
Chambers role and other wide receivers?

Posted by CougarPokes - 2008/04/22 09:27

I just read this article <http://www.cougarfan.com/article.asp?ArtID=46486&URL=http://byu.scout.com/2/748125.html> about Chambers and how he is preparing to come to Provo for the summer so he can be in the best shape and get on the field and contribute as quickly as possible. I am impressed with his strength and speed, as reported in the article. So, where does that leave him? It seems that we are set with our WR's, especially with Hoffaka and Ashworth playing so well and improving. Will Chambers be redshirting or will he be a bench player? I am excited about the young players we have at WR. The future is bright, but what about now? I don't want any of these guys transferring because of lack of playing time.

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Re:Chambers role and other wide receivers?

Posted by Hengst - 2008/04/22 09:43

I think Hafoka will definitely be redshirted this year. That's a good possibility for Ashworth as well. We'll see on chambers. He'll either have a medium to major role on the field this year, or Bronco will redshirt him.

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Re:Chambers role and other wide receivers?

Posted by splittbamboo - 2008/04/22 10:03

Hengst wrote:

I think Hafoka will definitely be redshirted this year. That's a good possibility for Ashworth as well. We'll see on chambers. He'll either have a medium to major role on the field this year, or Bronco will redshirt him.

I think you covered everything except that he might have a minor role or he might get injured or he might not show up... ;)

We'll probably have to wait and see what really happen. Though I think Bronco is kind of into doing a redshirt year to get them fully into the system before they step into a playing role.

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Re:Chambers role and other wide receivers?

Posted by craigocarson - 2008/04/22 10:09

My guess is that the coaches are asking the same thing right now.

One thing going for him, is that he plays receiver and hypothetically can be a returnman/special teamer too.(He would not be ready in this offense as a tight end, a safety, lineman, or linebacker to do what is required for our offensive scheme. Honestly the two positions that suit freshmen in this offense would be receiver and Dline- traditionally corner is a position that truly amazing athletes can play early at other schools, but at BYU, this might not be possible because of the scheme and zone defenses they have to learn).

This is not the toughest position to play in the spread and certainly he can be used to keep a defense honest. Even if he really does only run a 4.7, he's big enough that a smaller DB would be stupid to give him a 15 yard cushion and then make themselves responsible for tackling him.

What remains to be determined:

1. How Chambers will adjust to BYU Campus, the environment, and being a college student at a relatively high functioning level.

This is not a kid that has grown up in Utah Valley and has spent as much time at the BYU campus as they have at their own high school stadium. The culture shock has to be considered. (maybe football helps get over that, maybe it overwhelms him)

This is where Missouri freshman Tony Temple stumbled and Missouri blew an extra year of eligibility on 13 total carries. (The same kid that rushed for a Cotton Bowl record 284 yards last year, runs a legit 4.35 40 and is considered too small to play in the NFL everydown- He would have made Missouri a legit national championship contender next year. Yet Gary Pinkle got greedy and put in a completely unprepared frosh, blowing his redshirt)

Obviously we don't want to risk the same thing with Chambers. If he's not 90%+ indoctrinated in BYU life, freshman living, college, etc. then personally, I say redshirt him.

2. How are his hands and ability to get off the line? (Based on the difference between high school and D1 level college, a lot of freshmen don't catch everything thrown at them or have the know how to get separation).

If he's dropping a lot of balls in fall camp, redshirt him. If regardless of his size or arguable speed, can't make room to bring in balls, redshirt him. Unless you're Rod Wilkerson, you can teach good athletes how to hold onto balls at the D1 level and how to create separation (Kevin Curtis comes to mind as a guy that mastered those things as a student of the game).

If Chambers is the second coming of Michael Crabtree (which would exceed all of my dreams and force me to immediately purchase a Chambers BYU jersey) then it's a no brainer - - play him and let Collie know that even "clean living" isn't going to get him 100 catches with Chambers on the same team. Who knows, I don't think anyone expected Crabtree to be the 2nd coming of Jerry Rice.....(Yes, he's that good)

3. Do we benefit more from having a Chambers/Jacobson/Hafoka/Ashworth (Collie+1) group for 3 years together; maybe a better way to ask-- is Michael Reed the answer this year as the #2 option. If Reed is the man this year, then why not use the bevy of potential backups and 3rd stringers (Koz, White, Ashworth, Hafoka) and save Chambers?

4. Can Chambers return kicks and punts effectively? This question may trump everything else. If the answer is yes, Collie is now saved for what he needs to be doing; and potentially G Pittman is also protected from injury. Mahuika becomes the 2nd option at returner (not a bad 2nd option) and can concentrate on competing for backup receiver minutes. Mendenhall has not been shy about using starters and youngsters to return balls.

5. Do we risk upsetting or losing Chambers psychologically, emotionally or football-wise by not playing him? Every coach has to ask themselves that when considering a redshirt, some freshmen absolutely need a redshirt, others are more of a risk to themselves and the team by being redshirted and not having the full connection with the team and football. This has to be considered.

6. relatively unimportant - Chambers has friends that will either be on missions or at a JUCO that want to play at BYU. (Apparently even Austin Holt and Chambers have a great relationship) redshirting him, gives him the chance to play more with them.

7. Bottom line? Do we need Chambers to increase our chances to go undefeated and get a BCS bid. (obviously this is a combo of all the considerations) If the answer is yes, and the risk to Chambers psychologically is low, then play him. If our team isn't substantially better with him playing, then why blow a year of eligibility on a guy that has a chance to be a flagship player in the future?

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Re:Chambers role and other wide recievers?

Posted by gordito - 2008/04/22 10:15

Wow Craig, you've really thought about this haven't you :)

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Re:Chambers role and other wide recievers?

Posted by craigscarson - 2008/04/22 10:30

gordito wrote:

Wow Craig, you've really thought about this haven't you :)

It just flows when I care about something..... :cheer:

(don't bother asking me why and how Mitt Romney got robbed by his own party or you're begging for a doctoral thesis- it may be the only thing I've ever agreed with Ann Coulter on).

Of course, we all know how long I can type on Plaisted too.....

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Re:Chambers role and other wide recievers?

Posted by Hengst - 2008/04/22 10:44

I just think we're deep enough at receiver this year that his chances of playing a slim. We'll see though, if he really is that good Max is going to have some good options to throw too. Next year is going to be unreal. Jacobson will be back, Hafoka and Ashworth will have had a year to get into football shape, Chambers will have a year under his belt. Collie will still be around. Also I still think we may see some good things out of Koz, Jordan Smith & Landen Jausi. Max will be able to complete passes with his eyes closed.

And I haven't even started talking about Tight end yet. Crazy!

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Re:Chambers role and other wide recievers?

Posted by CougarPokes - 2008/04/22 11:08

Hengst wrote:

And I haven't even started talking about Tight end yet. Crazy!

So, who do we have waiting in the wings for TE? I know we have Holt, but is there someone else out there that will be the next Harline?

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Re:Chambers role and other wide recievers?

Posted by Hengst - 2008/04/22 11:11

CougarPokes wrote:

Hengst wrote:

And I haven't even started talking about Tight end yet. Crazy!

So, who do we have waiting in the wings for TE? I know we have Holt, but is there someone else out there that will be the next Harline?

The have a freshman on the team right now who was supposedly a big deal as a recruit. I heard he had a pretty good spring. I can't remember his name though.

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Re:Chambers role and other wide recievers?

Posted by craigocarson - 2008/04/22 11:18

Hengst wrote:

I just think we're deep enough at receiver this year that his chances of playing a slim. We'll see though, if he really is that good Max is going to have some good options to throw too. Next year is going to be unreal. Jacobson will be back, Hafoka and Ashworth will have had a year to get into football shape, Chambers will have a year under his belt. Collie will still be around. Also I still think we may see some good things out of Koz, Jordan Smith & Landen Jausi. Max will be able to complete passes with his eyes closed.

And I haven't even started talking about Tight end yet. Crazy!

Throwing too many redshirts around on questionable contributors steals scholarship years from guys that Mendenhall and company may covet and of course guys (especially Olinemen and soon to be missionaries) that are of no benefit to the team without the redshirt.

One thing Lavell (at the end of his tenure) and Crowton sadly did, was keep a lot of noncontributors on scholarship a lot longer than they needed to be. (there were a lot of 1 and dones between 1999-2004 and we didn't have a scholarship for Kevin Curtis or David Anderson because we had guys like Jason Kukahiko, Elan Edwards, Micah Alba, Breyon Jones, Michael Lafitte, etc. and the slew of troubled Crowton crop sitting on their hands taking up reps (and several taking scholarships and redshirt years) that could have gone elsewhere.)

I simply haven't seen the same propensity to be as wasteful with Bronco....

Why redshirt a guy that you're not sure will ever be ready, if you believe that the next recruit might be and might not

come if you don't have a scholarship.

At some point in the future, we'll know if not having available scholarships will hurt us as it pertains to guys like Frandsen, Cody Raymond, etc. Just the same, we can't gamble on every guy with big numbers pre-D1 that they'll be the diamond in the rough that college stars like Kevin Curtis, David Anderson, or a Jaycee Carroll in hoops was.

Then there's the completely unforeseeable, like Ben Olson or Chris Burgess never being good and the scholarships we saved on guys like that. Part of it is sheer dumb luck.

Re:Chambers role and other wide receivers?

Posted by BYUtx - 2008/04/22 11:19

I wonder how, if at all, Chambers' experience will influence recruiting. I think it would be awesome if he came in and was a gamer right off the bat. If he could have a relatively good season and show recruits from his HS that FL kids can come in and get big-time experience, it may just open up a mini-pipeline from that school. That could be huge for us. I'm not saying it will be like the Hawai'i pipeline, but it would still help us land an amazing athlete every year or so.

Re:Chambers role and other wide receivers?

Posted by craigocarson - 2008/04/22 11:37

CougarPokes wrote:

Hengst wrote:

And I haven't even started talking about Tight end yet. Crazy!

So, who do we have waiting in the wings for TE? I know we have Holt, but is there someone else out there that will be the next Harline?

<http://www.byucougars.com/Profile.jsp?ID=3025> (notice the beautiful freshman haircut.....)

Friel could be one of those guys - I don't know how you fill the shoes of Harline though. He was one heck of a great college football player.

Re:Chambers role and other wide receivers?

Posted by HoosierCougar - 2008/04/22 12:16

craigocarson wrote:

One thing going for him, is that he plays receiver and hypothetically can be a returnman/special teamer too.

I like the idea of a tandem of returners: Chambers and DiLuigi. On the field at the same time, splitting late (as the ball is kicked).

Special teams coaches will have a hard time sceming for both the power/speed of Chambers and the elusiveness/speed of DiLuigi.

I know, neither has played a down of football past HS, but it is April, and a Yewt VP just grabbed me in the lobby of the building on the way back from lunch to tell me how good his Pukes were going to be this fall. AHHHHH! I needed to vent! :woohoo: :side:

Re:Chambers role and other wide receivers?

Posted by Slugger - 2008/04/22 12:25

BYUtx wrote:

I wonder how, if at all, Chambers' experience will influence recruiting. I think it would be awesome if he came in and was a gamer right off the bat. I he could have a relatively good season and show recruits from his HS that FL kids can come in and get big-time experience, it may just open up a mini-pipeline from that school. That could be huge for us. I'm not saying it will be like the Hawai'i pipeline, but it would still help us land an amazina athlete every year or so.

Ditto. I couldn't have said it any better. This was a thought of mine as well. We finally have a big-time recruit from Florida, let's not put him on the shelf if he's capable of playing. Of course, if he can't get the job done done play him but if he comes in ready to go, by all means, let him play. I don't want to see another Ben Olson saga where the kid is ready, doesn't get the chance, and decides to split so he can see the field. Besides, since McKay Jacobson played his freshman year it is likely he may redshirt when he returns so Chambers could fill that void for that next two seasons until Jacobson gets back into playing shape.

Re:Chambers role and other wide recievers?

Posted by Cougfan84 - 2008/04/22 12:29

Man I can't say enough about Chambers, this kid is a class act! Hes a hardnosed stud at WR. I think he may redshirt this year, but I guarantee he will be working his butt off to learn the offense and get way stronger and more agile...This kid along with DiLuigi will help with recruiting solid Non-LDS athletes. Mendenhall you are the man! I admit, I doubted the hiring of Bronco when it happened and I was dead wrong! I love the way he carries his business and the teams he puts out on the field represent the University very well both on and off the field!

And all of the other WR and TE...Wow we have a stable full of them and RB's, don't even get me started, we have studs at all the skill positions...O-Line we are solid but im still waiting for a solid LT to step up and give max a little extra time from his blindside.

That Jaussi kid is intriguing, and Hafoka that kid can flat out play the game. Ashworth is a hardnosed receiver. Collie is our playmaking miracleman that we know can make "Magic happen." Then add Chambers into this mix to knock someone out! He doesn't shy from contact, I love how we don't have any prima donna pansie WR's. Then next season...Welcome back McKay! He reminds me so much of Wes Welker its ridiculous!

Its great to be a cougar fan!

Re:Chambers role and other wide recievers?

Posted by scott715 - 2008/04/22 12:34

Play chambers at returnman if it can help us win. Another great season will only improve future recruiting and maybe get even better athletes to replace the ones that leave. Then why hold on to them an extra year with a redshirt.

Re:Chambers role and other wide recievers?

Posted by cscoug - 2008/04/22 12:40

craigoscarson wrote:

CougarPokes wrote:

Hengst wrote:

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<http://www.byucougars.com/Profile.jsp?ID=3025> (notice the beautiful freshman haircut.....)

Friel could be one of those guys - I don't know how you fill the shoes of Harline though. He was one heck of a great college football player.

We also have Mahina returning in the next year or so. It will be great to find out what he can do.

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Re:Chambers role and other wide recievers?

Posted by Florwood - 2008/04/22 12:56

The article said, "Chambers has also been receiving calls from coaches, namely defensive coordinator Jaime Hill."

As a wide receiver, why is he getting calls from Coach Hill? Is it to provide additional mentors by race and religion? Don't mean this in a negative way at all, just curious.

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Re:Chambers role and other wide recievers?

Posted by Mars - 2008/04/22 14:12

Remember, something crazy like 80% of RMs get injured their first year back playing football. I think this is one of the major reasons that Bronco strongly prefers blue-shirting returned missionaries their first year back.

Bronco, in my opinion, is more likely to play a freshman than a first-year RM. And though Hafoka and Ashworth definitely look good some plays, they also look rusty or out-of-shape sometimes as well.

To make a long story short, I expect that Chambers will get a real chance to play this season, like DiLuigi and Pittman would have last season if they hadn't been injured, and Hague the season before.

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Re:Chambers role and other wide recievers?

Posted by CougarPokes - 2008/04/22 14:13

Florwood wrote:

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As a wide receiver, why is he getting calls from Coach Hill? Is it to provide additional mentors by race and religion? Don't mean this in a negative way at all, just curious.

I saw that as well and thought the same thing. I doubt they would have him move to DB, but I suppose with his size and strength it is possible. I get the feeling they are more worried about the other factors you mentioned. The article also stated that he was good friends with Hooks. I am sure he helps quite a bit.

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