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## The All-Mormon Team

Posted by Cougfan84 - 2008/04/14 22:52

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I have thought about this in the past and was thinking about how much mormon talent there is nationwide. At the High school level there is Manti Te'o, John Martinez, All the timpview talent, and many other solid mormon prospects. At the college level the backup qb for LSU is LDS, Cal's starting QB is LDS, Spencer Larsen of Arizona was a stud LB last year is LDS, Stanley Havili for USC and i'm sure there are many more nationwide that I don't know about. And then you look around the NFL and there is a number of key contributors and special team standouts on NFL squads that are Mormon. If we got all the top LDS football players I really think we would have 11 and 12 win seasons every year on a consistent basis and a 9 win season would be a down year for us (the way it was for the longhorns a few years ago, they were whining about a 9-4 year...I think we have potential to do that now, but I think an All-Mormon team would be quite impressive). And what about All-Time All-Mormon Squad, I would have Steve Young as my QB, Luke Staley as my HB (cuz Luke was 21 when he left BYU to go pro and Harvey is that age now going into his soph season so I think for now ill take Luke, I like Unga a lot though so don't get me wrong). Kevin Curtis as the Slot WR. So many great linemen and tight ends and I cant really pick out of all of the WR. Defense you'd have to have Haloti Ngata as a NT in our current 3-4. But Jason Buck is definitely a consideration for NT but i'd love him as the DE. So many studs on defense this is hard. My Depth Chart would look like this: (Please correct it if you think of someone better and add too this, lol ill create it on NCAA Football 09 when it comes out haha)

QB: Steve Young/Ty Detmer/Robbie Bosco/Gifford Nelson

HB: Luke Staley/Harvey Unga

FB: Heimuli?

TE: Chad Lewis/Todd Heap/Jonny Harline

WR: Glen Kozlowski/Austin Collie

WR: Reno Mahe/K.O. Keauaui

Slot WR: Kevin Curtis

OL: John Tait, Bart Oates, Andy Reid (I know there are other great ones I just can't think right now)

DL: Haloti Ngata/Jason Buck/Merlin Olsen/Jan Jorgenson

LB: Bryan Kehl/Cameron Jensen/Rob Morris/Brady Poppinga/Whittingham wasn't too bad was he? (So many good ones, im narrow-minded on this, help me out)

DB: Aaron Francisco/Criddle/ (Haha this one is hard because I dont know which players were mormon and which weren't out of all of the all time greats)

I missed a lot of players and threw in some names that maybe shouldn't be so help me out on this one...

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## Re:The All-Mormon Team

Posted by a1247 - 2008/04/15 03:08

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I don't think John Martinez is LDS.

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## Re:The All-Mormon Team

Posted by penn cougar - 2008/04/15 07:29

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Don't forget Ben Cahoon at the WR position. He was the CFL MVP like 5 years ago and is like a 10 year standout veteren in the league. Besides being amazing at BYU.

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## Re:The All-Mormon Team

Posted by cougar04 - 2008/04/15 08:14

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Don't forget Eric Weddle as Safety, even if he did wear red we can forgive him for that :) He is a Mormon, a class act guy and a great player too.

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## Re:The All-Mormon Team

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Posted by cougarsincebirth - 2008/04/15 09:08

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cougar04 wrote:

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Remember, he joined his junior or senior year at Utah, but I was going to say Weddle too. You beat me to the punch!

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## Re:The All-Mormon Team

Posted by nuk13 - 2008/04/15 09:29

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This is fun. Kudos to you.

Running back: Pete Vanvalkenberg (the first year(s) of Lavell, led the nation in rushing.) Eldon Forte (Before Edwards), Eric Lane (played for Seattle for several years. I'm not sure he was LDS.)

Quarterback: Virgil Carter

Reciever: Phil Odle

O line: Trevor Matich (sp), Paul Howard (played several years for the D Broncs, don't know if he's LDS, The guy from Africa that won the Outland just after Buck, Wong

D line: Jerry Inman perhaps a surprise. He played several years for the D Broncs. I know he's LDS because his son married my niece and told me of his conversion. I think there was a Mendenhal who played for the Redskins, I don't know if he's related to coach.

Lbs. White and Govea, (both played several years in the NFL). Glen Redd (several years with the 49ers

Db: Kyle Morrel

Return man: Sikahima

I can't confirm all of them being LDS. I am sure there are those of you that could name about that many more. No I didn't see them all play, but I've heard of all of them

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## Re:The All-Mormon Team

Posted by Cougfan84 - 2008/04/15 09:39

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I thought of another DE that has to be included, Rulon Jones. He was a key component of the Orange Crush defense for the 80's Broncos. Im from Denver originally and he was in our ward and my dad was the ward mission leader and he said that Rulon loved going on exchanges with the missionaries and you'd be surprised how much success you have when you have a pro-bowl D-linemen with you. So how can you leave him off the all-mormon squad? We should try to find a 2 deep All-Mormon squad so try to find more players if you guys can. And for the Coaching staff, I love what Bronco has done, but you can't deny what LaVell did for BYU football (I see the discipline Bronco has brought to his program and if he consistantly wins 10 wins a season and can come up with 1-2 undefeated seasons, I may want him as my leader), I'd also put Andy Reid on the coaching staff. Was Norm Chow Lds? if so, I'd like him on the staff.

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## Re:The All-Mormon Team

Posted by Cougfan84 - 2008/04/15 09:46

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I forgot Kicker and Punter.

K: Payne, Pochman

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P: Payne

I want to see how Sorenson fares at the Y this season and he may end up not only being on the All-Mormon squad, but my go down as one of the greatest of all time. With that much strength and accuracy in his leg, he could be something special.

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## Re:The All-Mormon Team

Posted by nuk13 - 2008/04/15 09:54

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Cougfan84 wrote:  
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K: Payne, Pochman  
P: Payne

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You remind me to remember Lee Johnson. I was told in practice one evening Johnson booted one in from the 50. It was punting where he made his living in the NFL although I think he did some kickoffs even there. He played several years and I think he ended up on the Bengals.

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## Re:The All-Mormon Team

Posted by Cougfan84 - 2008/04/15 10:00

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I enjoy this. Last year one of the news papers came up with the All-Utah team with the best products and coaches to come through utah schools. I enjoyed that, so I just wanted to see the All-Mormon Team. We should also come up with the All-BYU team since we can't remember which ones are lds or not. And nuk13, Karma to you for your input.

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## Re:The All-Mormon Team

Posted by walkair05 - 2008/04/15 10:10

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How about Shay Muirbrook at linebacker he may be small but he could hit.

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## Re:The All-Mormon Team

Posted by Cougfan84 - 2008/04/15 10:27

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I like that man, Muirbrook was a beast. Hey what other mormon players were on the 14-1, 96-97 team with Sarkisian as QB? I need more players from the 80-84 teams cuz those were some of the greatest BYU teams so i'm sure you can find some more all-mormon team players. I wasn't born till the latter part of the 80's so I have only seen replays of the 80's cougar domination. So anyone with a more knowledge of 80's cougar football, give me some input please.

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## Re:The All-Mormon Team

Posted by frdbtr - 2008/04/15 10:44

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You have forgot Eric Drage at WR. I am pretty sure he is a mormon and is the all time leader in receptions at BYU.

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## Re:The All-Mormon Team

Posted by WBcougar - 2008/04/15 10:44

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Another quarterback of note would be Danny White. Played at Arizona State and then spent some years with the Dallas Cowboys. The offensive lineman from Africa (actually I think he was from Canada) that somebody mentioned previously was Mo Elewonebe. Mo won the Outland Trophy while at BYU and then went on to play for the Washington Native Americans. Another defensive end not mentioned would have to be Brett Keisel, now a starter for the Steelers. His counterpart while at the Y, Denney (I think John was the first name), would be another worth mentioning.

On a related but side note, does anybody else find it ironic that perhaps the two best defensive ends to ever play at BYU, along with stong safety Aaron Francisco, were part of one of the worst defenses that I've ever seen?

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## Re:The All-Mormon Team

Posted by Cougfan84 - 2008/04/15 10:53

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lol its hard to remember every player, but awesome input! And it was Ryan Denney that played next to Kiesel and if he didn't have an injury I believe he could have really shined in Buffalo last year, his brother John was with the Dolphins last I knew and then Brett is on our current team. All the Denney boys are from my hometown of Thornton, CO. Look at the overall talent of LDS athletes through the years. I'm very impressed. And I think we are only scratching the surface. If I could give more karma than only once every 6 hours, I would. But I hope my lack of Karma brings good karma to the rest of you haha...

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## Re:The All-Mormon Team

Posted by WBcougar - 2008/04/15 11:13

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Another wide receiver/return man that many of you would not remember would be Golden Richards. Played at the Y in the early 70's. Probably one of the fastest players to ever play at the Y. If I recall, he played some with the Cowboys. Also qualifies as a member of the "all-Great Name" team.

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## Re:The All-Mormon Team

Posted by stuckinbig10country - 2008/04/15 11:29

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I'm pretty sure Muirbrook wasn't LDS. I don't think Mohammed Elewinibi was either.

There are so many good LDS athletes out there, I'm pretty sure the list would be way too long for us to do it justice, but this is still fun.

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## Re:The All-Mormon Team

Posted by ammoncougar1 - 2008/04/15 11:36

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Was Jim a Mormon or not? I have heard both but not definitively. Because if he was then he has to be on the list at 2 deep in my opinion.

Go Cougs!!!

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## Re:The All-Mormon Team

Posted by Cougfan84 - 2008/04/15 11:45

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ammoncougar1 wrote:

Was Jim a Mormon or not? I have heard both but not definitively. Because if he was then he has to be on the list at 2 deep in my opinion.

Go Cougs!!!

Jim McMahon? He was catholic. He definitely makes my all-BYU team tho, He and Steve Young both paved the way for the National Respect we gained leading up to 1984, then Bosco put us over the top with the Undefeated National Championship season. Bosco was a freakin tough guy! He took a beating during the perfect season but still came through for us so he def ranks high on my list too.

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## Re:The All-Mormon Team

Posted by frdbtr - 2008/04/15 12:56

ammoncougar1 wrote:

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Go Cougs!!!

Jim McMahon was Catholic. The reciever he hit in the endzone in the Miracle bowl was also Catholic. That is probably the only reason I know that he was Catholic is because they made a big deal about Catholics beating the Methodists to secure victory for a mormon school in that Bowl game.

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## Re:The All-Mormon Team

Posted by nuk13 - 2008/04/15 14:30

Clay Brown was the tight end that caught the hail Mary in the end zone against SMU. I never could figure out why he didn't make the pros.

A guy on the 84 team of note was Kelly Smith. He lined up at running back but was a great receiver. I believe Kelly caught the winning td from Bosco. He was a good running back even tho he was only about 5'10 and 180.

Another mention would be Ituli Milli (sp) that played on the same team as C Lewis and stayed with Seattle till a couple of years ago. I think this years Pitta/George may attain their level.

When you talk of families don't forget the Poppingas from Evanston. Besides the lbs, their brother played tight end at Utah State.

Another interesting list would be how many made the pros at each position. I think tight end would come out looking good.

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## Re:The All-Mormon Team

Posted by mountaincougar - 2008/04/15 14:49

I would like to throw in the name of Gary Sheide. He QB'd BYU in 1974 (I think or so). He was the QB (IMO) that put BYU back on the map (since the Virgil Carter days in the mid-60's). Neilson and the rest followed suit and the QB factory was born. He took BYU to Fiesta Bowl and BYU made a good showing. I can't remember if we won or lost (I think lost) but we showed well. We rode his arm.

Another is Jeff Blanc who was a running back. He was the first RB in many years for BYU who didn't auger himself into the ground after breaking through the line. The rest seemed so shocked that they were in the open field they weren't quite sure what to do. He played in mid-70's or so, was quick and tough.

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Go Cougars!!

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## Re:The All-Mormon Team

Posted by Short\_Changed - 2008/04/15 15:01

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I'm pretty sure OL Kyle Turley is LDS and he was pretty good there for a while.

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## Re:The All-Mormon Team

Posted by imuakahuku - 2008/04/15 15:03

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How about Merlin Olsen, Junior Ah You, Al Harrington, Todd Christensen, Edwin Mulitalo, Scott Mitchell, Bart Oats, Anton Palepoi, Clarence Burgess Owens (DB )? I think there are a few more poly's in there you can add but would need to be verified before I included them.

Here is a link to some others

<http://famousmormons.net/football.html>

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## Re:The All-Mormon Team

Posted by ABYUFAN - 2008/04/15 16:46

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frdbtr wrote:

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LaVell Edwards has the best quote about that. he says that the Catholics tied the game. The Kicker, who was Mormon, actually won it!

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## Re:The All-Mormon Team

Posted by huskercougar - 2008/04/15 16:49

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nuk13 wrote:

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A guy on the 84 team of note was Kelly Smith. He lined up at running back but was a great receiver. I believe Kelly caught the winning td from Bosco. He was a good running back even tho he was only about 5'10 and 180.

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Another interesting list would be how many made the pros at each position. I think tight end would come out looking good.

Kelly Smith is actually my second cousin. He was a solid player, but by no means was he an all-star. A hard worker from Beaver, UT, and good route runner. The first BYU game I ever went to was his Senior year in '85 against Air Force. BYU was down 14-0 by the time we got into the stadium, but of course they came back and won. Kelly actually tore his ACL early on in that game, so it was the last game he played in for BYU.

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## Re:The All-Mormon Team

Posted by Florwood - 2008/04/15 17:07

For his great football story in conference a year ago, I nominate Joseph B. Wirthlin to the list.

[http://www.lds.org/ldsorg/v/index.jsp?vgnextoid=2354fccf2b7db010VgnVCM1000004d82620aRCRD&locale=0&sourceId=6e40b5658af22110VgnVCM100000176f620a\\_\\_\\_\\_\\_&hideNav=1](http://www.lds.org/ldsorg/v/index.jsp?vgnextoid=2354fccf2b7db010VgnVCM1000004d82620aRCRD&locale=0&sourceId=6e40b5658af22110VgnVCM100000176f620a_____&hideNav=1)

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## Re:The All-Mormon Team

Posted by Cougfan84 - 2008/04/15 17:50

I love the idea of Elder Wirthlin on the team haha I just don't know what position he plays. And along with that Kelly Smith comment, to this day he owns the Utah High School State Rushing Record for a single season... 2,561 yards...I still remember that number because I wanted to break that record...I only came up 2,561 yards shy (They put me on defense, I had a fumbling problem, and that just won't fly with the coaches). Does any one want to do draft #2 of the All-Mormon team depth chart?

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## Re:The All-Mormon Team

Posted by Short\_Changed - 2008/04/15 20:45

Cougfan84 wrote:

I love the idea of Elder Wirthlin on the team haha I just don't know what position he plays. And along with that Kelly Smith comment, to this day he owns the Utah High School State Rushing Record for a single season... 2,561 yards...I still remember that number because I wanted to break that record...I only came up 2,561 yards shy (They put me on defense, I had a fumbling problem, and that just won't fly with the coaches). Does any one want to do draft #2 of the All-Mormon team depth chart?

Elder Worthlin was a really talented return guy, so we'll put him at PR/KR.

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## Re:The All-Mormon Team

Posted by nuk13 - 2008/04/15 21:41

imuakahuku wrote:

How about Merlin Olsen, Junior Ah You, Al Harrington, Todd Christensen, Edwin Mulitalo, Scott Mitchell, Bart Oats, Anton Palepoi, Clarence Burgess Owens (DB )? I think there are a few more poly's in there you can add but would need to be verified before I included them.

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Imuakahuku, this was a great sight. There were several players I hadn't heard of. That would include Burgess Owens. What is his story? It told nothing of his college or how he became LDS.

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I emailed them and told them about Jerry Inman.

You are right about Christiansen, of all the LDS tight ends I don't think any of them did better in the pros. He was a fullback at BYU. I think he caught 50 passes from that position in one of his last 2 years at BYU.

In addition to football I visited some other sights. Among others I liked the bio on Ed Parker and Cael Sanderson. We've talked of Parker on this sight. Sanderson may has the best wrestling record in college history.

Thanks

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## Re:The All-Mormon Team

Posted by MrRoboto - 2008/04/16 00:04

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How about Eli Herring? He made it clear that he would not play in the NFL, and yet still got drafted in the 6th round. Who knows how good he could have been, but I'd pick him for my 'mormon' team just for his integrity.

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## Re:The All-Mormon Team

Posted by PP3 - 2008/04/16 07:22

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Weren't there a couple other O-Linemen at the same time as Herring, (Even Pilgrim?) who were really good? Also on the '96 team, were a couple of our best DB's Tim McTyre and Omarr Morgan, not sure if they were LDS.

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## Re:The All-Mormon Team

Posted by imuakahuku - 2008/04/16 08:41

nuk13 wrote:

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Thanks

My favorit is the one about Elvis. :blink:

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## Re:The All-Mormon Team

Posted by nuk13 - 2008/04/16 09:36

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imuakahuku wrote:

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Yes, I liked that one too. Ed Parker was very involved in that.

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