
More pub. on BYUFB

Posted by j2b03 - 2008/05/07 11:55

I came across this article, it looks like it just came out today. On the third page Mandell really gives some good props to BYU and there is a good pic of Hall. Not sure why he included AF on one of our tough road games. ARe they supposed to be really good next year? I knew they had a "better-than-expected" year last year but are they projected to do well enough to be deemed a tough road game?

Sorry if this has been posted already.

http://sportsillustrated.cnn.com/2008/writers/stewart_mandel/05/06/mailbag/index.html

Re:More pub. on BYUFB

Posted by Isola - 2008/05/07 15:29

He had some really nice things to say about BYU. I liked the part about if BYU is BCS eligible that the Fiesta Bowl might pick us instead of us falling to the Orange Bowl who picks last. I think it is true. We have a lot of support in Arizona, and Max Hall and John Beck were both from the Phoenix area. We could really pack the house and I am happy that he realizes it.

He also says that BYU may be the first BCS buster to get in with one loss. That our pre-season rankings look to be high enough that one loss may not set us back that far.

These comments say a lot about BYU.

Re:More pub. on BYUFB

Posted by CrimsonCoug - 2008/05/07 15:58

Nice find. It's comforting to see a pundit putting out the possibility of a 1-loss BCS buster. That framing may be important as the Utah and TCU and possibly Washington games really will be close. (I'm with you about Air Force; their new coach did fantastically well in stepping into that situation, and AF had a mostly great season after their pasting in Provo, but I'm not sure that game will be at the Utah/TCU level. Still, they do have a lot of upside.)

Re:More pub. on BYUFB

Posted by dlouc - 2008/05/07 16:13

Good article and good comments about BYU.

I have to admit, the reply to the question about the playoff was the first intelligible response I've heard to why the playoff was shot down. The blanket statement that a playoff would weaken the regular season is still mostly dumb, but I do understand it a little bit better now.

Re:More pub. on BYUFB

Posted by redneckjedi - 2008/05/07 16:31

It just leaves me wondering why he had us ranked at #25 at the end of the season. I believe his excuse for that was the old "didn't play anyone good" line. And yet, in the pre-season, we haven't played anyone at all - and suddenly we're #13? Hmmm...

I suppose I'll forgive Mandell for his ignorance in hopes that his repentance is sincere, but I have my doubts...

Re:More pub. on BYUFB

j2b03 wrote:

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Air Force will have a down year again. They lose their top 2 offensive players: QB Carney and All-purpose back Hall. They also lose another 12 starters from last year.

I predict that Utah will be our toughest game yet again. Washington will be tough, just in the fact that we haven't learned to win YET on the road out of conference.

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Re:More pub. on BYUFB

Posted by j2b03 - 2008/05/08 11:40

dlcoug,

Yes, I agree that was a better than usual explanation of why the season would not be as important. I still don't totally agree with it because I believe that CF is so popular that people would still flock to the games, especially since there are so few compared to BB. I thought comparing it to CBB was a little weak considering they play over twice as many games.

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Re:More pub. on BYUFB

Posted by Isola - 2008/05/08 15:05

j2b03 wrote:

dlcoug,

Yes, I agree that was a better than usual explanation of why the season would not be as important. I still don't totally agree with it because I believe that CF is so popular that people would still flock to the games, especially since there are so few compared to BB. I thought comparing it to CBB was a little weak considering they play over twice as many games. I agree that this is the best argument that I have heard against a playoff, but I too think it is a little weak. The NCAA basketball tournament has a field of 65 out of 341 teams. That means 19% of the teams make the tourney. But even then most of the field comes from the Big Six conferences. 34 teams came from 6 conferences that have a combined total of 73 teams. So last year teams from the Big Six conferences have a 46% chance of making the tournament, and it was a bad year for the big guys. That is why the regular season is meaningless. You only have to be a .500 team in a big conference and you make the tourney.

Even a 16 team playoff in football where all conference champs get autobids would only include 5 at large teams. Assuming all the at-large teams come from the current BCS conferences they would essentially have the same odds to make the playoff as they would making a BCS game in a year without a BCS buster. 11 spots instead of 10. That would not make the regular season boring. The BCS conference races would be just as compelling as they are now, and it would make the non-AQ conference races far more compelling.

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