
Riley Nelson: BYU Cougar

Posted by BYUtx - 2008/05/26 13:42

<http://www.deseretnews.com/blogs/1,5322,19,00.html?bD=20080526>

BYU received pledge from All-American QB

Dick Harmon

DeseretNews.com blogger | May 26, 2008 at 12:42 p.m.

The quarterback era after Max Hall just got more dramatic on Memorial Day when one of the most prolific quarterbacks in high school history announced he would sign with BYU.

Riley Nelson, a Parade All-America QB from Logan, who attended Utah State as a freshman before going on an LDS mission, will play at BYU upon his return from Barcelona, Spain in March 2009, according to his father, Keith Nelson.

With permission from his mission president, Nelson and BYU coaches have communicated through e-mail and came to an understanding about Nelson transferring to BYU. Nelson informed his parents of the decision on Monday morning, a national holiday.

"He looked at this from an emotional, academic and athletic perspective and decided this was the best thing for him to do," according to Keith Nelson.

At 6 foot-1, Nelson was one of the bright spots for the Aggies when he took over QB duties during a dismal season two years ago.

Nelson's football resume is as good as they come - regardless of competition.

"Riley believes he has a lot to learn from BYU quarterback coach Brandon Doman. He respects him and is looking forward to working with him. Riley wanted to get this decision out of the way so he could focus on the most important thing in his life right now, his mission work, which he loves," said Keith.

Here is a breakout of his profile on Utah State's website:

He was named a Parade All-American... Named Mr. Football in the state of Utah by the Deseret Morning News... Was the Gatorade Utah Football Player of the Year as well... Was an all-state selection and the class 3A MVP... Set a national record accounting for 84 touchdowns (53 passing and 31 rushing) as a senior... Also set national record for six touchdowns per game... Finished his high school career with nine Utah state records, including career total touchdowns (130), career passing touchdowns (79), season completions (277), season passing yards (4,041), season passing touchdowns (53), season total touchdowns (84), season total yards (5,815), single-game completions (38) and single-game touchdown passes (seven)... Led Logan to the 3A state championship as a senior... Also played baseball for three years and was a two-time all-region selection... Played basketball one season... Born June 2, 1988 in Salt Lake City, Utah... Son of Keith and Joni Nelson... Father played football at USU, while his grandfather Rod Tueller was an Aggie basketball coach and athletics director...

As a reader/fan what impact do you think this will have on both programs?

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Re:Riley Nelson: BYU Cougar

Posted by WACoug - 2008/05/26 14:01

This is awesome. "If you build it, they will come." Congrats and thanks to Bronco and the entire coaching staff.

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Re:Riley Nelson: BYU Cougar

Posted by BYUtx - 2008/05/26 14:25

I bet the driving force behind the transfer is that he wants to play for a D1 (FBS) school when he gets home.

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Re:Riley Nelson: BYU Cougar

Posted by Hengst - 2008/05/26 14:40

I'd be lying if I said I wasn't shocked. This guy was a logan guy born and raised. My only guess is that he must not have liked his experience up at Utah State very much. Great news though, the QB competition for replacing hall should be very interesting. Nelson has some wheels too (if I remember right) it'd be cool to have a qb that can run around a little.

Re:Riley Nelson: BYU Cougar

Posted by Sage - 2008/05/26 15:21

I am extremely pleased. I think this will be a great addition. As an official, I see a lot of football from the field, and this is excellent. I was on the sidelines at the state championship game when he set such astounding records for a championship game. It wasn't even a contest. Then when we took the losing qb, who by the way had also set state records for a qb, and had already committed to byu, it seemed kind of weird. I remember comments about how the season numbers were more important than just that one game, but in head to head competition, Nelson killed. As I recall it was something like 9 TDs that he was instrumental in in some way. It was a blowout, and I wished we had room for him. This is certainly good news for us.

Re:Riley Nelson: BYU Cougar

Posted by snoscythe - 2008/05/26 15:25

And we wonder why the Pete Carrolls of the world don't want to hold scholarships for their LDS athletes!

Usually I am a bit hesitant to accept players into the program who were initially recruited by BYU, spurned BYU to go elsewhere, and then have a change of heart on the mission. (Note that this does not include players who were not offered by BYU before their missions) However, I can completely understand Riley's perspective on this one. When he signed with USU, they had a new coach, a new offensive coordinator, the conference was on an upswing, and there was a lot of buzz about the future and the ends the school was willing to go to in order to make things happen. Fast forward two years, and you have one of the worst programs in the nation, the new coach and OC are on the piping-hot-seat, the conference is headed south, the administration is not investing in the program, and the school is on the cusp of being sent down to the minors by the NCAA.

I can absolutely understand that things have fundamentally changed that influenced his decision, and those things combined with the resurgence of BYU, not only as a program but a nationally reknowned passing program, made this an easy decision.

Were he a player who spurned us for a BCS school, didn't get any playing time there, and then decided to transfer back after his mission--that I would have a hard time accepting. This one, not so much.

Re:Riley Nelson: BYU Cougar

Posted by OLB - 2008/05/26 15:31

snoscythe wrote:

And we wonder why the Pete Carrolls of the world don't want to hold scholarships for their LDS athletes!

This can cut both ways. I seem to remember a guy named Ben Olson that left BYU for UCLA.

Re:Riley Nelson: BYU Cougar

Posted by OLB - 2008/05/26 15:36

If I remember correctly, I think that Nelson was recruited by BYU, but he wasn't going to be given a scholarship (because the Cougs already had alot of QBs on scholarship) and they had just signed Jame Lark. However, BYU was willing to

give him a preferred walk-on status. I think he opted for USU because the Aggies would give him a scholarship.

Can anyone verify this?

If so, I think Nelson made a great decision. Had he gone to Utah instead of USU, I don't think it would have been easy for him to make the transfer. But moving from the Aggies to the Cougs is like getting a JC transfer.

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Re:Riley Nelson: BYU Cougar

Posted by BYUtx - 2008/05/26 15:46

OLB, I think you're right. That's how I remember it.

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Re:Riley Nelson: BYU Cougar

Posted by ammoncougar1 - 2008/05/26 17:04

First thing I did when I saw this thread was text my USU grad/fan buddy and talk some good 'ol off season trash!

Go Cougs!!!

The next trash will be to my Utah friend tomorrow when I get to work!

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Re:Riley Nelson: BYU Cougar

Posted by Conosticator - 2008/05/26 17:56

From looking at his HS records it's obvious why USU wanted him so bad. They must have liked his running ability (a necessity at USU since the QB is running for his life most of the time). ;)

Good catch Bronco.

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Re:Riley Nelson: BYU Cougar

Posted by craigoscarsen - 2008/05/26 18:04

Riley is about the same size (but quite a bit faster and a tad lighter) than Missouri's Chase Daniels. The spread offense which Missouri runs can benefit mobile quarterbacks, but I think that it would require some adjustment from how we run our spread. It would seem that Riley has the football IQ that some other undersized qbs possess (ala Detmer, Chase Daniel, etc)

<http://sports.espn.go.com/nfc/player/profile?playerId=177296>

I'm kind of having a difficult time finding Riley's freshman stats but did find this - the real question is, does his semisuccess as a freshman mean anything considering the competition, the fact that he split snaps all season with some of his time in mop-up and team he player for?

<http://cfn.scout.com/2/614855.html>

He'd be back for next 09/10, and would have 4 years to play three. Lark will be back and if we can get Jake Heaps in the future, we could restore depth to that position over time; but I don't think Nelson coming to the Y guarantees anything but depth. Although depth is a nice thing, I'm not sure that Nelson is the guy once Max graduates.

Re:Riley Nelson: BYU Cougar

Posted by craigocarson - 2008/05/26 18:33

<http://www.cfbstats.com/2006/player/731/1004207/passing/split.html>

115 qb rating 7 int 6 td passing 55.4 completion %

He played in 1 win and 7 losses

290 yards rushing for 4 yards carry and no touchdowns

Again, I'm not sure what that tells us based on how bad his team was, how mediocre the competition was and when he got his minutes.

Again, I think all it guarantees us is a smart kid that gives us depth at the position- I don't think it's an indication that we just found our guy after Max.

Re:Riley Nelson: BYU Cougar

Posted by TimO - 2008/05/26 18:42

its funny how people are responding-i guess the aggie fans come out of the dirt.

<http://www.deseretnews.com/user/comments/1,5150,700229287,00.html>

my favorite: agg fan | 6:39 p.m. May 26, 2008

It's funny how inactive aggie fans, use this as an excuse to stay in-active. Sorry, Cougs are turning into a magnet-every good player wants to be there.

Doesn't he realize he's making fun of his own fan base? These comments back up Riley's decision to get out...

Re:Riley Nelson: BYU Cougar

Posted by Cougy_Monster - 2008/05/26 19:06

After reading some of those Aggie posts I'm not surprised Riley jumped ship to play for a real program. I can't imagine going to school with those people.

Welcome to a winning team Riley.

Re:Riley Nelson: BYU Cougar

Posted by yutka - 2008/05/26 20:21

I always find it amusing when people claim that BYU fans, People in Provo, etc are "self righteous" etc. If you ask Non-members in Utah why they Dislike Mormons, they will give the same exact response. It is the same reason People hate the cheerleaders and popular kids at School. You Hate and judge the people you view as better than you, or doing what you wish you could do.

Also the comments about Bronco Recruiting this kid on his mission... the article is VERY Clear that the Nelson Family came to BYU asking... For some reason they think because it is BYU they should put themselves at a disadvantage when the family contacts him. I know MANY elders who get on their mission, mature a bit and realize that they want to go to a school where they are open to be LDS while they get an education. Because he is a Football player he isn't allowed to grow, mature or gain perspective on his mission? Ridiculous... But we can always count on the Aggies to come back with their brilliant "You stole our Aggie Blue!" Reminds me of my little sister trying to win a fight with me when I was 12 and she was 9... Oh well. I think with missions, red shirts and all of that, we could have a nice stable of QB's.

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Re:Riley Nelson: BYU Cougar

Posted by a1247 - 2008/05/26 20:33

Im sure his reception in Logan is going to be a cold one next March when he returns from his mission. To be honest I am surprised he announced this now instead of waiting until he got home like Ben Olsen did. His family lives in Logan and his dad is a USU graduate so they all are going to be public enemy number one. This is going to cause a strain on his family for the next 8 months and for his sake I hope he makes a quick trip down to Provo as soon as his plane lands and he gets released from his mission.

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Re:Riley Nelson: BYU Cougar

Posted by craigocarson - 2008/05/26 20:54

Honestly, I'd be surprised if this was the result. We're talking about a program in some of the greatest disaray in college football. I think announcing now will lessen the blow and of course when and if USU has another ofer or 1-12 season, etc. I doubt anyone in Logan will blame him.

You might have some haters, but you also have to remember that he also gave Logan a state football title. He's a hero in that town and I still think there will be more love than hate for him there.

While I get that this is a loss for USU, he's not considered the #1 recruit in the nation, like Ben O. was when he announced he was leaving. It hurt a great deal because of what we perceived to have lost. Just from looking at Rileys freshman #s, it's not likely that they expected the kid to win a ton of games on his own. His numbers suggest a mature kid that could handle the job early, but not a world beater (like Detmers freshman games)

If you're going to make a decision like he did; I'd say better to do it now rather than risk BYU recruiting too many others to the position; with Jacob Bower, Doman, and Cooper leaving, I'll bet the idea had bounced around Rileys head for quite a while now. The mere fact that Brandon Doman was a small athletic quarterback that earned a chance to not only start at BYU but play a little pro ball was probably all the convincing Nielson needed, considering he knows exactly when Hall will be graduating.

If Jake Heaps has mission plans, Nielson would fit nicely between Hall and Heaps; if Nielson can win the job from Lark and Munns.

Again, I think the only exciting thing about this is that we'll have some depth and competition for the position in the future. I don't think we can assume that Riley will be a star by any means. He does seem like a smart athletic kid that understands how to play QB; how that translates to playing QB in a top 10-15 perrenial program is still to be seen.

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Re:Riley Nelson: BYU Cougar

Posted by a1247 - 2008/05/26 21:06

I went to read the trib's article on it and you should see the comments on his going to BYU. Not from USU fans, but from Utah fans. I can't believe the amount of hate and jealousy that they are displaying. And all of there hate is aimed at Bronco. Correct me if Im wrong but didn't all the articles say that Nelson and his family approached BYU. But that's not how the Ute fans are seeing it. I guess since most cant read they only get bits and pieces of the storey and then make it up as they want.

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Re:Riley Nelson: BYU Cougar

Posted by craigocarson - 2008/05/26 21:22

They hate BYU, they're afraid of BYU and we're their natural rival; did you really expect anything different?

I'd be more shocked if everyone started holding hands and sang Kumbaya. Elder Nielson is a long ways away from the idiots complaining about this right now. A whole other USU 0-12 season will pass before he even gets home. This will be

yesterdays news sooner than you realize; however Ute and Aggie fans will always find reasons to complain and hate us. That shouldn't surprise anyone.

This is not Ouna Kaveinga switching schools (assuming he goes on a mission), it's a kid that BYU didn't offer a scholarship to when he was a prep, not a can't miss 5 star recruit. (although I can think of one can't miss 5 star QB that none of us are missing).

The real message here is that it's cool and desirable to play football at BYU right now. That hasn't always been the case. As for the squawking Utes, let em squawk. If there was one school that could use a qb it'd be the U.

Re:Riley Nelson: BYU Cougar

Posted by ammoncougar1 - 2008/05/26 21:50

craigoscarson wrote:

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Just got the expected e-mail from my ute "friend" bashing Bronco. I asked him (but don't expect a response because he never answers the questions I ask him) what would Whit have done. I'm sure the same, then uttered something idiotic like "we now have the three best QB's in the conference, probably the Nation!".

The Utes can cry all they want. I'm stoked that good LDS players are seeing more benefit in coming to BYU. It's good to see that type of maturation taking place in the mission field. ;)

Go Cougs!!!

J. Child

Ammon, ID

Re:Riley Nelson: BYU Cougar

Posted by Gymcoug318 - 2008/05/26 22:19

Ya puke fans are retarded! They are some of the most moronic fans ever! They are too plastered to realize what they are saying!:angry: They can always find ways to complain! And they do! And they can criticize Bronco all they want! But all we have too say is 2-1! And 2 conference titles to zero! 28-10 as a head coach! To something like 23-15! for Kyle! As it said on a t-shirt "Thanks Kyle!" No seriously! As "Catholimat" Aka Matt says Buck with Bronco or buck the hell off! So suck on that puker! :evil:

Re:Riley Nelson: BYU Cougar

Posted by Conosticator - 2008/05/26 23:54

Think what Riley Nelson by deciding on BYU instead of yewtah. He could have been the next yewt QB to throw the ball "literally a 100 yards". Not sure if that is before or after being sackless... :cheer:

Bottom line Riley is a passer. Rumor has it that the deciding factor for him coming to BYU was that, even clear across the

ocean, he heard that Harline's still open... B)

Re:Riley Nelson: BYU Cougar

Posted by stuckinbig10country - 2008/05/27 08:07

To say that I was shocked to see this would be an understatement. My family lives up in Cache Valley, and the Nelson family is a big name up there. His father played at USU, his grandfather was a coach and AD up there. He may not want to show up at his ward to give his homecoming.

Here's the deal though. The coach that they have there is terrible. He will not have any success this year, and will be fired (surprised he made it through this past year). They have just recruited a QB to come in and compete for the starting job, so USU must have had some idea that Riley wasn't coming back.

Re:Riley Nelson: BYU Cougar

Posted by ammoncougar1 - 2008/05/27 08:54

What a crack up! I just browsed Utefans.net to see what they were saying and you would think we just signed Brian Johnson away from them. Will someone please tell me how the heck they are even involved in this situation? What a joke! Oh, and while you're at it I would absolutely love to have a link to Bronco's alleged statements regarding not contacting missionaries while they are serving. And finally, (I know. Preaching to the choir here) when will they realize it is not hypocrisy to preach staying true to your commitments and then allowing (encouraging?) others to break their commitments to make new ones with you? My understanding of this (this would make the utefans even more irate :-)) is that this is a lot like missionary work where we teach people the WHOLE truth and they change from one commitment to the RIGHT commitment! Ha! Ha!

Go Cougs!!!

Re:Riley Nelson: BYU Cougar

Posted by imuakahuku - 2008/05/27 09:01

ammoncougar1 wrote:

My understanding of this (this would make the utefans even more irate :-)) is that this is a lot like missionary work where we teach people the WHOLE truth and they change from one commitment to the RIGHT commitment! Ha! Ha!

Go Cougs!!!

That's a great thought!

Re:Riley Nelson: BYU Cougar

Posted by Hengst - 2008/05/27 09:04

ammoncougar1 wrote:

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Go Cougs!!!

I don't remember Bronco ever giving anyone a hard time for transferring from BYU either. He typically wishes them well. In fact, I don't remember him saying much of anything about the whole BO debacle. I could be wrong though. I think the Ute fans just need something to talk about (since they're obviously in store for one of the all time disappointing seasons in Utah history :-)).

=====

Re:Riley Nelson: BYU Cougar

Posted by SenorCougar - 2008/05/27 09:08

I don't know why the Utes should be concerned.... After all, to be a UTE QB, you have to be able to throw the football over Mount Timp and Riley hasn't done that yet. Unlike a UTE however, he wins.....

=====

Re:Riley Nelson: BYU Cougar

Posted by stuckinbig10country - 2008/05/27 09:12

The Utes pushed hard for Riley out of high school, and Riley followed his heart and went with the team that he grew up being a fan of. I don't know why he ended up changing his mind, I guess we'll find out more either later this week, as his father says, or when he returns home.

The Utes are pissed because they have a hole at QB after Johnson, and Nelson would have fit nicely there. That offense is made for his skills. Don't think that the Utes weren't out there trying to get in contact with Nelson. All in-state LDS athletes (especially the good to great ones) are contacted by the local schools about a year after they have been out on their mission to gage interest.

=====

Re:Riley Nelson: BYU Cougar

Posted by Hengst - 2008/05/27 09:23

stuckinbig10country wrote:

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I thought they were all high on lous? Some were even saying that he should start over johnson this year. I think they think he is the second coming of steve smith, but throwing the ball.

=====

Re:Riley Nelson: BYU Cougar

Posted by stuckinbig10country - 2008/05/27 09:27

Hengst wrote:

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From what anyone has seen in games, Louks can't throw the ball.

=====

Re:Riley Nelson: BYU Cougar

Posted by Hengst - 2008/05/27 09:29

stuckinbig10country wrote:

Hengst wrote:

stuckinbig10country wrote:

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From what anyone has seen in games, Louks can't throw the ball.

That might be clear to you and me. I'm just saying, the way I've heard some Utah fans talk about him, you'd think he was going to be the next Alex Smith. Which, if that's what they really believe, makes it weird that they would really care about Riley coming to BYU.

=====

Re:Riley Nelson: BYU Cougar

Posted by niqmadu - 2008/05/27 10:29

Nice to be in a position of not panicking when we lose a recruit and being pleased when we get one.

Frankly I would trust our system to produce a reasonable QB/DB/LB/YOUNAMEIT if a top prospect left. Do I sense the same from the yewts?

=====

Re:Riley Nelson: BYU Cougar

Posted by deaner - 2008/05/27 10:38

stuckinbig10country wrote:

Don't think that the Utes weren't out there trying to get in contact with Nelson. All in-state LDS athletes (especially the good to great ones) are contacted by the local schools about a year after they have been out on their mission to gage interest.

I am just curious about how contacting missionaries about transferring falls under the realm of the NCAA bylaws. As far as I understand, athletes can't be recruited by a new university unless they approach you and the university has written permission of the old insitution's AD. It sounds like Nielson's parents talked to BYU which is just fine as long as BYU had permission before it actually started recruiting him. If the yewt coaches are contacting people on missions without permission, I think that qualifies as an NCAA infraction.

Re:Riley Nelson: BYU Cougar

Posted by deaner - 2008/05/27 10:40

This is what the NCAA Bylaws state:

13.1.1.3 "An athletics staff member or other representative of the institution's athletics interests shall not make contact with the student-athlete of another NCAA or NAIA four-year collegiate institution, directly or indirectly, without first obtaining the written permission of the first institution's athletics director..."

=====

Re:Riley Nelson: BYU Cougar

Posted by NotSackless - 2008/05/27 10:41

ammoncougar1 wrote:

What a crack up! I just browsed Utefans.net to see what they were saying and you would think we just signed Brian Johnson away from them. Will someone please tell me how the heck they are even involved in this situation? What a joke! Oh, and while you're at it I would absolutely love to have a link to Bronco's alleged statements regarding not contacting missionaries while they are serving. And finally, (I know. Preaching to the choir here) when will they realize it is not hypocrisy to preach staying true to your commitments and then allowing (encouraging?) others to break their commitments to make new ones with you? My understanding of this (this would make the utefans even more irate :-)) is that this is a lot like missionary work where we teach people the WHOLE truth and they change from one commitment to the RIGHT commitment! Ha! Ha!

Go Cougs!!!

The way I see it, Riley must have gained a greater understanding of repentance in the mission field. :cheer:

=====

Re:Riley Nelson: BYU Cougar

Posted by snoscythe - 2008/05/27 11:00

deaner wrote:

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Elsewhere in the by-laws you will find your answer. After one year of not attending a school, a person is no longer considered a "student-athlete," and at that point it is open game again.

=====

Re:Riley Nelson: BYU Cougar

Posted by mountaincougar - 2008/05/27 11:25

They must have put Nelson on the rack while on his mission to be 6'1" now. I hope he is able to gain some weight as well. Having attended the championship game of Logan vs Pineview to see what Lark looked like, I was terribly disappointed in Lark and we had already offered him ascholarship. Didn't show any arm at all. But then there was Logan who, while up by 50 pts., still had Nelson in the shotgun throwing. With that type of mentality (and throwing 50 times a game), it is hard to imagine a good QB without some pretty outrageous stats. Neither one of these QB's seemed to ever throw the ball downfield. Lark never did (and never did while at BYU). Nelson didn't seem to either but I really can't recall. I do rememeber not being impressed with either of their arm strength. IMO Lark did nothing while at BYU before his mission and won't when he gets back. His was a case (in my mind) of people reading too many press clippings and not actually watching them play. I am told that McEuen has replaced Gaskins at the #2 QB going into fall after a great spring. He will be a soph this year. I think he will and is bringing more to the table than Nelson. 2 more months!!! Go Cougars!!!

=====

Re:Riley Nelson: BYU Cougar

Posted by treck - 2008/05/27 11:59

Tough for me to get too excited about a player we had every opportunity to see in High School and didn't actively pursue. Looking back, it appeared that he was mostly recruited as an athlete rather than a pure QB. His HS stats look impressive but I am leary of any QB that is shorter than 6'2".

=====

Re:Riley Nelson: BYU Cougar

Posted by BYUtx - 2008/05/27 12:23

treck wrote:

I am leary of any QB that is shorter than 6'2".

You mean like Max Hall, John Beck, Brandon Doman, Kevin Feterik, Ty Detmer, Steve Young, Jim McMahon?

=====

Re:Riley Nelson: BYU Cougar

Posted by BYUtx - 2008/05/27 12:24

mountaincougar wrote:

They must have put Nelson on the rack while on his mission to be 6'1" now. I hope he is able to gain some weight as well. Having attended the championship game of Logan vs Pineview to see what Lark looked like, I was terribly disappointed in Lark and we had already offered him ascholarship. Didn't show any arm at all. But then there was Logan who, while up by 50 pts., still had Nelson in the shotgun throwing. With that type of mentality (and throwing 50 times a game), it is hard to imagine a good QB without some pretty outrageous stats. Neither one of these QB's seemed to ever throw the ball downfield. Lark never did (and never did while at BYU). Nelson didn't seem to either but I really can't recall. I do rememeber not being impressed with either of their arm strength. IMO Lark did nothing while at BYU before his mission and won't when he gets back. His was a case (in my mind) of people reading too many press clippings and not actually watching them play. I am told that McEuen has replaced Gaskins at the #2 QB going into fall after a great spring. He will be a soph this year. I think he will and is bringing more to the table than Nelson. 2 more months!!! Go Cougars!!!

If I was Kurt Mceuen's relative, I'd be nervous, too.

=====

Re:Riley Nelson: BYU Cougar

Posted by a1247 - 2008/05/27 13:17

So I wonder how hard BYU will continue to recruit a QB for the 2009 recruiting class?

=====

Re:Riley Nelson: BYU Cougar

Posted by Hengst - 2008/05/27 13:23

BYUtx wrote:

mountaincougar wrote:

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If I was Kurt Mceuen's relative, I'd be nervous, too.

What's MCuen's story again? Where did he play HS ball, how did he end up at BYU etc . . . ? Just curious, I don't know that much about him.

=====

Re:Riley Nelson: BYU Cougar

Posted by jaga97 - 2008/05/27 14:20

It is good to add another potential starter to the quarterback mix. Lark, Munns, and Nelson will all make for good competition along with some others. There is no guaranteed replacement to Max Hall.

Just a few comments from the posts.

The Pine View VS. Logan championship game does nothing to indicate who will be a better quarterback at BYU. The spot will be won in spring and fall camps and depend greatly on who puts forth the effort after missionary service.

It is funny to listen to the talk about the competition Lark and Nelson faced. Is everyone oblivious to the fact that they were playing with the same caliber of athletes as the competition they faced. Sounds like a comment from a BCS school about BYU.

=====

Re:Riley Nelson: BYU Cougar

Posted by treck - 2008/05/27 14:24

BYUtx wrote:

treck wrote:

I am leary of any QB that is shorter than 6'2".

You mean like Max Hall, John Beck, Brandon Doman, Kevin Feterik, Ty Detmer, Steve Young, Jim McMahon?

Fair enough...and I knew a response like this would follow. I didn't say write them off if they don't measure up, but who among us wouldn't want a NFL-sized-prototypical QB at the Y?

Both Young and Beck were 6'2", Doman and Detmer would have been winners at 5'2", & Feterick was nothing to write home about. Max Hall is only 6'1" and I wish at times he had a few more inches...OL & DL are only getting taller. That being said, I am glad he (at any height) has the reins of this offense going into the next two years.

=====

Re:Riley Nelson: BYU Cougar

Posted by Schroeder - 2008/05/27 14:40

So...

What I am reading from naysayers, BYU fans and UTE fans that BYU initiated the contact with Nelson, while on his mission. They are calling Bronco a hypocrite for that reason.

I want the straight poop, not suppositions from BYU haters world-wide. Did BYU initiate contact with Nelson while in the mission field?

Has Bronco ever talked about this practice?

=====

Re:Riley Nelson: BYU Cougar

Posted by BYUtx - 2008/05/27 14:40

treck wrote:

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Don't sweat it, I was just giving you a hard time. That was just a list of QB's shorter than 6-2 (Beck was never that tall and I don't think Young was really 6-2). I do know what you mean, I was just being a smart-a.

=====

Re:Riley Nelson: BYU Cougar

Posted by treck - 2008/05/27 14:47

no worries

=====

Re:Riley Nelson: BYU Cougar

Posted by Hawkwing - 2008/05/27 14:51

Schroeder wrote:

So...

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Has Bronco ever talked about this practice?

I have personally been in the audience when Bronco has talked about this, he has emphatically said that BYU does not recruit athletes on missions, but if their family comes to him, as in this case, that is the family's decision.

As for BYU student athletes that go on missions, the staff does write to the missionary, but solely in regards to spiritual matters and not football or athletics.

=====

Re:Riley Nelson: BYU Cougar

Posted by mountaincougar - 2008/05/27 14:58

Hengst asked about McEuen..I think McEuen played for Wasatch High in Heber. I had read where he was on the Utah Valley Elite 11 (or something like that) his senior year. The Trib had stats a couple of months ago where he had 2900 yds or so throwing his senior year and something like 29 TD's. All-State 1st team. Academic scholie to BYU and walked on after his mission. That's about all I remember. But I have watched alot of practices the last couple of years and looks like he finally caught their eye. I think (and have said so previously) he has more arm than Max and, like Max, he wants to throw it downfield. I like those kind of guys. We need guys who can stretch defenses not suck them up. I think he is

right at 6'3". Go Cougs!!!

=====

Re:Riley Nelson: BYU Cougar

Posted by Mustangs3 - 2008/05/27 14:59

Wonder how this will sit with the two kids being recruited Jensen out of California and the kid out of Idaho?

=====

Re:Riley Nelson: BYU Cougar

Posted by Schroeder - 2008/05/27 15:06

Thanks Hawking. What you are saying is how I understood Bronco's position.

Some posters are claiming that Nelson's father said on the air that he didn't make the first contact with BYU, but rather that BYU contacted the missionary first.

Being a bit older, this sort of thing simply wasn't allowed during my mission service. I know things are different now for sure.

I cannot believe the hate I read spewing forth on this one. We LDS have certainly got a lot of people hating us for sure. Today I have read a lot of posts from LDS members that are just as hateful towards BYU and using this episode as an excuse for their hate.

I frankly cannot understand how good members of the church can be filled with so much hate for a school that is operated by their own church. I can understand being a fan for your school, but the hate just astonishes me.

=====

Re:Riley Nelson: BYU Cougar

Posted by Hengst - 2008/05/27 15:06

Hawking wrote:

Schroeder wrote:

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I think this is why it's easy for people to make assumptions about the recruiting process that are most likely wrong.

based on what I've read on the riley nielson thing here is what I see as the sequence of events.

On a normal recruiting trip to Logan coach higgins was meeting with the head coach at Logan high school (something that he probably does regularly, because that's his recruiting area).

During the course of their conversation, be it, over lunch or in the coaches office or whatever. Somehow the topic of Nelson came up. Either way, it's not as if Higgins asking about how Nelson is doing could be considered recruiting if he

brought it up. For all we know, however, it could have been logan's coach that brought it up.

Either way . . . at some point Higgins must have said something like "it'd be cool to get him" based on what Logans coach said.

then,
based on this conversation Logan's coach then went to nelson's family to tell them that BYU might have some interest in their son (still, no active recruiting going on on BYU's part yet). Then, Logan's coach put Nelson's parents in touch with the BYU coaching staff.

If this is how it happened, I don't have any problems with it, and this seems the most plausible scenario.

Now if BYU was sending Nelson letter on his mission, or calling him, that would be different, but I haven't read anything that would lead me to believe that.

I don't have any outside sources on this or anything, this is just the scenario that makes sense based on the conglomeration of news articles that I read.

=====

Re:Riley Nelson: BYU Cougar

Posted by Hengst - 2008/05/27 15:14

mountaincougar wrote:

Hengst asked about McEuen..I think McEuen played for Wasatch High in Heber. I had read where he was on the Utah Valley Elite 11 (or something like that) his senior year. The Trib had stats a couple of months ago where he had 2900 yds or so throwing his senior year and something like 29 TD's. All-State 1st team. Academic scholie to BYU and walked on after his mission. That's about all I remember. But I have watched alot of practices the last couple of years and looks like he finally caught their eye. I think (and have said so previously) he has more arm than Max and, like Max, he wants to throw it downfield. I like those kind of guys. We need guys who can stretch defenses not suck them up. I think he is right at 6'3". Go Cougs!!!

thanks for the info. A lot of that is on his bio on the BYU roster. Also the roster lists him at 6'2" . I was more curious if anyone had seen him play in high school, and what they thought of him.

Either way, it sounds like the coaches have some good options to chose from, and I think that by selecting Max Hall they have proven their ability to select the best qb to start(at least I hope).

=====

Re:Riley Nelson: BYU Cougar

Posted by craigocarson - 2008/05/27 15:16

Mustangs3 wrote:

Wonder how this will sit with the two kids being recruited Jensen out of California and the kid out of Idaho?

<http://www.recruitingplanet.com/forum/washington-state-cougars/11835-10-wa-qb-jake-heaps-official-offer.html>

If Jake Heaps (class of 2010)out of Washington committed today; my guess is that Hill and Nunes will drop on the list of priorities for BYU and they'd take the 1st of Nunes, Hill, r Jensen that committs for depth; I guess what I'm saying here is that Heaps might drive the carousel if he decides early from everythign I've heard about him and read about the kid, he's a QB prodigy and suits BYU very well.

I'm not sure what to think of Hill and the Hill family considering his older brother had a scholarship at BYU but went on to play at Arizona State.

=====

Re:Riley Nelson: BYU Cougar

Posted by IdahoCougar - 2008/05/27 15:50

Taysom Hill is an amazing athlete. He manhandled Utah's 5A ranked and then undefeated Davis High School last year on their field. He has a 4 star scout.com rating and is ranked 23rd in the country among QBs. He runs a 4.5 40 and is a dual threat. He is quite strong and holds many of his 5A high school's weight-lifting records. He was also an all-state basketball player. I would take him over a slow pocket passer like Nunes, and even over the much-hyped Heaps.

Hill's brother's decision to go to ASU was largely due to Coach Koetter's aggressive recruiting of him--Koetter also being a local Pocatello, ID native. ASU showed a lot more interest. Hill started 3 years for ASU.

Hill is my choice of the three. I hope BYU gets his commitment.

=====

Re:Riley Nelson: BYU Cougar

Posted by cougarfan87 - 2008/05/28 09:40

Hengst wrote:

Now if BYU was sending Nelson letter on his mission, or calling him, that would be different, but I haven't read anything that would lead me to believe that.

I don't have any outside sources on this or anything, this is just the scenario that makes sense based on the conglomeration of news articles that I read.

My reading of the articles confirms your timeline.

You bring up an interesting point about whether BYU directly contacted Riley Nelson or his family made the pitch. Is there really a significant difference between the parents contacting a missionary or BYU directly contacting a missionary?

In my mind there is a difference between a family member letting a recruit know that they can transfer to another school and have a scholarship if they want it, and the school actively writing the student athlete directly. The family acts as a buffer and thus, filters the communication in such a way that a person may not feel as much pressure as they might if in direct communication with the school.

What does the timeline say about the events?

First, I would add that after Riley's parents learned of BYU's interest, they (not BYU) contacted the mission president to see if they could pass the information on to Riley.

Then, the articles contradict each other.

In one, Rileys father says he passed on the info that Riley needed to make the decision. "We gave Riley what information he felt like he needed and he contacted us a week or two afterward..." .

The other article paraphrases the father and says as follows:

However, Keith Nelson said that "casual conversations" between BYU receivers coach Patrick Higgins and Logan High coach Mike Favero eventually led to a discussions via e-mail between Riley Nelson and BYU coaches, "and the rest is history."

Keith Nelson said when news reached him that BYU had some interest, he requested permission from his son's mission president to address the issue.

The second article seems to blur the events and mentions getting the mission president's permission as an after thought. My guess is that the writer wasn't really sure who made the contact with Riley, and "filled in the blanks." The direct quote, where Riley's father said he provided the information, seems more credible as it is a direct quote, and consistent with other stories, such as Brandon Bradley's, where the family lets the athlete know they can go to BYU if they want.

=====

Re:Riley Nelson: BYU Cougar

Posted by cougarfan87 - 2008/05/28 09:41

How do I delete a post?

Re:Riley Nelson: BYU Cougar

Posted by cougarfan87 - 2008/05/28 10:09

Technical difficulties caused this. Now I need some help to get out of it. WHERE IS THE DELETE BUTTON?

=====

Re:Riley Nelson: BYU Cougar

Posted by cougarfan87 - 2008/05/28 10:10

YOU WILL TELL ME WHERE THE DELETE BUTTON IS.

That Jedi crap doesn't work on computers.

=====

Re:Riley Nelson: BYU Cougar

Posted by craigscarson - 2008/05/28 11:11

Regardless of what's been said, after a year on a mission, any athlete on a mission, in military service, etc. etc. etc. is free game. It's not against the rules to contact them. So you bet that other schools are contacting our athletes. Like the local radio guys here say about sports, "If you're not cheating, you're not trying." and in this case it's not even against the rules. So rest assured that other schools make a common practice of it; especially for athletes that they had previously recruited.

So while fans may complain, #1 schools contact missionaries (yes, even BYU) #2 it's not against the rules, no school owns a kid and if a school believes that they offer a better future, etc. for that kid; they should be allowed to contact them. A lot of things change at age 18-19-21, especially after serving the lord for 2 years.

The question about whether or not the church should step in is pretty absurd though. The sheer number of missionaries versus the number that would be actively recruited to play high level sports is next to null. You're talking about a likely maximum of 50 athletes and as low as 10-15 (this is all D1 football and basketball athletes from all D1 schools going on missions that might be recruited by other schools) a year/55,000+ new missionaries per year. We're talking about .0003 - .001 or less than 1/100th of a percent and even then how would that be any different than allowing missionaries to work on college entrance papers, etc. in the mission field?

=====

Re:Riley Nelson: BYU Cougar

Posted by craigscarson - 2008/05/28 11:23

IdahoCougar wrote:

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Hill is my choice of the three. I hope BYU gets his commitment.

<http://byu.scout.com/2/752109.html>

How can you read that and not get the impression that Hill is simply trying to collect offers and expects all-star treatment, amenities, and pampering from as many schools that see fit to pat him on the back?

I want a guy at QB here that wants to be here. I'm not sold on Hills desire to be a Cougar. Maybe the quotes in that article just rubbed me the wrong way.

=====

Re:Riley Nelson: BYU Cougar

Posted by Hawkwing - 2008/05/28 11:23

Honestly BYU hardly needs to contact most missionaries anyway. They are surrounded by other BYU fan missionaries, members who are BYU fans, etc. I know on my mission the few truly athletic missionaries were always being talked to about going to BYU by members and other missionaries.

=====

Re:Riley Nelson: BYU Cougar

Posted by redneckjedi - 2008/05/28 12:01

cougarfan87 wrote:

YOU WILL TELL ME WHERE THE DELETE BUTTON IS.

That Jedi crap doesn't work on computers.

Sure it does - as long you're a modera-- err, the Force is with you. And with you, young padawan, it is not.

Back to topic, though - colleges contacting athletes on missions after a year is no different to the NCAA's perspective than if an old girlfriend or two did the same thing. The Church isn't going to stop the letters from coming, either. Just like it's the missionary's responsibility to keep his mind off the girls, it's also the missionary's responsibility to keep his mind off the recruiters.

I mean, really, they're a lot alike: both are associating with a lot of other guys besides you, both are very unlikely to wait for you, and both will suddenly start writing you after a long period of silence when you're close (usually around 6 months) to coming home if they're still available.

Of course, BYU is like that faithful, true love that will always be there when you get back, in which case I would recommend President Kimball's advice to "Lock Your Hearts." ;)

=====