
BYU making me proud!

Posted by AKblue - 2008/02/26 12:40

I hope it works this time!

I thought I ought to finally contribute rather than just enjoy others posts. Last Sunday we held a fireside where Barry Lamb was the speaker. There were maybe a hundred people in attendance. Living in Alaska, sometimes I feel starved for BYU football news. I expected him to speak using a lot of football stories and that I'd get a huge BYU football fix. He spoke on becoming a Disciple of Christ and it could have been given for the most part by anyone because there were only a few references to football. But those few references were intriguing. He said he was hired by Coach Edwards and after Coach Edwards retired, BYU hired another coach and that under him, BYU football forgot who they were and began following the ways of the world. He said that things were just wrong and bad which resulted in hiring a new coach. Under the new coach BYU football began a very painful process of getting back to what BYU should be all about. He said that some players didn't feel they could be part of this return and left the team, and that some of them are even now successful in the NFL. He then told us that BYU is not a talent based team. Yes, players need to be good enough to be D1 players but that their talent level can't compete with the UCLAs. He then spoke about their goal of helping their players become Disciples of Christ or whatever God the player believes in. Then he spoke about the inner strength this gives a man and said that when this change happens in a life, (Becoming a Disciple of Christ) it gives a person or a player something extra, something that allows BYU to play, compete, and win against teams with more talent. He then spoke of the last few seconds of the UCLA bowl game and that coach Mendenhall called the players together and turned to the coaches after looking at the players and said that "We're going to win! Look at our players. The players were not hanging their heads accepting this sure defeat but were asking among themselves which one of them was going to get the block!" He said being a disciple of Christ does not mean you will get the block but helped them believe they could do it. It gave this team something extra deep in their hearts. He smiled as he spoke of the 3rd and 18 play against Utah where Collie caught the pass and later spoke to the press about living his life a certain way on and off the field and feeling that he then expected to make plays. His quote to the press caused BYU and Collie to get all kinds of negative publicity, but he said the funny thing is that the coaches are teaching that every day to the players and that the coaches believe it as well!

After the fireside he told the folks that if the LDS Church is going to have a football team they will do it well and then expect excellence. He said 6 and 6 or 7 and 5 seasons will not do that they need 10 and 2 seasons. In the Q and A session he talked much more about the team.

I left feeling more proud than ever to be associated with BYU and grateful we have Bronco as our coach.

Re:BYU making me proud!

Posted by j2b03 - 2008/02/26 12:43

As this is your first post, you can't cut and past from a word document for some unknown reason. just thought I would let you know.

Re:BYU making me proud!

Posted by Slugger - 2008/02/26 12:46

AKblue wrote:

I thought I ought to finally contribute rather than just enjoy other

Welcome aboard dude!

Re:BYU making me proud!

Posted by Yndian - 2008/02/26 12:47

j2b03 wrote:

As this is your first post, you can't cut and past from a word document for some unknown reason. just thought I would let you know.

It should work as long as you change the ' and " marks. Try pasting the whole thing here, then replacing the ' and " marks.

Re:BYU making me proud!

Posted by DevilPuncher - 2008/02/26 12:56

AKblue wrote:

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Welcome, and great substantive contribution! ;)

Re:BYU making me proud!

Posted by Hengst - 2008/02/26 13:07

good post, but let there be no mistake, it was definitely 4th down on that completion to collie, not 3rd ;)

Re:BYU making me proud!

Posted by AKblue - 2008/02/26 13:20

You are right about 4th down and if there may be other problems with my post as well. Most of what I wanted to share was the feelings I left with and that our team and coaches are good people trying very hard to be the best people they can be.

Re:BYU making me proud!

Posted by AKblue - 2008/02/26 13:25

By the way, rumor has it coach was up here looking at a young man in our stake. His name is Devon Anderson and he was likely the best player on his team. He also runs track and it sounds like he is pretty good and he is a senior now.

Re:BYU making me proud!

Posted by texacalicoigar - 2008/02/26 13:44

HQ first post. Karma to ya. I cannot tell you how excited I am at going to the pre game fireside here in TX (vs TCU).

Come on August!!!!!!

Re:BYU making me proud!

Posted by TimO - 2008/02/26 14:05

it's also nice to see a pattern of respect building nationally for us...other than just ourselves-crowtonites really hurt and distracted us for a few years-but we've gotten national respect in preseason(may not mean much)2 years in a row, and that'll continue till we have won 8 conf. titles straight and win at Pitt again or something similar. History repeats itself so watch out BcS we'll continue to make proud and embarrass the big time pim...uh teams

Re:BYU making me proud!

Posted by AKblue - 2008/02/26 14:36

I didn't mention in the original post that coach Lamb spoke about firesides and getting back to the purpose of BYU. He said that they decided to do the first fireside at SDSU and asked if there were interest and that the people down there told them they did not want a team fireside. The team canceled and in the game they got killed by SDSU. They decided they would do firesides every week the team played even if no one showed up at all. They put on a fireside the next week at New Mexico and a few showed up. We all know the result of that game! He said that as they focus on becoming Disciples that the firesides have become the highlight of the week for many of the coaches and team members and then On Sat. they get to just go play and have fun. It seems to be successful, and he said the firesides are now packed and the fireside for the bowl game had more than 2000 attending!

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Re:BYU making me proud!

Posted by BYUtx - 2008/02/26 15:41

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EDIT: that was wierd. For a second the quick-reply mode was going crazy!

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Re:BYU making me proud!

Posted by Metal Bubba - 2008/02/26 16:14

Well done.

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Re:BYU making me proud!

Posted by kiwibacon - 2008/02/26 18:09

Thanks for the story.

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Re:BYU making me proud!

Posted by CougarBandit - 2008/02/29 10:37

Terrific post, thanks for the insights.

It made me appreciate Collie standing firm on what he said after the ensuing media storm blew it all out of proportion. He could have tried to deflect the criticism back to the coaches and program, but he stood behind what he said and was committed to it.

I love the way these guys are playing football, but I respect even more the character and leadership they are developing.

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