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## Objective View of BYU\'s Football National Ranking

Posted by jmchess1 - 2008/04/09 10:13

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Is this year's BYU football team really a BCS bowl worthy team? Many will say it's way too early to tell - I mean we haven't even played one game yet this season. Some look at last year's record, national stats, returning players, and sports magazine & internet write ups on the 2008 college football teams to convince themselves that this is the year for BYU to crash the BCS party.

I'm a staunch BYU fan - not an Airwolf clone, but I wonder if sometimes we kid ourselves in believing that this year's team is good enough to compete against the big boys.

Can you folks help convince me that BYU can really do it this year. What away or home game against a highly ranked team have we won in the last 5 years that let us know that we can beat any top ranked team? BYU just beat UCLA last year on BYU 'home' turf and UCLA was not a top PAC 10 team and BYU barely beat Utah (a non ranked team) at BYU last year. We could also throw in the Tulsa game to add to the debate. I just don't feel that comfortable in saying BYU will go much further this year than it did last year. If BYU can beat Washington at Washington that might mean something, but beating UCLA at BYU won't be that great of an accomplishment in my mind.

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## Re:Objective View of BYU\'s Football National Ranking

Posted by Hengst - 2008/04/09 10:19

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I'm with you, I think going undefeated is pretty tough and I think BYU drops one next year (due to problems in the secondary)

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## Re:Objective View of BYU\'s Football National Ranking

Posted by timmyboy - 2008/04/09 10:20

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Now that I got that out of the way, maybe we can reframe the question - is BYU really a Top 10 team?

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## Re:Objective View of BYU\'s Football National Ranki

Posted by Hengst - 2008/04/09 10:27

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## Re: Objective View of BYU's Football National Ranking

Posted by timmyboy - 2008/04/09 10:30

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BYU at TCU in 2006. BYU thrashed a TCU team, on the road, that turned out to be a GREAT team. By the end of 2006, I would have taken BYU against almost anyone in the country. BYU had one of the top offenses in the country and one of the top defenses. That BYU team was easily a Top 10 team by the way they played.

Last year, BYU ended up about where they should have. The team played well but you could tell they didn't rise to the same level as the previous year. Then again, nobody in college football played as well as the previous year.

This year, all of the elements from 2006 are back - plus even more. You have all of the elements of a top team: an offense returning 10/11 starters (and the 11th was an SEC starter a few years back), a veteran coaching staff, a team that went 11-2 the previous year, an amazing conditioning staff, the goal of being a top team, a defense that has played well for several years now regardless of personnel, a very excited fan base, and more.

This team should be amazing. I firmly believe that. I can say that I think they will be a Top 10 team because I believe they will be better than the 2006 team - and that team was a Top 10 team.

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## Re: Objective View of BYU's Football National Ranking

Posted by jmchess1 - 2008/04/09 10:35

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It was? What was BYU final ranking? Did I miss something?

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## Re: Objective View of BYU's Football National Ranki

Posted by Hengst - 2008/04/09 10:40

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jmchess1 wrote:

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## Re: Objective View of BYU's Football National Ranki

Posted by Conosticator - 2008/04/09 10:53

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ASU is a bit of a stretch.

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## Re: Objective View of BYU's Football National Ranki

Posted by jmchess1 - 2008/04/09 10:54

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I think we're on the same page.

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## Re: Objective View of BYU's Football National Ranki

Posted by timmyboy - 2008/04/09 11:04

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I meant that BYU was a top 10 team in my book. Not based on the overall season (which rankings are based on) but on quality of the team at the end of the season.

There, much clearer.... right?

That BYU team was easily a Top 10 team by the way they played.

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## Re: Objective View of BYU's Football National Ranki

Posted by snoscythe - 2008/04/09 11:19

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Hengst wrote:

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deep. They also lose their tight-end and receiver(Davis) andtop runningback (Washington) from last season. They are losing more contributors this year than they lost they year Leinart and Bush left.

Do you really think USC is going to lose all of these players and improve on a #2/#3 finish? Honestly? I mean, I understand that USC reloads, but those expectations are simply unprecedented.

As for West Virginia, I highly doubt they improve from a #6 finish. The program is in shambles, the AD made an emotional decision after the bowl win in hiring Bill Stewart...and I will lay money Stewart only lasts 2 seasons. The guy is talking about how they are going to keep the offense, but start throwing the ball downfield....have you seen Pat White throw deep??? The guy can barely keep the ball in the field of play past 15 yards. He has also decided to keep the 3-3-5 defense, but the DC he hired has never coached a 3-3-5, and neither have the key assistants. It's a bad spot when your players know the defense better than the coaches. Stewart is in over his head and has simply made all of the wrong moves in hiring friends and former players instead of expertise. So, in the face of all of the administrative turmoil and the departure of Steve Slaton, how do the Mountaineers improve over their #6 finish last year?? I would have dropped them out of the top 15 on the departure of Slaton alone, but with administrative and coaching issues, I would be surprised to see WVU finish in the top four in the Big East, let alone the top 25.

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## Re:Objective View of BYU\'s Football National Ranki

Posted by MtnRadio - 2008/04/09 11:39

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One of the joys of threads like this is we all get to strain at gnats and try to "prove" the unprovable and argue with opinions.

OK ... assuming they beat UW in Seattle, that has the potential to be a significant game and win. UW wasn't stellar last year, but they were good and have the potential to be quite solid this year. (NOTE: some teams that would be very good, get beat in the first game or two of the year and never recover from the loss of confidence, etc ... just a sidenote ... we've all seen teams that had every right to be great simply implode after an early loss). Assuming they also beat UCLA that also could be a quality win. Some of you want to discount it for various reasons ... yes, winning at home is not always as impressive as winning on the road (but what home win has ever been counted against a top 10 - 15 team?) ... some say UCLA isn't going to be the quality opponent we would expect (new head coach, transition, etc.) .... to you I say "WAKE UP!" They are not getting a first time head coach who doesn't know what he's doing (although I've heard of one who did quite well) ... Rick Neuheisel is a quality coach and you can be sure he hit the ground running and planning on making some statements ... and the players won't have forgotten their LV Bowl loss (which they rightly feel they could/should have won). So don't take anything away from UCLA.

IF the cougs go undefeated, and they certainly have the ability to do just that, whether someone exploits some cracks and beats them, only time will tell, but in speaking with some of the players, they believe they can win, and that is an important step. Also, Bronco has learned a lot about having the team READY and PREPARED for the the early games (which has been a problem for the last 2 years) ... I think the team will be strong.

Assuming they play to their potential and go undefeated ... they will deserve a Top 10 ranking ... which is always subject of debate, at least until we have a national playoff, and then it will be earned.

Go Cougs!

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## Re:Objective View of BYU\'s Football National Ranki

Posted by bengel - 2008/04/09 11:47

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The Cougars have the potential to go undefeated and be ranked in the top ten. I don't know that it will happen this year, but it could. Who knows what this year or those that follow, will bring in terms of win-loss records, titles, and ranking.

More important will be the way the success is achieved. It won't be done in the world's way. It will be done the BYU way. When it happens, the light will shine not only on the success, but on how it was achieved.

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## Re:Objective View of BYU\'s Football National Ranki

Posted by gmj81 - 2008/04/09 11:55

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Hengst wrote:

timmyboy wrote:

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## Re:Objective View of BYU\'s Football National Ranki

Posted by gmj81 - 2008/04/09 11:59

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Hengst wrote:

jmchess1 wrote:

It was? What was BYU final ranking? Did I miss something?

I think they were 15 or 16. They were not a top 10 team, a top 10 team would not have lost to Arizona.

By the end of the season they sure were a top 10 team. The way they were playing then they could have beat anybody outside of the top 8 in my opinion. The TCU game was their real coming-of-age game, especially for John Beck. But let's not forget out we got screwed out of a TD by the pac-10 officiating crew in that game either that would have likely changed the whole rest of the game thereafter by knocking the cats on their heels. And that was just one of the blown calls. In 2006, they were literally two plays away from being undefeated. They were a top ten team no matter what any of the 'pundints' say.

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## Re:Objective View of BYU\'s Football National Ranki

Posted by Adinfinitum - 2008/04/09 11:59

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Snoscythe

Steve Slaton was a huge part to the WV offense, but his loss will not be felt.

IMHO Noel Devine (a freshman last year) is going to be Great for them next year. His stats last year, with limited touches, are amazing. When they played Oklahoma in the Fiesta Bowl, he only touched the ball 13 times, and still ran for 108 yards. He had 136 yards on 5 touches against Maryland. Being the number 1 RB for WV this year, and playing in the "soft" Big East he will put up 1500-2000 yards.

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He has some highlight videos online if you want to check him out.  
Bush like speed and agility.

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## Re:Objective View of BYU\'s Football National Ranki

Posted by BYUtx - 2008/04/09 12:05

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Hengst wrote:

timmyboy wrote:

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## Re:Objective View of BYU\'s Football National Ranki

Posted by gmj81 - 2008/04/09 12:11

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Suffice it to say, whether BYU actually goes undefeated or not this year remains to be seen obviously. But certainly the last two years should show that this team can compete with virtually anybody in college football. But they sure as hell have the potential to go undefeated this year and it doesn't take a stretch of the imagination to assume so.

If the past two seasons are an indication of anything, it's that Bronco learns from his mistakes. We haven't seen a repeat in that department yet. Plus, it's hard to beat pac-10 teams AND their officials on their home turf. I still wonder if we'll be able to pull it off in Seattle. But I have no doubt that we'll pound the bruins in Provo and TCU doesn't worry me one bit. The only games I am at all concerned about are Washington and Yewtah. In my opinion, you can chalk the rest up as victories no questions asked. But those two, I am willing to admit I am worried and give us a 50/50 shot at winning them. If those stats hold then we ought to at least win one of them, which will give us an 11-1 record heading into the bowl game which should still be good enough for a BCS bowl next year. I think that would be a pretty good season myself but I'm not ruling out the possibility of going undefeated. The potential is there.

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## Re:Objective View of BYU\'s Football National Ranki

Posted by Real.Men.Wear.Blue - 2008/04/09 12:43

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snoscythe wrote:

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I agree. Although USC will likely be able to reload and remain a top 20 team, they will not surpass last year's success. Too many key losses on offense and defense.

I also think WVU is going to struggle. White and Devine are talented, but the program is reeling. The defense lost a lot of starters. If they can get past the lawsuit, document shredding, accusations of fraud, and other chicanery, they might be bowl eligible--but only because they play in the Big East, which I predict returns to the circle of suck next year that is usually is. Pitt wins the Big East, IMO.

Also think people are underselling the UCLA game. The Bruins are going to be fired up for revenge, and Neuheisel is no dummy. They have talented athletes on both sides of the ball, and a good coach can do a lot with good athletes (better overall than Washington, IMO). And don't forget Chow. For all of his supposed faults, he is a great OC that can make the best of his players. I wouldn't be surprised if he can make Ben Olsen look good for a quarter or two. Don't get me wrong. I think BYU wins because it is a home game. But it won't be a breeze.

The Washington match will be the most difficult of the season because it is in Seattle and there will be little to no film to help in preparations, followed by the games at Utah and TCU. The UCLA match is a close fourth. All of these are potential minefields, but certainly BYU has the ability to win ALL of them. A lot of it will come down to preparation and poise. Unfortunately, the Cougars tend to get nervous in big games, particularly on the road against BCS teams. In addition to poor officiating and execution, that was one of the primary reasons they lost in Pasadena last year, IMO.

Should be a great year--even better than last. Go Cougars!

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## Re:Objective View of BYU\'s Football National Ranki

Posted by Hengst - 2008/04/09 12:45

BYUtx wrote:

Hengst wrote:

timmyboy wrote:

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Posted by Hengst - 2008/04/09 12:48

gmj81 wrote:

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Need I remind you that BYU needed a miracle to beat a bad pac-10 team that was on their 3rd string qb on a neutral field last year. Let's not get our hoops too high.

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## Re:Objective View of BYU's Football National Ranki

Posted by BYUtx - 2008/04/09 12:50

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Also, thanks for not putting Michigan up there.

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Wisconsin would have probably won 2 games if it were a Pac-10 team last year. They were terrible.

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## Re: Objective View of BYU's Football National Ranki

Posted by Hengst - 2008/04/09 12:55

BYUtx wrote:

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Michigan is going to be a disaster next year. Mark it down, Utah will go up to the big house and beat them.

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## Re:Objective View of BYU\'s Football National Ranki

Posted by NorthernCougar - 2008/04/09 12:57

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BYU will not go undefeated next year. We will lose to either UCLA, Washington, or Utah and possibly 2 of those. I think we will have a great team but I still have no confidence in the coaching staffs ability to get the team ready for every game. We have barely beaten an inferior Utah team the past two years, and lost three years ago to a much worse team. Until I see BYU beat Utah in the fashion they should, this team will not be able to rise to its full potential. 12-1, 11-2 next year will be a great season.

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## Re:Objective View of BYU\'s Football National Ranki

Posted by BYUtx - 2008/04/09 13:03

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While I do agree that it is unlikely that we go undefeated next year, I'm reluctant to write it off as nearly impossible.

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## Re:Objective View of BYU\'s Football National Ranki

Posted by BYU\_rocks - 2008/04/09 13:03

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It's good to know that the barometer of BYU's success is handily beating Utah every year. I thought we were way beyond that mentality!

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## Re:Objective View of BYU\'s Football National Ranki

Posted by BYU\_rocks - 2008/04/09 13:11

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Thanks for the reminder. I think we all forgot about how we won the LV Bowl last year. We did win, right? BYU beat UCLA, correct? Or did we just get lucky? I think we were just lucky. We shouldn't give BYU any credit for winning that game. After all, it is style points that count, not wins and losses. I would have preferred a 41-40 loss versus a 17-16 win any day of the week!

I hope the reader is able to discern the sardonic nature of this post. By the way, while we are on the subject of reminders, did you know that the "bad" UCLA Bruins were playing for a Rose Bowl birth in their last conference game of the year vs. USC?

Go Cougars! Here's to a 13-0 season and BCS win!

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## Re:Objective View of BYU\'s Football National Ranki

Posted by BYUtx - 2008/04/09 13:13

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I don't think we'll see any 80's-esque domination over Utah in the future. I think games like the those in 1996 and 2004 are once-in-a-decade type of occurrences (and, yes, I know that they happened 8-years apart). In a typical decade, I'd expect about 6 or 7 1-possession games and 2-3 10-14 point wins.

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## Re:Objective View of BYU\'s Football National Ranki

Posted by NorthernCougar - 2008/04/09 13:23

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BYUtx wrote:

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I don't think we'll see any 80's-esque domination over Utah in the future. I think games like the those in 1996 and 2004 are once-in-a-decade type of occurrences (and, yes, I know that they happened 8-years apart). In a typical decade, I'd expect about 6 or 7 1-possession games and 2-3 10-14 point wins.

I agree completely but I don't think it is necessary. For some reason we play scared against the Utes. They have more confidence then we do in the Rivalry and I don't profess to be even close to as smart as Bronco is but just what I see. We should dominate but I worry that we don't. I realize a rivalry game means you through logic out the window, but it still baffles me.

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## Re:Objective View of BYU's Football National Ranki

Posted by timmyboy - 2008/04/09 13:30

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Write it down: the Cougars WILL go undefeated this year. Utah will keep it close in the first half, but BYU will come out with a dominating win. They'll beat Washington by 7. They'll beat TCU by a touchdown. Not a single other game will be decided by less than 10 points. They'll beat UCLA by 14.

BYU will average 37 points per game. The defense will give up 17 points per game. BYU will end up with a #4 ranking.

Don't argue with me; I picked Kansas to win the tournament and I was right. Just don't look at the rest of my bracket...

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## Re:Objective View of BYU's Football National Ranki

Posted by imuakahuku - 2008/04/09 13:32

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BYU\_rocks wrote:

It's good to know that the barometer of BYU's success is handily beating Utah every year. I thought we were way beyond that mentality!

I have to agree. Utah has only one game circled EVERY year. Only one school has had its logo put in the uranals at Utah. For some reason they get up for the game and give the team a serious run for the money. I think it is very likely they go undefeated. Bronco has already put the mantel of loss in the minds of all the other MWC teams. It is the OOC teams that will be the true test.

Of the 10 on the list, I think BYU can compete and win against all of them. If you don't believe that then look back at 1990 when BYU beat the best team in America with less pure talent than is presently wearing blue and white. Plus, I give this team the edge over ANY previous BYU team in terms of offseason training. Our guys are outworking every other school in the ncaa. As for Ohio State, I have to give them props. They should win the NC this year. They will have more first round draft picks after next season than most schools will have picks (and in many cases candidates). They have a lot of talent and should go to USC and beat them. The rest of the Big 10 should be in the Little10 conference. They could invite ND and then they would be 11 again! I think Wisc goes BCS bowling and gets busted.

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## Re:Objective View of BYU's Football National Ranki

Posted by BYUtx - 2008/04/09 13:39

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I think Ohio State will be 2008's Hawai'i, but their big loss to a top BCS team will be at the Rose Bowl in September (USC by 20). But, since the Big T11en is guaranteed a BCS spot, they'll end up in the Rose Bowl (again) and lose (again) (Pac-10 team by 14). Maybe it'll be against USC, (again).

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## Re:Objective View of BYU's Football National Ranki

Posted by Conosticator - 2008/04/09 13:44

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The Washington match will be the most difficult of the season because it is in Seattle and there will be little to no film to help in preparations, followed by the games at Utah and TCU.

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I agree that UW will be tough. We should get a good idea of their capability when they play their season opener, a conference game, against Oregon. That opener will keep them from thinking much about BYU until after that game. Hopefully they'll have to open up the playbook big time for that first game so BYU doesn't run into any Tulsa-like surprises.

UW has a tough schedule but they host all three OOC opponents (BYU, Oklahoma, and Notre Dame). With BYU sandwiched between Oregon and Oklahoma, UW may actually look past us, which could be a good mistake for BYU.

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## Re:Objective View of BYU\'s Football National Ranki

Posted by Knucklehead - 2008/04/09 13:45

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Conosticator wrote:

The Washington match will be the most difficult of the season because it is in Seattle and there will be little to no film to help in preparations, followed by the games at Utah and TCU.

I agree that UW will be tough. We should get a good idea of their capability when they play their season opener, a conference game, against Oregon. That opener will keep them from thinking much about BYU until after that game. Hopefully they'll have to open up the playbook big time for that first game so BYU doesn't run into any Tulsa-like surprises.

UW has a tough schedule but they host all three OOC opponents (BYU, Oklahoma, and Notre Dame). With BYU sandwiched between Oregon and Oklahoma, UW may actually look past us, which could be a good mistake for BYU.

Good info on Washington's schedule.

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## Re:Objective View of BYU\'s Football National Ranki

Posted by BYUtx - 2008/04/09 13:46

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BYUtx wrote:

I think Ohio State will be 2008's Hawai'i, but their big loss to a top BCS team will be at the Rose Bowl in September (USC by 20). But, since the Big T11en is guaranteed a BCS spot, they'll end up in the Rose Bowl (again) and lose (again) (Pac-10 team by 14). Maybe it'll be against USC, (again). (I'm really just throwing stuff out for fun. I don't really think OSU will be as bad as UH last year.)

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## Re:Objective View of BYU\'s Football National Ranki

Posted by MtnRadio - 2008/04/09 13:54

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timmyboy wrote:

Don't argue with me; I picked Kansas to win the tournament and I was right. Just don't look at the rest of my bracket...

:laugh: :laugh: :laugh:

It's how it ends that matters!

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## Re:Objective View of BYU\'s Football National Ranki

Posted by TimO - 2008/04/09 14:14

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i like the responses-people believe and bought into Bronco's program...it took a while for us to do that. But he's on his way to accomplishing the very thing we set out to do in the 80's. Even the Nation has come out in preseason to say we're

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the non-BcS darling---all we have to do is play together...watch it happen, because Bronco has had enough experience to fix the beginning errors, By the first play of the ucla and washington games-you doubters will buy into it as well...They'll make the opposing team play under their own WILL. GO COUGS

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## Re:Objective View of BYU\'s Football National Ranki

Posted by j2b03 - 2008/04/09 14:22

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A little off topic but, I bothers me that people keep saying, BYU is working harder than any other school in the nation in the offseason:unsure: ummm, really? How do you know that? Just because our long gone insider said they are working hard doesn't mean that other teams are working less. I am a BYU homer but come on we can never know that is true, it may be but . . .

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## Re:Objective View of BYU\'s Football National Ranki

Posted by jmchess1 - 2008/04/09 14:26

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This discussion raises an important question: Should a team be ranked a top ten team when that team may go undefeated but has not played any of the other top ten teams? If BYU goes undefeated this year should they be ranked among the top teams it hasn't played? That was and still is the argument against BYU's national championship in the 80s. Who did they play to deserve that championship? Well, they beat every team they played. Is that really a good enough argument. Will BYU be another Hawaii if BYU goes undefeated this year? I know BYU can't play every other team - no one can, but BYU can try harder to schedule top team - even if they are only away games - like Utah playing Michigan. Regardless what you think of Michigan it is a Big Ten BCS team.

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## Re:Objective View of BYU\'s Football National Ranki

Posted by BYUtx - 2008/04/09 14:31

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When it comes down to it, I doubt any #1 team would go undefeated in games against teams ranked 2-10. I don't think anyone would have a great record if they played the 12 teams listed earlier in this thread-not even the best teams ever. An NFL team could, and that's about it.

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## Re:Objective View of BYU\'s Football National Ranki

Posted by KYCoug - 2008/04/09 14:46

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BYUtx wrote:

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Well if you believe the hype that's what the SEC has tried to sell everyone to believe every year. They do have the NC titles to back it up and they do beat each other up a lot through the season but I don't buy it. There are a lot of good teams in the SEC with lots of talent and speed but I think we could do well against most of them on a netural field.

Go Cougs!  
L Hatton  
Louisville KY

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## Re:Objective View of BYU\'s Football National Ranki

Posted by BYUtx - 2008/04/09 14:51

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KYCoug wrote:

BYUtx wrote:

When it comes down to it, I doubt any #1 team would go undefeated in games against teams ranked 2-10. I don't think anyone would have a great record if they played the 12 teams listed earlier in this thread-not even the best teams ever. An NFL team could, and that's about it.

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Go Cougs!

L Hatton

Louisville KY

I've been quite unimpressed with the SEC offenses I've watched over the last 3 years.

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## Re:Objective View of BYU\'s Football National Ranki

Posted by buzzard - 2008/04/09 15:02

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Why is everyone afraid of the big, bad, SEC and the rest of the BCS? I know we are about .500 against the BCS schools in the last several years, but even in the games we lost, we were right there. To go undefeated requires not just skill and grit, but some luck as well.

Having said that, when was the last time a team, BCS or otherwise, really took BYU to the woodshed? I don't think it was in the Bronco era. Maybe that SDSU loss his first year, but in each of our four losses the last two years, we were a play or a whistle away from being in a position to win. I think that shows that the coaches have the team ready to compete every game.

I doubt we go undefeated, it's just hard to do. But I only think we lose one this year, and I think we go to a BCS bowl. Just don't let our one loss be to the Yewts. I'd rather lose to Colorado State.

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## Re:Objective View of BYU\'s Football National Ranki

Posted by KYCoug - 2008/04/09 15:14

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BYUtx wrote:

I've been quite unimpressed with the SEC offenses I've watched over the last 3 years.

I have to agree. In fact most are rather booring to watch. If anything though it shows just how hard it is to go undefeated even with a great team. Everyone has a game or two where they just arn't quite on top of their form and it just takes one or two slip ups against a quality team to loose.

I think we have the chemistry and leadership to do it, so just keep winning baby!!!

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## Re:Objective View of BYU\'s Football National Ranki

Posted by gmj81 - 2008/04/09 20:21

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Hengst wrote:

Need I remind you that BYU needed a miracle to beat a bad pac-10 team that was on their 3rd string qb on a neutral field last year. Let's not get our hoops too high.

A bad pac-10 team? The pac-10, much to my dismay may have been the best/toughest conference in America last year.

Yes, even better than the SEC. I hate to say it because I absolutely detest the pac-10 and their holier-than-thou mentality but it definately deserves arguement. UCLA was never able to get healthy last year. Besides let's not forget that they are a BCS program, and BCS programs have the luxury of having top-talent down to the fourth string. Their 3rd string QB was probably better than our back up last year. There really wasn't that much of a difference between the 2nd - 6th place teams in that conference last year talent-wise.

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## Re:Objective View of BYU's Football National Ranki

Posted by gmj81 - 2008/04/09 20:23

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Hengst wrote:

Michigan is going to be a disaster next year. Mark it down, Utah will go up to the big house and beat them. Way to go out on a limb there.

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## Re:Objective View of BYU's Football National Ranki

Posted by gmj81 - 2008/04/09 20:30

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I really don't see why people continue to make the arguement about barely being able to beat an 'inferior Utah team the past two years'. It's called a rivalry game. In a rivalry game, you toss records, stats, home-away, everything out the window. Nothing matters but the pure will and passion to win. And the pukes have no greater passion and dreams than to beat the Cougs every year. It's their super bowl. I wish it was ours. It certainly doesn't seem like our players take it as seriously as theirs.

And if the coaches haven't shown you that they have can get the team ready to play every game than I don't know what team you're watching. We had four walk-ons starting in a defensive backfield last year! Any other team would have crumbled under such circumstances. The fact that coach Hill and coach Mendenhall were able to keep things locked down every bit as good as the previous year ought to have shown you something of their abilities.

Oh and the pukes turned out to be a pretty decent team . 9-4 ain't bad when you've faced three BCS teams and lost nearly every player on your two deep to injury at one point or another. I hate 'em but you got to give them credit for turning around their season like they did after that UNLV loss.

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## Re:Objective View of BYU's Football National Ranki

Posted by gmj81 - 2008/04/09 20:30

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BYU\_rocks wrote:

It's good to know that the barometer of BYU's success is handily beating Utah every year. I thought we were way beyond that mentality!

Amen. After four straight years of losing to them, I'll just take any win I can get over the pukes.

=====

## Re:Objective View of BYU's Football National Ranki

Posted by gmj81 - 2008/04/09 20:39

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Conosticator wrote:

UW has a tough schedule but they host all three OOC opponents (BYU, Oklahoma, and Notre Dame). With BYU sandwiched between Oregon and Oklahoma, UW may actually look past us, which could be a good mistake for BYU. This definately plays into our favor. They'll have to take the border war seriously or risk losing home-state recruits to money-bags knight and the ducks. Oklahoma right after us will be no picnic. And I wonder which game Willingham wants to win more... the game against the team that fired him or the game against the 'mid-major' team that humiliated him the year he got canned. It's not going to be an easy ride for the huskies. I wouldn't be surprised if they had one of the top ten hardest schedules in the country. Maybe top 5 (base on end of year results).

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## Re:Objective View of BYU's Football National Ranki

Posted by gmj81 - 2008/04/09 20:44

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j2b03 wrote:

A little off topic but, I bothers me that people keep saying, BYU is working harder than any other school in the nation in the offseason:unsure: ummm, really? How do you know that? Just because our long gone insider said they are working hard doesn't mean that other teams are working less. I am a BYU homer but come on we can never know that is true, it may be but . . .

Exhibit A: Our walk-ons in the defensive backfield last year were able to hang with everyone they faced (Tulsa could be the lone exception but that coaches have accepted the blame for that one), and not just because of their smarts but physically too. I would say they outworked every team they played agaisnt at the very least. I don't read too many other reports about players at other schools puking mulitple times a practice during off-season conditioning. And yes, I do peruse other news and fan sites of other teams I follow.

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## Re:Objective View of BYU\'s Football National Ranki

Posted by gmj81 - 2008/04/09 20:49

jmchess1 wrote:

This discussion raises an important question: Should a team be ranked a top ten team when that team may go undefeated but has not played any of the other top ten teams? If BYU goes undefeated this year should they be ranked among the top teams it hasn't played? That was and still is the argument against BYU's national championship in the 80s. Who did they play to deserve that championship? Well, they beat every team they played. Is that really a good enough argument. Will BYU be another Hawaii if BYU goes undefeated this year? I know BYU can't play every other team - no one can, but BYU can try harder to schedule top team - even if they are only away games - like Utah playing Michigan. Regardless what you think of Michigan it is a Big Ten BCS team.

Until everyone plays the same schedule, it's pointless to make that arguement. And since college football teams aren't going to be playing 119 game schedules every year any time soon, the best that can be done is to judge a team based on how they've performed over the course of the season. The reason we won the NC in '84 despite playing in a weaker conference is because we had completely dismantled that conference year in and year out for years and had done so with precision and grace. Apparently the AP voters recognized a quality team even though our schedule wasn't the most glamorous.

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## Re:Objective View of BYU\'s Football National Ranki

Posted by gmj81 - 2008/04/09 20:49

Alright, I'm done now.

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## Re:Objective View of BYU\'s Football National Ranki

Posted by Ball4 - 2008/04/09 21:14

Thanks for the Rants gmj81. Karma to you. I enjoyed reading them.

OK Karma to you tomorrow...I gotta wait 6 hours.:)

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## Re:Objective View of BYU\'s Football National Ranki

Posted by Hengst - 2008/04/10 06:08

BYU\_rocks wrote:

Thanks for the reminder. I think we all forgot about how we won the LV Bowl last year. We did win, right? BYU beat UCLA, correct? Or did we just get lucky? I think we were just lucky. We shouldn't give BYU any credit for winning that game. After all, it is style points that count, not wins and losses. I would have preferred a 41-40 loss versus a 17-16 win any day of the week!

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I hope the reader is able to discern the sardonic nature of this post. By the way, while we are on the subject of reminders, did you know that the "bad" UCLA Bruins were playing for a Rose Bowl birth in their last conference game of the year vs. USC?

Go Cougars! Here's to a 13-0 season and BCS win!

How can you even argue that a 6-6 team that got absolutely destroyed by Utah was a good team? Especially when they were playing with their 3RD STRING QB!

Sure BYU won, but they should have won. It's nothing to get all that excited about. It's not like BYU beat USC or something.

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## Re:Objective View of BYU's Football National Ranki

Posted by imuakahuku - 2008/04/10 06:56

j2b03 wrote:

A little off topic but, I bothers me that people keep saying, BYU is working harder than any other school in the nation in the offseason:unsure: ummm, really? How do you know that? Just because our long gone insider said they are working hard doesn't mean that other teams are working less. I am a BYU homer but come on we can never know that is true, it may be but . . .

It's called eyewitness reports. :dry:

On the reverse prove they are not. :ohmy:

=====

## Re:Objective View of BYU's Football National Ranking

Posted by mormonrasta - 2008/04/10 09:23

timmyboy wrote:

In the first place, let's be sure to divorce playing in the BCS with being a top national team. These two things are not the same. Hawaii proved it last year. Pittsburgh proved it in 2004. Notre Dame proves it all the time. Being BCS-worthy only has a little to do with being a top team.

Now that I got that out of the way, maybe we can reframe the question - is BYU really a Top 10 team?

Absolutely true.

I think can be a BCS caliber team this year. I don't think they are a top 10 team.

Top 10 teams can actually win road nonconference games and can beat legit top 25 teams more than once a decade. BYU hasn't cleared those hurdles yet under Bronco. I'm confident they will, but it just goes to show how far BYU still has to go in order to get where Bronco wants to program to be (A National Title Contender).

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## Re:Objective View of BYU's Football National Ranki

Posted by BYU\_rocks - 2008/04/10 09:23

I'm not arguing that UCLA was a great team, or even a very good team. They were an average PAC-10 team. The PAC-10 is a very good conference so UCLA even being average means that they are still a decent team. They have high school all-americans and great athletes. So what they were playing with the 3rd string QB? Should we feel sorry for them? Injuries happen and are part of the game.

BYU's win over UCLA was a great win, especially the manner in which the game was won. It is frustrating when fans want to dismiss the Cougars effort as sub-par or say that BYU isn't a great team because BYU didn't blow out UCLA. That just doesn't make sense to me. Granted BYU didn't play a great game, but they WON! I will never look down on a win, especially against a PAC-10 team.

---

By the way, mighty USC lost to woeful Stanford at home. Stanford was a 41 POINT UNDERDOG. What does that say about the Trojans? That they are a terrible team?? hmmm?

=====

## Re:Objective View of BYU\'s Football National Ranki

Posted by Hengst - 2008/04/10 20:35

BYU\_rocks wrote:

I'm not arguing that UCLA was a great team, or even a very good team. They were an average PAC-10 team. The PAC-10 is a very good conference so UCLA even being average means that they are still a decent team. They have high school all-americans and great athletes. So what they were playing with the 3rd string QB? Should we feel sorry for them? Injuries happen and are part of the game.

BYU's win over UCLA was a great win, especially the manner in which the game was won. It is frustrating when fans want to dismiss the Cougars effort as sub-par or say that BYU isn't a great team because BYU didn't blow out UCLA. That just doesn't make sense to me. Granted BYU didn't play a great game, but they WON! I will never look down on a win, especially against a PAC-10 team.

By the way, mighty USC lost to woeful Stanford at home. Stanford was a 41 POINT UNDERDOG. What does that say about the Trojans? That they are a terrible team?? hmmm?

It says the Trojans had a lot of injuries and their string qb was too dumb to realize that he had a broken finger and come out. If booty had sat down instead of deciding to throw the ball with a broken finger on his throwing hand USC wins that game.

Also 10-2 teams should beat teams that are 6-6 that are playing with their 3rd string qb. Not just beat them, they should win handily. If BYU can't win convincingly against a mediocre pac-10 team, what makes you think they can hang with georgia or LSU?

=====

## Re:Objective View of BYU\'s Football National Ranki

Posted by gmj81 - 2008/04/10 21:29

Hengst wrote:

It says the Trojans had a lot of injuries and their string qb was too dumb to realize that he had a broken finger and come out.

...

If BYU can't win convincingly against a mediocre pac-10 team, what makes you think they can hang with georgia or LSU?

Haha, UCLA had to deal with way more injuries than USC. Are you kidding me?! You're using the very same arguement others of us are using to explain how a 6-6 UCLA team could be better than their record to say how USC lost to Stanford.

And near as I can tell, no one has yet mentioned on this board or any other that we'd be a sure bet to win a BCS bowl, just that it wasn't a stretch of the imagination that we'd be undefeated getting there. Depending on which game we get invited to and who our opponent is will greatly determine whether we are undefeated come mid-January 2009. We match up well with even some of the top teams but others would simple dominate us. It all depends on the matchup.

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## Re:Objective View of BYU\'s Football National Ranking

Posted by Isola - 2008/04/11 13:49

I think it is funny because when it comes to conference games BYU fans are cocky and come across as arrogant, but when it comes to playing BCS opponents sometimes we, fans and even the team, seem to be scared to death. On the one hand we think we are too good for the MWC, but then on the other hand, how could we possibly hang with the big boys.

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BYU should have a very good team this year. Our offense can play both grind it out ball control, as well as high-octane shoot out. Our defense has is good and although we have to replace much of our defense from last year, many of the replacement players have had good playing time to gain experience.

There have been a couple of games in the past years that were key turns in the evolution of the program. In 2005 we lost, at home, in overtime, to both TCU and Utah. But in 2006 we played a tough game against a ranked TCU on the road and we pulled away for the victory. We took Utah to the wire and beat them with no time on the clock. In 2007 we won stare down games against New Mexico on the road and TCU at home. We came back in the final 2 minutes to take the lead against Utah and held them off at the end. We have learned to win the close ones in conference. Our offense has shown that if you give us the ball last, we will score, and our defense has shown that they can hold off late game heroics. But this has just been in conference.

In 2006 we played Arizona tight on the road, but lost on a last second field goal. In 2006 we took a ranked Boston College team to overtime on the road before losing. We overcame the gitters against Oregon to just blow them away. We handled Arizona at home, but despite making mounting a come back against UCLA, we came up short. We couldn't finish, and their best drive of the game was their last. At Tulsa we just fell apart. I don't know what happened there. But the LV Bowl win was important to the program. BYU seems to play scared, and it was a team that had already beat us once. We sometimes come out flat against BCS teams, but we had a commanding 17-6 lead before that fluke Unga fumble inside the ten right before the half. We played them very tough in the second half other than that final drive and that was almost all on one play that was this close to being a pick six. Still Bronco has instilled confidence into his defense. When they came out for the FG try, they did not look scared and they did it. They did what they had to do on that play.

We went from losing the close conference games to winning the close ones. We went from coming out intimidated against BCS opponents to staring them in the face. Bronco has built in his team the belief that they can play with anyone and that if it takes blocking a last second field goal they believe they will do it. That is too important.

I don't think we will come out flat against UW. I think we can and should go undefeated this year aside from critical injuries or let downs. I think we will be better than every team we face this year, but undefeated seasons are tough to come by.

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## Re:Objective View of BYU\'s Football National Ranking

Posted by j2b03 - 2008/04/11 14:48

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Great post, I love your optimism and you have some great points. I really believe that Bronco has learned some valuable lessons during our loses and we will be better prepared for UW and UCLA come Sept.

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