
Cruiser takes down the dice

Posted by McGregor - 2008/04/01 12:33

<http://cougarlegion.com/2008/04/01/on-the-road-with-cruiser-cruisers-last-ride/>

This is no April Fools joke, sorry.

I suppose that there will be critical comments re Jeff Reynolds, and perhaps even Bronco Mendenhall, after people read this post. Please don't waste your time. Cruiser has given us guys with no connection to the team something to chew on during these slow months. His contribution was pleasurable while it lasted. But JR has a job to do, and I'm sure the coaches had very good reason to send Jeff out to quiet Cruiser down.

Cruiser, thanks for the ride!

JL McGregor
Cleveland, OH

Re:Cruiser takes down the dice

Posted by Pwride - 2008/04/01 12:39

I should be out of the hospital in a couple weeks. Never mess with the BYU mafia ;)

Re:Cruiser takes down the dice

Posted by CougarPeasant - 2008/04/01 12:48

There is no joy in Blueville with this news.

Get well soon Peter. ;)

Re:Cruiser takes down the dice

Posted by ammoncougar1 - 2008/04/01 13:08

So if Cruiser can't/won't post insider stuff anymore can we know his identity/connection with the team at least? C'mon guys just tell us so we can give heartfelt props to a man and not just a moniker! BTW, haven't we gone through this in the past too?

Go Cougs!!!

Re:Cruiser takes down the dice

Posted by Metallicat - 2008/04/01 13:17

ammoncougar1 wrote:

BTW, haven't we gone through this in the past too?

I was thinking the same thing.

Re:Cruiser takes down the dice

Posted by imuakahuku - 2008/04/01 13:30

They didn't tell him to stop posting right? Just to exclude the details that may be detrimental to the team. So he can still give insights etc. but just not as in depth.

ps Time to go join the "slow track". ;)

Re:Cruiser takes down the dice

Posted by Pwride - 2008/04/01 14:04

In the past it was a general warning to everyone to cool the inside info. This time Jeff contacted me personally. Cruiser has stopped on his own, not because he was told to. Cruiser is the only one who can decide if he wants to be exposed or not.

Re:Cruiser takes down the dice

Posted by CougarPokes - 2008/04/01 15:17

I miss inside information, but still greatly appreciate insights.

Re:Cruiser takes down the dice

Posted by snoscythe - 2008/04/01 15:38

Pwride wrote:

In the past it was a general warning to everyone to cool the inside info. This time Jeff contacted me personally. Cruiser has stopped on his own, not because he was told to. Cruiser is the only one who can decide if he wants to be exposed or not.

Did someone say exposed??

http://images.eonline.com/eol_images/Entire_Site/20071210/293.scrubs.121007.jpg

"Streaker 5!!!"

Sorry about the The Todd reference, hard to resist in the off-season. I will greatly miss Cruiser's insights. Just the other day I was commenting at the office how glad I was to have Cruiser's articles to turn to once we move to Texas this month. Now the drought has suddenly become fiercer.

Having said that, I can understand the concern of the athletic department. While Cruiser was posting with wide-eyed (and hopefully well-deserved) optimism and not in my estimation doing anything detrimental to the program, there had to have been some concern on cracking down on insider information before it got to that point. It is simply easier to crack down on emerging trends as a preemptive strike rather than trying to catch-up later. Imagine the ordeal of trying to stop 15 insiders who run the gamut from Cruiser to Darth-Cruiser.

While not convenient to me, I support the AD's office in this move and wish the best to Cruiser. Hopefully he will still see fit to offer his general insights and wisdom to the boards.

Re:Cruiser takes down the dice

Posted by jhw5 - 2008/04/02 06:45

Sorry, I missed whatever post Cruiser made on Cougarlegion that was detrimental to Max Hall and was apparently read

to the team?

Can someone give me the story, before the mafia silences everybody?

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Re:Cruiser takes down the dice

Posted by Real.Men.Wear.Blue - 2008/04/02 08:37

While I respect Cruiser's decision, I think there was far more harm done by Reynolds in making this request (thereby silencing a significant generator of off-season fan interest in the team) than any harm allegedly caused by Cruiser's prior posts. Cruiser was well aware--perhaps more than anyone else--that he should not post information that was detrimental to the team, and having read his posts, I think that he was faithful to that rule. Honestly, I'm a little disappointed in the Athletic Department here. Moreover, I have to question the decision--if true--to print out and read one of Cruiser's posts to the entire football team. Seems rather silly. I can't imagine big time BCS programs spending time printing off messages from fan-based internet blogs and reading/discussing them in the locker room.

If Max Hall was truly depressed for several days over a single pre-season internet blog post, as more than one supposed team "insider" has alleged, then I am left to question his ability to lead the team. The pressure from fans, let alone credentialed sportswriters, during the real season is far more intense than an anonymous internet comment from a preseason practice session. I hope the allegation regarding Max's supposed response to the public reading of the comment is inaccurate, and that the AD acted for more general reasons.

Let's hope that Cruiser rethinks his decision to cut off all blogging, and instead continues to post with less specific information. I know that I have thoroughly enjoyed his insights in the past.

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Re:Cruiser takes down the dice

Posted by penncougar - 2008/04/02 09:21

While I understand the athletic department's wishes not to leak out some of this sensitive information, I feel that this decision is more political than anything else. Having read Cruiser's blog entries faithfully, there is nothing of note different in there than any of the other inside information that Potkey writes in her blog for the Salt Lake Tribune or that Franchuck writes in his own piss poor writing style for the Daily Herald.

Cruiser's problem?? He didn't have the official media badge around his neck like the others do. They both wrote about Max's temper and his cockiness, but were the newspapers asked to quiet down. Of course not, that would be suppressing freedom of speech. The only thing that Cruiser did that the others did not do in writing about Max is to pose the question that we were all already thinking. Will he tick his line off so much that they won't block for him? It's a fair question.

I'll pose the question to Pwride....you were contacted personally by the the guy at the athletic department. Do you know if the other outlets for similar information were contacted? Do you feel that Cruiser was singled out? Does this seem fair to ask him to tone it back while others are writing as they please?

=====

Re:Cruiser takes down the dice

Posted by WACoug - 2008/04/02 09:22

jhw5 wrote:

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I wonder if it was the one about how Hall's cockiness and verbal jabbing sometimes rub people the wrong way and hurt feelings? I can't remember if that was Cruiser or if I am remembering something else.

Re:Cruiser takes down the dice

Posted by WACoug - 2008/04/02 09:27

penncougar wrote:

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This is actually an interesting point. There has been a story recently about Mark Cuban (owner of Dallas Mavericks) banning bloggers from the locker room. Basically his point is that he has had a problem with some of the things written by a blogger that a seasoned, accredited member of the press would not write and the fact that bloggers are not governed by any type of standards or organization.

Re:Cruiser takes down the dice

Posted by domanater - 2008/04/02 09:31

BYU athletic department is spoiled if they think that Cruisers posts were inflammatory. Maybe we should direct them to other schools boards. This is like swatting a fly with a sledgehammer; even if it was self inflicted by Cruiser after the rebuke by the ADs office.

The only issue I see with the posting, is if cruiser is an employee of the university. In that case trust and conflict of interest would be in issue.

Otherwise, Jeff Reynolds and his pals are making a mountain out of a molehill.

Re:Cruiser takes down the dice

Posted by McGregor - 2008/04/02 10:07

I think it would be interesting to hear Darnell share any experiences where the SID placed him in the doghouse after airing what they considered dirty laundry.

It would certainly shed some light here. But, as can be expected, I am not holding my breath waiting for such information. It would be right back to the doghouse.

Re:Cruiser takes down the dice

Posted by Metallicat - 2008/04/02 10:25

Real.Men.Wear.Blue wrote:

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So after watching Max get up from taking shot after shot, after he played, and beat Utah with a seperated shoulder, After

having to follow the footsteps of John Beck and a 11-2 season and leading an offense full of new faces to a 11-2 season and national ranking as sophomore QB, you are questioning his ability to lead the team?

I think Max will be fine.

Re:Cruiser takes down the dice

Posted by CougarPeasant - 2008/04/02 10:27

domanater wrote:

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This, I agree with, and wonder who cruiser is. My crazy guess is he's Robert Anae. (/tic)

Seriously, fans want more information, not less, and if they feel they are being locked out of information that is not really critical to keep secret from the opponents, then fans feel that they are not included or "fully invested" in the program along with the players. Fans understand their are warts and imperfections with young men, but the stuff cruiser has reported is mild compared to stuff I've seen on other fan blogs.

Mendenhall needs to balance out the need to keep the fans happy, which is more than just winning.

Re:Cruiser takes down the dice

Posted by BlueTrue - 2008/04/03 08:17

penncougar wrote:

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Hello? Is anybody going to answer the great questions penned by Penncougar? Why on earth should Cruiser be silenced when others go on saying whatever they want. If this was such poor writing by Cruiser then why would Bronco read it to the team? This whole thing seems like a load of crap.

Keep us updated and if you don't sombebody else will and you thereby will really only be hurting your beloved Cougar Legion. Other sources will keep us informed and we will be forect to turn to them.

Re:Cruiser takes down the dice

Posted by happyvalleycougar - 2008/04/03 09:30

The one thing that I don't really get from all of this is Bronco reading a post from Cruiser to the whole team. Can anyone confirm this? From all I know of Bronco, that's the last thing he would do in the locker room. Any thoughts?

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Re:Cruiser takes down the dice

Posted by McGregor - 2008/04/03 10:06

This doesn't answer most of the question regarding Cruiser's posts directly, but consider the following:

Imagine that Bronco has witnessed in the past how destructive internet postings can be. Perhaps team members had signed on to message boards to bash other team members, or their coaches. Not only are team members seeing themselves bashed online, but family members are seeing it as well. Everyone reads a post that relates information that can only come from an inside source, therefore making the sting that much more severe.

To combat this, Bronco wants to handle all problems internally. "Don't take to the public a problem you can't handle in person," he might say.

One fear the team may have had with Cruiser's posts was that it was coming from a source obviously close to someone on the team. May nothing said was overly damaging, but rather teetering on the cliff of a very steep hill Bronco has seen the team slide down before. Perhaps he read a portion of the post to the team to relate just how easy it was for someone to publicly share things they hoped to keep private. I think the primary threat was the Max Hall issue. Rather than team members venting in public, perhaps the better forum is in private.

This is all speculation. I'm sure Cruiser sat on information that he could have shared but didn't, using his wise discretion. That Cruiser has decided to voluntarily cease posting without any official obligation to do so demonstrates his devotion to the team and the fans that follow it. I appreciate all he has shared, and hope that he continues to add insight to this board.

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Re:Cruiser takes down the dice

Posted by splitbamboo - 2008/04/03 10:11

BlueTrue wrote:

penncougar wrote:

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I'd say Cruiser's problem is his anonymity. He has no accountability and as such poses a threat to the program. The official media badge at least allows the program to control the message.

With Cruiser, though we all believe he is on the up and up, we don't get that and if he goes off the deep end, the program could suffer. As it is, Cruiser doesn't have to comply, but as a personal ethical decision, I believe that is why he has elected to quit.

It's really too bad, I really liked his posts.

Re:Cruiser takes down the dice

Posted by Isola - 2008/04/03 12:06

splitbamboo wrote:

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This is a good point. Everyone knows who Darnell is, and what he looks like, but cruiser is just a name on a blog for the vast majority of us.

Another clear difference is that he is not really a member of the media, but of the fan base. The administration will typically make requests of the fan base that aren't enforced, but just a favor. Cruiser could keep on posting until maybe he gets whatever access he has revoked, but he's a fan, and if Bronco or someone else from the team or administration asks him to do something he probably will. This is not the first time the administration has asked the fans to stop doing something that was little more than expressing their enthusiasm for the team.

Re:Cruiser takes down the dice

Posted by penncougar - 2008/04/04 10:20

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While I feel you have a valid point, because cruiser is not a member of the media, I still feel that the situation has been handled very improperly by the athletic department when both sources are simply sharing the same information. College football has changed and the mainstream media are now secondary sources or even further down the chain for most of the news coming out of college football programs. Fans must be made happy and blogging sites like this and CougarLegion are the new way of doing it. If anyone disagrees, take a look at the SEC. Coaches in the SEC purposely release information to bloggers that they don't release at first to the mainstream media. WHY???? Because it stirs attention and interest from the fan base. It's just the way things have become. Also, because of this increased interest, you have fans playing a more pivotal role than ever in recruiting and building a program for the future. If the BYU athletic department hasn't caught on to this yet, then we probably aren't ready for the bigtime.
