
Why Football Wins and Basketball Loses.

Posted by dholt - 2008/03/22 20:59

I remember sitting in the stadium at South Bend during the 2005 season wondering why in the heck our "slow white guys" were playing man coverage on bigger, faster, more athletic black guys. I hate to play the race card, but our type of recruits at BYU struggle to play man coverage, against athletic BCS-caliber teams with a majority being black athletes. Hence, the switch to a 3-4 zone which utilizes our strength: linebackers. We knew athletically we could not compete with the players we had in the secondary, it was a brilliant move and has paid big dividends the past two years. Contrast that to our basketball team. Whenever we get to the tournament, we try to play man defense and put Sam Burgess on Mr. Lights out from A&M. Until we can recruit a team of Mike Halls, we will struggle playing basketball. Especially at the 1&2 position, we need guys that can play man coverage and match their speed and athleticism. I don't know as much about defensive schemes in basketball as I do football, but Coach Rose could maybe take a page out of Bronco's book and realize that whenever their playing teams that play physical like A&M, man on man will not work. Just my two cents.

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Re:Why Football Wins and Basketball Loses.

Posted by wildeone - 2008/03/22 21:50

Ummm... i disagree. Why football wins and bball loses can be summed up in one word: discipline. Bronco Mendenhall brought discipline and hard work to the football team and that has payed huge dividends (especially on defense). BYU bball is very undisciplined and uses a run-n-gun type offence and sloppy defense. That may cut it in the MWC, but it won't on the big-leagues. What BYU needs is a Bronco Mendenhall for Basketball.

=====

Re:Why Football Wins and Basketball Loses.

Posted by BYUtx - 2008/03/22 22:02

wildeone wrote:

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I gotta disagree with you. Coach Rose has his players work hard-there are not many more well-conditioned teams. Also, don't forget that BYU was one of the (if not THE) top defensive teams in the MWC.

There may be some credence to dholt's logic-just not drawn along racial lines. I think FB is much more of a team sport, whereas it seems a good BB team needs a guy who can take over (read: KT last year).

This may also explain why upsets, especially major ones, are far more common in BB than in FB.

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Re:Why Football Wins and Basketball Loses.

Posted by yutka - 2008/03/22 22:45

One key I see is the perception of Talent at BYU.

I heard Coach Rice on the radio a few days before the T A&M game making excuses about how BYU's players aren't as "talented" and never will be. It reminds me of things Crowton would say...

Why can't BYU have as talented as Players. If We believe in the Word of Wisdom and all of that... there is no reason our players should not be just as big, strong and fast as anyone else...

I feel like Bronco has not let the WOW, Honor Code and BYU be an excuse... he uses it as a reason we SHOULD perform better than other teams. I don't think the BB team believes that they can be just as good, if not better, than everyone else.

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Re:Why Football Wins and Basketball Loses.

Posted by SactoCoug - 2008/03/22 22:57

BYU basketball will not ever be as good as BYU football. The primary reason is simple. BYU is able to recruit better football players than they can basketball players. BYU rarely gets a "big time" recruit in basketball and each year they get several solid recruits in football.

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Re:Why Football Wins and Basketball Loses.

Posted by SactoCoug - 2008/03/22 23:01

Also keep in mind that there is much more fan support for the football program than there is for basketball. For example, at the Texas A&M game one would think that being in So Cal there would be a lot of BYU fans. There weren't. If that were a football game in So Cal, versus UCLA or BYU there would have been at least 20,000 BYU fans. I for one, am not a BYU alumnus, but I travel from Sacramento to several football (home and away) games each year. I have tried to get involved in the basketball program but it has not kept my interest.

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Re:Why Football Wins and Basketball Loses.

Posted by lovelldog - 2008/03/22 23:04

In my numbers I am excluding the MWC tournament because it doesn't exist in football and that pits BYU against the 2nd best team in the conference on their court. I am also excluding their wins in the MWC tourney but will count post season wins or losses.

BYU football won 84.6% of their games last year
BYU basketball won 79.4% of their games last year

Both BYU football and basketball win and lose almost the same amount. A 5% difference seems fairly negligible to me.

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Re:Why Football Wins and Basketball Loses.

Posted by SactoCoug - 2008/03/22 23:12

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Karma for the stats lovelldog. However, the basketball team plays a lot more "gimmie" games each year that I would exclude from your analysis. It would be interesting to see what the percentages would be if you counted only MWC games and games with schools from BCS conferences.

=====

Re:Why Football Wins and Basketball Loses.

Posted by Hengst - 2008/03/22 23:12

The football team doesn't always win their big games either. The last couple of years it's been conference domination and that's about it. What's the difference?

At least the basketball team had the opportunity to play a good team at the end of the year. The football team gets to play a mediocre pac-10 team. And even at that, they probably should have lost the vegas bowl this past year if not for some divine intervention. I would say both programs are about on par with each other at this point.

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Posted by Hengst - 2008/03/22 23:13

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right cause UNLV, suck dog state, wyoming, utah state, eastern washington, and colorado state aren't gimmie games?

=====

Re:Why Football Wins and Basketball Loses.

Posted by SactoCoug - 2008/03/22 23:16

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Hengst - I wouldn't necessarily call A & M (9th seed) a "good team". A & M was not at the top of their conference just like UCLA wasn't in football either. At least the football team has won their last two bowl games, as opposed to the basketball team which as been one and done.

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Posted by Hengst - 2008/03/22 23:17

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They won 20+ games. UCLA was barely 500 in football. I think there is definitely a difference there.

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Re:Why Football Wins and Basketball Loses.

Posted by SactoCoug - 2008/03/22 23:27

Hengst wrote:

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Maybe so. My only argument would be that when you play close to 30 games a season in basketball and can schedule significantly more non-conference games than you can in football, it is easier to get a higher percentage of wins. I guess at this point were trying to pick fly crap out of pepper. I will concede that this year, both the football team and basketball team were comparable. I guess for me, I'm just much more of a BYU football fan than I am basketball and therefore, I maybe seeing things differently.

Re:Why Football Wins and Basketball Loses.

Posted by Cougarbib2 - 2008/03/22 23:33

Basketball lost in the first round for the same reason they lost in the first round last year. They got a lousy match-up. Last year, Xavier narrowly beat BYU and then in their next game showed that were probably quite good for where they were seeded. This year, Texas A&M narrowly beats BYU and then comes within seconds of knocking off the #1 seed.

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Maybe it is a coincidence, but BYU usually gets a bad seed, a bad match-up, a bad location, or all of the above in the NCAA Tournament after finishing the MWC Tournament on the opponent's home court.

Any word on Plaisted. Next year's team could be special enough to overcome all of this if Fredette is back and Plaisted is back to help out Cumnard, Tavenari, and crew. Any of those four players has a legitimate shot at all MWC. That is too many from one team, so two would get 1st team and two would have to settle for 2nd team or honorable mention.

Go Cougs

Football

Basketball

Volleyball

Baseball

Softball

Re:Why Football Wins and Basketball Loses.

Posted by DevilPuncher - 2008/03/23 00:20

I told my wife that I would rather that the BYU Football team have one more first down in one game of football this next year if it meant the BYU basketball team would have to lose their tourney game. Morale: I love football - basketball is just a curious diversion kind of like when you check your email for the billionth time in class just for something to do. If my wife would let me, I would sleep with my footballs (yes I have many). :)

=====

Re:Why Football Wins and Basketball Loses.

Posted by craigocarson - 2008/03/23 02:49

Even in the two best years of football since our Cotton Bowl season, we have failed to win big games against BCS opponents. I don't think there's much difference between our hoops team and our football team. Winning conference the last two years and not losing a game at the marriot center sounds a lot like what we're doing in football. Considering there are 300+ D1 hoops teams, to finish the season in the top 25 rpi isn't really much different than being in the top 15 of football; maybe a tad, but not much. Both teams have been very very good the last two years. The question is whether or not either will be great next year and beyond.

Imagine a scenario where Plaisted comes back and has a Haffa type senior year which gets him into the lottery. (not inconceivable considering nearly every big man in college is leaving for the pros) We know Jimmer is an upgrade from Murdock, Lee can play the 2, JT the 3 and Collinsworth the 4 (if my source is correct and he's planning to stick around) with Trent at the 5 (I know he said that he really wants to play the 4, but I just don't see it anymore) That team should win conference again and IF Trent improves, that team could make a splash nationally with so many big men leaving.

You could argue that our defense will have more holes to fill to reach the success that we're shooting for than the hoops team has to improve on this season.

I don't think the separation is really that much, aside from where the hearts of the fans lie and yes there's a difference between Coach Rose and Bronco, but both have solidified their resume's the last couple of years here.

Keep in mind, there are nearly as many teams that win bowl games as teams that win 1st round NCAA games, except there are a third less football teams. (i.e. it's more difficult to get in the ncaas and win than to beat the 5th best Pac 10 football team in Vegas)

=====

Re:Why Football Wins and Basketball Loses.

Posted by BYUtx - 2008/03/23 08:40

craigocarson wrote:

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Don't forget wins in the LV bowl against Oregon and UCLA and a home win against AZ. If you're saying that those games don't count as "big games", then we have not had one big game in the last 2 seasons (with perhaps the exception of the game @ BC in 06).

=====

Re:Why Football Wins and Basketball Loses.

Posted by KYCoug - 2008/03/23 08:44

I agree with Rose regarding talent. I just don't think LDS demographics fit with us ever having a wealth of basketball talent. That doesn't mean we don't have talented players and I don't know how much race and talent are connected but this I do know. Kids in rural areas or inner city areas don't have a lot of options on activities when they are young and developing and a basketball is put in their hands at a very early age. I'm from Louisville KY. and our youth basketball team played a team from Shelbyville, a rural community yesterday. I don't think any of them was over 5'8" but they all were very savvy with the ball and displayed moves that had me in awe. During halftime their coaches 4 year old was on the floor dribbling behind his back and doing lay-ups, he'd have gone between his legs but the ball wouldn't fit. I couldn't believe it. I was talking to the coach after the game and these boys are practically born with basketballs and that's all they do. No soccer, no T-ball, no football, it's basketball, basketball and more basketball. The Young Men's program is built around basketball. They may have a scouting program but before and after it's basketball. Made me think what these boys would be like if they were a foot taller. I know it's much the same in inner cities, if you arn't in a gang somewhere you're playing basketball. That kind of focus develops basketball centered talent that my kids will never have and most kids who are exposed to a lot more things don't get that either. Sure guys like Danny Ainge and Steve Young can be All-State in every sport but most won't, but a focus on one sport from a very early age can produce good talented players and we just arn't strong demographically in inner cities and rural areas. I know there are a lot of rural areas out West

but not nearly the population as the South and Midwest. Many of those Shelbyville boys would be playing HS ball and beyond if they weren't so short.

I think we can produce some very talented basketball talent but other parts of the country and other parts of society produce tons of talented basketball players because that's all they do. Anyway that's my two cents!

L Hatton
Louisville KY

Re:Why Football Wins and Basketball Loses.

Posted by craigoscarson - 2008/03/23 10:11

BYUtx wrote:

craigoscarsen wrote:

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I didn't say all big games, however we also lost to BC, Arizona, UCLA (all in games we could have won- just like the A+M hoops game and last year's Xavier 3 pt loss); the point is it's not so different than the success and some of the losses the hoops team has had.

While I'm really down on the lack of heart and toughness that Trent plays with, the hoops squad deserves a lot of credit for what they've accomplished the last two seasons; we still have the nations longest home winning streak and finished inside the top 30 in RPI again while winning conference. I didn't have very high hopes to start the season, knowing that Murdock and Burgess were the answer at guard. I just don't see a huge gap between the success that the hoops squad has had over the last 2 years and the football team has had; and as long as Trent sticks around, the gap shouldn't be much wider for next year.

And I disagree that there's not enough LDS talent to build a top 25 lineup year in and year out. If coaches can get out of a team like Drake and Butler what they do, then we have more than enough talent to win. If Coach Rose thinks that he has to play an up tempo offense, then he's probably right; but that's on him. (We don't have to be the Mormon version of Phi Slamma Jamma to win).

After watching Lon Kruger coach UNLV against us and against Kansas, with a lineup featuring no one over 6'6" (Darger is not 6'7") and running a slowdown offense (even with athletic players), I think the onus needs to fall on the coaching staff. (I don't think Bill Donovan would settle for a timid Plaisted; it seems that our coaches do).

A side note: There's probably enough hoops talent in Utah right now to build a top 25 team for years to come; in fact that Lone Peak team will end up sending 6+ players to D1 schools itself. (question: How did Davis high nearly win that state semi without a single player considered D1 caliber?)

I'm also curious if Bronson Kafusi will be playing both hoops and football at BYU. I've watched a lot of Des News video, etc. and he brings a lot of toughness on the court (as a sophomore); by the time he's college age, he'll be quite imposing for a 6'7" banger (maybe in the mold of DeJuan Blair from Pitt)

<http://sports.espn.go.com/ncb/player/profile?playerId=36578>

Re:Why Football Wins and Basketball Loses.

Posted by Conosticator - 2008/03/23 10:39

DevilPuncher wrote:

If my wife would let me, I would sleep with my footballs (yes I have many). :)

Poor guy... My wife loves sleeping with my balls. :laugh:

=====

Re:Why Football Wins and Basketball Loses.

Posted by ColoradoBlueZone - 2008/03/23 10:48

I tell you why, Football is a superior sport. Basketball is fun to watch only once in a while. Football games are exciting and they only come once a week. The build up to each game is imperative and every game is important. In basketball, there are almost 40 games in the season hence an inherent unimportance to some games.(ex. Baseball) Football is exciting every single week.

Who can actually say they like basketball over football? The only thing basketball has over football is march madness. If football had a similar playoff system, all other sports would be dwarfed even more.

=====

Re:Why Football Wins and Basketball Loses.

Posted by Conosticator - 2008/03/23 11:03

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You're right. In fact I was just thinking how thankful we should be for the BCS. Without it, no one would be watching any other sports. Those BCS boys are really just doing the rest of the collegiate sports world a favor. Koolaid anyone? :dry:

=====

Re:Why Football Wins and Basketball Loses.

Posted by Hengst - 2008/03/23 12:44

KYCoug wrote:

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I think you mean urban, not rural ;)

=====

Re:Why Football Wins and Basketball Loses.

Posted by Conosticator - 2008/03/23 13:01

I grew up in a rural area of Oregon. Basketball and wrestling were what one did to pass the time between hunting and fishing seasons.

My first three years at BYU I took a week off from school each fall semester to return to Eastern Oregon for deer season. I usually provide rides to a couple of others doing the same thing. Got a "B" in my Fall Semester Calc 141 class because the prof didn't have his priorities straight. :unsure:

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Re:Why Football Wins and Basketball Loses.

Posted by MizzouCoug - 2008/03/23 13:11

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Re:Why Football Wins and Basketball Loses.

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Wait a minute. What part of Oregon are you from Conosticator? You went to EOU for a semester. I am from LaGrande.

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Or maybe it's just that football is a little bit more popular in LDS culture (because of BYU's sustained success throughout the 80's) so our very best athletes end up playing football instead of basketball.

I think BYU has some pretty good athletes in basketball, they just don't have anyone who can take control of a game. That's one thing UNLV had this year in wink adams that BYU did not have.

=====

Re:Why Football Wins and Basketball Loses.

Posted by byuinva - 2008/03/23 13:27

Cougarbib2 wrote:

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Go Cougs

Football
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Volleyball
Baseball
Softball

Too bad we didn't play in Tampa, some magic happened there in the first round!

=====

Re:Why Football Wins and Basketball Loses.

Posted by Conosticator - 2008/03/23 13:29

detmer4prez wrote:

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Wait a minute. What part of Oregon are you from Conosticator? You went to EOU for a semester. I am from LaGrande.

I'm from northwestern Oregon. We went deer hunting in Eastern Oregon. I'd drive up to John Day from Provo to go hunting for a week during Fall Semester. Never went to EOU, though. Sorry for not making myself clear. I always thought that if I was to live in Eastern Oregon that I'd pick La Grande. My first choice would be Halfway but there aren't many high tech jobs there...

<http://halfwaycam.dyndns.org/>

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Re:Why Football Wins and Basketball Loses.

Posted by wildeone - 2008/03/23 14:10

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Agreed, not to mention the lack of effort on the glass. I don't know how many second chance points the A&M team converted, but it was enough to make me sick. O-boards are all about effort and when a team is un-disciplined (like BYU was playing) you can get a lot of them with some good effort (like A&M gave). Usually ending up in easy points. A&M had one good outside shooter but missed a lot of their other mid-range jumpers. BYU just didn't rebound.

=====

Re:Why Football Wins and Basketball Loses.

Posted by MajorCougar - 2008/03/24 11:58

I've got the answer... It's right in the Book of Mormon, even.

Alma 31:5 "And now, as the preaching of the word had a great tendency to lead the people to do that which was just - yea, it had had more powerful effect upon the minds of the people than the sword, or anything else, which had happened unto them - therefore Alma thought it was expedient that they should try the virtue of the word of God."

If we want more of the athletically-inclined players to come to BYU, then we first need to convert them... :)

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