
Good article by Cruiser

Posted by Pwride - 2008/03/05 10:25

<http://cougarlegion.com/2008/03/05/on-the-road-with-cruiser-bruited-about-the-brutes/>

=====

Re:Good article by Cruiser

Posted by Slugger - 2008/03/05 12:23

Good article. Interesting story about Tialavea and Wagner. Sometimes them young whipper-snappers (sorry, my grandpa always said that!) just need a li'l humblin'! While on the topic of Wagner, any testosterone-driven man has to get excited about the idea of a large, muscular cage fighter suited up in BYU football pads to play linebacker. But the imagery is probably more than the reality. Hopefully there is something there because it would be sooooo cool to see him out there knocking people around...within the rules of course. ;)

=====

Re:Good article by Cruiser

Posted by CougarPeasant - 2008/03/05 12:35

Great read, Peter, thanks for directing us to it.

cruiser, as always, you give us what we need and crave when we most need it. This truly is the quietest time in BYU football just before spring ball starts. I look forward to your weekly reports once the practices begin again. BYU football never sounded better!!!

=====

Re:Good article by Cruiser

Posted by Mars - 2008/03/05 13:57

One of the hardest working players this winter has been Harvey Unga. Last year at this time he was taking it easy because of his injured hip. This year he is perhaps the most dedicated and focused player on the team. If you thought he was fast and powerful last year, wait until this year. He is lifting more than ever and is running like a horse in sprints. Last year some players named him the hardest-hitting player on the team, and it's clear that he intends to hit even harder this year. He appears to weigh about the same as last year, but it's becoming a different kind of weight-harder, leaner, stronger. If he stays healthy, he may well become one of the greatest running backs to ever come out of the inter-mountain area.

Great, now I won't be able to sleep for a week!

Every time I close my eyes, I'll start thinking "football ... football ... football".

=====

Re:Good article by Cruiser

Posted by Cougarageous - 2008/03/05 14:22

I have a real love/hate attitude for posts like these. I love hearing this sort of information but hate that it gets me so excited when the season is still so far away. Therefore cruiser, I love/hate you right now. :laugh: But don't worry though, because during the season I mainly just love your posts. :laugh:

Dang, it only took me three minutes to write this post...I was hoping it would have taken longer. Still so much time until the begining of the season. :(

Go Cougs!

=====

Re:Good article by Cruiser

Posted by harlinestillopen - 2008/03/05 14:28

Mars wrote:

One of the hardest working players this winter has been Harvey Unga. Last year at this time he was taking it easy because of his injured hip. This year he is perhaps the most dedicated and focused player on the team. If you thought he was fast and powerful last year, wait until this year. He is lifting more than ever and is running like a horse in sprints. Last year some players named him the hardest-hitting player on the team, and it's clear that he intends to hit even harder this year. He appears to weigh about the same as last year, but it's becoming a different kind of weight-harder, leaner, stronger. If he stays healthy, he may well become one of the greatest running backs to ever come out of the inter-mountain area.

Great, now I won't be able to sleep for a week!

Every time I close my eyes, I'll start thinking "football ... football ... football".

that was my favorite part too! ah man! Harvey is going to AMAZING!!!!

Re:Good article by Cruiser

Posted by Beavercoug - 2008/03/05 14:50

I heard that Kyle Luekenga was kicked off the team. Is this a rumor or the truth? Anybody know?

Re:Good article by Cruiser

Posted by Pwride - 2008/03/05 16:30

Indefinitely suspended. Not off the team, just working out getting back into the coaches good graces if its treated like other offenses (i.e. community service, restitution of some sort, etc.)

Re:Good article by Cruiser

Posted by McGregor - 2008/03/05 20:52

True to form, Cruiser, you have brought down the house with another solid and well-timed article.

I was recently discussing with a person with certain affiliations with the current team who experienced spring drills as a player. Interestingly, he considered spring drills under Lavell a vacation. He said the better you did during the season, the less you had to during the off season. He admitted that the current regimen would have sent him packing. It's great to see these boys working so hard.

Additionally, I was also speaking to someone about the Max Hall situation. This isn't new. In my short experiences, Max Hall has been quite nice and respectful, but I've witnessed his jabbings, and it's easy to see how they would rub people the wrong way. What is less commonly-known is how MUCH they rub some of his teammates (particularly the linemen) the wrong way.

Good to hear the update. Thanks.

Re:Good article by Cruiser

Posted by WACoug - 2008/03/05 21:01

McGregor wrote:

True to form, Cruiser, you have brought down the house with another solid and well-timed article.

I was recently discussing with a person with certain affiliations with the current team who experienced spring drills as a

player. Interestingly, he considered spring drills under Lavell a vacation. He said the better you did during the season, the less you had to during the off season. He admitted that the current regimen would have sent him packing. It's great to see these boys working so hard.

Additionally, I was also speaking to someone about the Max Hall situation. This isn't new. In my short experiences, Max Hall has been quite nice and respectful, but I've witnessed his jabbings, and it's easy to see how they would rub people the wrong way. What is less commonly-known is how MUCH they rub some of his teammates (particularly the linemen) the wrong way.

Good to hear the update. Thanks.

So that explains how Bruce Davis was able to get around the corner so fast. :unsure: :laugh:

=====

Re:Good article by Cruiser

Posted by shigacoug - 2008/03/05 21:22

McGregor wrote:

True to form, Cruiser, you have brought down the house with another solid and well-timed article.

I was recently discussing with a person with certain affiliations with the current team who experienced spring drills as a player. Interestingly, he considered spring drills under Lavell a vacation. He said the better you did during the season, the less you had to during the off season. He admitted that the current regimen would have sent him packing. It's great to see these boys working so hard.

Additionally, I was also speaking to someone about the Max Hall situation. This isn't new. In my short experiences, Max Hall has been quite nice and respectful, but I've witnessed his jabbings, and it's easy to see how they would rub people the wrong way. What is less commonly-known is how MUCH they rub some of his teammates (particularly the linemen) the wrong way.

Good to hear the update. Thanks.

I am almost afraid to ask, but what kind of jabbings are we talking about? Does he tell "yo mamma" jokes in the huddle or something?

Rapport between a QB and his line seems important that the coaches would address it at some point. Is that the case? I would hate to see a potentially great year be ruined because of internal strife.

=====

Re:Good article by Cruiser-Yo Mama jokes

Posted by runbyu1 - 2008/03/06 02:18

Good call! I can only imagine how those "yo mama" jokes go over with the linemen! "Yo mama's so fat..." Uh,...

Hilarious. Maybe that DOES explain how Bruce Davis was able to get around the corner so much...

=====

Re:Good article by Cruiser-Yo Mama jokes

Posted by WACoug - 2008/03/06 08:02

runbyu1 wrote:

Good call! I can only imagine how those "yo mama" jokes go over with the linemen! "Yo mama's so fat..." Uh,...

Hilarious. Maybe that DOES explain how Bruce Davis was able to get around the corner so much...

Hey, easy! That guy plays a mean cello. Oh, wait. That's Yo Yo Ma, not Yo MaMa. Sorry, my bad. :lol:

=====

Re:Good article by Cruiser

Posted by Sage - 2008/03/06 09:33

WACoug wrote:

So that explains how Bruce Davis was able to get around the corner so fast. :unsure: :laugh:

In my world it seems of paramount importance that the qb specifically coddle the feelings of his linemen. You hear of great qbs taking their linemen out to eat, or buying them trips to the pro bowl in the nfl. Is there not someone in the past byu qb ranks that could privately take max aside and explain to him in very clear terms the consequences of his actions. If some one has access to Bronco or one of the other coaches, perhaps this could be put forth as a very valuable team need. Max's health can have a very direct affect on an undefeated season. Anybody want to volunteer to speak to the powers that be if you have the connections?

=====

Re:Good article by Cruiser

Posted by Uncle Iroh - 2008/03/06 09:48

I can't wait till we get to see some action in the Spring Game. I know that Harvey, Max, and others won't play, but I really want to see J.J. and others.

Man is the offseason long.:angry:

I'll try to be patient. Thanks for the link pwide, and the article cruiser.

=====

Re:Good article by Cruiser

Posted by Hengst - 2008/03/06 09:58

Uncle Iroh wrote:

I can't wait till we get to see some action in the Spring Game. I know that Harvey, Max, and others won't play, but I really want to see J.J. and others.

Man is the offseason long.:angry:

I'll try to be patient. Thanks for the link pwide, and the article cruiser.

We'll probably see Max, there is no point in keeping out a qb when they can't get hit (of course if you get tackled by the grass like cade cooper maybe there is some sense to holding him out . . .)

=====

Re:Good article by Cruiser

Posted by buzzard - 2008/03/06 11:50

One quote from Cruisers article that I hope is not the case was talking about Bronco being at the workouts pushing the players to work harder. It is against the rules for coaches to attend off-season workout. Omer, no big deal, Mendenhall, big deal indeed.

So I am hoping that was a misperception on Cruisers part.

=====

Re:Good article by Cruiser

Posted by craigscarson - 2008/03/06 11:59

Here's my problem with reading these tidbits from Cruiser.

It's like feeding a hungry tiger a slim jim. I just want more now :cheer:

Now I want to know about every player and how they look in workouts.

Is Tialevea healthy?

Are Rich, Clawon, Hola, Moala, etc. in school and working out too?

How does Fui look? (BTW if any of you wonder if Fui belongs in the backfield as a dominant player, then you obviously have forgotten the Oregon-Vegas Bowl; this guy is a legit punisher when he's right)

Did Reynolds get a butt whooping by dad after the Vegas bowl? What's the status on his brothers?

How fast are G Pittman, Bradley in these Omer workouts?

Is anyone looking like they're not improving with the rest?

How about Hafoka? Is Michael Reed getting lean or bulking up; is his speed improving?

I'd love to see a depth chart at receiver and linebacker....

the list goes on.....I can't handle just a tidbit

Either way, thanks for caring Cruiser and sharing it's certainly better than nothing.

=====

Re:Good article by Cruiser-Yo Mama jokes

Posted by Ovid - 2008/03/06 12:10

WACoug wrote:

runbyu1 wrote:

Good call! I can only imagine how those "yo mama" jokes go over with the linemen! "Yo mama's so fat..." Uh,...

Hilarious. Maybe that DOES explain how Bruce Davis was able to get around the corner so much...

Hey, easy! That guy plays a mean cello. Oh, wait. That's Yo Yo Ma, not Yo MaMa. Sorry, my bad. :lol:

You guys are killing me.

Cruiser, you're killing me...slowly. I thought I was content with bball, but no-you had to come out dangling that tasty tidbit in front of us all and remind us of the real purpose of life. Dang!

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You.

=====

Re:Good article by Cruiser

Posted by Pwride - 2008/03/06 12:38

buzzard wrote:

One quote from Cruisers article that I hope is not the case was talking about Bronco being at the workouts pushing the players to work harder. It is against the rules for coaches to attend off-season workout. Omer, no big deal, Mendenhall, big deal indeed.

So I am hoping that was a misperception on Cruisers part.

He responded to that in the comment section. Coaches can be present for conditioning (if a football is present they need to leave.) This only applies pre-spring. After spring only conditioning Coach (Omer) can be present.

craigoscarson: Hola, Clawson and Tuitama are the only early arrivals. The rest will be here in fall.

Re:Good article by Cruiser

Posted by cruiser - 2008/03/06 14:05

Pwride wrote:

buzzard wrote:

One quote from Cruisers article that I hope is not the case was talking about Bronco being at the workouts pushing the players to work harder. It is against the rules for coaches to attend off-season workout. Omer, no big deal, Mendenhall, big deal indeed.

So I am hoping that was a misperception on Cruisers part.

He responded to that in the comment section. Coaches can be present for conditioning (if a football is present they need to leave.) This only applies pre-spring. After spring only conditioning Coach (Omer) can be present.

craigoscarson: Hola, Clawson and Tuitama are the only early arrivals. The rest will be here in fall.

Pwride's got it right here. All the coaches can be with the players now---until a football shows up. As soon as the conditioning is done each day and the skill guys start playing 7-on-7, the coaches must leave. That's when the position captains take over, and they're doing a great job this winter. After Spring ball is over, the only coach who can be with the team during conditioning or weights or even on the field, is Coach Omer. Again, the position captains will run the show on the field each day of the summer until Fall camp. Bronco abides by the rules as strictly as anyone in college football--or more so. But he has also learned how to take advantage of the opportunities granted by the rules. His team leadership council is probably one of the best, and most mature, player-leadership units in the country. And they all follow Bronco's lead. They work, work, work, getting the most out of every practice, each day. It is really something to watch. In fact, that may be why the Kansas State and West Virginia head coaches were here recently, watching the team go through their workouts. Bronco has very quickly become one of the most promising young coaches in college football, and a lot of people are interested in what he's doing and how he's doing it. Needless to say, he's doing it right.

=====

Re:Good article by Cruiser

Posted by cruiser - 2008/03/06 14:47

craigoscarson wrote:

Here's my problem with reading these tidbits from Cruiser.

It's like feeding a hungry tiger a slim jim. I just want more now :cheer:

Now I want to know about every player and how they look in workouts.

Is Tialevea healthy?

Are Rich, Clawon, Hola, Moala, etc. in school and working out too?

How does Fui look? (BTW if any of you wonder if Fui belongs in the backfield as a dominant player, then you obviously have forgotten the Oregon-Vegas Bowl; this guy is a legit punisher when he's right)

Did Reynolds get a butt whooping by dad after the Vegas bowl? What's the status on his brothers?

How fast are G Pittman, Bradley in these Omer workouts?

Is anyone looking like they're not improving with the rest?

How about Hafoka? Is Michael Reed getting lean or bulking up; is his speed improving?

I'd love to see a depth chart at receiver and linebacker....

the list goes on.....I can't handle just a tidbit

Either way, thanks for caring Cruiser and sharing it's certainly better than nothing.

Craig, that's quite a list, but I'll do my best.

Tialavea is still pounding the weights on muscle beach but looks to be moving without pain. He had a very serious knee

injury, and nobody really knows if he'll be back at full strength this fall. Right now, he seems to be making good progress, and I am cautiously optimistic. He'll miss Spring ball, but we'll know more this summer if he comes out and starts conditioning with the team.

Pwride already answered your next question, but I'll add that Andrew Rich is also in school and is working out with the team. He looks like a good athlete, and he came to school in good shape (as did all the guys from Snow). Now he needs to learn Hill's defense. Right now, it's too early to say how well he will do for us. Personally, I think he'll be a strong addition to the safeties, but we'll have to wait and see.

Fui is working hard. He let himself get a little heavy after the LV Bowl, and now he is paying the price to get back down to where he wants to be (235-240). He is very strong, amazingly strong, and it's tempting to think of him as a fullback, but frankly, he seems to want nothing to do with that position. He sees himself as a tailback and focuses almost all of his efforts on that position. The question with Fui this year will be his attitude toward contact. As we all know, he shied away from big hits last year, trying to elude tacklers instead of punishing them, as Harvey and Manase did. And because of his weight, he wasn't able to elude most tacklers. Will he run aggressively and hit hard this year? Nobody knows yet, and even after Spring ball we may not know. Last year he was great in practice then seemed to get soft in the games. Everybody in football knows that he can be the most punishing runner in the conference if he wants to be. The question, though, is if he has mentally bounced back from the devastating injuries he suffered his sophomore year. In my opinion, we won't know until September.

I don't know about Dallas or any "butt whooping" from his father. He's better than he showed against Bruce Davis, but then, most O-linemen are. Davis was extraordinary and was incredibly motivated that game. But Dallas recognizes that he needs to get quicker. Because the competition for his spot will be even greater this year than last, he will have to keep improving, which is what he is trying to do every day. I think he'll be solid but probably not stellar, unless he can get a much quicker first step.

Pittman and Bradley are doing well in conditioning. Both are exceptional athletes. Personally, I think Pittman can be a special DB. He seems to have that extra something that allows him to be in the right place at the right time and make great plays. Bradley, of course, is still coming back from his Gooch-like knee injury. It's been a couple of years now, and he seems to be running pain-free, but this is just conditioning, and as hard as it is, it isn't game conditions. We'll know more about him when things are live in a few weeks.

A side note: the defense is looking great in 7-on-7s so far, especially the linebackers---more than the average number of interceptions and deflections. Hall is solid, and Gaskins is looking good too, but these linebackers are flying around the field and making plays. They're fast. (Matt Ah You is already looking like he's back to his old form, though he'd probably say he has a ways to go.) We won't have the biggest linebackers this year, but we'll definitely have some of the fastest and smartest. We lost some key guys on defense, but we should be as good or better this year, especially if Russell is back to his '06 form.

Spencer Hafoka is looking pretty fast, and Michael Reed seems to be his old self, which isn't too bad. If you're looking for surprises at receiver, look out for Landon Jaussi (pronounced Yow-see). He's big and strong (6-4, 215) and has quietly become one of the fast runners on the team, winning sprints against the other receivers almost every day. The question with him is, can he catch the ball consistently in traffic? Right now he looks pretty good. Again, we'll know more in Spring when receivers killed dismembered as soon as they touch the ball.

Overall, this team is showing a lot of character. They are simply the hardest-working, most focused team I have ever seen at BYU, and that's saying something. Their work ethic is so much better than anything under Edward's programs that they almost can't be compared. The '84 team had some great athletes and worked hard, but this team works harder, partly because Mendenhall is pushing them and partly because these guys are willing to go places mentally that other teams wouldn't. They are willing to endure pain, sometimes extreme pain, and keep fighting, keep working, keep growing. If we can stay relatively injury-free, this team could do something special this year. Of course, the ball takes some funny hops sometimes, and you can never predict what will happen, but this team is giving it everything they've got. If they don't exceed last year's record, it won't be for lack of effort and dedication. These guys want to win---BAD.

I know this doesn't answer all your questions, but I hope it helps. Just remember, spring ball is only 11 days away!

Re:Good article by Cruiser

Posted by Ygridiron4ever - 2008/03/06 14:47

cruiser wrote:

....Bronco abides by the rules as strictly as anyone in college football--or more so. But he has also learned how to take advantage of the opportunities granted by the rules. His team leadership council is probably one of the best, and most

mature, player-leadership units in the country. And they all follow Bronco's lead. They work, work, work, getting the most out of every practice, each day. It is really something to watch. In fact, that may be why the Kansas State and West Virginia head coaches were here recently, watching the team go through their workouts. Bronco has very quickly become one of the most promising young coaches in college football, and a lot of people are interested in what he's doing and how he's doing it. Needless to say, he's doing it right.

OK, cruiser, I guess I say thanks, but I feel like the starving man waiting for the supply truck to dole out my supplies - saying thanks feels at once contrived and humbling..I wish I could feed myself. But I cannot deny that the food you brought me allows me to survive at least one more day, so, yeah...thanks.

But you just now exposed my biggest fear....how long will Bronco be around? He's just 13 games away from some once-in-a-lifetime offers. Any idea on his disposition?

=====

Re:Good article by Cruiser

Posted by cruiser - 2008/03/06 14:59

Ygridiron4ever wrote:

cruiser wrote:

....Bronco abides by the rules as strictly as anyone in college football--or more so. But he has also learned how to take advantage of the opportunities granted by the rules. His team leadership council is probably one of the best, and most mature, player-leadership units in the country. And they all follow Bronco's lead. They work, work, work, getting the most out of every practice, each day. It is really something to watch. In fact, that may be why the Kansas State and West Virginia head coaches were here recently, watching the team go through their workouts. Bronco has very quickly become one of the most promising young coaches in college football, and a lot of people are interested in what he's doing and how he's doing it. Needless to say, he's doing it right.

OK, cruiser, I guess I say thanks, but I feel like the starving man waiting for the supply truck to dole out my supplies - saying thanks feels at once contrived and humbling..I wish I could feed myself. But I cannot deny that the food you brought me allows me to survive at least one more day, so, yeah...thanks.

But you just now exposed my biggest fear....how long will Bronco be around? He's just 13 games away from some once-in-a-lifetime offers. Any idea on his disposition?

Bronco Mendenhall keeps his own counsel pretty well, so nobody can speak for him. But, between you and me, I would be surprised, and disappointed, if he left BYU. He sees this job almost as a calling directly from the Brethren, whom he speaks with from time to time. He also sees himself in the service a Higher Power in a way that he can't be in other places. He has worked in several other programs, and he seems about as happy here as he can be. He has earned tremendous respect from all of his bosses and has been given a lot of freedom. Although the money may be tempting at other schools from time to time, I expect (and sincerely hope) that he'll stay here. Of course, BYU will have to do the right thing as far as his salary goes to at least remain somewhat competitive. Like most of us, he wants to serve, but he doesn't want to be used.

=====

Re:Good article by Cruiser

Posted by jhw5 - 2008/03/06 15:15

Man, while you're answering questions cruiser:

Is Matangi Tonga enrolled in school and/or working out with the team?

How is Travis Bright's recovery coming? Compound fracture, right?

=====

Re:Good article by Cruiser

Posted by Pwride - 2008/03/06 15:32

I can field that first one. Matangi is not at BYU currently. He could possibly (emphasis on possibly) be back for fall. He has an offer from Snow so he could go play a year and come back to BYU next winter (is one scenario I've heard.)

=====

Re:Good article by Cruiser

Posted by CougarPeasant - 2008/03/06 15:32

cruiser,

Big questions I have are how is the O-line coming together this spring and what kind of job do you think Coach Weber is doing?

=====

Re:Good article by Cruiser

Posted by treck - 2008/03/06 15:37

Sage wrote:

WACoug wrote:

So that explains how Bruce Davis was able to get around the corner so fast. :unsure: :laugh:

In my world it seems of paramount importance that the qb specifically coddle the feelings of his linemen. You hear of great qbs taking their linemen out to eat, or buying them trips to the pro bowl in the nfl. Is there not someone in the past byu qb ranks that could privately take max aside and explain to him in very clear terms the consequences of his actions. If some one has access to Bronco or one of the other coaches, perhaps this could be put forth as a very valuable team need. Max's health can have a very direct affect on an undefeated season. Anybody want to volunteer to speak to the powers that be if you have the connections?

Ya, what does Bronco know, he probably never thought about that. Seriously?

I am sure that the coaching staff is well aware of any dramas amongst the team. I don't think they, or anyone on the team, will let anything get in the way of what should be a magical year for the cougars.

=====

Re:Good article by Cruiser

Posted by Ygridiron4ever - 2008/03/06 15:39

cruiser wrote:

Bronco Mendenhall keeps his own counsel pretty well, so nobody can speak for him. But, between you and me, I would be surprised, and disappointed, if he left BYU. He sees this job almost as a calling directly from the Brethren, whom he speaks with from time to time. He also sees himself in the service a Higher Power in a way that he can't be in other places. He has worked in several other programs, and he seems about as happy here as he can be. He has earned tremendous respect from all of his bosses and has been given a lot of freedom. Although the money may be tempting at other schools from time to time, I expect (and sincerely hope) that he'll stay here. Of course, BYU will have to do the right thing as far as his salary goes to at least remain somewhat competitive. Like most of us, he wants to serve, but he doesn't want to be used.

Thanks again - more than I can say.

So we are a peculiar people, aren't we? Here in So. Cal. people are always singing the praises of Pete Carol - restoring tradition, etc, etc, etc. But (I believe) he will never come close to being as important as Bronco (or any good and just man who leads BYU) can be. And I think I understand you to be saying, that as unique as BYU is in the world of higher education, so Bronco is among coaches (as compared to the likes of that one guy who had success at Utah and left them high and dry..ummm, what was his name...oh yeah, Urban).

Have things come together perfectly??? I can only hope.

=====

Re:Good article by Cruiser

Posted by cruiser - 2008/03/06 15:56

CougarPeasant wrote:
cruiser,

Big questions I have are how is the O-line coming together this spring and what kind of job do you think Coach Weber is doing?

In my opinion, the jury is still out on Coach Weber. I think it's fair to say that replacing Coach Grimes was a taller order than many people thought. Although we had some fine linemen with experience last year, we weren't able to run the ball or protect Hall as well as we expected to. This will be Weber's second year, and he should fully understand how the line integrates into the overall scheme, especially the running game. If things don't improve this year, even though we have some of the finest RBs in the conference, a lot of people will be taking a pretty hard look at Coach Weber. That's how I see it, anyway.

Re:Good article by Cruiser

Posted by domanater - 2008/03/06 15:59

cruiser wrote:

craigoscarson wrote:

Here's my problem with reading these tidbits from Cruiser.

It's like feeding a hungry tiger a slim jim. I just want more now :cheer:

Now I want to know about every player and how they look in workouts.

Is Tialevea healthy?

Are Rich, Clawon, Hola, Moala, etc. in school and working out too?

How does Fui look? (BTW if any of you wonder if Fui belongs in the backfield as a dominant player, then you obviously have forgotten the Oregon-Vegas Bowl; this guy is a legit punisher when he's right)

Did Reynolds get a butt whooping by dad after the Vegas bowl? What's the status on his brothers?

How fast are G Pittman, Bradley in these Omer workouts?

Is anyone looking like they're not improving with the rest?

How about Hafoka? Is Michael Reed getting lean or bulking up; is his speed improving?

I'd love to see a depth chart at receiver and linebacker....

the list goes on.....I can't handle just a tidbit

Either way, thanks for caring Cruiser and sharing it's certainly better than nothing.

Craig, that's quite a list, but I'll do my best.

Tialavea is still pounding the weights on muscle beach but looks to be moving without pain. He had a very serious knee injury, and nobody really knows if he'll be back at full strength this fall. Right now, he seems to be making good progress, and I am cautiously optimistic. He'll miss Spring ball, but we'll know more this summer if he comes out and starts conditioning with the team.

Pwride already answered your next question, but I'll add that Andrew Rich is also in school and is working out with the team. He looks like a good athlete, and he came to school in good shape (as did all the guys from Snow). Now he needs to learn Hill's defense. Right now, it's too early to say how well he will do for us. Personally, I think he'll be a strong addition to the safeties, but we'll have to wait and see.

Fui is working hard. He let himself get a little heavy after the LV Bowl, and now he is paying the price to get back down to where he wants to be (235-240). He is very strong, amazingly strong, and it's tempting to think of him as a fullback, but frankly, he seems to want nothing to do with that position. He sees himself as a tailback and focuses almost all of his efforts on that position. The question with Fui this year will be his attitude toward contact. As we all know, he shied away from big hits last year, trying to elude tacklers instead of punishing them, as Harvey and Manase did. And because of his

weight, he wasn't able to elude most tacklers. Will he run aggressively and hit hard this year? Nobody knows yet, and even after Spring ball we may not know. Last year he was great in practice then seemed to get soft in the games. Everybody in football knows that he can be the most punishing runner in the conference if he wants to be. The question, though, is if he has mentally bounced back from the devastating injuries he suffered his sophomore year. In my opinion, we won't know until September.

I don't know about Dallas or any "butt whooping" from his father. He's better than he showed against Bruce Davis, but then, most O-linemen are. Davis was extraordinary and was incredibly motivated that game. But Dallas recognizes that he needs to get quicker. Because the competition for his spot will be even greater this year than last, he will have to keep improving, which is what he is trying to do every day. I think he'll be solid but probably not stellar, unless he can get a much quicker first step.

Pittman and Bradley are doing well in conditioning. Both are exceptional athletes. Personally, I think Pittman can be a special DB. He seems to have that extra something that allows him to be in the right place at the right time and make great plays. Bradley, of course, is still coming back from his Gooch-like knee injury. It's been a couple of years now, and he seems to be running pain-free, but this is just conditioning, and as hard as it is, it isn't game conditions. We'll know more about him when things are live in a few weeks.

A side note: the defense is looking great in 7-on-7s so far, especially the linebackers---more than the average number of interceptions and deflections. Hall is solid, and Gaskins is looking good too, but these linebackers are flying around the field and making plays. They're fast. (Matt Ah You is already looking like he's back to his old form, though he'd probably say he has a ways to go.) We won't have the biggest linebackers this year, but we'll definitely have some of the fastest and smartest. We lost some key guys on defense, but we should be as good or better this year, especially if Russell is back to his '06 form.

Spencer Hafoka is looking pretty fast, and Michael Reed seems to be his old self, which isn't too bad. If you're looking for surprises at receiver, look out for Landon Jaussi (pronounced Yow-see). He's big and strong (6-4, 215) and has quietly become one of the fast runners on the team, winning sprints against the other receivers almost every day. The question with him is, can he catch the ball consistently in traffic? Right now he looks pretty good. Again, we'll know more in Spring when receivers killed dismembered as soon as they touch the ball.

Overall, this team is showing a lot of character. They are simply the hardest-working, most focused team I have ever seen at BYU, and that's saying something. Their work ethic is so much better than anything under Edward's programs that they almost can't be compared. The '84 team had some great athletes and worked hard, but this team works harder, partly because Mendenhall is pushing them and partly because these guys are willing to go places mentally that other teams wouldn't. They are willing to endure pain, sometimes extreme pain, and keep fighting, keep working, keep growing. If we can stay relatively injury-free, this team could do something special this year. Of course, the ball takes some funny hops sometimes, and you can never predict what will happen, but this team is giving it everything they've got. If they don't exceed last year's record, it won't be for lack of effort and dedication. These guys want to win---BAD.

I know this doesn't answer all your questions, but I hope it helps. Just remember, spring ball is only 11 days away!

Cruiser, you're awesome man. I agree with Craig though, it's not ever going to be enough info. Guess that's just part of being fully invested.
Strong work

=====

Re:Good article by Cruiser

Posted by CougarPeasant - 2008/03/06 16:16

cruiser wrote:

CougarPeasant wrote:

cruiser,

Big questions I have are how is the O-line coming together this spring and what kind of job do you think Coach Weber is doing?

In my opinion, the jury is still out on Coach Weber. I think it's fair to say that replacing Coach Grimes was a taller order than many people thought. Although we had some fine linemen with experience last year, we weren't able to run the ball or protect Hall as well as we expected to. This will be Weber's second year, and he should fully understand how the line integrates into the overall scheme, especially the running game. If things don't improve this year, even though we have some of the finest RBs in the conference, a lot of people will be taking a pretty hard look at Coach Weber. That's how I see it, anyway.

cruiser, thanks for your answer. I would also think Weber now has a better idea of what his players can and can't do and will scheme accordingly. I am hoping for total domination by the O-line in the run game. They have the size and talent. Could part of the problem have been Anae's wider splits verses what Weber would normally coach and he just didn't figure out how to utilize the splits as Anae would expect?

Answers beget more questions. B)

McGregor, if you are around, feel free to jump in with your own opinion as well please. ;)

Thanks in advance cruiser, I look forward to your opinion.

Oh, and one more thing. I am glad to hear you think that the players are extra motivated. I would think that after back to back titles and bowl victories, they have come to believe in Bronco like never before. I think also that the team as a whole has hit one of those apexes of overall talent (like in 1984, 1996, 2001) that they could very well exceed even their own expectations for themselves.

Re:Good article by Cruiser

Posted by connecticutcougar - 2008/03/06 16:18

Thanks for the great info Cruiser and Pwride! Interesting that West Virginia and Kansas State coaches came out to see how we do things - especially considering West Virginia has a brand new coach... Great to see Bronco getting the respect he deserves with how he is running the program.

My question is -- what exactly were they looking for? I know you mentioned that they came to watch our conditioning drills. Was that all or were they also looking at how Bronco teaches, interacts, etc.? How long were they here for?

Re:Good article by Cruiser

Posted by buzzard - 2008/03/06 16:32

I know it's not the same, but when LaVell was on top, coaches from top 10 schools were coming to observe spring drills on a regular basis.

I seem to remember a comment-this is going back 20 years, so forgive if the gears slip a bit-that while Edwards contribution to passing offenses was significant, he and his staff singlehandedly redefined Offensive Line play not only through schemes but how they taught the linemen to pass protect individually.

Re:Good article by Cruiser

Posted by cruiser - 2008/03/06 16:38

connecticutcougar wrote:

Thanks for the great info Cruiser and Pwride! Interesting that West Virginia and Kansas State coaches came out to see how we do things - especially considering West Virginia has a brand new coach... Great to see Bronco getting the respect he deserves with how he is running the program.

My question is -- what exactly were they looking for? I know you mentioned that they came to watch our conditioning drills. Was that all or were they also looking at how Bronco teaches, interacts, etc.? How long were they here for? I don't know what else they were looking for, but I'm sure they were doing more than paying their respects to an up and coming coach. Bronco goes to a lot of coaches conferences, and I'm sure he makes a lot of acquaintances there. The admiration he has earned among them is actually kind of startling. Some of the most storied coaches in the land are asking how he does things.

As far as the O-line goes, and their wider splits, I don't know if this was the big issue for the lineman last year. I have heard various things about what the "issue" was, but nothing was really solid or definitive. I would rather not speculate beyond what I have already said. Integrating his philosophy into the existing philosophy should be accomplished by this year, and every Cougar fan will be watching.

When you think about it, coming into a program like this, where Mendenhall, Kaufusi, Hill, and others have shone so brightly, it must be a little daunting. Personally, I think the O-line will improve this year, but I'm still a little anxious...

=====

Re:Good article by Cruiser

Posted by Pwride - 2008/03/06 16:39

Just a quick thought about O-line. We forget thanks to the UCLA bowl game that BYU's line had been absolutely devastating in the run and pass game for most of the season. Watching Bright pull and lay out guys 10 yards down the field were some of the best moments of the year. Hall had time to pick apart defenses. The offensive line was good, next year they should be great.

=====

Re:Good article by Cruiser

Posted by CougarPeasant - 2008/03/06 16:55

cruiser wrote:

As far as the O-line goes, and their wider splits, I don't know if this was the big issue for the lineman last year. I have heard various things about what the "issue" was, but nothing was really solid or definitive. I would rather not speculate beyond what I have already said. Integrating his philosophy into the existing philosophy should be accomplished by this year, and every Cougar fan will be watching.

When you think about it, coming into a program like this, where Mendenhall, Kaufusi, Hill, and others have shone so brightly, it must be a little daunting. Personally, I think the O-line will improve this year, but I'm still a little anxious...

Thanks for the quick response. I do hope Weber comes into his own this season.

I did predict that Hall would throw for over 3000 yards and 25 TDs last season and got it right. I predict a 4000 yard 30 TD season for him this year annnnnnd I predict 1800 yards rushing with Unga getting 1400.

=====

Re:Good article by Cruiser

Posted by cruiser - 2008/03/06 16:57

CougarPeasant wrote:

cruiser wrote:

As far as the O-line goes, and their wider splits, I don't know if this was the big issue for the lineman last year. I have heard various things about what the "issue" was, but nothing was really solid or definitive. I would rather not speculate beyond what I have already said. Integrating his philosophy into the existing philosophy should be accomplished by this year, and every Cougar fan will be watching.

When you think about it, coming into a program like this, where Mendenhall, Kaufusi, Hill, and others have shone so brightly, it must be a little daunting. Personally, I think the O-line will improve this year, but I'm still a little anxious...

Thanks for the quick response. I do hope Weber comes into his own this season.

I did predict that Hall would throw for over 3000 yards and 25 TDs last season and got it right. I predict a 4000 yard 30 TD season for him this year annnnnnd I predict 1800 yards rushing with Unga getting 1400. So let it be written. So let it be done.

=====

Re:Good article by Cruiser

Posted by runbyu1 - 2008/03/06 17:26

Amen!

And WACoug...props on the Yo Yo Ma reply to the lineman joke.

=====

Re:Good article by Cruiser

Posted by WACoug - 2008/03/06 20:02

runbyu1 wrote:
Amen!

And WACoug...props on the Yo Yo Ma reply to the lineman joke.

Thank you. Thank you. I'll be here all week. :lol:

=====

Re:Good article by Cruiser

Posted by Short_Changed - 2008/03/06 23:53

Cruiser

How do you see the O-line shaking out? With Sete gone, Bright recovering from injuries, Oswald splitting time last year, and some guys coming off redshirt years like Matt Reynolds and Levi Mack, how do you think the two deep will look for the spring?

=====

Re:Good article by Cruiser

Posted by Mars - 2008/03/07 01:57

My Question for Cruiser:

Any hint so far as to who our main kick & punt return-men will be?

Austin Collie? G Pittman? J.J. DiLuigi? Bryce (*shudder*) Mahuika? Maybe even Spencer Hafoka? Or perhaps a freshman??

=====

Re:Good article by Cruiser

Posted by gordito - 2008/03/07 08:07

Mars wrote:

My Question for Cruiser:

Any hint so far as to who our main kick & punt return-men will be?

Austin Collie? G Pittman? J.J. DiLuigi? Bryce (*shudder*) Mahuika? Maybe even Spencer Hafoka? Or perhaps a freshman??

I pray that somebody can effectively relieve Collie of all return duties. The prospect of losing our go-to receiver makes my stomach crave valium...

=====

Re:Good article by Cruiser

Posted by Pwride - 2008/03/07 12:12

Mars,

Based on last fall, I think you are pretty dead on with the list. DiLuigi and Pittman both returned punts and kicks in practice. Other I'd add are Cortny Barton and Chambers.

=====

Re:Good article by Cruiser

Posted by Mars - 2008/03/07 13:30

Pwride wrote:

Based on last fall, I think you are pretty dead on with the list. DiLuigi and Pittman both returned punts and kicks in practice. Other I'd add are Cortny Barton and Chambers.

I don't know very much about Barton (what is his class year, position, height, weight, speed, where did he play in high school, how did he do, how did he make it to BYU, etc?), but the thought of Chambers returning makes me say "Oooh!" (in a good way).

=====

Re:Good article by Cruiser

Posted by Pwride - 2008/03/07 14:08

Barton arrived last summer (had finished his associates so he could come right away) but ended up red-shirting this season. He will be a junior, 5'9 about 190 lbs. Here is an excerpt from an article I wrote when he committed to BYU:

BYU has recently added a new face (and some nice hair: #3 kneeling) in Cortny Barton (529 200), a walk-on from LA Harbor Junior College. At LA Harbor he played running back, wide receiver (H-back), defensive back and returned kicks and punts.

Barton reportedly runs at 4.5 and should be a welcome addition to the 2007 special teams squad.

Full article (including one sweet picture and video.)
<http://cougarlegion.com/2007/05/24/byus-newest-addition/>

=====

Re:Good article by Cruiser

Posted by Hengst - 2008/03/07 14:13

If I had to guess Bryce will continue to return punts, and he and Barton will probably return kicks. I don't think Bronco is going to want any freshman returning punts if he can avoid it. We might see one of those people on a kick return on occasion though.

=====

Re:Good article by Cruiser

Posted by treck - 2008/03/07 14:15

Pwride wrote:

Barton arrived last summer (had finished his associates so he could come right away) but ended up red-shirting this season. He will be a junior, 5'9 about 190 lbs. Here is an excerpt from an article I wrote when he committed to BYU:

BYU has recently added a new face (and some nice hair: #3 kneeling) in Cortny Barton (529 200), a walk-on from LA Harbor Junior College. At LA Harbor he played running back, wide receiver (H-back), defensive back and returned kicks and punts.

Barton reportedly runs at 4.5 and should be a welcome addition to the 2007 special teams squad.

Full article (including one sweet picture and video.)
<http://cougarlegion.com/2007/05/24/byus-newest-addition/>

Nice picture. Looks like he could be a physical receiver.

Is #18 a baller in the off season... Check out his power stance. :blush:

=====

Re:Good article by Cruiser

Posted by cougarfan144 - 2008/03/08 20:39

cruiser wrote:

...Overall, this team is showing a lot of character. They are simply the hardest-working, most focused team I have ever seen at BYU, and that's saying something. Their work ethic is so much better than anything under Edward's programs that they almost can't be compared. The '84 team had some great athletes and worked hard, but this team works harder, partly because Mendenhall is pushing them and partly because these guys are willing to go places mentally that other teams wouldn't. They are willing to endure pain, sometimes extreme pain, and keep fighting, keep working, keep growing. If we can stay relatively injury-free, this team could do something special this year. Of course, the ball takes some funny hops sometimes, and you can never predict what will happen, but this team is giving it everything they've got. If they don't exceed last year's record, it won't be for lack of effort and dedication. These guys want to win---BAD... What a great thread. Sorry I missed it as it was unfolding.

This comment stuck out to me from the quote on page 4. I hope that win or lose, I as a fan, can show these young men and coaches through my actions that I appreciate their efforts and sacrifice.

I know these kids will be successful in life, long after football is behind them, after taking what football and their coaches are demanding from them, and applying it to their pursuits.

Thanks again for the info.

=====

Re:Good article by Cruiser

Posted by nuk13 - 2008/03/08 21:49

I remember the highlight films on Barton. He looked very quick and ripped holes in the opposition.

=====

Re:Good article by Cruiser

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

Pwride wrote:

Barton arrived last summer (had finished his associates so he could come right away) but ended up red-shirting this season. He will be a junior, 5'9 about 190 lbs. Here is an excerpt from an article I wrote when he committed to BYU:

BYU has recently added a new face (and some nice hair: #3 kneeling) in Cortny Barton (5'9 200), a walk-on from LA Harbor Junior College. At LA Harbor he played running back, wide receiver (H-back), defensive back and returned kicks and punts.

Barton reportedly runs at 4.5 and should be a welcome addition to the 2007 special teams squad.

Full article (including one sweet picture and video.)
<http://cougarlegion.com/2007/05/24/byus-newest-addition/>

Thanks for the link, Pwride. Barton's got some nice moves. Having an O-line that apparently can't block might suck, but it makes for some sweet highlights. :)

I'm looking forward to some sweet returns this season. Who will be the one to end the kickoff return for a TD drought?

Re:Good article by Cruiser

Posted by imuakahuku - 2008/03/10 08:29

Yndian wrote:

Pwride wrote:

Barton arrived last summer (had finished his associates so he could come right away) but ended up red-shirting this season. He will be a junior, 5'9 about 190 lbs. Here is an excerpt from an article I wrote when he committed to BYU:

BYU has recently added a new face (and some nice hair: #3 kneeling) in Cortny Barton (5'9 200), a walk-on from LA Harbor Junior College. At LA Harbor he played running back, wide receiver (H-back), defensive back and returned kicks and punts.

Barton reportedly runs at 4.5 and should be a welcome addition to the 2007 special teams squad.

Full article (including one sweet picture and video.)

<http://cougarlegion.com/2007/05/24/byus-newest-addition/>

Thanks for the link, Pwride. Barton's got some nice moves, and it helps your highlights as a scrambling QB when your O-line apparently can't block. :)

I'm looking forward to some sweet returns this season. Who will be the one to end the kickoff return for a TD drought?

I see Collie ending that drought

=====

Re:Good article by Cruiser

Posted by akcougar - 2008/03/10 09:17

GO COUGARS!

=====

Re:Good article by Cruiser

Posted by vancouvercougar - 2008/03/11 06:02

GO COUGARS

=====

Re:Good article by Cruiser

Posted by Npliam - 2008/03/11 07:50

Double go Cougars!

=====

Re:Good article by Cruiser

Posted by MajorCougar - 2008/03/11 12:09

Great thread and great info.

I wouldn't be surprised to see our old friend "Rusty" return back here, saying that Bronco is pushing the players too hard, what with the Puke Cans and playing beyond normal pain...

=====

Re:Good article by Cruiser

Posted by Cougarageous - 2008/03/11 17:06

MajorCougar wrote:
Great thread and great info.

I wouldn't be surprised to see our old friend "Rusty" return back here, saying that Bronco is pushing the players too hard, what with the Puke Cans and playing beyond normal pain...

Oh yea, I almost forgot about ole Rusty. It's been a while since he posted. He must have forgotten his password. I wonder if he's reading this right now wishing he could comment...feeling helpless. :laugh:

Go Cougs!

=====