Should BYU switch to a 4-3
Posted by Hengst - 2008/04/09 09:38

This discussion was going on on another board, so I thought i'd bring it over to the only true and living message board :-).

I'm going to say no. I think we're still deep enough at lb that we're better off with the extra speed on the field. I don't think it would be a bad idea to make situational switches to a 4-3 on occasion, but I think we should stay with the 3-4.

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Re:Should BYU switch to a 4-3
Posted by NC-Puma - 2008/04/09 10:09

No way.. BYU struggles to recruit athletic D lineman, but they seem to always have plenty of good LBs. Let's play to our strength. I remember years when it seemed BYU's recruiting philosophy on D lineman was to recruit the fattest, slowest, "athletes" possible... presumably so that opposing RBs would exhaust themselves trying to run around them.

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Re:Should BYU switch to a 4-3
Posted by harlinestillopen - 2008/04/09 10:36

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we'll, they're basically playing a 4-4 now with four LBs. I'm counting Jan as 2 guys, well, because he's just that good and only going to get better. I think they'll keep it at 3-4

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Re:Should BYU switch to a 4-3
Posted by snoscythe - 2008/04/09 10:58

BYU has a unique ability to recruit quality TE/LB prototypical players. Until that changes, I think BYU is best suited to the 3-4 as the scheme plays best to their personnel.

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Re:Should BYU switch to a 4-3
Posted by Jensen35fan - 2008/04/09 11:03

No way!! Why change something good, there is no reason to change it. We are doing great things and we have quality LB and we will be able to have better, fresher DL in a great rotation and we will still have some quality LB for a amazing rotation!

GO COUGS!!!

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Re:Should BYU switch to a 4-3
Posted by Mingjai - 2008/04/09 11:22

I'm a huge fan of the 3-4 for the reasons that everyone has hit on--BYU's recruiting strength is getting big white dudes with decent speed and strength that fit the TE/LB mold. Some of BYU's best defenses were 3-4 defenses. The 84-85 teams ran 3-4s and both were solid and consistent (the 85 defense was phenomenal and probably BYU's best defense ever). More recently the 06-07 teams did well in the 3-4.

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Re:Should BYU switch to a 4-3
Posted by Slugger - 2008/04/09 11:53

I say no, for the following reasons...

First, the 3-4 has worked well so far and the system is in place and the players know it.

Second, we have good talent at LB, no need to fix what isn't broken.

Lastly, we are actually beginning to increase depth along the DL, making the 3-4 all the more viable.

Coaches Kaufusi and Tidwell will have (barring injury) alot of bodies to rotate in at both LB and DL, keeping the athletes fresh to close out games in the 4th quarter. With returning guys like Jorgensen, Tialavea (fingers crossed) and the addition of Tevita Hola and other recruits, the DL should be strong. Besides, BYU can unofficially line up in a psuedo 4-3 anytime they want by inserting a larger LB and moving him up to the line of scrimmage for certain situations.

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Re:Should BYU switch to a 4-3

Posted by craigoscarson - 2008/04/09 12:20

Part of the reason that an undersized Jan Jorgenson can create havoc in the backfield is the need for linemen to pick up backers coming in.

The 4-3 is a no brainer scheme for when you have a Percy Snow, Andy Katzenmoyer (Ray Lewis) type of MLB that gobbles up everything in front of them and has it funneled to them by big beefy Dlinemen. (i.e. Shay Miurbrook,Rob Morris, -Rob Morris had 114 unassisted tackles in 1998-the NCAA record is 135-) and huge D linemen that can force the offensive line certain directions. There was a time when it was a pretty viable defense for us.
Although, when you shut down 4 of our JUCO feeder schools and all of a sudden, we don't have an overflowing supply of Jason Bucks, Shawn Nuas, etc.
Literally Dline was a major strength in the 80s and 90s and even a bit beyond (that 01 team placed Denney, Hoke, Keisel, Nua etc. in the NFL). Even when we lost games we had a good Dline.

http://www.ncaa.org/library/records/football/football_records_book/2007/2007_d1_football_records_book.pdf

The 3-4 is less of a matter of size and talent (although it certainly helps) and more heart and execution. Be in the right place at the right time, and make tackles when you have to.

Our current Dline players are good, but I guarantee half wouldn't start at many other D1 schools, primarily because they're not suited to a 4-3.

You have to credit Bronco for caring more about winning than his own system. When it was obvious that his system wasn't working, he adapted. That is one of the more glaring differences between he and Gary C.

The 3-4 suits a program that can recruit the heck out of small linemen and big safeties that are smart and can tackle-and fill the roster with guys that can also play special teams. (This is tougher to do when you have 16 6'5" 280 dlinemen on the roster).

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Re:Should BYU switch to a 4-3

Posted by WACoug - 2008/04/09 16:16

I see the 3-4 as becoming more the mainstream defense. There are a lot of teams that play 4-3 but I think that goes back to the 3 yards and a cloud of dust offensive philosophy. When most teams ran the ball 80% of the time it made sense to have big beefy guys up front. With the advent of the West Coast offense, option, run n' shoot, spread, spread option, etc teams are finding in more useful to have more speed and flexibility on defense which the 3-4 provides. A lot of teams still play very good defense with a 4-3 but I think the trend is shifting.

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Re:Should BYU switch to a 4-3

Posted by Cougfan84 - 2008/04/09 16:25

If it ain't broke, Don't fix it...

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Re:Should BYU switch to a 4-3
Posted by Slugger - 2008/04/09 16:40

If you look at the toughest and most notorious NFL defenses over the past few decades you have to look at the Pittsburgh Steelers and they use the 3-4. Guys like Porter and Foote were big to their defense.

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Re:Should BYU switch to a 4-3
Posted by jaga97 - 2008/04/09 16:43

NO!

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Re:Should BYU switch to a 4-3
Posted by cszjr - 2008/04/09 16:47

4-3 would be a big mistake. 3-4 utilizes our strength.

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Re:Should BYU switch to a 4-3
Posted by Cougarageous - 2008/04/09 16:51

I think the only way we would ever switch from the 3-4 is if we were going to run the 2-7-2 to better utilize our strength at linebackers. :laugh: I think that is unlikely to ever happen though and so feel the 3-4 may be here to stay. ;)

Go Cougs!

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Re:Should BYU switch to a 4-3
Posted by cougarsincebirth - 2008/04/09 17:08

What about a 3-5 this year? Our D-backs seem to be on the inexperienced side. I don't know enough about how a football backfield works though, so help me out. Is this a viable option? Our strength is LB, so stick one in in place of a safety I think.

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Re:Should BYU switch to a 4-3
Posted by WACoug - 2008/04/09 18:09

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cougarsincebirth wrote:
What about a 3-5 this year? Our D-backs seem to be on the inexperienced side. I don't know enough about how a football backfield works though, so help me out. Is this a viable option? Our strength is LB, so stick one in in place of a safety I think.

The problem with this is pass coverage. It would be pretty difficult to to cover 4 wideouts with 2 corners, and safety, and a linebacker. Even three wideouts and a TE would be a mismatch. In run support, the strong safety is kind of a smaller extra linebacker. But in pass coverage, you need an extra person that can run.

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