
Slow start freezes Cougars

Posted by CougarBlue - 2004/11/28 09:00

Jason Franchuk
DAILY HERALD

The last concern for BYU is a home winning streak, even one that lasted 40 games against non-conference opponents before ending in a 67-64 loss to California on Saturday.

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Posted by BARNEY - 2004/11/29 11:25

barney: I can't find much positive to say about the basketball team. Wherein is the hope? Cal looked awful and still beat them at home. Maybe these guys will improve, but as it stands right now I would rather watch a good high school game. Cleveland's failed to land any impact players and it really shows. We needed some JC guys with talent. It looks like a major rebuilding year with 15 wins a remote possibility. I hope they come along and improve with experience, but I don't see anybody out there with star potential for the future. They are ranked 285th in the country. Only way to go is up. I hope I am wrong, but the future does not look bright. They look a fighter with nothing but a soft left jab. Once again let me say, "I HOPE I AM WRONG".

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Posted by Nor_Cal_Coug - 2004/11/29 12:00

I hope you are wrong as well. If we would even had made a respectable amount of our outside shots the entire game would have been different because that would have not only put more points on the board it would have opened up the middle. I hear rumors that Cummard is now practicing with the team, can anyone confirm?

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Posted by tubatrainer - 2004/11/29 12:05

Nor_Cal_Cougl hope you are wrong as well. If we would even had made a respectable amount of our outside shots the entire game would have been different because that would have not only put more points on the board it would have opened up the middle. I hear rumors that Cummard is now practicing with the team, can anyone confirm?

I have been out of touch with individual players on the basketball team (I pay attention to the team as a whole but haven't kept track of those that don't play). Who is Cummard? Sorry for my naivete on this.

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Posted by Cornellcoug - 2004/11/29 12:42

Cummard is a shooting guard out of Mesa AZ. He is a legit 6'6" and was rated by every scout as a top 5 shooting guard on the West Coast. Many had him ranked as high as number one. He was serving a mission and recently came home early. I can not verify if he is practicing with the team, but do know that he will not have a scholarship this year.

In speaking with Dave Rose the Assistant head basketball coach, Lee Cummard would have been the starting 2 or 3 guard this year and was without a doubt their top recruit last year. He will be a difference maker when he joins the team and is already a better player than Bigelow in his best years.

RE: Barney

Posted by pachoops - 2004/11/29 12:53

Barney - you strike me as someone who really gets fired up for the ward games, but has never really played basketball. It doesn't matter how they play now. What matters is the MWC. Everyone knows there's only one real returner, so no one (including Cleveland) expected anything much different. Let them get into the flow, and maybe it'll take a year - who knows - but they'll be all right. They've got a lot of talent that had to face North Carolina in the first game. Just for reference, that's a little more intense than your ward pickup game. And just as closing thought - the future of the basketball team is infinitely better than the football team. Let's hope the Utes win in the BCS and bring the whole league up in recruiting and money.

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Posted by tubatrainer - 2004/11/29 13:32

CornellcougCummard is a shooting guard out of Mesa AZ. He is a legit 6'6" and was rated by every scout as a top 5 shooting guard on the West Coast. Many had him ranked as high as number one. He was serving a mission and recently came home early. I can not verify if he is practicing with the team, but do know that he will not have a scholarship this year.

That is who I thought it was. I was attending my uncles ward in Mesa the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Cummard is in that ward and was at church that day. He was planning on being in Mesa through the Thanksgiving holiday so if he is practicing with the team, he probably didn't join them until Friday at the earliest. It is doubtful that he was practicing with the team before I saw him because he had only been home from his mission for a few days.

BTW, my uncle was in the PEC meeting that morning and the bishop told them that Cummard did not have any worthiness problems or medical problems. He just decided to come home and forego the rest of the mission. Hopefully he can be a more dedicated player than he was missionary.

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Posted by Nor_Cal_Coug - 2004/11/29 13:37

I agree that the future looks very bright for the cougars. My concern is for this year and next year. What I can't figure out is who Cleveland is bringing in next year to fill the 4 to 6 vacancies by seniors and guys leaving on missions. He only recruited 1 senior high schooler this year and that guy is going straight on a mission. Obviously Cummard will fill one of the scholarships but I don't think we have that many guys coming off missions. In fact, I know we don't. Cornellcoug...you never cease to amaze me with your contacts. There is no question that Cummard would be starting right now on this team and from I have heard he is in Provo practicing with the team trying to get in shape. He is enrolled for Winter semester which means he would be eligible to play once school is out for this semester. I would love to have someone go spy on a practice to see if its for real. I imagine he is pretty out of shape having been gone for 5 months or so. If we don't see some guys start hitting outside shots I wouldn't be surprised at all if Cleveland decides to use him.

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Posted by Nor_Cal_Coug - 2004/11/29 13:41

Interesting insight tubatrainer. I heard the exact same thing but your source is obviously a little closer to the action. It always makes you a little nervous when someone bails out on their mission but you just don't know what's in someone's heart so I would prefer to give him the benefit of the doubt. There is not too much positive spin you can put on just coming home though. Never a good thing.

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dear Mr. packhoops: JUST A LITTLE FYU, NOT THAT IT MEANS ANYTHING, BUT I PLAYED FOUR YEAR OF COLLEGE BALL AND WAS ALL CONFERENCE TWO YEARS. BY THE WAY I CAN PASS A POLYGRAPH ON THE SUBJECT. I AM NOT IMPRESSED WITH MYSELF AND I AM SURE YOU ARE NOT, BUT ITS FACT.

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Posted by Nor_Cal_Coug - 2004/11/29 13:48

Things are getting a bit personal which is certainly not needed. Everyone remember we are all rooting for the same team?

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Posted by Cornellcoug - 2004/11/29 14:21

Cummard is a good kid! He comes from a family that is very humble and is not blessed with tons of cash. He has had 3 brothers that served missions and all of them came home early. All for similar reasons in that they really wanted to serve the Lord, but struggled with being away from everything they were familiar with. Someone expressed concern over the commitment he made on his mission and his commitment to basketball and I assure you it will not be a problem. This kid is a hoops junkie and not only does he enjoy it, but he uses it as an oasis from everything else. The kid is legit!

Here is my analysis of this year's team so far. Keep in mind this comes from a High School player who always thought I was better than my coaches did. The team's two major problems are: First, their bigs can not shoot past 12 feet. This is a problem in the flex offense they run because frequently they bring their bigs to the top of the key and the defensive man sags into the key knowing the shot will not be taken. This takes away any inside scoring because there is always an extra defensive man present. Add to that the fact that all of our big men are similar in skill set and when defenses prepare they can basically prepare for just one type of player.

Second, there weakest position is Point guard. Terry Nashif is a senior and will probably not develop into the point this year that we need. He is a competitor and should be applauded for his effort and dedication, but it too late to progress enough. Ainge has a chance but needs to improve his decision making. I would not be surprised to see Cleve go after a JC point to help next year. If we had a point that could make the tough point to post pass with consistency the above mentioned big problem would be minimized.

Other items like inconsistent outside shooting and injuries to Meads and Dawes are adding to the play thus far this year and it may be a down year, but the foundation is being laid for a lot of success in the future. Many of the players to be signed for next year will not be announced until later after this years season. Cummard and Rose will take 2 of the scholarships out there because both were expected to be on missions through the end of next year.

Here is another conspiracy theory to consider. Steve Cleveland becomes the new AD and Dave Rose takes over as head coach. I have no basis for saying that other than I think that Steve Cleveland embodies everything that BYU is looking for in an AD. Spiritual Man, brought a program out of trouble the right way, players and administration loves him, and he understands the balance between politics and performance.

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Posted by Nor_Cal_Coug - 2004/11/29 15:20

Are you serious that he had brothers that did the same thing? I don't doubt that he is a good kid but I just don't see how coming home from your mission does ANYTHING positive for your life. Maybe he missed basketball that much and couldn't handle not being the center of attention like you are when your a high school star

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Posted by Cornellcoug - 2004/11/29 15:30

I did not say it was positive, I just stated the facts. Missions are harder for some kids than others and I do not know the facts surrounding his return so I am going to leave the stone throwing to others. But yes, he had several brothers return home from missions. I also know that this kid is not the type of kid who need to be the center of attention. He is a very humble, unassuming kid that happens to be nails at hoops.

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Posted by Nor_Cal_Coug - 2004/11/29 15:49

It's unfortunate that being a star athlete, especially for BYU, your personal life gets dragged into the mix. I have not doubt he is a great kid and there is certainly no question he is the best recruit we have had since Shaw Bradley. He is the type of player that can lead a team to national prominence. The great thing is he not just an outside bomber like Bigelow was. Cornellcoug...are you really Val Hale masquerading under another name :wink:

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Posted by SpiffCoug - 2004/11/29 17:06

Don't know if it was posted, but last I heard was that Lee Cumnard was going to work and work-out to get back in shape and then enroll next fall and play in 05. He wouldn't be able to play until January and would have missed half the season, so why lose a year of eligibility on half a year. I wish him the best. It's gotta be tough to come home early, for ANY reason.

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Posted by Cornellcoug - 2004/11/29 17:16

no I am not Val Hale, although it would be a good idea for someone in the Athletic Dept. to watch this site to keep a pulse on the program. I honestly feel that we are the ones who reflect the feelings of program and I know many of us are major contributors to the program. I just am a sports freak who happens to have established many relationships with the right people.

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Posted by Ywisealbert - 2004/11/29 17:34

Cornellcoug...BTW, my uncle was in the PEC meeting that morning and the bishop told them that Cumnard...

This is stomach turning. What was or wasn't discussed in a PEC meeting should not be spread as rumor. I have sat in many PEC meetings and every Bishop I know would be sickened to see what was discussed in PEC posted on a web message board.

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Posted by Cornellcoug - 2004/11/29 18:15

Please do not attribute those PEC comments to me. I was not the one that posted those comments and I happen to agree with you. As one who has been in a bishopric I agree that what is said in those meetings should stay in those meetings.

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Posted by Nor_Cal_Coug - 2004/11/29 18:50

It was not Cornell who made that quote so make sure your are "wise" enough to take not of who actually makes a post. We definately don't need to turn this site into an LDS tabloid. I was just messin' with ya' about the Val Hale comment :) Probably just envy you have such great connections

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Posted by tubatrainer - 2004/11/30 10:53

YwisealbertCornellcoug...BTW, my uncle was in the PEC meeting that morning and the bishop told them that Cumnard...

This is stomach turning. What was or wasn't discussed in a PEC meeting should not be spread as rumor. I have sat in many PEC meetings and every Bishop I know would be sickened to see what was discussed in PEC posted on a web message board.

Sorry if this offended and sorry to you Cornell for mistakingly being attributed to the quote. Let me explain something in my own defense and to hopefully prevent any unnecessary postings attacking my credibility or that of what I posted. There was a lot of speculation around the ward about why he was home. Nothing more was said than he decided to come home on his own accord. Stated fact, not rumor. If more was discussed in PEC, it stayed there. What I posted was something that was not confidential so as to quell the rumors in the ward.

I have been in enough PEC meetings myself to know what stays. I am not stupid enough to start telling things that are private and confidential. If the bishop had said it was confidential, my uncle wouldn't have said anything... not even to his wife. He was the previous bishop of the ward and understands very well the confidentiality of things discussed in meetings. He wasn't the only one I heard it from that day at church who would have been in the PEC meeting. And to top it off, Cumnard didn't have a hard time letting people know in Elders quorum the same thing that I posted here. If I were to say stuff like he was sent home because he was alone with a girl or something to that effect, that would be offensive and breaking bounds of confidentiallity. It is also information that I would not have because it would not have been shared with me. I know better than that. And everyone that has ever attended such a meeting knows that not every word is confidential. Many times things are discussed in those meetings that later are announced in quorum meetings.

Having said that, I am glad that he didn't do anything that will jeopardize him being able to return to BYU and play. And if anything, speculation and rumors as to why he came home don't even need to start because the fact has been stated. Hopefully this prevents the site from becoming and LDS tabloid as Nor_Cal said. We already have enough postings that are taking us in that direction.

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Posted by PhasiBone - 2004/11/30 12:48

Thanks for the explanation, Tuba. I'm glad he was open about it in your Ward. Yes, it's never easy to come home early, but let's not speculate any further. If it was not for health and morality problems like you say, and he simply showed enough courage and decisiveness to come home, then good for him. I was never a big fan of those missionaries who didn't really wanted to be there, but stayed just because everybody wanted them to and were a terrible drag on their companions, on the mission and on the whole missionary work. By raising the standards of getting to a mission, Brethren also raised standards of staying on a mission. Companionships where both missionaries are full of desire and work hard usually are a lot more effective than those with only one serious missionary.

But we've said enough on the subject and let's hope adjustment will go fine for the kid and we will soon see him playing and making a difference. His person life is his and let's not worry about it. What I'm worried about is our record and I hope he can help to improve it.

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