
Bronco\'s (Dallas) Fireside

Posted by BYUby5 - 2008/05/14 07:05

Just thought I'd give a quick report on the Bronco Mendenhall fireside I attended in Dallas / Fort Worth last night!

Manaaki Vaitai (Freshman Eueless, TX)spoke first and talked about being a true follower of Christ. His talk lasted about 5-6 minutes.

Dustin Gabriel (Allen, TX)was next and his talk was based on a conference talk from President Monson a few years back. It was a talk about being a strong finisher no matter what challenges you may need to overcome. Dustin said this conference talk was placed in every players locker by Bronco the day before the famous Eco Challenge the football team does in the off season (I'm sure many on this board know the insane details of the eco challenge and could explain it better than me). Dustin spoke for 10-15 minutes.

Before Bronco spoke, all in attendance stood up and sang "Army of Helaman". The young man who conducted the fireside told us that the football team sings that song every team meeting.

Bronco spoke for the last 20 minutes or so. He did not prepare a talk or bring any notes. He seemed to just speak from the heart. He spent some time talking about Dustin Gabriel's topic. He also told some great stories about things that have happened during the Eco Challenge. He spoke about his interview process for the BYU head coaching job and some of the details of his final interview with now President Henry B. Eyring. He told us that not one time during his final interview was the topic of football ever brought up, Instead all Pres. Eyring wanted to talk about was Bronco's testimony. After Bronco shared his testimony, Pres. Eyring told him "your our man"! Bronco finished by telling some stories from his youth and about his father.

My only real thought in regards to football at the end of listening to Bronco speak was how amazed I am that we don't get every single LDS kid that we recruit. There is no way I would let my son miss out on the experience of playing football for Bronco & BYU! He is a great football coach and an even better leader & ambassator for BYU.

McKay Jacobson's little brother said the closing prayer, he looks just like Mckay!

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Re:Bronco\'s (Dallas) Fireside

Posted by MojoCougar - 2008/05/14 08:00

Great report!! Karma to you for the details. When I saw that Bronco would be having a fireside in Texas I thought about driving over to the Dallas area, but thats still almost 400 miles from my part of Texas.

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Re:Bronco\'s (Dallas) Fireside

Posted by mormonrasta - 2008/05/14 09:38

BYUby5 wrote:

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I've been to 3 Bronco firesides. I've loved every one and have the same sentiment as you. If Bronco were to offer any of my kids a scholarship the ONLY correct answer would be yes.

However, I know Bronco's message resonates with me because I'm in a different place as a 30 something married return missionary with kids than I was when I was 18 choosing colleges. I would be surprised if Bronco connected with even the average LDS player.

Not to paint with too broad of brush, but it seems that the players Bronco brings in are at a different level of maturity, whether LDS or not, than the standard 18 year high school athlete would be. I don't think this trend will change any time soon. I think it takes unique players to play for this unique coach in this unique program.

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Re:Bronco's (Dallas) Fireside

Posted by ProV1 - 2008/05/14 10:26

mormonrasta wrote:

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I may cost us a few recruits and wins but I wouldn't have it any other way.

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Re:Bronco's (Dallas) Fireside

Posted by Conosticator - 2008/05/14 10:51

ProV1 wrote:

mormonrasta wrote:

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Agreed. Nothing wrong with appealing to a higher level of maturity. I'm sure many a parent of an immature "great" athlete has wished their son had what it takes to make the grade at BYU.

When Bronco's message resonates with a recruit we frequently see that player eventually become far better than the "experts" at the various recruit rating services ever expected. I'd rather have BYU recruit a good player and help him become great than recruit a "great" player and hope he is as good as the hype.

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Re:Bronco's (Dallas) Fireside

Posted by j2b03 - 2008/05/14 11:45

I agree Rasta about the maturity thing. I actually said this awhile ago in a different way and got slammed for it, you just said it better than I did. I think those who commit to Bronco and his mission are at a different level of maturity. It is just plain and simple. But I don't believe that everyone who doesn't commit is immature they just have other plans and I guess I will admit, the Spirit could lead them another direction...ok there I said it. and one other thing, how did Missionary Mall get Brad Pitt to pose in that suit under the advertisement, Man, that must have been expensive!;)

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Re:Bronco's (Dallas) Fireside

Posted by cszjr - 2008/05/14 12:09

imho, if you have better maturity, your players are more likely to play as a team, and if the players play as a team, they will have a greater likelihood of success, which should translate into more wins.

So I think the team should be more successful.

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Re:Bronco's (Dallas) Fireside

Posted by lawman - 2008/05/14 12:14

MojoCougar wrote:
Great report!! Karma to you for the details.

Ditto! I hope I can make it to one next time they are in Southern California!

Re:Bronco's (Dallas) Fireside

Posted by decloucog - 2008/05/14 23:51

Wish I could have gone. That's a long drive from where I'm at though. (straight south 4 hours on the 45.)

Re:Bronco's (Dallas) Fireside

Posted by jhw5 - 2008/05/15 07:39

mormonrasta wrote:
BYUby5 wrote:

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Two questions for the experienced:

- 1) Is there a Q&A session?
- 2) Bronco is scheduled to speak in a Chicago fireside next week, but so are Tom Holmoe and Pres Samuelson. In fact, Pres Samuelson is the featured speaker. Were either in attendance at any of the firesides you attended?

Re:Bronco's (Dallas) Fireside

Posted by justmyperspective - 2008/05/15 09:09

I've only been to two firesides - one during the season where much of the team was present (that's the typical format) and this last one in Dallas where only Bronco and the two players (Dustin and Manaaki) spoke. There was one other incoming freshmen in the congregation (Michael Yeck), but neither Tom Holmoe nor Pres. Samuelson were present. I suspect those two are already in Chicago for some other function and they're combining for that fireside. I noticed it's at a hotel rather than at a chapel.

Coincidentally, members of the football operations staff were in attendance - they had been in town negotiating arrangements (hotels, etc.) for the TCU game. Apparently the schedule was finalized so late that they couldn't make reservations until now. Another Thursday night game at TCU.

Re:Bronco's (Dallas) Fireside

Posted by justmyperspective - 2008/05/15 09:13

RE: Q&A - not at either of the two I attended. It's a fireside format with speakers, musical numbers (it's been local players who speak and others who perform - piano, singing, etc. - in the "pre-game" firesides), and Bronco concludes. They greet people afterwards though. Bronco was on the stand shaking hands for 30 mins or so after this latest fireside.

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Re:Bronco\'s (Dallas) Fireside

Posted by Conosticator - 2008/05/15 09:15

justmyperspective wrote:

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So how many times did you have to go through the line to shake his hand before you got all your questions answered?
:cheer:

Re:Bronco\'s (Dallas) Fireside

Posted by mormonrasta - 2008/05/15 09:16

jhw5 wrote:

mormonrasta wrote:

BYUby5 wrote:

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The first one I went to there was a Q&A, but I guess it really wasn't a fireside it was more of a Cougar Club fundraiser in Mesa. However, Bronco said pretty much the same stuff as he does at a fireside. It was awesome!!! It was right after the 6-6 season so the whole Bronco speaking thing wasn't as popular as it is now.

The other times there have been no Q&A. It's like a sacrament meeting without the sacrament-- three or four talks and a musical number. Football isn't mentioned as much as you might think. It is surprising and impressive. I've heard Holmoe speak at one, but I've never heard President Samuelson at one of these.

Re:Bronco\'s (Dallas) Fireside

Posted by stuckinbig10country - 2008/05/15 10:47

When is the one in Chicago? I only live 5 hours away, and would think about going, especially if the Cubs are playing in town at the same time.

Re:Bronco\'s (Dallas) Fireside

Posted by justmyperspective - 2008/05/15 10:55

From byucougars.com ...

Wednesday, May 21 (Chicago, Illinois) with BYU President Cecil O. Samuelson
Westin O'Hare Hotel
6100 North River Road
Rosemont, IL
Time: 7:30 p.m.

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Re:Bronco\'s (Dallas) Fireside

Posted by jhw5 - 2008/05/15 11:21

justmyperspective wrote:
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Westin O'Hare Hotel
6100 North River Road
Rosemont, IL
Time: 7:30 p.m.

That's the same as what they've advertised in the sacrament programs.

One thing Cougar fans will be interested in is that they are panning this as a "Fireside with a GA", not a Bronco or Tom Holmoe fireside. I still plan on thanking Pres Samuelson for not settling on a mtn Regional Coverage contract with DirectTV!

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