

---

## Ben Olsen - Missed?

Posted by jmchess1 - 2008/04/02 16:45

---

Has BYU missed BO? I think not. What do you think?

=====

## Re:Ben Olsen - Missed?

Posted by cszjr - 2008/04/02 17:12

---

Hard to say. No way of telling what he would have become had he stayed at BYU. Personally, I'm happy he left. I'll take take Max over BO any day. Especially on Saturdays.

=====

## Re:Ben Olsen - Missed?

Posted by CougarPeasant - 2008/04/02 18:59

---

jmchess1 wrote:

Has BYU missed BO? I think not. What do you think?

We're 22-4 without him with two bowl wins.

Olson who?

=====

## Re:Ben Olsen - Missed?

Posted by BlueTrue - 2008/04/03 07:55

---

I haven't missed him at all, but the true test will be when we play UCLA. We better crush them at home.

=====

## Re:Ben Olsen - Missed?

Posted by mountaincougar - 2008/04/03 09:12

---

I would take Max over BO on Saturdays and BO the rest of the time. Period!!

=====

## Re:Ben Olsen - Missed?

Posted by Pikoi - 2008/04/03 09:15

---

No.

=====

## Re:Ben Olsen - Missed?

Posted by Slugger - 2008/04/03 09:47

---

The only way I see us missing BO is if, hypothetically, he had played his freshman year, skipped the mission and continued his development as a quarterback and possibly won a Heisman or something great. As it is now, he did not play football for a long time (I know, same for Max) and has battled injuries and inconsistency. So in short, no, we don't miss him.

=====

---

## Re:Ben Olsen - Missed?

Posted by BYUtx - 2008/04/03 09:57

---

The only one missing anything is BO. He really missed out on a chance to compete for a starting job at a great QB school. He's also going to miss out on a shot at the NFL.

=====

## Re:Ben Olsen - Missed?

Posted by CougarBandit - 2008/04/03 10:05

---

I've not had a lot positive to say about Ben Olson since he signed on with UCLA. OTOH, there haven't been a lot of positives about his performance. Do I miss the Ben Olson that I've seen? No. Would I rather have him than John Beck and Max Hall? Absolutely not! He's where he wants to be and they are where they have wanted to be.

Given that, he could have a substantial season this year, if...

A - He's healthy

B - Norm Chow decides to start him

C - Chow keeps things simple enough for him.

[http://www.pressetelegram.com/moresports/ci\\_8790867](http://www.pressetelegram.com/moresports/ci_8790867)

According to this article, Chow will, so the rest is up to points A and B

Besides the injuries, I have noticed two characteristics about Olson. One, he does have a very lively arm. Two, he has appeared extremely indecisive, and, when he made up his mind, the decision often seemed the wrong one. The article above could go a long ways towards explaining why. If that is true then Ben Olson could be very productive this year.

That said, I'd still rather have John Beck and Max Hall. Even when John was struggling through multiple offensive schemes, coordinators, QB coaches and program turmoil, his efforts and determination never slacked off. He was always determined to lead the team to success. With Max, he is often more dangerous when he's upset. It lights up the competitive fire in him and he focuses more tightly and knows he's going to find a way to beat the opponent. It's their response to adversity to defines them. Olson hasn't yet shown that leadership and determination to me; lacking that, all his raw potential won't make me want him as BYU's QB.

=====

## Re:Ben Olsen - Missed?

Posted by jaga97 - 2008/04/03 10:56

---

I have missed Ben Olsen as the starting quarterback for UCLA and hope he gets the start at LES. I hope he has a great season after getting throttled by the Cougs. I also hope Norm Chow looks like an idiot, even though I like the guy.

=====

## Re:Ben Olsen - Missed?

Posted by Isola - 2008/04/03 12:20

---

Bronco has established that if you don't want to play for BYU, we don't want you and we won't miss you.

That being said, I do wonder about what could have been if he had bought into system and put his heart into playing for BYU. There may be a lot of missed opportunities for him. He could have learned behind Beck for a couple years and he would have likely been the front runner for that starting job last year, but now we've got Max for three years, and with the pieces in place on offense, these could be some amazing two years.

=====

## Re:Ben Olsen - Missed?

Posted by sjcougfan - 2008/04/03 12:31

---

Who? Never heard of him.

---

## Re:Ben Olsen - Missed?

Posted by WACoug - 2008/04/03 12:57

Isola wrote:

Bronco has established that if you don't want to play for BYU, we don't want you and we won't miss you.

That being said, I do wonder about what could have been if he had bought into system and put his heart into playing for BYU. There may be a lot of missed opportunities for him. He could have learned behind Beck for a couple years and he would have likely been the front runner for that starting job last year, but now we've got Max for three years, and with the pieces in place on offense, these could be some amazing two years.

Ben Olson has all of the physical tools and High School resume that make recruiters and coaches drool. While Max Hall's physicality and High School resume aren't bad, they don't compare to Ben Olson. The thing about Hall that I haven't really seen or heard of from Olson is that fire, that confidence and competitive streak that is a never say die attitude. No matter what the odds, Max Hall believes he can and will win. With the undertaking that BYU has started, we need someone with that attitude. I don't think Olson would be able to stand against the kind of pressure that Hall has been, is, and will be under before he is done.

---

## Re:Ben Olsen - Missed?

Posted by Island Pipeline - 2008/04/05 13:00

With Ben Olsen under Norm Chow's direction he will be a Heisman Candidate finalist so I don't think Olsen misses BYU or BYU needs Olsen.

---

## Re:Ben Olsen - Missed?

Posted by buzzard - 2008/04/05 13:07

They make some fine ganja out there in the islands, don't they, pipeline? BO is done. Stick a fork in him. If you are a MD in SoCal, he will be selling you new meds in a year or two, since pharma companies love to hire washed-up jocks as reps.

---

## Re:Ben Olsen - Missed?

Posted by Hengst - 2008/04/05 13:12

Island Pipeline wrote:

With Ben Olsen under Norm Chow's direction he will be a Heisman Candidate finalist so I don't think Olsen misses BYU or BYU needs Olsen.

Maybe if he had two years under chow, but as it is with learning a new offense and all I doubt it. Also, that glaringly awful loss he will have to BYU at the beginning of the season won't make his resume look all that great.

---

## Re:Ben Olsen - Missed?

Posted by craigocarson - 2008/04/05 13:13

Island Pipeline wrote:

With Ben Olsen under Norm Chow's direction he will be a Heisman Candidate finalist so I don't think Olsen misses BYU

---

or BYU needs Olsen.

No coach can teach a player how to play with heart- you either got it or not. Max has heart; Ben plays like a deer in headlights.

Considering the Beck years and current Max Hall years; Ben is not missed in the slightest.

Keep in mind UCLA is coming to our place to face the most experienced offense in our schools history. If Detmer can beat #1 Miami in Provo, Max can beat this #40 UCLA team; even if Ben plays like Johnny Unitas.

---

### Re:Ben Olsen - Missed?

Posted by Gymcoug318 - 2008/04/05 14:12

---

sjcougfan wrote:

Who? Never heard of him.

Now that's funny!:laugh:

---

### Re:Ben Olsen - Missed?

Posted by azcavalier - 2008/04/05 14:13

---

Island Pipeline wrote:

With Ben Olsen under Norm Chow's direction he will be a Heisman Candidate finalist so I don't think Olsen misses BYU or BYU needs Olsen.

While I have a lot of confidence in Coach Chow's abilities to produce fine QBs, I don't think that he can pull a turnaround like that so fast. Olsen may have tools, and he may have skills, but he has no confidence, and hasn't shown much heart.

I also don't think that he has a lot of offensive talent around him. He's got to have someone to throw it to! Because he's sure not going to run the ball.

---

### Re:Ben Olsen - Missed?

Posted by Conosticator - 2008/04/05 16:26

---

Island Pipeline wrote:

With Ben Olsen under Norm Chow's direction he will be a Heisman Candidate finalist so I don't think Olsen misses BYU or BYU needs Olsen.

Been getting too much sun there in the islands, huh?

---

### Re:Ben Olsen - Missed?

Posted by njcoug - 2008/04/05 21:40

---

Island Pipeline wrote:

With Ben Olsen under Norm Chow's direction he will be a Heisman Candidate finalist

Congrats you are now more crazy than Airwolf. Do you have any government conspiracy theories or 9/11 theories you would like to share. Are the black helicopters hovering around your house.

Hey speaking of crazy did Airwolf get abducted by aliens or just thrown in jail for disturbing the peace?

---

### Re:Ben Olsen - Missed?

Posted by OLB - 2008/04/05 22:29

---

I think it has probably worked out for both parties, and perhaps better for BYU. In 2006 BYU really only had one good QB, and that was Beck. If you remember, Beck didn't exactly blow us away with his play against Arizona and Boston College. Beck really came to life against TCU.

I wonder if Olson had been in Provo if Beck would have been pulled and replaced with Olson after the Arizona or B.C. games. But since Olson wasn't here, the Cougars were pretty much forced to stick with Beck. And it turned out to be a great thing. Beck really shredded that highly regarded Horned Frog defense and of course helped beat the Utes in SLC.

Olson, for his part, has been able to stay close to home and play for a school in the PAC-10. Those seemed to be important factors for him in making his decision to leave BYU and go elsewhere.

I said it at the time, and I'll say it again, I've got no hard feelings for Olson (although I think he would have been better suited to stay in Provo). That being said, with his inconsistent play and injuries, I'm okay with him not being a Cougar.

=====

## Re:Ben Olsen - Missed?

Posted by Gymcoug318 - 2008/04/06 06:13

---

OLB wrote:

I think it has probably worked out for both parties, and perhaps better for BYU. In 2006 BYU really only had one good QB, and that was Beck. If you remember, Beck didn't exactly blow us away with his play against Arizona and Boston College. Beck really came to life against TCU.

I wonder if Olson had been in Provo if Beck would have been pulled and replaced with Olson after the Arizona or B.C. games. But since Olson wasn't here, the Cougars were pretty much forced to stick with Beck. And it turned out to be a great thing. Beck really shredded that highly regarded Horned Frog defense and of course helped beat the Utes in SLC.

Olson, for his part, has been able to stay close to home and play for a school in the PAC-10. Those seemed to be important factors for him in making his decision to leave BYU and go elsewhere.

I said it at the time, and I'll say it again, I've got no hard feelings for Olson (although I think he would have been better suited to stay in Provo). That being said, with his inconsistent play and injuries, I'm okay with him not being a Cougar. I respectfully disagree with what you said about those two games. The Arizona game. Beck did struggle a bit. But the boston college game he threw for 440 yards, somewhere around there? With two touchdowns. Granted I think he had three or four interceptions. But in both games of course the cougs were right there.

The Arizona game we got beat at the buzzer with unbelievable field goal kick. If the pac ten refs had decided not too call phantom pass interference call then I believe the cougs would have won. Then BC game beck them put them in position too win the game twice! But McGaughlin missed two field goals that would have won it for the cougs. So the game is not all on beck. The interception in overtime. That was a controversial call. but I can't complain about that.

I will agree with you on this point. Of course the Tcu game he was incredible! With two bumb ankles! I think that was the time that beck won everyone over! I was high on beck the first couple of years! Especially in 05 before the breakout year in 06! in 05 if Byu didn't have a terrible secondary and defense, I believe the cougs would have been 9-3. Ala The games against TCU, The pukers, and California. Out of all of those games. The least amount of points that the cougars scored was 28. Most of the time as long as the defense isn't terrible. The team will usually win the game! But they didn't have a good defense! In those three games the cougs scored 51, 34, and 28 respectfully. If the cougs had the defenses they have had the past two years. In my opinion the cougs would have won all three games.

I guess it is kind of pointless too argue with something that never happened. With Olson being at byu. But I'm really glad that he went back home. I definately think, with other cougar fans. That the cougs are better off with Olson. I don't know whether I will boo him or not? But I won't cheer him on because he plays for a different team! Go cougs!

I'm so excited for the spring game. And of course for the season!:woohoo:

=====

## Re:Ben Olsen - Missed?

Posted by OLB - 2008/04/06 06:28

---

Note, I didn't say that Beck played bad games -- just not great games. Go back and look at the threads circa September 2006. There were alot of people questioning whether Beck had "it." "It" was loosely defined as the ability to win games. I don't think anyone was really questioning Beck's physical abilities, but some felt like he wasn't mentally tough enough to win big games.

---

I just wonder if fans and media would have been calling for the replacement of Beck with a highly touted Olson had Olson been in Provo.

=====

## Re:Ben Olsen - Missed?

Posted by nuk13 - 2008/04/06 08:33

---

OLB wrote:

Note, I didn't say that Beck played bad games -- just not great games. Go back and look at the threads circa September 2006. There were a lot of people questioning whether Beck had "it." "It" was loosely defined as the ability to win games. I don't think anyone was really questioning Beck's physical abilities, but some felt like he wasn't mentally tough enough to win big games.

I just wonder if fans and media would have been calling for the replacement of Beck with a highly touted Olson had Olson been in Provo.

I think you make some good points. We will never know what would have happened, however what you say very well could have been.

As long as we're speculating, I think it also possible that if Olsen had come back to BYU he could have become a better player with more upside than he now has.

=====

## Re:Ben Olsen - Missed?

Posted by HoosierCougar - 2008/04/06 09:07

---

Have to agree with azcavalier here. I have heard Chow state (when he was at BYU) that in recruiting a QB, they look for a 3 year starter in HS who is willing to come in and learn for 2 years, then have 2 years to play. That's the model he operates under, and I have to say that it has worked pretty well for him. I don't see a simplified Chow offense turning UCLA's current program into Heismanville during year one. Although Chow did admirably with Philip Rivers and Carson Palmer in short order, given BO's injury history and the year UCLA had in 2007, I just don't see it.

azcavalier wrote:

Island Pipeline wrote:

With Ben Olsen under Norm Chow's direction he will be a Heisman Candidate finalist so I don't think Olsen misses BYU or BYU needs Olsen.

While I have a lot of confidence in Coach Chow's abilities to produce fine QBs, I don't think that he can pull a turnaround like that so fast. Olsen may have tools, and he may have skills, but he has no confidence, and hasn't shown much heart. I also don't think that he has a lot of offensive talent around him. He's got to have someone to throw it to! Because he's sure not going to run the ball.

=====

## Re:Ben Olsen - Missed?

Posted by loopycoug - 2008/04/06 12:00

---

I am not a Traitor Ben fan because...well...he is a BYU traitor. However we will never know if BYU missed him or not. Although he has not had success at UCLA and has been oft-injured, that doesn't mean that is how his BYU career would have gone. Under Anae and Doman perhaps Ben would have beat out Max for the starting position last year and would have gone undefeated. We will never know.

=====

## Re:Ben Olsen - Missed?

Posted by OLB - 2008/04/06 12:29

---

nuk13 wrote:

As long as we're speculating, I think it also possible that if Olsen had come back to BYU he could have become a better player with more upside than he now has.

I would agree that he could have become a much better player in Provo than L.A.

---

## Re:Ben Olsen - Missed?

Posted by BOID - 2008/04/06 13:13

---

At BYU, Olson would have backed up John Beck until Beck's graduation. I do not believe that Olson has Beck's level of character, football acumen, or that he would have ever reached a status equivalent to Beck's '06 season.

I defended John Beck through '04 and '05, and never blamed him for the team's problems. Beck had "It" all along, even showing flashes of "It" as a freshman in '03. Olson may develop "It" during his final season, but that would surprise me.

Here's to yet another Cougar defeat of Ben's team this fall, but by a more dominating measure.

---

## Re:Ben Olsen - Missed?

Posted by craigocarson - 2008/04/06 15:57

BOID wrote:

At BYU, Olson would have backed up John Beck until Beck's graduation. I do not believe that Olson has Beck's level of character, football acumen, or that he would have ever reached a status equivalent to Beck's '06 season.

I defended John Beck through '04 and '05, and never blamed him for the team's problems. Beck had "It" all along, even showing flashes of "It" as a freshman in '03. Olson may develop "It" during his final season, but that would surprise me.

Here's to yet another Cougar defeat of Ben's team this fall, but by a more dominating measure.

Well it certainly can't be less dominating and still be a win ;)

Other than playing at our place (just plain huge) the biggest difference in the next UCLA game will be the lack of turnovers (knock on wood) and no Bruce Davis. (thank goodness).

---

## Re:Ben Olsen - Missed?

Posted by PP3 - 2008/04/07 07:19

---

While we don't know what might have happened, for BYU to have missed Ben Olsen he would have had to have surpassed what Max, and JB have done. That is a pretty high standard. Were talking he would have had to be a Heisman contender, and won more than 11 games one of the last two years for us to miss him. I don't see him doing that, so no I don't think we miss him. I just don't think he would have been up to the standard of JB and Mad Max. Another thought, if BO hadn't transferred would Max Hall have transferred to BYU? What kind of state would BYU's QB position be in now if BO had stayed and gotten injured? (Kind of scary to think about.)

---

## Re:Ben Olsen - Missed?

Posted by BOID - 2008/04/07 15:54

---

PP3, I guess we should be thankful that Benedict transferred out. I think you have a point in that otherwise, we might not have gotten Mad Max.

craig, I'm betting on three cougar advantages:

---

1- Home Field

2- Altitude

3- Lightning Doesnt Strike Twice (no way do we hold them to a punt and then fumble it back to them inside our ten--all over again).

Go Cougs! Dominate those Bruins!

=====