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## Why I think next year will be special.

Posted by raidingtombs - 2008/03/04 21:29

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I am writing my opinion on next season. One because i am board and two because I love BYU football. Next year WILL be special and I'll tell you why from top to bottom.

1. BYU won the MWC. I know some here and some reading may not view this as some good sign but last year the MWC was probably better then it has been in years if not in its entire history. We had a lot of wins vs BCS programs as a conference we had a great bowl record (best in Division1 football) and we won it with a very young and inexperienced offensve team. this coming season the MWC is looking strong again but we return an offense that will be similiar to 2006. A year experience under their belt and they'll be ready to put up bigger numbers then last year.

2. We won the Vegas Bowl. BYU has a terrible bowl record but we have proven some consistency over the past few years in bowls under Bronco. i know we had a somewhat less then stellar showing in the Vegas Bowl but that is why it is a reason we will be big next year. I shall explain. The team went into that game feeling like they deserved better and that they should get an easy win off a depleted UCLA team. Basically they came in like Oregon did in 2006, the difference is we still won and Oregon got destroyed. this squad learned a valuable lesson that day. they learned that they can't take ANYONE for granted or else they can lose. I expect them to take every game serious even when they are winning big because they now know they are not unbeatable. Basically there won't be any trap games because they'll be ready for the traps.

3. the team. I shall break it down.

### Offense:

QB-We are loaded and ready. Gaskin is getting better from what reports I have heard and Hall will be the man next season. He toned down at the end and made better reads with his WR and stopped suqezing the ball so many times for INT's. Bascally he matured. He now knows the offense a lot better with a year under his belt and he has been throwing the ball around with his WR a llot and likely has been doing it since football ended. Nothing gets a QB better then practice with his WR. They learn to read each other and they learn their timing which is valubale. Expect to see a more mature and not injured Hall with a quicker release, better reads, and even more important better at reading defenses.

RB-Fui should be 100% hopefully and watch for him to have a break year. Tonga will be Tonga and get those valubale short yardage plays and make great catches. Unga will be even beter. Experience, confidence, and desire. this will be the true fearsome 3 in the backfiedl we expected to see last season. all three will contrubute and we will be very very hard to stop on the run.

WR-Loaded, Collie will be very huge this year. Hall and collie have that it factor. They will know each other so well and it will show on the field during games. Reed will be more of a factor since I hear he has started going to the throw arounds with Hall and now Hall will be used to him as well. as for the others they will make their presence known but these are the two to watch for. Expect collie to have a even bigger year and make some national noise.

TE-Loaded, Pitta will be the man. My opinion is he is faster and a better blocker then Harline and just as good of a catcher. He knows the system with a year under his belt of real playing time and he will be huge. He may never put up Harline types of numbers because he has Collie and Reed at WR. George will be a factor as well. The TE will be dominant like always. Expect Pitta to be big on many plays and expect to hear his name thrown around for the best TE in the country. George will also be big at times.

O-line-Depth and talent, This O-line will be better then last year and last years was the best in the conferecne and in my opinion one of the best in the country. They had their struggles espically on the outside at times but hey a new O-line caoch with different blocking patterns they should have taken in my opinion a larger step backward last season but instenan went forward. Vegas we were manhandled only because they stacked the box and due to Hall's injuerd arm BYU kept with the run when we should have aired it out. notice how little we heard from davis after half time adjustments. He gave us problems but we adjusted and he became just another player. Expect this squad to be very good in both the run and the pass. They now have one year of learning their new coaches method and system and they will be better from the start, and boy dowe have depth.

### Defense:

LB's-Loaded, We lose a lot and their are questions, but how can anyone think we step down at this position? We gain overall speed and athleticism at this position. size may take a down fall but it is hard to gauge since the hieghts and wieghts posted are usuallu not correct. Expect more speed more hustle due to that speed and more big plays. Expect a step forward.

Secondary-This is the biggest ?. But what we can expect is is an increase in speed and in my opinion a large increase in

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speed and and good step forward in athleticism. Yes we lose a lot of experience but we gain faster more athletic players at each of those positions. People these will not be walk-ons starting next year, with the exception of maybe Rich (though he could have easily been a scholly player). With Hill at the helm coaching these kids watch out. We all saw what he did in 1 year with a scrub walk-on secondary after 2005, I can't wait to see what he'll do with these faster more athletic scholly players. expect a step up and likely a big step up.

D-line-They will be feared and they will dominate. I can't even count how many times I was watching a game and saw just 3 men rush the QB and they were still getting to the QB and putting pressure and making sacks on him. More depth than last year and more experience, it will be a beautiful thing to watch. Expect to see a step up.

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Re:Why I think next year will be special.

Posted by Mars - 2008/03/04 22:00

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raidingtombs wrote:

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(Seriously, I just couldn't read or respond to your thoughts because of the poor communication style, sorry) :ohmy:

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Re:Why I think next year will be special.

Posted by WACoug - 2008/03/04 22:08

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Well despite the "massive violations", I was able to decipher just enough to be able to read and respond. I disagree with one point: I don't think Pitta has as good of hands as Harline, at least not yet, particularly on those jump balls that Harline was so good at coming down with. I love Pitta, but Harline was money.

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## Re:Why I think next year will be special.

Posted by NorthernCougar - 2008/03/04 22:35

Mars wrote:

raidingtombs wrote:

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(Seriously, I just couldn't read or respond to your thoughts because of the poor communication style, sorry) :ohmy:

Dude, do you not have anything better to do? What a self-righteous, pompous, arrogant...

---

I guess we know that as soon as one makes a grammatical or spelling error, one won't be listened to.

Wow...I am amazed at this one. Mars, I usually look forward to reading your posts but I sit here with my mouth open in amazement. I thought for sure this one was dripping with sarcasm until the last line of your post.

Please, please, please tell me you were joking!!

=====

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**Re:Why I think next year will be special.**

Posted by lawman - 2008/03/04 22:52

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karma to you raidingtombs for livening up the dead offseason!

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**Re:Why I think next year will be special.**

Posted by BlueBlood75 - 2008/03/04 22:54

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raidingtombs wrote:

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**Re:Why I think next year will be special.**

Posted by BYUtx - 2008/03/04 22:55

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Is it official "Knickers in a wad" day?

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**Re:Why I think next year will be special.**

Posted by Mars - 2008/03/04 23:12

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NorthernCougar wrote:

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Thats write. No more BYU/sports talk from me, just grammer/spelling policework. All corrections all the time, making this message board safe for the hole world to read. And I think you meant to say "one won't be listened to". Four shame.

; ) ; )

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## Re:Why I think next year will be special.

Posted by cougarfan144 - 2008/03/04 23:32

BYUtx wrote:

Is it official "Knickers in a wad" day?

When I opened this thread it actually opened to this page with your comment at the top. I thought it was a thread on Boylen and you had understated just how bad his bunch in the shorts really was.

I love reading about football. It gets me going. There were some good thoughts from Raiding...

Just a couple things I hope to see this year. In regards to the RBs, you've got the Tongan trio and I hope they can use DiLuigi to change things up. People will be expecting to have to tackle the big boys each down and then you bring in Mr. Shifty. They'll be grabbing air while he glides through the D. Should be fun.

I'm excited for the battle in the secondary. We'll have some real gems out there. Whoever rises to be the cream on top of that group will be amazing on the field. I have no doubt.

Special teams, can anybody say "touchback"? :woohoo: :woohoo:

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## Re:Why I think next year will be special.

Posted by raidingtombs - 2008/03/05 00:08

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(Seriously, I just couldn't read or respond to your thoughts because of the poor communication style, sorry) :ohmy:

sorry Mars but thats my style on the football boards. this is my release from all the true fun I experience all day in school. I have no time to check my spelling or grammar and further more I simply don't care on a football sports board. I type fast and rarely proof read what I write. too busy studying for my finals in Adult medicine, Maternal Health/Pedeatric medicine, emergency Medicine, Behavioral medicine, Pharmacology, and Radiological interpretation.

Maybe when I finish school i will take the time to write in a mater that makes you feel more comfortable but until then just don't read if you wish.B)

=====

## Re:Why I think next year will be special.

Posted by MrRoboto - 2008/03/05 00:30

I've heard a lot of people say Pitta is/will be better than Harline, but I don't see it. I have no clue how Harline became so slow at the combine, cuz he always seemed to out run the defenders in games. Maybe it had to do with adrenaline, but i thought he was faster than his time at the combine. I think Pitta is the opposite. He may run fast in a timed run, but when it's game time he always gets caught from behind. Maybe if he didn't trip over his own feet. Let's hope he improves this year.

=====

## Re:Why I think next year will be special.

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Don't apologize for anything, your post was great, I was just yanking your chain (you're not the only one who gets "board" sometimes).

But can I point out that the word "matter" has two Ts? ;)  
I kid, I kid! :evil:

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## Re:Why I think next year will be special.

Posted by x\_rugger - 2008/03/05 14:26

wasn't pitta just off a mission? i expect foot work takes time to get back. where is harline anyway, last i heard he was on the ny giants practice squad. there must be some interest somewhere.

regarding the spelling, as a cronic mis-speller, the fact that there is no spell check here is troubling. knowing that the spell-police are watcing, is worse.

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## Re:Why I think next year will be special.

Posted by Yzzazz - 2008/03/05 14:46

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Nice breakdown, but I have to disagree about the defensive assessments. While I expect to see improvements at D-line, the LBs and the Secondary are surely question marks and it is not realistic to expect those two squads to be BETTER than last year. They might be pretty good, because last year's squads were none too shabby, so being slightly less successful than the '07 unit doesn't mean you're lousy.

That said, it may not matter at all.

The Doman-Staley would very likely have gone undefeated without Luke and Brandon getting injured at the last, and they did so in spite of serious defensive weaknesses. This year's offense might be similarly overpowering to its opponents.

Even if the defense is weaker this year than last year, it might be that BYU is able to simply outrun all its opponents as long as the defense is simply serviceable. The Detmer years proved that you can't have just one half of the team, so the defense will need to be at least something you'd call good.

But with the D-line likely to show improvement over last year, that might be all it takes.

That's why I'd say this year will be special, because the offense is likely to be so good, even a mediocre defense could create a third consecutive conference title--not to mention a possible BCS appearance.

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## Re:Why I think next year will be special.

Posted by Mars - 2008/03/05 14:53

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For those who scoff at the idea of Pitta being just as good, if not BETTER, than Harline...

Uh, well... Don't!

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## Re:Why I think next year will be special.

Posted by radius - 2008/03/05 15:15

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C) I also don't think Pitta's hands are as good as Harline's...yet. His sr. year Harline caught pretty much anything within his wingspan.

From what I have seen at the practice facility during their after practice workouts, Reed is there with the rest of the WR's and is looking really good. Luke Ashworth is back from a mission (sure everyone already knows that) and he looks really good for just being back. He's fast, lean and looks like he'll have a sizable impact next year. Anyway, the WR's look really good, Gaskins is still not that impressive and Max is looking great!

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## Re:Why I think next year will be special.

Posted by Short\_Changed - 2008/03/05 15:42

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Good to hear that Luke Ashworth is back and looking pretty good. My little bro played with him and said he never played around someone that worked as hard and took every practice and game as serious as Luke. So the fact that he looks good even after the mission doesn't surprise me, plus he served in the same mission as I did so that has to count for something, right?

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**Re:Why I think next year will be special.**

Posted by Hipsdamann - 2008/03/05 15:50

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How can you not mention JAN JORGENSON on the Defensive Line. I am so excited to see what he will accomplish this coming season. He will be crazy good!

Here's to looking at what might be one of the best teams to ever play at BYU!

Go Cougs

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**Re:Why I think next year will be special.**

Posted by Hipsdamann - 2008/03/05 15:51

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Oh and also for special teams

Two words

JUSTIN SORENSON!!!

Go COUGS!!

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**Re:Why I think next year will be special.**

Posted by dlz - 2008/03/05 15:52

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I can't wait for the new football season to begin. Off football topic for a question. Who will take Burgess and Murdock's place next season in basketball. Those two have become great players and leaders. Who will step up?

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**Re:Why I think next year will be special.**

Posted by whiteshoes - 2008/03/05 15:57

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You're right short\_changed about the hit that Michael Reed put on Steve Tate (#28). I hadn't even noticed it during the game, but when I downloaded the highlight movie from www.justanotherdumb.com/byu, they put it in slow-mo. I taped the game at home, and I couldn't believe the hit wasn't mentioned or replayed by the mt. commentators. Reed completely knocked Tate off his feet, and Tate was out for a play or two after that. It's one of the first plays of the game if I recall.

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## Re:Why I think next year will be special.

Posted by WinnemuccaCougar - 2008/03/05 16:13

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MrRoboto wrote:

I've heard a lot of people say Pitta is/will be better than Harline, but I don't see it. I have no clue how Harline became so slow at the combine, cuz he always seemed to out run the defenders in games. Maybe it had to do with adrenaline, but I thought he was faster than his time at the combine. I think Pitta is the opposite. He may run fast in a timed run, but when it's game time he always gets caught from behind. Maybe if he didn't trip over his own feet. Let's hope he improves this year.

Pitta is a better TE then Harline remeber he was just a SOPH last year. Go back to Harline's JR year he wasn't nearly as big a weapon because he doped a lot of passes. He wasn't beyond mistakes his SR year either see first OFF play at Arizona that I think gave them a touchdown or three points right of the bat.

Pitta's game speed will increase and he won't be caught from behind as much anymore. If you compare there first years of 1st string # of passes to them you'll Pitta is right there and will be much better the Harline by the end of his time with our program. That is if Collie doesn't overshadow him. You need to remeber Harline was the man partially because Reed wasn't being used yet Jacobsen was a Fresh. and the rest of our WR's were good but not great. Collie is great and he was a little quite this past seasons not in #'s but quite none the less. Reed gets better every year.

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## Re:Why I think next year will be special.

Posted by treck - 2008/03/05 17:02

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Mars wrote:

raidingtombs wrote:

I am writing my opinion on next season...

...i am board...

...last year the MWC was probably better then it has been in years...

...we won it with a very young and inexperienced offesnive team...

...we return an offense that will be similiar to 2006...

...they'll be ready to put up bigger numbers then last year...

...i know we had a somewhat less then stellar showing in the Vegas Bowl...

...Gaskin is getting better...

...He toned down at the end and made better reads with his WR and stopped suqueazing the ball so many times for INT's...

...Bascally he matured...

...he has been throwing the ball around with his WR a llot...

...Nothing gets a QB better then practice with his WR...

...they learn their timing which is valubale...

...Fui should be 100% hopefully...

...watch for him to have a break year... ?

...Tonga will be Tonga and get those valubale short yardage plays...

...Unga will be even beter...

...this will be the true fearsome 3 in the backfiedl...

...all three will contrubute...

...Expect collie to have a even bigger year...

...he is faster and a better blocker then Harline...

...This O-line will be better then last year...

...last years was the best in the conferecne...

...They had their struggles espicialy on the outside...

...a new O-line coach with different blocking patterns...  
...they should have taken in my opinion a larger step backward last season but instead went forward...  
...due to Hall's injured arm BYU kept with the run...  
...They now have one year of learning their new coaches method and system...  
...boy do we have depth...  
...We lose a lot and there are questions...  
...it is hard to gauge since the heights and weights posted are usually not correct...  
...we lose a lot of experience...  
...these will not be walk-ons starting next year, with the exception of maybe Rich...  
...More depth than last year and more experience...  
You have been pulled over by the Spelling & Grammar Police for massive violations.

I'm going to let you off with just a warning this time, but don't let me catch you passing off this Cougarboard 2nd-grade writing on this website again!

(Seriously, I just couldn't read or respond to your thoughts because of the poor communication style, sorry) :ohmy:

Thinking the same thing while reading it.

Another thing that jumped out at me was your RB section. Why would you lead off with Fui, then Tonga and be generous to give Unga a short sentence. Unga dominated last year and will dominate this year. Stronger, Faster, meaner! I haven't been this excited about a running back at BYU since Jamal Willis.

And I still don't get why this board loves FUI so much? He hasn't done much. I know, I know, he has been hurt and very limited...but 'just wait..' Problem is, that is all we do. I hope he truly is 100% healthy and ready to give another punch to the backfield. I don't want anymore mini-hakas after two yard runs. Truthfully, I would like to see Fui in the LB rotation somehow and bringing pain to opposing offenses.

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## Re:Why I think next year will be special.

Posted by raidingtombs - 2008/03/05 17:43

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WACoug wrote:  
raidingtombs wrote:

Well despite the "massive violations", I was able to decipher just enough to be able to read and respond. I disagree with one point: I don't think Pitta has as good of hands as Harline, at least not yet, particularly on those jump balls that Harline was so good at coming down with. I love Pitta, but Harline was money.

I do agree Pitta's hands are not quite as good as Harline but they are not that far off and last year was Pitta's first year starting. Give him another year or maybe this year and he'll likely be just as good. But overall he is a better TE. I loved Harline and he will be forever a top BYU player but he was not strong as an overall true TE as Pitta is. Harline was a less explosive and was not as good at blocking as is Pitta. In the end Pitta will likely be a TE in the NFL and have an awesome career at BYU.

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## Re:Why I think next year will be special.

Posted by raidingtombs - 2008/03/05 17:55

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Yzzazz wrote:

Nice breakdown, but I have to disagree about the defensive assessments. While I expect to see improvements at D-line, the LBs and the Secondary are surely question marks and it is not realistic to expect those two squads to be BETTER than last year. They might be pretty good, because last year's squads were none too shabby, so being slightly less successful than the '07 unit doesn't mean you're lousy.

That said, it may not matter at all.

The Doman-Staley would very likely have gone undefeated without Luke and Brandon getting injured at the last, and they did so in spite of serious defensive weaknesses. This year's offense might be similarly overpowering to its opponents.

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Even if the defense is weaker this year than last year, it might be that BYU is able to simply outrun all its opponents as long as the defense is simply serviceable. The Detmer years proved that you can't have just one half of the team, so the defense will need to be at least something you'd call good.

But with the D-line likely to show improvement over last year, that might be all it takes.

That's why I'd say this year will be special, because the offense is likely to be so good, even a mediocre defense could create a third consecutive conference title--not to mention a possible BCS appearance.

Well we will have to agree on disagreeing because though I agree there is question marks we do know that we will have increased speed at LBer since both Doman and Baumer are faster than Poppinga and Stafferri. We also know Nixon is fast three only spot likely to lose speed and likely not by much will be Kehls replacement. LBer have always been a strength and we rotate them so often that most of the LBers that will likely start have already seen some valuable playing time. Some thought we would drop some after we lost the General after 2006 but we were better. Yes there are ? but we know we have more speed and more athleticism and they do bring experience just not starting experience.

As far as CB's go I think it very realistic to expect more. We lack experience and that does mean something but there is no doubt we increase our speed in the secondary by leaps and same with pure athleticism. Hill has shown he can take an average squad and make them a viable strong secondary. Just look at the difference between 2005 secondary and 2006 secondary. He now has a squad full of quick DB's instead of walk-ons and I fully expect them to be a step up.

You are correct if they are a step down they'll still be good.

I do agree with your final assessment.

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## Re:Why I think next year will be special.

Posted by raidingtomb - 2008/03/05 17:57

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Hipsdamann wrote:

How can you not mention JAN JORGENSON on the Defensive Line. I am so excited to see what he will accomplish this coming season. He will be crazy good!

Here's to looking at what might be one of the best teams to ever play at BYU!

Go Cougs

Sorry Jan Jorgenson is the d-line. but we are solid across the board but Jan will dominate and make a lot of noise you can bank on that.

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## Re:Why I think next year will be special.

Posted by raidingtomb - 2008/03/05 18:06

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treck wrote:

Thinking the same thing while reading it.

Another thing that jumped out at me was your RB section. Why would you lead off with Fui, then Tonga and be generous to give Unga a short sentence. Unga dominated last year and will dominate this year. Stronger, Faster, meaner! I haven't been this excited about a running back at BYU since Jamal Willis.

And I still don't get why this board loves FUI so much? He hasn't done much. I know, I know, he has been hurt and very limited...but 'just wait..' Problem is, that is all we do. I hope he truly is 100% healthy and ready to give another punch to the backfield. I don't want anymore mini-hakas after two yard runs. Truthfully, I would like to see Fui in the LB rotation somehow and bringing pain to opposing offenses.

Sorry what needs to be said about Unga? He is a stud we all know it and I lead with Fui since he was the disappointing

backfield player last year.

A strong fui makes our backfield unstoppable. He is a bruiser when he is in form. Unga is the all around back we have he is the one that takes the majority of snaps but we need a strong Fui to releave Unga. Duliggi may provide that as well, but having a RB that can soften up the LB'er is huge. Most of Unga's mistake ie fumbles came when he was over taxed and needed a rest that was not quite their to be given. it isn't that Fi is so great it is that having him play to form makes the back field that much better. ever see a teams LB's get soft? If not watch BSU in some of their games and all the yards they allowed in their run defense. The differecne is they started out soft but they are a good example of what a LBer crew looks like after being softened up by a bruising back.

Fui at LB is interesting.

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## Re:Why I think next year will be special.

Posted by HoosierCougar - 2008/03/05 21:56

treck wrote:

And I still don't get why this board loves FUI so much? He hasn't done much. I know, I know, he has been hurt and very limited...but 'just wait..' Problem is, that is all we do. I hope he truly is 100% healthy and ready to give another punch to the backfield. I don't want anymore mini-hakas after two yard runs. Truthfully, I would like to see Fui in the LB rotation somehow and bringing pain to opposing offenses.

Fui really needs to show his stuff in spring practice and then be dominant in the first 2-3 games of the season. If he can't, I worry that his career is all but over... Too many RBs get tentative after an injury and stop hitting \*first\*. If Fui can get in his mind to move North-South and deliver the initial impact, he'll be fine. Otherwist, he may be another Stacey Corley.

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## Re:Why I think next year will be special.

Posted by craigoscarson - 2008/03/06 10:08

dlz wrote:

I can't wait for the new football season to begin. Off football topic for a question. Who will take Burgess and Murdock's place next season in basketball. Those two have become great players and leaders. who will step up?

As far as the makeup of our team, it really hinges on whether or not Trent comes back or takes bad advice and leaves early. With a summer left to improve, I'd love to see Miles and Plaisted in the same lineup at times next year; with Lee playing the 2, JT at the 3 and Jimmer running some point. That lineup would kill on D and the glass. We know Miles can defend and rebound. Trent could play help defense and JT and Lee would do their thing without ever having to guard oversized players.

If Trent comes back; we're a top 15 team to start next season and likely favored in nearly every game we'd play. If Trent gets sucked into the quick money, then Miles has to improve dramatically and we'll be relying heavily on outside shooting next season.

As far as replacement for Murdock and Burgess, we should be in good shape:  
Lamont Morgan/Michael Lloyd at the 1

Jimmer at the 2

I don't expect any dropoff from those positions next year; in fact teams will have to respect our point because Morgan and Lloyd both know how to get to the hole and can shoot a little. Murdock is an abominable offensive player. He's a solid defender that doesn't make a lot of mistakes, but smart teams know to game plan for that.

I truly wish that Brad Garrett had come to the Y (he chose OSU) and that we hadn't signed Archie Rose (Rose is just not a cerebral D1 hoopster). Garrett would have been the ideal 6'5"-6'6" 2-3 to spell Cumard and Burgess and would have made a big impact for our team next season off the bench. Garrett can shoot the lights out. As it stands, Garrett hardly gets garbage minutes at Oklahoma State and had 3 to play 3, which meant he could play the 3 when Lee was gone. He had already redshirted, so unless Coach Sutton plans to boot him off the squad, Garrett is wasting a year on the bench there. He would have been our 1st option off the bench to spell Cumard.

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[http://www.okstate.com/ViewArticle.dbml?SPSID=1466&SPID=145&DB\\_OEM\\_ID=200&ATCLID=1065047&Q\\_SEASON=2007](http://www.okstate.com/ViewArticle.dbml?SPSID=1466&SPID=145&DB_OEM_ID=200&ATCLID=1065047&Q_SEASON=2007)

<http://sports.espn.go.com/ncb/player/profile?playerId=36253>

[http://www.rivals.com/viewprospect.asp?Sport=2&pr\\_key=59553](http://www.rivals.com/viewprospect.asp?Sport=2&pr_key=59553)

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**Re:Why I think next year will be special.**

Posted by akcougar - 2008/03/10 09:18

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GO COUGARS!

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