothing to hide, then I am willing to push this case forward. If anybody has a way of contacting him, and getting the news back to us, please do so.

But as I warned above, be ready for all the consequences. If there is something hidden from the public, it will become public notice. But I'm more than ready to take on the administration to get him re-instated and take this to the next level. Waiting for a response...

the_other_blackguy@byu

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Re:BYU athlete doesn't attend church--gets kicked out

Posted by Short_Changed - 2008/02/03 14:18

"Those individuals who are not members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are also expected to maintain the same standards of conduct, except church attendance."

quote]

This is ridiculous.

1. He WAS going to church, unless he was lying, sometimes in his own ward and other times in other wards (how many others do this and nothing happens??).
 2. The fact that he still wants to be here and play baseball and finish school leads me to believe that he didn't do anything wrong.
 3. How many other kids who don't play sports don't go to church regularly and still keep their ecclesiastical endorsement? I know there are quite a few in my ward. Be consistent dang it.
 4. The requirement for members to attend church regularly, excluding non-members is idiotic. So basically with that said, Kent could just have said that he's not a member anymore, therefore, he wouldn't have to attend church regularly and kept his endorsement. To hold some members of the school to one standard and others to a different standard doesn't make any sense and is completely inconsistent. Seriously, say Kent left the church some odd months ago then he wouldn't have even been required to attend church regularly and could still stay and play ball and go to school. They need to change that requirement.
- =====

Re:BYU athlete doesn't attend church--gets kicked out

Posted by penn cougar - 2008/02/03 14:43

I have a brother in law who just returned from his mission 6 months ago and who is attending church in Utah. I don't know all the facts of this guys story, but if he's anything like my brother in law, this would rank up there as one of the all time worst bishop decisions I've ever heard of.

What I mean is that, my bro in law is 22, and a good looking, clean cut kid. He is fully active in the church, but I know he hasn't been to his own ward in 5 months. He drives all over the place to go to church with different girls all over Utah. Two weeks he's there, and then the next week he met a new girl and he's over there. You get the point. He maintains a calling as an assistant scout leader and hes an active home teacher. Just because you don't show up in your own ward doesn't mean you should have your endorsement pulled.

Oh, by the way, he lives in Glenwood and attends BYU. No names though, I don't want to get him kicked out for lack of activity:S

=====

Re:BYU athlete doesn't attend church--gets kicked

Posted by Methusaleh - 2008/02/03 19:45

I personally know the Stake President and he is tough but fair (merciful even), which suggests to me there is likely something else to this.

I feel bad for the kid and for BYU if his endorsement is not reinstated and his situation really is every bit as innocent and understandable as the Salt Lake Tribune article claims.

=====

Re:BYU athlete doesn't attend church--gets kicked out

Posted by Conosticator - 2008/02/03 19:54

This thread has been very interesting. I can fully understand why people often no longer find the need to attend Church every sunday. Sometimes it is because Church attendance is no longer fulfilling their spiritual needs.

Since I moved to AZ in 2003 my wife and I have been in four different wards. I have had one calling here - seven months as a nursery teacher in 2004 (my wife was the nursery leader and asked for me as a teacher because most of her teachers were too unreliable). She has had two callings in that time, the other being a VT district leader for three months prior to our ward splitting.

Never in my life have I felt that it was my responsibility to ask the Bishop for a calling. Even now I expect the Bishop to make that determination. Other than tithing settlement, and temple recommend interview, we've never met with any of the four bishops we've had here in AZ. I don't think any of the last three knew who we were. Even attending tithing settlement is hard when you have to introduce yourself to your Bishop despite living in the ward for most of the previous year.

=====

Re:BYU athlete doesn't attend church--gets kicked

Posted by Mars - 2008/02/03 23:00

I just remembered what class I had with Kearl-

He is the Economics 101 professor, the huge one in the JSB with class sizes of 2000 freshman. Kearl is a brilliant economist, but he was also very arrogant, loud, and rude. I found him hilarious, as his favorite classroom past-time was to bash down any student who made a comment, embarrassing them as much as possible. He was kind of the opposite of your typical BYU prof, which is why I enjoyed his class. One of my roommates actually had a nightmare about him once after a rough week in Econ.

=====

Re:BYU athlete doesn't attend church--gets kicked out

Posted by Michicoug - 2008/02/04 07:59

Looking at my number of posts, I obviously don't contribute much to the discussions here, although I am an avid reader of the various discussions. But I feel I have to weigh in on this one. I find this deeply troubling. I would like to know more of the whole story, but this seems to reek of unrighteous dominion. How does this encourage a potentially less active young man? Where is the counseling? Where is the love?, the encouragement? How would this help someone who is becoming less active back into activity? I am very curious to know whether the bishop ever met with him first to discuss his activity. If he did not, then this is an unbelievable misuse of authority. If there were more to the story, should it not have instead been taken to the honor code office?

=====

Re:BYU athlete doesn't attend church--gets kicked

Posted by Npliam - 2008/02/04 08:42

Conosticator wrote:

This thread has been very interesting. I can fully understand why people often no longer find the need to attend Church every sunday. Sometimes it is because Church attendance is no longer fulfilling their spiritual needs.

Since I moved to AZ in 2003 my wife and I have been in four different wards. I have had one calling here - seven months as a nursery teacher in 2004 (my wife was the nursery leader and asked for me as a teacher because most of her teachers were too unreliable). She has had two callings in that time, the other being a VT district leader for three months prior to our ward splitting.

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I think you should ask the bishop for a calling. Not a specific calling but a let him know you are available and willing to do what ever he and the lord want. Bishops have a hard job. I think we should do what we can to make it easier and help ease his burden.

I don't think that we have enough of the facts to know what to think about this case. On the surface it looks like the bishop made a mistake but we obviously don't have all the details.

=====

Re:BYU athlete doesn't attend church--gets kicked

Posted by Npliam - 2008/02/04 08:43

Mars wrote:

I just remembered what class I had with Kearl-

He is the Economics 101 professor, the huge one in the JSB with class sizes of 2000 freshman. Kearl is a brilliant economist, but he was also very arrogant, loud, and rude. I found him hilarious, as his favorite classroom past-time was to bash down any student who made a comment, embarrassing them as much as possible. He was kind of the opposite of your typical BYU prof, which is why I enjoyed his class. One of my roommates actually had a nightmare about him once after a rough week in Econ.

One of my wife's uncles is a an Econ. professor I will ask him what he knows about he guy.

=====

Re:BYU athlete doesn't attend church--gets kicked

Posted by mraven - 2008/02/04 09:23

I don't think any one of us can judge whether the bishop's refusal to give the p_layer_ an ecclesiastical endorsement was right or wrong, and we won't ever know for sure what the reasons behind that decision were. Unfortunately, we will only

ever hear one side of this story. The bishop and other religious leaders involved can't speak about it. So, we have the p_layer_ saying the reason he got expelled was because his bishop thought he didn't go to church. How do we know the kid isn't lying through his teeth. We just won't ever know, so let's just accept what happened and hope it doesn't negatively impact recruiting. To me, judging the bishop and stake president and calling them names is just ignorant unless you were a part of the discussions that led to the p_layer_s expulsion.

=====

Re:BYU athlete doesn't attend church--gets kicked

Posted by Slugger - 2008/02/04 09:36

If the story is true, and Walton "did nothing immoral, illegal, or against the standards of the church" then this bishop and stake president have abused their priesthood authority and leadership. I'm 34 yrs old, I've been in more than a dozen wards in my day, including numerous college wards, and never have I seen anything like this. It is stories like this that make my support of BYU waiver, not the performance of the athletic teams. I never attended BYU, but have felt like a surrogate student for years because of my love for BYU sports and for the Church. However, stories like this (if it is true) are difficult for me to stomach. Frankly, they are embarrassing. I hope this kid lands on his feet somewhere else and is treated better.

=====

Re:BYU athlete doesn't attend church--gets kicked

Posted by OLB - 2008/02/04 09:47

etyotx wrote:

I haven't heard that it is req'd that one only attend his own ward.

After I got married while going to school at BYU, my wife and I attended the Provo 9th Ward in the Provo East Stake. (As a side note, the Provo 9th Ward no longer exists as ward boundries were reshuffled about 2.5 years ago, and ward were given "geographic" names).

While we were in the Provo 9th Ward, I served as Executive Secretary and then later as Ward Clerk. I can tell you that, having attended many Bishopric and PEC meetings, that one topic for discussion were the couples/families that never could quite make it to our ward -- because they were constantly attending church somewhere else. One week they'd be at "his" parents ward. The next week they were at "her" parents ward. The next week they were at some homecoming/farewell. The next week they were at a baby blessing of a friend. Yes they were attending church, but the point is they were going to church without having to commit or actively help build up the kingdom. Because their attendance was so infrequent to their own ward, the Bishopric felt like they didn't really know the members well enough to give them a calling. Additionally, they sometimes felt that these traveling church goers wouldn't be at church every Sunday in order to fulfill their callings.

On the flip side, we always had frequent visitors (people that always came because they were "visiting" someone in our ward). If you didn't know better, you'd think they were a member of the 9th Ward. But we couldn't extend callings to these people, because they weren't in our ward.

People are required to attend their own ward. Ask any Stake President. That is where we give of our time, talents and energy in building up the kingdom. When you travel so much, you are basically getting a free ride to church services, one for which you are not paying back by contributing to your own ward through service in a calling.

=====

Re:BYU athlete doesn't attend church--gets kicked out

Posted by OLB - 2008/02/04 09:59

lawman wrote:

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I totally disagree with this. Do you really think that some General Authority, or a member of the Twelve is going to feel pressure not to overturn this type of ruling. Pressure from who? Some student ward Bishop and a student stake President. Those guys are a dime-a-dozen. If anything, the high-ranking Church leaders would feel pressure not to overturn the decision.

Stake Presidents having their policies/decisions slapped down all the time. It is just part of being a Stake President.

One thing nobody has talked about yet is if this guy is going to file an appeal -- rather, appeal directly to a GA or a member of the Twelve. I know that Kearn and the Bishop already got the sign-off from a member of the Twelve, but it doesn't preclude the student from appealing the decision himself.

=====

Re:BYU athlete doesn't attend church--gets kicked

Posted by Yndian - 2008/02/04 11:11

I don't see why anyone should have to actually obey the rules of the school or church. I mean, sure, rules and standards are important, but not really. What's really important is that I'm more Christian and forgiving than the hard-nosed Pharisical bishop and stake president that kicked Kent out.

From an eternal perspective, leaving the Church to keep his ecclesiastical endorsement would have been the best thing for him. And I don't see why they wouldn't still give him an endorsement even if he left the Church just for that reason.

And what's the deal with the Jews, Baptists, Muslims, Buddhists and Hindus and people from other religions at BYU not having to go to church with me every Sunday? They don't pay the Church a penny of tithing either! Talk about your double standard.

The problem with having so many people acting "holier than thou" is that they give a bad name to those of us who really are. ;)

=====

Re:BYU athlete doesn't attend church--gets kicked

Posted by NorthernCougar - 2008/02/04 11:29

Yndian wrote:

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The problem with having so many people acting "holier than thou" is that they give a bad name to those of us who really are. ;)

Thank you. I needed a good laugh this morning. :cheer:

=====

Re:BYU athlete doesn't attend church--gets kicked

Posted by NorthernCougar - 2008/02/04 11:30

mraven wrote:

I don't think any one of us can judge whether the bishop's refusal to give the p_layer_ an ecclesiastical endorsement was right or wrong, and we won't ever know for sure what the reasons behind that decision were. Unfortunately, we will only

ever hear one side of this story. The bishop and other religious leaders involved can't speak about it. So, we have the p_layer_ saying the reason he got expelled was because his bishop thought he didn't go to church. How do we know the kid isn't lying through his teeth. We just won't ever know, so let's just accept what happened and hope it doesn't negatively impact recruiting. To me, judging the bishop and stake president and calling them names is just ignorant unless you were a part of the discussions that led to the p_layer_s expulsion.

Ding, ding ding!!! We have a winner!!!

=====

Re:BYU athlete doesn't attend church--gets kicked out

Posted by BoiseBlue - 2008/02/04 11:33

For what its worth, I took Econ 110 from James Kearn back in '97. I visited him several times during office hours and always thought that he was an extremely thoughtful and reasonable person. In fact, my impression was always that he was a bit on the "liberal" side as far as most BYU professors go. Its difficult for me to believe that he didn't do what he thought was appropriate and fair given the situation. I also think that its unlikely that we'll get the bishop and Kearn's side of the story, because that's not typically the way church disciplinary matters are supposed to be handled, is it??? I mean, should the bishop come out and say "Well, he wasn't coming to church AND he told me he'd gone to "third base" with his FHE sister while doing Jello-shots on a Vegas weekend getaway".

I dunno, maybe its just me, but I'm going to ignore this and trust that justice will be done one way or another.

=====

Re:BYU athlete doesn't attend church--gets kicked

Posted by Yndian - 2008/02/04 11:53

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I dunno, maybe its just me, but I'm going to ignore this and trust that justice will be done one way or another.

Very nice. And I agree with your course of action.

=====

Re:BYU athlete doesn't attend church--gets kicked

Posted by Slugger - 2008/02/04 11:59

OLB wrote:

etyotx wrote:

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People are required to attend their own ward. Ask any Stake President. That is where we give of our time, talents and energy in building up the kingdom. When you travel so much, you are basically getting a free ride to church services, one for which you are not paying back by contributing to your own ward through service in a calling.

I see your point but still feel getting kicked out of school is going to the extreme. Makes me all the more glad I never tried to attend BYU. I will be comfortable just being a fan of the school's athletics because there is no way in he..ck I could have handled this type of action. I would be perfectly understanding if this player and his family are bitter at the Church. And yet, someone who's been away from it for an extended period of time and engaged in MANY immoral and illegal practices could be welcomed back to Church? It doesn't make any sense. I know this young man could have engaged more in ward activity, we all can, but to kick him out of the university? C'mon, this is embarrassing for him, his family and the Church. It is why I have to keep reminding myself that the Gospel is perfect, not the people.

=====

Re:BYU athlete doesn't attend church--gets kicked

Posted by splitbamboo - 2008/02/04 14:45

Slugger wrote:
no way in he..ck

It's got to be a bunch of mormons on this board. Can't even get a word like that out without masking it somehow... :laugh:

=====

Re:BYU athlete doesn't attend church--gets kicked out

Posted by Illinois1Cougar - 2008/02/04 15:12

Im really confused by this!! Is it "legal" to do this? I understand that the school has its policies, but is it mandatory for every student athlete to attend church, every sunday?
It sounds like a really bad case of religious politics to me! Sometimes when you give someone power, they take it to the extreme and abuse it.

=====

Re:BYU athlete doesn't attend church--gets kicked

Posted by Slugger - 2008/02/04 15:37

splitbamboo wrote:
Slugger wrote:
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It's got to be a bunch of mormons on this board. Can't even get a word like that out without masking it somehow... :laugh:

Ha ha, no...it's part of my "daily repentance" to avoid choice words which seem to come quite easily for me. Hey, at least I'm trying! ;)

=====

Re:BYU athlete doesn't attend church--gets kicked

Posted by kiwibacon - 2008/02/04 19:10

I have seen once or twice now that a few would be offended if this happened to them. I have also seen a few comments saying that they would totally understand if this family affected by this situation would be bitter or upset at the Church. May I suggest a conference talk from October 2006. It is found in the November 2006 Ensign or on the LDS.org website. The talk is by Elder Bednar called "And Nothing Shall Offend Them". I would link directly to the talk but this website is still not fixed with the __underscore__ issue.

I know that I have benefitted from reading this conference talk and inspired words of admonition anytime I get feelings of such similar nature.

=====

Re:BYU athlete doesn't attend church--gets kicked out

Posted by Metallicat - 2008/02/04 19:20

OLB wrote:
lawman wrote:

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One thing nobody has talked about yet is if this guy is going to file an appeal -- rather, appeal directly to a GA or a member of the Twelve. I know that Kearn and the Bishop already got the sign-off from a member of the Twelve, but it doesn't preclude the student from appealing the decision himself.

I actually know of a situation that happened where a GA called a bishop and told him he needed to apologize for a decision/action he made. Of course, the bishop explained what happened the GA said nevermind. It turns out that the parents' side of the story lacked a few details when being conveyed to the GA

The fact that this reached a member of the quorum of the twelve and was not reversed tells me that they agreed. I fully believe that a special witness of a just God would reverse an injustice made on a member of the just God's church if that were the case.

=====

Re:BYU athlete doesn't attend church--gets kicked out

Posted by Conosticator - 2008/02/04 19:43

To me, judging the bishop and stake president and calling them names is just ignorant unless you were a part of the discussions that led to the p__layer__s expulsion.

Are you implying that "judging the bishop and stake president and calling them names" is not ignorant if "you were a part of the discussions that led to the player's expulsion"? :unsure:

Seems to me that the Bishop and Stake President are treating this issue with the confidentiality it deserves.

I do wonder whether we have another situation where the "victim" is not telling his parents the whole story because he doesn't want to own up to the fact that he failed in one of the most basic requirements for continued attendance at BYU - going to Church on a regular basis.

Of course none of us have ever white-washed our behavior for the benefit of parents... :dry:

=====

Re:BYU athlete doesn't attend church--gets kicked

Posted by OLB - 2008/02/04 20:47

mjo wrote:

How is "regular Church attendance" defined, exactly? 50%? 90%? If the article on the Trib is accurate, they're being way too strict with this kid. If the Bishop was that worried for him, there are better roads to help him become more active than withdrawing his endorsement. I'll make sure to sign the roll tomorrow at Church so I can continue my studies...

That is an interesting question. I know from an LDS Church reporting standard, someone is considered "active" if they attend their meetings (i.e. Sacrament, Priesthood, etc.) once in a quarter.

Where it becomes a bit more fuzzy is how do you define "regular Church attendance" from the standpoint of being a BYU student. I don't know if there is anything that is written down as a standard.

Additionally, I don't know how Bishops/Stake Presidencies take into consideration church attendance when determining Temple Recommends. I could see a situation where a guy comes once a quarter but still has a recommend (such as a truck driver that is out on weekend routes) and another guy that comes three times in a quarter but is not issued a recommend (he only comes when he wants to come).

I think this "fuzzy" standard is what has caused all of the angst in this story.

=====

Re:BYU athlete doesn't attend church--gets kicked

Posted by splitbamboo - 2008/02/05 11:14

Conosticator wrote:

Seems to me that the Bishop and Stake President are treating this issue with the confidentiality it deserves.

It's easy for the Bishop and SP to keep this confidential. They just keep quiet.

The young man, on the other hand, has to deal with the issue. It probably starts with his roommate saying, "hey, you're not going to class today?"... How do you expect him to keep this confidential? It has brought his life crashing down around him. I feel for him.

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