
Scheduling: Top Ten

Posted by Knucklehead - 2008/04/10 11:43

Dennis Dodd has his college football preseason top ten on the opening page of CBS.Sportsline. On his graph, he lists the opening game for each of his top ten teams:

- (1) Georgia (opens at home against Georgia Southern)
- (2) Oklahoma (opens at home against Cincinnati)
- (3) USC (opens on the road against Virginia)
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- (5) Missouri (opens at home against Illinois)
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- (7) Kansas (opens at home against Florida International)
- (8) Texas (opens at home against Florida Atlantic)
- (9) LSU (opens at home against North Texas)
- (10)W. Vir. (opens at home against Villanova)

9/10 of the games will be played at home (as are most out of conference games for "elite" BC\$ teams). Only Southern Cal is venturing away from their friendly confines. Southern Cal is no stranger to putting together real out of conference schedules.

3/10 of the games are against teams who aren't Division IA (Georgia Southern, Youngstown State, Villanova)

3/10 of the games are against teams from the mighty Sun Belt Conference (North Texas, Florida International, & Florida Atlantic). Those three teams averaged less than four wins apiece last year and those wins came at the hands of other Sun Belt teams mostly).

3/10 of the games are against other BC\$ teams (Virginia, Illinois, Cincinnati)

Conclusion: Recipe for elite status...unless you're Southern Cal, only play out of conference games at home. Make sure those home games are against mostly teams from the Sun Belt Conference where they average less than 4 wins per team per year, otherwise just schedule a Division IAA team.

Anybody predicting an upset that first week in the top ten?

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Re:Scheduling: Top Ten

Posted by Mingjai - 2008/04/10 13:34

I have a different conclusion than you--

To reach elite status, play in a tough enough conference so that if you win your conference, no one cares that you played 4 patsies at home to start the season. Though I'm guessing that even some of the non-brand name schools from the BCS conferences would have to have a signature non-conference win to get any serious consideration for the national championship game.

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Re:Scheduling: Top Ten

Posted by mormonrasta - 2008/04/10 14:08

Mingjai wrote:

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That was my conclusion too.

If BYU wants the same postseason considerations as the "elite" schools, then they need to schedule a nonconference

schedule with the average strength of a typical BCS conference schedule.

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Re:Scheduling: Top Ten

Posted by stuckinbig10country - 2008/04/10 14:33

mormonrasta wrote:

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I agree with you, but they shouldn't have to go on the road for all 4 of their OOC either. That's the trick. They need to improve their schedule, but the teams that they can play that will improve the schedule won't consistently come to Provo.

Oh, and I think that Illinois may beat Missouri that week, and the Virginia-USC game may be close because of the question mark at QB for USC.

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Re:Scheduling: Top Ten

Posted by Island Pipeline - 2008/04/10 14:40

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YEP HAWAII- 52 FLORIDA- 0 Teebo will be sacked on every pass attempt and we will hold Florida to under 100 yards.:cheer::laugh:

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Re:Scheduling: Top Ten

Posted by Gymcoug318 - 2008/04/10 15:05

Island Pipeline wrote:

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You obviously put on your dark dark dark green goggles, or black goggles didn't you?! Once again delusional! Unless your being sarcastic? Which I don't believe you are. I think you honestly believe that you will be them by that much!
:laugh:

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Re:Scheduling: Top Ten

Posted by Knucklehead - 2008/04/10 16:10

Mingjai wrote:

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How do you suggest that BYU get itself into one of the so-called tough conferences with their tough schedules? Im sure Holmoe would be interested in any offers from the Big XII or the PAC-10.

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Re:Scheduling: Top Ten

Posted by BYUtx - 2008/04/10 16:19

Knucklehead wrote:

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I picture a BCS conference commissioner in a velvet robe sipping brandy and smoking a cigar saying, "Don't be silly, old boy. Don't you know that's why the BCS was created in the first place?" (Spoken, for some reason, in a Harvard accent.)

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Re:Scheduling: Top Ten

Posted by Conosticator - 2008/04/10 16:27

BYUtx wrote:

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Actually I'm picturing Barry Switzer and a Billy Bob Yeehaw, sitting at a NASCAR race, laughing and guzzling beer as they discuss how they sure fixed it so those upstarts out in the "no-name" conferences can't "steal" another championship 'cause dey don't know nuttin' 'bout football.

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Re:Scheduling: Top Ten

Posted by lawman - 2008/04/10 16:56

Anyone predicting an upset in that first week?

Go 'Bows!

Re:Scheduling: Top Ten

Posted by Cougy_Monster - 2008/04/10 17:21

The bc\$ conferences are all self-serving. They know if they set up true home-home series with good non-bc\$ teams they will be exposed.

Of all of the big-10 teams, I think only ohio st would win the MWC this year if it had to play a true MWC schedule (including playing bc\$ teams on the road for an OOC schedule).

In fact, I don't think there are more than 5 teams in the country that could beat the top 3 MWC teams on the road in 3 consecutive weeks.

Re:Scheduling: Top Ten

Posted by Sage - 2008/04/11 17:46

mormonrasta wrote:

Mingjai wrote:

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championship game.

That was my conclusion too.

If BYU wants the same postseason considerations as the "elite" schools, then they need to schedule a nonconference schedule with the average strength of a typical BCS conference schedule.

I tend to agree, but it brings up the challenge of how to get schools to schedule us. Too many of us express the opinion that the big boys won't schedule us home and home. Even if we had a playoff, some of the conference champions would obviously not be worthy. In some years, second place teams in some leagues are only a play away from winning their conference and going BCSnn versus being an also ran. Those years need legitimate wild cards.

It would seem to me that the NCAA should make a size of conference minimum in order to schedule a true national champion.

Is there anybody that has an idea on how to motivate big schools to play us so that having that kind of a schedule is possible?

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Big order to even get them to play us, and that is why I quote you in this post because it points to my question and hope somebody has a good idea how to get them to come.

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Re:Scheduling: Top Ten

Posted by BlueTrue - 2008/04/11 18:43

The fact is the "big boys" don't need to play us because they are in the "big" conferences. We need to stop the whining about the home and home. We need to just go kick the big boys butt on the road. I know it is hard to do, but that is the only way we are going to get respect.

Now as far as getting into a BCS bowl game, all we need to do is schedule cake teams such as Hawaii. The problem with this is then in the BCS game you get exposed for the weak team you are.

Playing the best teams whether at home or on the road will make you better if you win or at least are in the game the whole way. I myself would like to see us play the best teams we can all the time because they are the exciting games to watch.

I personally don't get excited when we play Utah State or some division II school. I do get excited to play any BCS team or a good non BCS team such as Boise State.

Now don't get me wrong, I think the path Bronco is taking right now is the right path. Schedule some easy games to get your program confidence and some better recruits, but after the first few years of easier teams you need to take the program to the next level and improve the OOC teams that you play. That is assuming that you do well with that lineup. If you don't then you just keep on scheduling the cake teams.

Hopefully we can become a real dominate force and take it to every team we play this year. We have the people in place to do it. As long as we maitain our confidence and don't get arrogant this will be a perfect season.

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Re:Scheduling: Top Ten

Posted by mormonrasta - 2008/04/11 19:10

Sage wrote:

I tend to agree, but it brings up the challenge of how to get schools to schedule us. Too many of us express the opinion that the big boys won't schedule us home and home. Even if we had a playoff, some of the conference champions would obviously not be worthy. In some years, second place teams in some leagues are only a play away from winning their conference and going BCSnn versus being an also ran. Those years need legitimate wild cards.

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I'm confident BYU can get just about anybody to play them, but it's going to require some humility from the University and its fans. In order to get BYU's overall schedule on par with other major programs they have to do 2 things:

1. Schedule a 1-AA home game every year.
2. Schedule a 2 road games for 1 home game with the top 30 BCS programs.

Teams in the top 30 include:

Big 10- Michigan, Penn State, Ohio State, Wisconsin, Iowa, Michigan St.

Big 12- Nebraska, Texas, Oklahoma, Texas A&M, Colorado

ACC- Florida St, Clemson, Va Tech, BC, Georgia Tech, Miami

SEC- Florida, Alabama, Auburn, Tennessee, Georgia, LSU, Arkansas

Pac 10- USC, Oregon, ASU, UCLA, Washington

Big East- Pitt

Notre Dame

These are all teams with traditions that are easily as good as BYU, stadiums of similar size or larger, and national reputations that are equal to or greater than BYU. Playing and beating these schools would only enhance BYU's football reputation nationwide.

Any of these schools would gladly take a 2 for 1 with BYU (Heck, many would do and have done a regular home and home with BYU). The 1-AA school would be a nice breather and a guaranteed home game. If BYU played their cards right they would always have 2 home and 2 road nonconference games a year, at least 3 to 4 quality opponents a year which nearly every BCS conference team does, and they would have a schedule that would be on par with most BCS conference teams.

Imagine this hypothetical 6 year schedule:

Year 1- 1-AA, USC, @Auburn, @Pitt

Year 2- 1-AA, Pitt, @USC, @Clemson

Year 3- 1-AA, Auburn, @Ohio St, @Texas A&M

Year 4- 1-AA, Clemson, @USC, @Pitt

Year 5- 1-AA, Ohio St., @Texas A&M, @Auburn

Year 6- 1-AA, Texas A&M, @Ohio St, @Clemson

If BYU were serious about scheduling for a NC, they would schedule like that.

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Re:Scheduling: Top Ten

Posted by Knucklehead - 2008/04/14 09:53

mormonrasta wrote:

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So for a shot at the National Championship you are suggesting that we just change one game each year? For example, we replace the Utah State game for an away game against Colorado and they'll let us in the National Championship game next year if we go undefeated?

I don't see it happening. I think our best shot at a National Championship is to make it to a BC\$ game (undefeated or with one loss) this year and win it convincingly.

If we were to do that, the national media would catch on to the fact that a lot of our skill position players on offense (Max Hall, Dennis Pitta, Harvey Unga, Austin Collie, Andrew George, Oneil Chambers, Spencer Hafoka, etc) will all be back. We would lose a lot of players along the O-line (Matt Reynolds & Tom Sorenson would be the only returners) but the national media doesn't usually look at that.

We would also have some solid players on defense returning (Jorgensen, Tialavea, Denney, Dulan, Afutiti, Hola, Johnson, Howard, Bradley, Pendleton, Rich, Bauman, So'oto, Clawson, Ah You, Van Sweeden etc) and that would propel us into National Championship talk.

Only then, would scheduling three tough out of conference games matter for a National Championship run.

Even then, it would take some luck. Heck, there are even years when a team from the SEC goes undefeated and doesn't make it to the national championship game (Auburn, if I remember right got overlooked the year the yewts went to the Fiesta Bowl).

BYU could do all it could and would still be overlooked for the National Championship. There are certain schools that the big bowls/media look for reasons to put in big time games, schools that the big time games can take or leave and schools that they try to keep out. We are in the third tier.

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