
Do We Have a Chance?

Posted by PhasiBone - 2004/11/30 09:36

Anybody thinks we could show a good game against USU? They only lost once this season, but their opponents were not as serious as ours, so I can't say how good they are this season.

Anybody out there have more info on USU than their record?

Obviously, if we can shoot we can win, so I think our percentage will decide the score. I don't know how they will do in that crazy atmosphere that's there. But I don't have very high hopes of a win. Am I wrong?

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Do We Have a Chance?

Posted by Nor_Cal_Coug - 2004/11/30 09:45

Playing at Utah State is always a tough game. Morrill's team's seem to get especially jacked up to play the Y. I still say this is the breakthrough game for BYU for 3 reasons:

1. Mike Hall is finally healthy and can slash to the basket to open up the outside even more. He has been hobbled by an ankle sprain that Cleveland said is not allowing him to make his normal drives to the basket so he has had to settle for jumpers. It has also limited his rebounding.
2. We will make 7 3-pointers that will end up being the difference in the game. I believe Rose and Burgess are good shooters and they will break through this game and shed the jitters that have caused them to miss.
3. Garner Meads will be back. His experience and toughness underneath will make a big difference in the game. I say if he was healthy for the Cal game and playing we would have won. The difference in that game was the ridiculous 18 offensive rebounds they got.

So there you have it. BYU 66 - 63.

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Do We Have a Chance?

Posted by axstntch - 2004/11/30 12:35

whenever there is a game, there is always a chance for a win for the underdog. It's all about the amount of hope and all those intangibles.

That being said, if BYU wins by more than 15 points I'm going to be shocked. But a good shock at that. :wink:

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Do We Have a Chance?

Posted by PhasiBone - 2004/11/30 12:39

I agree Nor_Cal. If everything goes according to your scenario we should win.

I also think as in previous games, whoever gets the lead in the start will get to dictate how the game goes. If we allow them to get 10 points ahead, I doubt we'll come back, especially playing in Logan. I know that last year we had a miraculous come-back, but that was a team full of seniors. Our freshmen never played in a mad atmosphere that Aggies create whenever they play us. This might be little challenging to a few of them.

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Do We Have a Chance?

Posted by Nor_Cal_Coug - 2004/11/30 14:56

We absolutely have to get out to a quick start by shooting well. I think you will see a MUCH more intense effort tomorrow night. This team was REALLY dragging from having spent all night Wednesday and all day Thursday traveling back from

Hawaii after playing three tough games. It was a big mistake having that Cal game right after a 3 game tourney in Hawaii.

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Do We Have a Chance?

Posted by PhasiBone - 2004/11/30 15:01

Nor_Cal_CougIt was a big mistake having that Cal game right after a 3 game tourney in Hawaii.

True. I personally think it's been a big mistake to set up kind of a schedule we have altogether. If we have a chance to go to NCAA, those people might look at our record and realize we didn't have wins against the big teams, so why bother inviting us? Big risk to take.

Who decides the schedule anyway? Just wondering.

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Do We Have a Chance?

Posted by Nor_Cal_Coug - 2004/11/30 15:08

The schedule is decided by a combination of the coaching staff and the athletic department. In most cases, the schedule is set several years in advance. They always have several holes to fill to complete the schedule but teams like NC State, the Maui Tourney, etc. are set a number of years in advance so there wasn't much he could do about playing Cal but you would have hoped he could have moved the game to another date. I assume they tried but probably couldn't get it done.

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Do We Have a Chance?

Posted by PhasiBone - 2004/11/30 15:19

Nor_Cal_CougThe schedule is decided by a combination of the coaching staff and the athletic department. In most cases, the schedule is set several years in advance. They always have several holes to fill to complete the schedule but teams like NC State, the Maui Tourney, etc. are set a number of years in advance so there wasn't much he could do about playing Cal but you would have hoped he could have moved the game to another date. I assume they tried but probably couldn't get it done.

Thanks for the answer. Cleveland also mentioned they got stuck in the airport and had to take 5 (!) different flights to get home.

I hope they are refreshed and ready to go. And hit the basket.

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Do We Have a Chance?

Posted by Nor_Cal_Coug - 2004/11/30 15:24

Rose and Burgess are a combined 7-31 from 3-point range. That HAS TO change for us to start winning games. These guys are much better shooters than that. Not sure why they have been shooting so poorly. My 11 year old son can make more 3's than that. Of course he is not doing it in front of 10K people and college athletes guarding him.

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Do We Have a Chance?

Posted by PhasiBone - 2004/11/30 15:35

I don't know much about Burgess. Sounds like he was a constant shooter in the past, but maybe something is still isn't there since he got back. As far as Rose -- do you ever remember him having a good game or two with his 3p's last season when we were away from Marriott Center? Sometimes he didn't get any time playing, but sometimes he just couldn't shoot.

What is wish is that they granted Ricky Bower a year extention last year with his back injury. I'm sad to see him in the library all the time instead of seeing him on the court. His 3p record was as good or at times better than Bigalow's. We certainly could have benefited from having him on the team. Was his injury that bad that he decided to quit basketball?

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Do We Have a Chance?

Posted by Nor_Cal_Coug - 2004/11/30 15:50

It was that bad. He basically blew out his back and could barely even run.

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Do We Have a Chance?

Posted by PhasiBone - 2004/11/30 15:55

Nor_Cal_CouglIt was that bad. He basically blew out his back and could barely even run.

I see. Well, I wish him all the best then. From what I know about him (and seems like half of the campus knows him individually) I know he'll do well in life and in the business world. He probably had the best personality and character of all the athletes over the last few years -perfect example of what BYU athlete should be and represent. Maybe he'll be our AD 20 years from now.

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Do We Have a Chance?

Posted by qman - 2004/11/30 17:47

I think the Cougars need one of the Big men to step it up.

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Do We Have a Chance?

Posted by PhasiBone - 2004/11/30 18:45

qmanI think the Cougars need one of the Big men to step it up.

Yes. I don't like to see how many big guys we have and how slow they are.

But I can see another way how we can get through MWC. Remember how Air Force played couple years ago? They hardly scored, but they played so well that they still won the games. They were so boring to watch, because so often final score would be something like 44-42, but they did well.

The question is, is our defence any good this year? It's obvious we played some serious offences so far, but when it comes down to MWC, can we make sure other team scores less?

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Do We Have a Chance?

Posted by Nor_Cal_Coug - 2004/11/30 19:26

I think you can count on Cleveland getting these guys to play good D but the real issue with this team is NOT the guys down low...it is the guard play! When the guards are not hitting outside shots then everyone can sag to the middle and help out. That also closes off the passing lanes which makes it even harder to feed the post. Our poor guard play is the problem. I know that Jensen can score on anyone down low if he gets fed the ball. He has GREAT post moves. I also think Dawes will do will down there and Miles showed us a little something. The whole key to this season guys is getting solid guard play. It doesn't have to be great, just solid. We have to take care of the ball and hit the outside shots.

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Do We Have a Chance?

Posted by SpiffCoug - 2004/11/30 20:25

I don't think the problem is the big men right now. The problem is at PG. The Point is not doing a good job at getting the ball down low. Watch the games. When they can get the ball to Jensen or Dawes, good things usually happen. The problem is we can't get it to them consistently enough.

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Do We Have a Chance?

Posted by Nor_Cal_Coug - 2004/11/30 21:11

I agree that the PG is a major problem, but a bigger problem is our inability to hits shots to spread the defense out. If the defense has to come out to guard the 3 then you have passing lanes. If they can sag off then then its tough for anyone to get it in. My point was really the problem with this team is the guard play. Very sub-par to this point.

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Do We Have a Chance?

Posted by SpiffCoug - 2004/11/30 23:36

Sounds like we're arguing the same point, but from different perspectives. The poor PG play would greatly improve if Rose and Burgess would start hitting some shots. Likewise, better PG play would help cover poor SG play. Either way, this team will only go as far as the guard line takes them. And four games in, it's not very far.

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Do We Have a Chance?

Posted by Nor_Cal_Coug - 2004/12/01 00:04

No question about that Spiff...that is probably why my confidence in this teaming going far is not there. These guys have a LONG ways to go before they can compete at a high level.

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Do We Have a Chance?

Posted by Nor_Cal_Coug - 2004/12/01 09:49

I am DELIGHTED to hear that Cleveland is bringing Balderson off his red-shirt and will play him. He will be a HUGE help on the offensive end. He may have to build up his stamina but I think he is a guy you can always count on to score points. He is simply a scorer. He knows how to put the ball in the basket. Like Cleveland said, "its crazy not to play the guy that scores more points in practice than anyone else."

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Do We Have a Chance?

Posted by qman - 2004/12/01 11:56

We will see tonight.

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Do We Have a Chance?

Posted by Nor_Cal_Coug - 2004/12/01 11:58

Yes we will but don't be too quick to judge the guy who is playing his first game in over 2 1/2 years. I think he will be great though.

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Do We Have a Chance?

Posted by PhasiBone - 2004/12/01 13:10

Nor_Cal_Cougl am DELIGHTED to hear that Cleveland is bringing Balderson off his red-shirt and will play him. He will be a HUGE help on the offensive end. He may have to build up his stamina but I think he is a guy you can always count on to score points. He is simply a scorer. He knows how to put the ball in the basket. Like Cleveland said, "its crazy not to play the guy that scores more points in practice than anyone else."

Yes, that's indeed good news. I was very impressed with him during the tipoff and wondered what on earth are they thinking redshirting him. I hope he can contribute.

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Do We Have a Chance?

Posted by Nor_Cal_Coug - 2004/12/01 13:14

What a relief to talk about something besides the debacle of BYU's football program. The reason he was red-shirting is he just got off his mission in August. It takes at least six months to get in shape and Cleveland didn't want to waste a year on a guy he see's as a future star. I think the kid is simply too good not to put on the court, especially with our current shooting woes. Excellent decisions Cleveland!

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Do We Have a Chance?

Posted by PhasiBone - 2004/12/01 13:35

Nor_Cal_CougWhat a relief to talk about something besides the debacle of BYU's football program. The reason he was red-shirting is he just got off his mission in August. It takes at least six months to get in shape and Cleveland didn't want to waste a year on a guy he see's as a future star. I think the kid is simply too good not to put on the court, especially with our current shooting woes. Excellent decisions Cleveland!

Yes, I'm was more excited about tonight than about noon.

I hope Balderson can really help us. Like Cleves said, he probably won't get as much playing time as he could, but if he can score 10-15 points in 15-20 minutes, that's all we need.

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Do We Have a Chance?

Posted by SpiffCoug - 2004/12/01 14:16

I'd take anyone getting 10-15 right now on the team. The only guy doing so is Mike Hall. He can't do it all by himself. Is Balderson the answer? I don't know. I think Cleveland feels that maybe he can hit the shots that Rose and Burgess are currently missing. I like the idea that Cleveland isn't afraid to burn a red-shirt on a guy who he thinks might help him now. I'm sure he wishes he could save Jimmy for next year, but the needs now don't appear to allow that.

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Do We Have a Chance?

Posted by Nor_Cal_Coug - 2004/12/01 14:21

The only thing I wish it that he would have played in the last 4 games so he had some actual game expeience and the conditioning that comes with it. Oh well...better late than never. I know most of your out there don't know much about

Balderson but this kid has the skills to score with just about anyone. I watched him closely as a freshman and knew in high school he averaged 40+ his senior year.

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Do We Have a Chance?

Posted by PhasiBone - 2004/12/01 14:21

SpiffCoug I like the idea that Cleveland isn't afraid to burn a red-shirt on a guy who he thinks might help him now.

That's what I like about our HC -- he's straight-forward and logical. I like listening to his interviews and I think he's one good guy in the Athletic Dept. I hope his decisions pay off.

But don't forget that we didn't do too much better at PG two years ago. In fact, Nashif would sometimes start too. There were only two consistent players on that team -- Hansen and Bower. We won those games when Bigalow could hit the basket and lost the rest. But it was still enough to share MWC champs and go to the tournie.

This year we have Hall and Jensen. What we need is another guy who can post 10-15 points, and I don't care who it is, but let's find him.

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Do We Have a Chance?

Posted by Nor_Cal_Coug - 2004/12/01 14:31

Amen phasi! If we can get a consistent 10 out of Balderson and we can get Meads healthy I think those two guys can add 20 points a game and will make the difference in a good season. I agree though that the point position is very, very week. It is obvious Cleveland does not beleive Ainge is the future because he said Monday in his interview that he was going to be looking for a JC point-guard. He had hoped Josh Reisman was the guy but it doesn't look like he is panning out. The guy just doesn't put in the effort. I wonder if Cleveland can convince him (Reisman) to transfer again so we can free up the scholarship for a real player?

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Do We Have a Chance?

Posted by qman - 2004/12/01 16:06

So Balderson is going to start?

Wow that will be a little bit of a shock. Not playing to starting just like that.

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BYU by 15!

Posted by negzel - 2004/12/01 16:19

Have some faith!!

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Do We Have a Chance?

Posted by Nor_Cal_Coug - 2004/12/01 16:23

Tonight will be a turning point for this team. Here is why:

1. Meads is healthy again - he is a critical peice to our success down low and he needs to finally live up to his high school hype.
2. Hall has both wheels - his ankle is nearly healed and he will be able to slash to the basket.

3. Balderson - This guy may not be the basketball savior or anything be he will have a very good BYU career that resumes tonight. He probably won't start this game but he will be in there at least 15 minutes. You don't bring a guy off red shirt and not play him....

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Balderson....the answer

Posted by CougarMT - 2004/12/01 17:07

I am new to the post....but couldn't let my comments about Jimmy Balderson go to waste....This kid is an incredible ball player...I saw him throughout his High School days and he lit it up all the time...He can penetrate, kick it out, and shoot the lights out. I was shocked to hear he was red-shirting but knew it wouldn't be long. This kid is very good. My hope is that we don't put all of our faith in him....he did just get back from a mission and it can take a while to get your feet wet again...but once he does...Look out

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Do We Have a Chance?

Posted by Nor_Cal_Coug - 2004/12/01 17:31

Welcome to the board. I agree that it will take time but he will be a good one.

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