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# MWC Tournament Seedings

Posted by timmyboy - 2008/02/27 12:03

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Here's how I think the tournament seedings will play out. Asterisks (\*) indicate that I virtually guarantee this will be that team's seeding.

1. BYU\*
2. UNLV\*
3. San Diego St.
4. New Mexico
5. Utah\*
6. Air Force
7. TCU
8. Wyoming\*
9. Colorado State\*

BYU and UNLV are basically guaranteed their spots, barring a serious upset. If BYU loses one of their remaining "cakewalk" games and UNLV wins out, UNLV will be the #1 seed because they will be 2-0 against San Diego St. and New Mexico while BYU will be 1-1 against SDSU and 2-0 against New Mexico.

San Diego State and New Mexico are in a tight battle for #3. Both SDSU and New Mexico have one tough game left and one very easy game left (CSU for both). I think SDSU is more likely to beat Air Force @ Air Force than New Mexico is to beat UNLV @ home. However, those two games will be close. If New Mexico wins or both lose, New Mexico is #3. If SDSU wins and New Mexico loses, SDSU is #3.

Utah has no realistic shot at anything better than #5. To have any shot at #4, they'd have to win out (including at UNLV) and SDSU would have to lose at Air Force. If they lose any of their last 4 games, they're not going to be #4 (barring an insane CSU over SDSU game) because SDSU has the head-to-head advantage (1-1 against each other, but SDSU beat #1 BYU and Utah did not). Utah could fall from #5, but that's unlikely as well. The only way the fall from #5 is if they lose 3 of their last 4. I don't think that's two likely since 3 of those games are against the worst 3 MWC teams. If they lose 2, they likely tie with Air Force at worst and Utah has the tiebreaker over AFA (2-0 against them). TCU has too tough of a schedule left to catch Utah.

Air Force and TCU are also in a tight battle, but AFA has the inside edge. The winner of the game between these two (at Air Force) is likely to be #6 (but AFA might still be #6 even if they lose that game). Since it's at AFA, I give the edge to AFA (they beat TCU at TCU already this season).

Wyoming is virtually guaranteed #8 and CSU is virtually guaranteed #9.

A few other possibilities could occur but are EXTREMELY unlikely.

In other words, the only real seeding battles left are SDSU and UNM for #3 and #4 and Air Force and TCU for #6 and #7.

I predict the tournament will play out like this:

## Play-in

#8 Wyoming over #9 CSU

## First Round

#1 BYU over #8 Wyoming

#2 UNLV over #7 TCU

#3 SDSU over #6 AFA

#4 UNM over #5 Utah

## Second Round

#1 BYU over #4 UNM

#3 SDSU over #2 UNLV (my upset special)

## Finals

#1 BYU over #3 SDSU (rematch with a vengeance)

For those keep tracking, here's the tiebreaker formula in the MWC:

1. Head-to-head

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2. Records against other MWC teams, from top to bottom of standings

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## Re:MWC Tournament Seedings

Posted by Mars - 2008/02/27 12:08

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UNLV may well still lose at New Mexico.

Utah will yet lose at UNLV.

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## Re:MWC Tournament Seedings

Posted by Gunk - 2008/02/27 12:25

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I bet NM beats UNLV and UNM gets the 3 spot.

And...I am predicting CSU finally wins a game and beats Wyoming. They are due. Besides I would rather play CSU than Wyoming.

I think you are right that we end up playing UNM in the second round and we win that one.

As much as I would like the upset special, this is UNLV's tournament so UNLV will beat SDSU and it will be a nice BYU vs. UNLV championship, which we'll win. We're still out for blood against them after losing so bad at their place.

We'll then get a 7th seed.

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## Re:MWC Tournament Seedings

Posted by CougarPeasant - 2008/02/27 13:01

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Good summary there timmy. I think TCU gets the 7th spot, where you say CSU will. Probably an oversight. I also think that UNM rebounds and takes down UNLV at home this weekend. Then they should win their last game. SDSU is perplexing as they beat BYU, then lose on the road to UNLV. I still think they end up in the 4th spot.

Here's where it gets tricky. In the MWC tourney, I can see Utah upsetting SDSU in Vegas. I don't see UNM upsetting UNLV in Vegas, so I see a BYU/UNLV finals. It will be a close game, I hope BYU wins it, but I can't say they will. It'll be a pick'em game.

Now, if UNM wins out and wins one game in the MWC tourney, they get an invite to the NCAAs. If they lose to UNLV this weekend, then they need to win the tourney to get the autobid. I still think UNLV would get an invite.

AFA, TCU, Wyoming, and CSU can play spoiler all they want, but they ain't gonna win a game against the top 4 teams in the MWC come tourney time. I'll bet bacon on that one!!!

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## Re:MWC Tournament Seedings

Posted by Cornellcoug - 2008/02/27 13:35

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If BYU wins out and wins the tourney they get a higher seed than a 7. If that were to happen BYU would be ranked about 16 going into the tourney. If you look at conference tournaments there will be a lot of teams in the top 25 to lose and that will keep moving BYU up in the polls. If they win out, they will be a 6 seed or higher because of their higher profile games and the fact that Boise State and Wake Forest are better than originally thought.

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## Re:MWC Tournament Seedings

Posted by Gunk - 2008/02/27 13:40

Cornellcoug wrote:

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I would certainly take a 6th or higher seed any day and think we would deserve such if we win out. Whether we deserve or get a higher seed is another question, though. We're traditionally seeded one or two spots lower than we should be. The committee has no love for us. Once we start winning some NCAA tourney games again, then the love from the committee will come back. That's why I say we get a 7th seed.

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## Re:MWC Tournament Seedings

Posted by craigocarson - 2008/02/27 13:40

SDSU beating UNLV without Spain in Vegas is quite the long shot. I'd say UNLV is 50/50 to win this tourney. -almost by default

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## Re:MWC Tournament Seedings

Posted by craigocarson - 2008/02/27 13:44

Cornellcoug wrote:

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If we win out (that's a big if) and get in the top 15 in the country prior to selection sunday. I'll be absolutely miffed if we get a 6 seed.

16/4 = 4

20/4 = 5

Our rpi is 22 right now and would climb if we won out to about 14-15 relatively easily- again a 6 is nice but not good enough if we dont' lose another game prior to then.

That's a big if and I wouldnt' be surprised to drop another game in the tourney, or even on the road to TCU but if we didn't and ended up in the top 15 in the country, a 6 seed is not god enough. Imagine if we had finished off Boise, Michigan State and SDSU...we'd literally be talking about a solid 3 seed right now.

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## Re:MWC Tournament Seedings

Posted by timmyboy - 2008/02/27 13:52

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If BYU wins out, craig is right - BYU will land a 4 or 5. That would be 16-1 over the last 17 games with likely 5 wins over RPI top 50 teams (likely) - 2 times over UNLV, 3 times over New Mexico.

Plus, they may have no losses to teams with less than 20 teams. Plus a good win over Louisville and some close losses to MSU and UNC. Great resume.

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## Re:MWC Tournament Seedings

Posted by PlayoffDude - 2008/02/27 14:17

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How do tie-breakers work?

What if BYU and UNLV finish with 3 losses apiece and split series?

What if SDSU and New Mexico finish with 6 losses apiece and split series?

Who gets #1 seed? Who gets #3 seed?

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## Re:MWC Tournament Seedings

Posted by snoscythe - 2008/02/27 14:23

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## Re:MWC Tournament Seedings

Posted by PlayoffDude - 2008/02/27 14:30

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Even with a loss to UNLV in the MWC tournament final, I could see BYU landing a 6 seed at the Big Dance. (top 25 Coaches Poll/AP, top 25 RPI finish).

That would be quite alright. BYU would most likely end up in Anaheim playing a Maryland/Florida/West Virginia type (#5-6 team from a 'big' conference)... a tough but very winnable game. Then, we would get a match-up against Stanford...I think that's definitely a step better than getting UCLA in the second round!

Obviously, to run the table would be even better. At a 5 seed, the first round game really wouldn't be that much different than the 6 or even 7 seed matchup, but the second round match-up would be much more winnable.

Would BYU prefer to play in Anaheim or Denver???

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## Re:MWC Tournament Seedings

Posted by Cornellcoug - 2008/02/27 14:34

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timmyboy wrote:

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History has shown that even if BYU is deserving they do not get a seed that is very high. I would say that a 6 seed is about as high as they will get based on history even if they are ranked 16.

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## Re:MWC Tournament Seedings

Posted by kenj - 2008/02/27 14:35

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Denver, then I can go. Go Cougs

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## Re:MWC Tournament Seedings

Posted by CougarPeasant - 2008/02/27 14:40

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timmyboy wrote:

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I agree, if BYU wins out before the NCAAs, they have a great chance of landing a 5 seed. I doubt they get the 4th seed, but they are interchangeable to me. If they lose in the MWC tourney finals, they should get a 6th or 7th seed. They should get a winnable matchup for a change. Unless they dump them with St. Mary's in an Anaheim matchup. :unsure:

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## Re:MWC Tournament Seedings

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Cornellcoug wrote:

timmyboy wrote:

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....WHAT IF:

...Louisville wins the Big East regular season (they host Notre Dame tomorrow and at Georgetown a week from Saturday)?

...Louisville wins the Big East tournament?

...North Carolina finishes as the top overall seed in the tournament?

...Michigan State finishes with at least a 4 seed?

Wouldn't BYU's top 16 ranking, the 16-1 hot streak to end the season, and the Louisville win and quality losses to UNC and MSU put BYU into 4/5 realm?

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## Re:MWC Tournament Seedings

Posted by sjcougfan - 2008/02/27 14:51

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If BYU gets a 4 or 5 seed, they will be a sweet 16 team, mark it down.

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## Re:MWC Tournament Seedings

Posted by Cornellcoug - 2008/02/27 14:52

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Theoretically Yes, practically no.

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## Re:MWC Tournament Seedings

Posted by Gunk - 2008/02/27 15:04

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Cornellcoug wrote:

Theoretically Yes, practically no.

Exactly...even if we win out, don't count on a 6 or 5 seed. Maybe I just choose not to get my hopes up, but we're consistently seeded one or two spots lower than we deserve. Remember last year?

Yes, our RPI might end up better, our ranking could be better, and we have a better schedule this year, but we got stuck with an 8 seed last year with a very similar record and RPI of 18, and we still ended up with an 8 seed. We were all whinnying about it last year.

If...if...we win out and get a 5 seed then I will be thrilled. Not counting on it, though.

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## Re:MWC Tournament Seedings

Posted by timmyboy - 2008/02/27 15:13

Cornellcoug wrote:

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Cornellcoug - history actually points the opposite way. BYU has only had two teams with comparable records to what they would be if they won out (28-6).

Those two teams are the 1979-80 team (24-5) and the 1987-88 (26-6) teams. And guess what seeds they got - #3 and #4, respectively.

Interestingly, though, the next closest teams were '81 and '92 teams, with 7 losses each (but less wins than this year's teams, so lower winning percentage). Those teams got 6 and 10 seeds.

However, BYU's schedule was probably more difficult this year than all of those years. So, this team probably has an advantage in that respect.

That is why I predict that if BYU wins out, 4-5 seed. If they lose one game, 6-8 seed.

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## Re:MWC Tournament Seedings

Posted by Vote4BYU - 2008/02/27 15:18

Another factor in the seeding is that the Committee has to place BYU in a Thursday-Saturday round. It seems to me that sometimes they may use this as an excuse to bump BYU down, despite the Cougs being otherwise qualified for a higher seed.

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## Re:MWC Tournament Seedings

Posted by Detmer Forever - 2008/02/27 15:21

sjcougfan wrote:

If BYU gets a 4 or 5 seed, they will be a sweet 16 team, mark it down.

If BYU gets a 4 or 5 seed from the "powers that be" we can all go ice-skating in hell to celebrate. Not that BYU wouldn't deserve it, it's just not going to happen . . . what with the slow, untalented non-BCS athletes and all.

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## Re:MWC Tournament Seedings

Posted by Cornellcoug - 2008/02/27 15:23

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timmyboy wrote:

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The problem is that you are comparing different times. Back then they had 3 NBA players on the roster and were better respected than they are now.

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## Re:MWC Tournament Seedings

Posted by mountaincougar - 2008/02/27 16:12

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We have GOT to beat UNLV in LV. Went to the game last year in the tournament and it was discouraging. Then got worked there earlier this year. To post our good season and then lose in MWC tournament doesn't fare well for us in rankings. We need to win out and that will help in years to come as far as respect, rankings, etc.

Go Cougars!!!!

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## Re:MWC Tournament Seedings

Posted by timmyboy - 2008/02/27 17:12

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Maybe. But, I'm not sure BYU doesn't get as much respect now as they did then. The media seems to love Tavernari. Plus, Vitale loves Plaisted and Cumnard is playing like an animal. People do see this. All you have to do is look at the box score to see how well Cumnard is playing.

Different time? Maybe. But I'm not convinced.

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