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## Im actually cheering for the Utes...am I crazy?

Posted by Cougfan84 - 2008/08/26 12:31

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Never in my existence have I cheered for the Utes. Its just in my blood to hate them. But Kirk Herbstreit's recent comments have drawn me to being a ute fan for the next few months till November 22nd when the showdown in SLC takes place.

My reasoning behind that is because if Utah beats Michigan and then somehow Michigan can win the big ten and the Utes can run the table till that fateful day that would be huge! If Michigan can become good and knock of Kirk's alma mater OSU and win the big ten and Utah proves to be no cupcake then that could make things all the higher stakes.

Then BYU needs to run the table and knocking off the two Pac 10 teams. UCLA and Washington, though aren't top tier PAC 10 teams, are still respected nationally.

The showdown at 4pm on the 22nd of November could be the biggest match amongst these teams ever. Undefeated seasons on the line, Conference title on the line, both teams possibly in top 10...this has all the makings of a catapult game meaning that the winner may be given a shot at the title (probably not likely) but could still be in the top 5 nationally and the loser sent packing for the Vegas bowl and a major letdown for their program.

If all the pieces fall in place and BYU wins the undefeated showdown in Salt Lake and can get a victory in their BCS game. Then they will be given a legitimate shot at the BCS title saying that they won't lose a lot of key players this season (barring early draft entrants). I have never seen this kind of stakes for byu in my lifetime (1984 was three years before my birth). Good luck Cougs, 4 days till the quest begins...

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## Re:Im actually cheering for the Utes...am I crazy?

Posted by MesaCougFan - 2008/08/26 12:41

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I agree, and I think the Holy War will be epic. Unfortunately, I don't see Utah winning in week 1.

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## Re:Im actually cheering for the Utes...am I crazy?

Posted by RogDog118 - 2008/08/26 12:43

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I love preseason hypotheticals...

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## Re:Im actually cheering for the Utes...am I crazy?

Posted by wall - 2008/08/26 13:24

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I don't think you're crazy, but I've always liked to see the Utes do well, both because it looks better for BYU to beat up on teams with good programs and because they are an in-state school. I've always cheered for BYU and have always been happy to see the Utes succeed--except during the week of the Holy War. If the Utes were never any good, than the Holy War wouldn't be what it is today. But I digress....

Is it possible for more than one non-BCS school to get a BCS invite? I realize that even if it is technically possible, in actuality it would never happen, but I was wondering if anybody knew if there was something in the rules about it. It seems Utah would still be deserving of a bid if its only loss came at the hands of an undefeated BYU team.

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## Re:Im actually cheering for the Utes...am I crazy?

Posted by Hawkwing - 2008/08/26 13:35

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The nice thing here is that I don't have to root for Utah, and whatever the outcome, I can be happy. They lose, hooray! They win, sets us up for a dramatic showdown later, hooray!

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## Re:Im actually cheering for the Utes...am I crazy?

Posted by cougarzz - 2008/08/26 13:39

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wall wrote:

Is it possible for more than one non-BCS school to get a BCS invite? I realize that even if it is technically possible, in actuality it would never happen, but I was wondering if anybody knew if there was something in the rules about it. It seems Utah would still be deserving of a bid if its only loss came at the hands of an undefeated BYU team.

It is theoretically a possibility that two teams from non-BCS conferences can make it as at-large selections, but it is extremely unlikely that the BCS would ever take two mid-major teams, not to mention two teams from the same mid-major conference.

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## Re:Im actually cheering for the Utes...am I crazy?

Posted by ClarkGoble - 2008/08/26 13:41

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I always cheer for any Mountain West team when playing out of conference games. BYU needs the conference to have as many wins as possible.

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## Re:Im actually cheering for the Utes...am I crazy?

Posted by Mars - 2008/08/26 13:43

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Honestly, I'd like BYU to go undefeated, and Utah lose to Oregon State, TCU, and us. And maybe Wyoming. :lol:

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## Re:Im actually cheering for the Utes...am I crazy?

Posted by suuwr - 2008/08/26 13:52

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I hope the Utes get beat 87-0. Why choose Utah to cheer for in the conference when you have a better TCU team to cheer for. I hope TCU wins all thier games except against the Cougs. I stand all amazed that BYU fans want thier most hated rival to win. I feel dirty just thinking about it. I cheered for Utah during the NCAA basketball finals years back and I still have that stink following me everywhere I go. It will never happen again. GO COUGS!! GO MWC except Utah.

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## Re:Im actually cheering for the Utes...am I crazy?

Posted by MizzouCoug - 2008/08/26 13:55

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I don't get why it's so hard to cheer for all the teams in our conference very season up until the Holy War. Granted, I'm far from a native Utahn, but c'mon it just makes sense. BTW, what channel is the Utah game going to be on?

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## Re:Im actually cheering for the Utes...am I crazy?

Posted by wall - 2008/08/26 14:03

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Hawkwing wrote:

The nice thing here is that I don't have to root for Utah, and whatever the outcome, I can be happy. They lose, hooray! They win, sets us up for a dramatic showdown later, hooray!

Thanks Hawkwing, that's a fairly succinct summary of my feelings in general. I don't see why you need to pick for just

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one other conferenc team to root for. I like to see the whole conference do well... and if Utah lost every game in every sport from here on out, Holy Week would surely get boring and pointless, and BYU fans would have to find somebody else to hate. Utah would become to BYU what Utah State is now, a mere annoyance, a nice game, although meaningless, to throw in just to appease the in-state crowd and throw a bone to the pathetic neighbors disgraceful program. It's so much more fun having a rival that is competitive this close to home.

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## Re:Im actually cheering for the Utes...am I crazy?

Posted by dantley - 2008/08/26 14:06

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Amen!!!

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## Re:Im actually cheering for the Utes...am I crazy?

Posted by Deacon Blue - 2008/08/26 14:50

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Here we go again!

With all sincere respect to all of the other similar posters I've read over the last several years:

1. Yes, I realize this is my first post in a long time, and one of my few posts overall and I know I have no credibility. I am the proverbial lurker who reads this site daily yet rarely posts. This is the one topic that I just can't remain silent on. I apologize in advance for the following rant, which I have posted before, and which has been building for 15 years since I almost rushed the field to defend our own goal post from being torn down by the yewts in 1993.

2. For what it's worth, I grew up with my father singing Rise and Shout to wake me up in the morning. I grew up out of state and was an all-state high school football player with scholarship offers to Div. 1AA and JC schools. BYU invited me to walk on. I turned down the schollies, went on a mission, and chose not to pursue football when I returned. My freshman year at BYU was 1984. I was on the 6 year bachelors degree program we all know and love, which meant the bookends of my on-campus experience were a National Championship and a Heisman Trophy. I consider myself an above-average fan, both in terms of passion and knowledge of the game. I have been a season ticket holder for many years. I hope that buys me a little cred, but if not, that's OK too.

3. I have lived in Utah since 1984 and have seen the rivalry from in-state and out-of-state perspectives. Throughout most of Lavell's career, there practically was no rivalry. Inside the state, BYU was so dominant the Utes had nothing to say. It was AWESOME! Outside the state, little attention was paid to the rivalry at all. Since 1993, it has been UNBEARABLE! Ute fans are such band-waggoners. Give them an inch and they'll take a mile. Give them an ounce of hope and the come out of the woodwork. Smack them down repeatedly and they disappear overnight. Although I don't often agree with Gordon Monson, I thought his description of most Ute fans in a recent column was pretty accurate:

A. Non-Mormon Utes who loathe BYU as a backlash to the cultural and governmental dominance of the LDS religion in Utah.

B. Mormon Utes who can't stand BYU because of its Super Mormon persona, the whole we-do-and-live-it-better-than-you deal. (many of whom are Jack-Mormons), and those whose tithing dollars help fund the school, but whose children can't get into the university because of its high academic standards.

C. Mormon Utes who view themselves, and their attachment to Utah, as more sophisticated than the lemmings in Provo who support the Cougars because they suspicion they should, who brown-bag popcorn to the games and who have relief-society decorations, such as giant plastic grapes on the vine, on the coffee tables in their living rooms.

There have been those on this board who say: To an outsider, they represent the state of Utah and I'd like to see them do it well...until it comes to the Holy War.

Please! are you kidding me??? The University of Utah does not represent the aspects of Utah life that I love. In fact, just the opposite.

I also don't believe the strength of schedule argument, or the help us get out of the MWC argument. If BYU is dominant enough, on our own, we cannot be ignored. We do not need Utah's help for any reason. I also know plenty of people, myself included, who would enjoy NOTHING, more than DESTROYING a winless Utah team yet again, and again, and

again.

As much as it goes against my nature and would utterly amaze my friends and family to hear me say this, I am asking all true blue cougar fans to please forget the strategic arguments and the big picture on this one. BYU football, like the truth, can stand alone and will prevail. The Holy War is personal and those of us in Utah need the support of all our bretheren outside the state! Root against the Utes in every game!

Some of you ask, What good is a rival that you always beat? I ask, What good is a rival that you root for sometimes? What kind of a rival is that?

:evil: :evil: :evil:

Disclaimer: I personally know many good and decent Ute fans and have no problem serving with them in the church or associating with them in any capacity. My loathing of Ute fans in general does not extend that far. They are, however, misguided and will some day be shown the error of their ways and come to their senses. In the mean time I just don't think of them as Ute fans, but rather Bro. or Mr. So-and-so, the great home teacher, or neighbor, or whatever.

:cheer:

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### Re:Im actually cheering for the Utes...am I crazy?

Posted by mraven - 2008/08/26 15:15

Deacon Blue wrote:

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Some of you ask, What good is a rival that you always beat? I ask, What good is a rival that you root for sometimes? What kind of a rival is that?

Ditto! Never, ever, ever cheer for the Utes. Never, ever have the attituted that the Utes playing is a win/win. Always, under every circumstance, hope and pray that they will lose. To me, life couldn't be better if we pasted a 0 win Utah team every year. I can't even fathom a true BYU fan feeling differently. I just don't understand it. They are our rival. I want them to suffer defeat and humiliation at every game. Period.

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### Re:Im actually cheering for the Utes...am I crazy?

Posted by walkin\_on - 2008/08/26 15:29

What if your a BYU fan from the age of 4, But you have a Brother, 2 cousins, and a best friend that play for Utah? I tell ya what I am going to be cheering for that team if thier not playing The cougs. Tell me what you would do??

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### Re:Im actually cheering for the Utes...am I crazy?

Posted by Hawkwing - 2008/08/26 15:37

walkin\_on wrote:

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Disown them? :laugh: :silly:

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## Re:Im actually cheering for the Utes...am I crazy?

Posted by craigoscarson - 2008/08/26 15:43

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walkin\_on wrote:

What if your a BYU fan from the age of 4, But you have a Brother, 2 cousins, and a best friend that play for Utah? I tell ya what I am going to be cheering for that team if thier not playing The cougs. Tell me what you would do??

I will never root for the Utes. Their loss is our gain in every sense of the word; recruiting, fans, and prestige

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## Re:Im actually cheering for the Utes...am I crazy?

Posted by Snagger311 - 2008/08/26 15:46

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I watch the utes hoping that they lose every game. I love shutting up my utah friends. I love all of them! But One in paticular is way over the top and makes excuses for everything. I love messing with him when the Utes lose and he's really excited for the utes to win against a good team. Like a couple of years ago against Boise St. and UCLA. I don't go over the top returning the favor. I usually say something like so who won the Utah game? That's enough for him to know I'm giving him crap.

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## Re:Im actually cheering for the Utes...am I crazy?

Posted by Johnny\_Crash - 2008/08/26 15:52

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I want Utah to lose. My reasoning is simply this: I am tired of them always bragging about how Utah plays more big games, and they have won more big games against top programs. However false this statement is, I would like to have a recent example of how this is not true. I would like to see them be humbled by Michigan.

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## Re:Im actually cheering for the Utes...am I crazy?

Posted by SouthA - 2008/08/26 16:01

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Johnny\_Crash wrote:

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I totally agree ^^

I would like to see BYU win big and Utah lose big. It would start the 2 programs off in two completely different directions. That has a tendency to take a toll on the players' mind-set and sets a pace.

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## Re:Im actually cheering for the Utes...am I crazy?

Posted by ttexastim - 2008/08/26 16:09

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This thread is hilarious. :laugh:

I often think that some mormons use sports as a kind of free pass to behave in ways that the church does not agree with. These actions are okay because "it's part of the game". Some of the posts in this thread crack me up because it just drives this point home. The U of U really represents the aspects opposite of your life Deacon? Just keep in mind that when you lump things that large together, you are also lumping in a whole lot of people/organizations that do very good things for the church and the community. But don't let that get in your way ... ride that stereotype!! :ohmy:

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As for me ... I like for BYU to be good when we play. It makes the victory sweeter for me. Now don't get me wrong, I smile a devilish grin when BYU has a loss, but I don't flat out HATE all things BYU because they are my rival. I think to do that is short sighted. I won't be holding a blue pom-pom for the BYU OOC games, but I won't be chanting "Down with the Y" either.

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## Re:Im actually cheering for the Utes...am I crazy?

Posted by wall - 2008/08/26 16:19

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Deacon Blue, I will follow your lead and apologize in advance for the upcoming rant.

Deacon Blue you and I have much in common. I, like you, have been reading CougarBlue for years, and I, like you, do not post very often (although I have uncharacteristically posted a few times today). I grew up a cougar fan, I played Football in High School and I chose not to pursue football in college. I have lived outside of Utah for the past 6 years, and have recently moved back. I am quite familiar with the perspective of being a fan in-state and out. When I returned to Utah this year I resumed being a season ticket holder.

However, with all due respect, we will simply have to agree to disagree on this one. I never said the Utes represent Utah or the Utah way of life. I don't think they do either. But that doesn't mean I hate them. I have many friends and family who are, unfortunately, Ute fans. I enjoy the rivalry banter. But that is my point. There would be now rivalry banter if Utah were perennially terrible. I would get bored out of my mind watching us spank a 0 win Utah team every year. I never said I cheered for them, but I'd prefer to watch a complete game in a competitive rivalry than something I could see anytime by going to watch the local varsity team walk all over the freshmen or JV team in practice. If Utah were horrible every year it would be about the same experience. I would not be entertained or have any joy in gloating about it to my Ute friends and family. It wouldn't even be worth bringing it up with them because they would have no counterarguments. I'd get sick of hearing "maybe next year" from them. The rivalry would die. It has died at Utah State. And if it wouldn't die it would become a different type of rivalry, a rivalry in name only. You may not place much stock in Wikipedia, and rightly so on most accounts, but this definition gives some perspective [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sports\\_rivalry](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sports_rivalry). If one of the teams never wins I don't see how it can be called intense competition.

I'm a fan who stays to the end of the 4th quarter regardless. In games that are decided by the end of the first half I typically try and watch the plays develop and key on certain players or positions to see how they do what they do. But even that gets boring after a while. The point is, I enjoy watching a competitive game, and if it takes being pleased that the Utes do well, so be it. I never hated them in the first place. And I certainly will never understand why someone who would like to see real competition in his favorite rivalry is somehow not a "true" fan.

I understand your position, and I know many who feel the same. I just don't see it that way myself.

I am so excited for this year! Go Cougars!

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## Re:Im actually cheering for the Utes...am I crazy?

Posted by Snagger311 - 2008/08/26 16:21

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ttexastim wrote:

This thread is hilarious. :laugh:

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As for me ... I like for BYU to be good when we play. It makes the victory sweeter for me. Now don't get me wrong, I smile a devilish grin when BYU has a loss, but I don't flat out HATE all things BYU because they are my rival. I think to do that is short sighted. I won't be holding a blue pom-pom for the BYU OOC games, but I won't be chanting "Down with the Y" either.

Great POST! My respect for you just went up! That was well thought out. My boss is a Ute fan and of course we give

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each other crap about sports. I no way does that mean his fandom of the U represent the aspects opposite of my life. He's a spiritual giant and a stud! He'd be a stud if he liked BYU or Utah. That's the same with all my friends. They are all Utah fans and we have fun razzing eachother, but that is as far as it goes. I like having them as friends. We all laugh at "some" BYU fans that are over the top, and we laugh at "some" Utah fans that are over the top. When these things are pointed out it usually causes a sense of embarassment from each side.

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## Re:Im actually cheering for the Utes...am I crazy?

Posted by ProV1 - 2008/08/26 16:33

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ttexastim wrote: but I edited it for my thoughts

As for me ... I like for Utah to be good when we play. It makes the victory sweeter for me. Now don't get me wrong, I smile a devilish grin when Utah has a loss, but I don't flat out HATE all things Utah because they are my rival. I think to do that is short sighted. I won't be holding a red pom-pom for the Utah OOC games, but I won't be chanting "Down with the U" either.

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## Re:Im actually cheering for the Utes...am I crazy?

Posted by azcavalier - 2008/08/26 16:36

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Snagger311 wrote:

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I live in southwestern Virginia, and our Stake President and his wife are Utah fans (and they live in my ward). That's where they did their undergraduate work, but moved out here for graduate school. In any case, we had a ward building cleanup, and the Stake President's wife (and my wife's visiting teacher) shows up wearing a "Anywhere but BYU" t-shirt. I, of course, was wearing my best BYU Football t-shirt, so I walked up, put my arm around her shoulders, and told her that I loved her anyway.

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## Re:Im actually cheering for the Utes...am I crazy?

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azcavalier wrote:

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Way to be the bigger man!

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## Re:Im actually cheering for the Utes...am I crazy?

Posted by Tripwire - 2008/08/26 19:42

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I have brought this issue up before and I find it fascinating, I actually had a conversation about it the other day with my best friend who is a Texas fan and asked him what he thinks about rooting for Oklahoma or A&M when they are not playing UT. We both agreed that its better for a conference rival to at least win all their OOC games. It's even more important in the MWC than in the BIG XII or any other BCS conference.

I will admit that I have not lived in the state of Utah for almost 20 years and do not personally know or ever talk to any Utah fans, so obviously I don't have to deal with some of the same things that some of you do, but I don't think it makes me less of a fan at all to feel the way I do.

Imagine if BYU could have 2 or 3 games against ranked teams in the MWC, and win them. That mixed with a decent OOC schedule would be just the type of year that they would need to actually get a shot at the NC. In any other sport it doesn't really matter, but in football with how important the strength of schedule is in determining rankings I will always want Utah to win any OOC game.

I am not saying I am going to watch the game and cheer and yell for them to win, and I wouldn't be crushed if they lost, but I think it benefits BYU overall the more MWC teams are competitive outside of the conference, even the Utes.

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## Re:Im actually cheering for the Utes...am I crazy?

Posted by BYUtx - 2008/08/26 19:53

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If I weren't 1,000% convinced of the following items, then I'd root for Utah:

- Utah will drop at least 2 other games this season-they won't be ranked on 11/22
- Unless the MWC wins nearly all of its OOC games, nobody will remember how "good" the MWC foes BYU destroyed are/were
- There are ZERO long-term benefits to Utah running the table until we beat them. Come January, nobody will care.
- The Utes will suck in 2009 and will always be an up and down team
- I don't want to have to listen to idiot Ute fans go Karl Benson on our A's and declare their win in the Big House the biggest moment in MWC history

That being said, I'll be happy no matter who wins on Saturday, but I'll be less happy if Utah wins.

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## Re:Im actually cheering for the Utes...am I crazy?

Posted by declocoug - 2008/08/26 20:00

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Here's my question. Who gives a care what utah does until Nov. comes around? I don't.

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## Re:Im actually cheering for the Utes...am I crazy?

Posted by NorthernCougar - 2008/08/26 22:21

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ttexastim wrote:

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Ah, Tim. You know we love ya man! But here's the deal. I don't have any logical, rational explanation for how I feel. I just hate the U. Not the school, just the fans. And not all fans, just the idiotic ones I come in contact with that revel in mocking me for my religious beliefs. Growing up in Washington I thought coming here would free me from that. I was pretty stupid to feel that way.

You know that I can't and won't cheer for the U. Just can't happen for me. As I have said before, I want the Utes to lose every game, in every sport for the rest of my natural life. No logical, rational reason for it, just the way I feel. Some of my best friends are U fans, and I love when their weekend sucks because the U loses. How's that for a dichotomy?

The best part is that because I am a fan, I don't have to defend it nor do I care what anyone else thinks.

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