
In defense of Craig Thompson

Posted by Tyler1830 - 2006/11/24 18:16

I know I'm going to be branded as a heretic for saying this, but here goes. For all the grief that people have given Craig Thompson and the mtn deal, I think it's actually worked out pretty well—at least for people on the East Coast with Dish Network.

This year with having a just basic Dish Network subscription I've been able to see Arizona (TBS), Boston College (ESPN2), TCU (Verses), Air Force (Verses), Wyoming (CSTV), Utah (CSTV), and the Las Vegas Bowl (ESPN). That's seven games.

By contrast, last year (with my same Dish Network basic subscription), I was able to see Boston College (ABC), Notre Dame (NBC), and the Las Vegas Bowl (ESPN). That's three games. Of course I also watched the Utah game, but I had to get that on pay-per-view through ESPN Gameday, so I'm not going to count that one.

In 2004 (again, with my same Dish Network basic subscription) I was able to see Notre Dame (ESPN), USC (ESPN), Boise State (ESPN), UNLV (ESPN2), and Utah (ESPN2). That's five games.

In 2003 I was able to see Georgia Tech (ESPN2), Colorado State (ESPN2), Boise State (ESPN), and Notre Dame (NBC). I didn't get to see USC or Utah because both games were only regional broadcasts (ABC and ESPN respectively). Those in the South were out of luck. I suppose I could have shelled out for the pay-per-view for those games, but I didn't. Anyway, that's four games in 2003.

In summary:

2006: seven games

2005: three games

2004: five games

2003: four games

For all the trash people have talked about Craig Thompson, I can't argue with the numbers. From 2003-2005 I was able to see an average of 4 games a year on TV. This season I'll be able to see seven games without doing anything different. Next year (assuming that the mtn is able to negotiate a deal with Dish Network) I'll be able to see every BYU game on TV. That's something I never would have been able to do under the old ESPN deal.

Also, one thing that I've loved about the television coverage this year is that the games start at reasonable hours. It seemed like during the 2003-2005 seasons, even when BYU games were on TV, they didn't start until 10:00ish on the East Coast. ESPN always relegated the BYU broadcasts to the most obscure time slots. Hey, I love my Cougs, but there's something about having to stay up until 2:00 in the morning to see the end of the game, that really detracts from the experience. Under this year's TV deal, the only game that was a late broadcast was Arizona (which started around 9:00 on the East Coast if I remember correctly). I think all the other games started at reasonable times.

From my experience the only negative about the new TV deal is the fact that the games are no longer shown at church. Before the mtn we could always get an additional 2-3 games a year on the church satellite. The mtn deal killed that option. I'll admit that not having the church broadcasts hurts, but the fact that I'm getting an extra three games a year on regular TV makes up for the pain.

In short: I for one am going to give Craig Thompson a break. Even without a satellite deal for the mtn, I've still been able to see three more games this year than I ever could have hoped to see with ESPN. Also, this year's games have come on TV at times when I can actually enjoy watching them. For those of us who don't live in the land of milk and honey (i.e. Utah) the mtn deal hasn't been that bad.

Everybody take a deep breath. Things are going to work out just fine.

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Booing Craig

Posted by IdahoCougar - 2006/11/24 18:28

What a great ending last game was and the celebration that followed it. All of it was first class, except for the crowd booing Craig Thompson. It seemed pretty cold-hearted. The man is trying his best and knows his own mistakes. Booing him was beneath what BYU represents in my opinion.

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In defense of Craig Thompson

Posted by montanafan - 2006/11/24 18:30

Tyler, what do you call basic, I had to upgrade to the top 180 to get verses, I sure don't call that basic, the top 60 is basic in my world....I still hate this setup and CT should hear about it.

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Re: In defense of Craig Thompson

Posted by frontrowcougar - 2006/11/24 18:51

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Everybody take a deep breath. Things are going to work out just fine.

I'm East Coast, and feel about the same. The only thing that really got my blood boiling is that the first few games were unavailable via internet PPV because they were trying to force us to lobby the satellite providers.

But I actually preferred wacky times via church satellite - I wasn't missing any family time from 10 pm to 2 am!

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In defense of Craig Thompson

Posted by etyotx - 2006/11/24 18:53

I do agree that it is unfair to blame just CT. However, there's no one left to complain to. Dish/DirecTV don't care, nor does comcast. It's not CT's fault. However, like when a president is blamed unfairly for economic downturns (i.e. Bush Sr.), CT is ultimately responsible for the conference. You may not care enough to see all 13 games, but there are several fans that are. I think you are in the minority in this situation.

12 is more than 7.

You COULD have seen all 11 games in the last few seasons but chose not to. Therefore, the mtn. situation hasn't affected you too much. However, fans that DID see all 11 games (via gameplan) now can't.

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montanafanTyler, what do you call basic, I had to upgrade to the top 180 to get verses, I sure don't call that basic, the top 60 is basic in my world....I still hate this setup and CT should hear about it.

You're right. I should have been more specific about this. Dish offers essentially three different packages: Top 60 (~\$30 per month), Top 120 (~\$40 per month), and Top 180 (~\$50 per month). I guess different people have different views about what "basic" means. In my mind basic is anything between \$30-\$40 that doesn't include premium channels (e.g. HBO, Showtime, etc). Since my local cable company's cheapest package is \$45 a month, I consider anything under \$45 a month to be "basic", but I understand that others might have a different view of what "basic" means. Either way, you're looking at a difference of \$10 a month (during football season).

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In defense of Craig Thompson

Posted by Tyler1830 - 2006/11/24 19:10

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First a question, then a comment...

Question: When you subscribed to gameplan could you really see all 12 games? What about the games that were SWP or KSL productions? Did gameplan give you those games? I don't know because the only time I ever subscribed to gameplan was just to get the Utah game on ppv last year. I was of the understanding that all gameplan did was give you access to the ESPN+ games that were outside of your regional market. If this was the case then last year then even with game plan you would not have been able to see Eastern Illinois, SDSU, New Mexico, Colorado State, or Wyoming unless you lived in or around Utah. Can you please clarify for me exactly how many games you got to see?

Comment: The point of my post was that the current deal has increased access for the average fan outside of Utah--the kind of fan who will watch the games when they are on TV, but who won't shell out for games on ppv. For those willing to do ppv, all (or at least most) of the games were available this year. I know that some people were unhappy with the internet stream (for obvious reasons), but you could have gotten the games had you chosen to do so. I think that for the

average fan outside of the MWC market, the current deal has only improved access--or at least it hasn't hurt access. Next year (assuming that the mtn is able to work out a deal with Dish or DirecTV) access will only be better.

That might be wishful thinking about next year, but still, I don't think this year's deal has been quite the catastrophe everyone else seems to think it's been.

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In defense of Craig Thompson

Posted by etyotx - 2006/11/24 19:24

I see your point and agree with you that the average fan is slightly better off this season. (And in the long-term should be far better off).

A large portion of the fans on this board are more than the average fan. I'm one of them. I'm lucky to be in Provo and to have access to all the games, but I wish I could have the cheaper, higher-quality product that DishNetwork provides. Would I shell out an extra 50 or 60 a month for all the games? Absolutely.

I think that most, if not all games were available most years. Some through gameplan and some via Stake Centers. You are right that not all games were available (I don't think Wyo or UNM last year were on gameplan). However, several fans on this board have complained about seeing between 3 and 5 fewer games this year (i.e. what's his name from Ann Arbor. He complained a lot over the summer and many (myself included) told him to have patience. Well, I was wrong).

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Re: Booing Craig

Posted by Metallicat - 2006/11/24 19:28

IdahoCougarWhat a great ending last game was and the celebration that followed it. All of it was first class, except for the crowd booing Craig Thompson. It seemed pretty cold-hearted. The man is trying his best and knows his own mistakes. Booing him was beneath what BYU represents in my opinion.

At first I felt bad for him. But then I remembered how many games I've been able to watch this year (2!) and I didn't feel bad anymore. :evil:

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Re: Booing Craig

Posted by mormonrasta - 2006/11/24 20:03

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It's interesting. Tyler's post echos alot of posts from people outside of the intermountain west trying to watch BYU games. In that sense, for those people the new tv deal is a much better thing for those fans.

Unfortunately, for the fans in the especially the ones in Western Idaho, Arizona, and Nevada I suspect it is a bad deal. I used to rely heavily on the ESPN+ games. They were almost always on in the Phoenix market. My cable package doesn't have the Versus and CSTV so I was squeezed out altogether. Fortunately, I have been able to watch every game except for the Tulsa game either by going to Provo, going to my brother-in-law's house who does have CSTV and Versus, and by watching the games on the internet.

It's been much more expensive for me, but I have to watch my Cougars!

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In defense of Craig Thompson

Posted by Cougy_Monster - 2006/11/24 20:13

I've been in Michigan for 6 years and this year I had access to the fewest number of games.

I don't think people understand that for the last few years every single BYU game was available on a regular national broadcast or ESPN gameplan (either on TV or online). In addition, you could watch about half the games on Church satellite.

The fact that there have been any games this year that were simply unavailable by any means or at any cost is evidence of BYU's diminished national coverage under this new deal.

Anybody who thinks the Cougs get better national coverage now than they did under the prior deal wasn't trying very hard to watch the games the last few years.

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In defense of Craig Thompson

Posted by Cougy_Monster - 2006/11/24 20:19

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LOL. That was me :D . I've been able to watch the last few games either online or on CSTV with directv's sportspack, so my heart is slightly softened. But, if this deal isn't completely worked out by next season....somebody should lose his job.

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In defense of Craig Thompson

Posted by etyotx - 2006/11/24 20:20

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I was talking about you, cougy monster!

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In defense of Craig Thompson

Posted by etyotx - 2006/11/24 20:22

you're too quick for me.

do you remember me telling you to have patience because it was only july and that I was certain a deal would be worked out by Sep 1?

Man was I ever wrong.

I think I just reasoned that it didn't make business sense to any party to not have the network up and running. Again, I was wrong. Sorry to have given you such a hard time.

Re: Booing Craig

Posted by Cougy_Monster - 2006/11/24 20:22

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I thought is was unfair when everybody blamed the Cougs' problems on Crowton alone....

That's just how this business works. The man in charge will get blamed. He needs to know that Cougar fans want to see the team play instead of listen to his lame excuses.

In defense of Craig Thompson

Posted by Cougy_Monster - 2006/11/24 20:27

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No need to apologize. My rantings needed some curbing advice at the time. As far as not making business sense, I think everybody can see that except CT (maybe he can see it but knows if he says out loud how poorly this has been handled he'll incriminate himself).

But, anyway, like I said....I've seen the last few games in a row now so I'm starting to think things may be OK next year.

In defense of Craig Thompson

Posted by bostoncoug - 2006/11/24 20:34

I was (and still remain) a skeptic of the whole MTN. deal. However, I have been able to see half (after the yewt game tomorrow)of the games so far (without paying for a single ppv) as well as the vegas bowl. I remain a skeptic however in that as far as I know, the MTN. isn't even available in all of Utah yet. I am hoping to move back to Utah and have a home in Eagle Mountain, and I am not sure if I will even have the MTN., which means that I will have to go to my dad's house in orem to watch it on his HDTV big screen. Which would be even sweeter if the games were on ESPN, because the MTN, and VERSUS and CSTV (I think) aren't available in HD. I still miss the espn plan and having access to all of the games, instead of most of the games.

In defense of Craig Thompson

Posted by etyotx - 2006/11/24 20:51

the mtn. is available in eagle mountain.

In defense of Craig Thompson

Posted by Cougarbib2 - 2006/11/24 21:20

With ESPN gameplan, you were at the mercy of some local yokel who decided which of the available game plan telecasts would be shown in your area. I live in Hawaii. They must have had a UH alum making that decision because the first time I traded in my cable box for a digital cable box so I could pay more money but get gameplan, Hawaii got to see Iowa State play some other mediocre team no one cares about rather than the BYU game because the UH alum hate BYU. It was that way all year.

I really miss the good ole days when all of the games were shown in the stake center and all of us in-actives could go down and get fellow-shipped while we watched the game. Now I am active and a full tithe paying member and I have to pray that PPV has it or watch it on my PC. I end up listening to many of them on KSL on the Internet.

In the good ole days I lived in Southern California and you could pick up KSL at night most of the time. That came in handy before there was Internet.

I even bought partial ownership in a RV from HB Arnett. It was probably parked in a field without a motor. But it allowed me to get East Coast TV stations for times when the BYU game was blocked out in So. Cal. Between the RV arrangement, my neighbors old fashioned big dish, dish network, ESPN, occasional national games, and the Stake Center, we only occasionally missed a BYU game.

When times got really tough we jumped in the car and drove all night to Provo and used my season tickets to see the game live.

I still have season tickets but it is a very long drive from Honolulu.

In defense of Craig Thompson

Posted by ammoncougar1 - 2006/11/24 21:23

I think I am missing something here. Exactly how is Versus & CSTV related to the MTN? My understanding is that the conference was going exclusively to the MTN to broadcast MWC sporting events. If that is the case then we still have a major problem because: 1) The MTN is not what is slightly being praised by Tyler. He is talking about versus and CSTV. And 2) The MTN still does not carry every BYU game. In fact it doesn't even carry every GOOD conference game.

Please clue me in to how this is supposedly going to work in the future. Right now my cable company has the MTN but NOT versus or CSTV! And my options for dish and direct are the same as everyone else with no MTN. Help me understand what we are allegedly supposed to expect in the upcoming seasons (B-ball and next years Football)

Go Cougs!!!

Re: Booing Craig

Posted by Hooks14 - 2006/11/24 21:28

mormonrastaMetallicatIdahoCougarWhat a great ending last game was and the celebration that followed it. All of it was first class, except for the crowd booing Craig Thompson. It seemed pretty cold-hearted. The man is trying his best and knows his own mistakes. Booing him was beneath what BYU represents in my opinion.

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Just a couple days ago there was link to an article talking about the deal with the .mtn and how it affected recruiting. The coaches that they talked to said that it either didn't affect recruiting or that it helped it. I noticed that they didn't have quotes from either Bronco or Kyle. For other teams in the conference, this deal might help there exposure, but in Utah, it is just about the worst thing for recruiting and exposure. Whereas last year we could see every game on normal channels (not even cable or satellite), this year it is possible to see about half of the games if you have basic cable. For in-state recruiting, this has to hurt. No longer will kids turn on the TV and see BYU playing on the first few channels they see. Instead, they will only see BYU if they really hunt out the game on TV.

In defense of Craig Thompson

Posted by Tyler1830 - 2006/11/24 21:45

Cougy_Monster

I don't think people understand that for the last few years every single BYU game was available on a regular national broadcast or ESPN gameplan (either on TV or online).

Is it really true that "every single BYU game was available on a regular national broadcast or ESPN Gameplan"? I could very well be wrong about this, but my understanding was that the only games that were available on Gameplan were those that had ESPN+ coverage. Said differently, the only thing Gameplan did was give you access to the games that ESPN+ was covering, but not broadcasting in your regional market. That would mean that in 2005 if you didn't live in or around Utah you wouldn't have been able to see Eastern Illinois, SDSU, New Mexico, Colorado State, or Wyoming. Because these were KSL or SWP broadcasts they would not be available on Gameplan at any price. In 2004, even if you had Gameplan, you would not have been able to see Stanford, Colorado State, Wyoming, or New Mexico. In 2003 you would have missed New Mexico, Stanford, SDSU, Wyoming, and UNLV. I could be wrong about this, but that was my understanding. Were these games available (outside of Utah) on ESPN gameplan?

I know that prior to this year some of the KSL broadcasts might have been available on church satellite. I'll admit that it hurt not to have the church satellite broadcasts this year. I really miss watching the watching games in the primary room at 1:00AM with the handful of Cougar faithful. Those were good times. That said, even the church satellite broadcasts were far from perfect--especially for those outside of Utah. A lot of the games were simply not available on the church satellite. Whenever ESPN+ was doing a regional broadcast around the mountain West, the games were not shown over church satellite. The only games that ever went out over the church satellite (as I remember) were the KSL productions. Everything else was blacked out. That wasn't a problem for those who lived in the West, but for the rest of us it the ESPN+ broadcasts actually limited our access to the games since ESPN kept the games off of church satellite.

Anyways, I'm getting off topic. Back to the question: was it really true that "every single BYU game" was available, either through Gameplan or a regular broadcast, prior to this year? I'd be surprised if that was really the case, but I don't know for sure. All I know is that this year any BYU fan, regardless of where he or she lives, could have seen seven BYU games just by getting a basic subscription to Dish Network--no pay-per-view required. That's an improvement in my book.

In defense of Craig Thompson

Posted by Cougarbib2 - 2006/11/24 22:26

Bottom line is we need the conference t have a few more seasons like Utah had under the Urban Dude and maybe we can get on TV. This TV contract is a symbol of the lack of respect the country has for MWC football. It is a long term indicator of that lack of respect.

It is going down hill. We once got the Holiday Bowl ever year and then complained when we got a team with 3 losses

coming in. We would kill to make the Holiday Bowl now.

Instead we get a 35000 seat stadium before Christmas Day and will be forgotten by the time all of the big boys play.

That is just the way it is and MWC / WAC divorce became lose lose for both conferences.

They should have solved their money issues and kept the conference and the Holiday Bowl

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Re: Booing Craig

Posted by Yzzazz - 2006/11/25 07:14

IdahoCougarWhat a great ending last game was and the celebration that followed it. All of it was first class, except for the crowd booing Craig Thompson. It seemed pretty cold-hearted. The man is trying his best and knows his own mistakes. Booing him was beneath what BYU represents in my opinion.

I thought he deserved every last drop of it, and BYU fans are the ones with the most to lose over it. This is his job to get this done and he fumbled big time. It cost us two or three spots in BCS ranking--though not a huge factor with the Boise rising, but if Jason Beck handles just one more snap in either game, those spots could make the difference between BCS or not. So maybe good little mormons shouldn't be so crass. But tough customers in any sports market would react the same way.

Meanwhile, I appreciate the post that started this thread. Like the Holiday Bowl, here's hoping the mtn works out.

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In defense of Craig Thompson

Posted by MJ - 2006/11/25 07:45

Had I been at LES last Saturday I would have booed CT. While it may seem unsportsmanlike or even un-Christian to some, it is the only way to collectively communicate the feelings of thousands of Cougar fans.

A concern regarding the CSTV/Mtn. deal that is not being addressed is the complete shunning of the MWC by ESPN. Who can blame ESPN? CSTV has to be considered their competition. The lack of exposure on ESPN is not about disrespect but more about business and marketing. Problem with CSTV, we don't get a lot of exposure with them either. Their featured games often include Division 1-AA teams and in CSTV's version of "Sports Center", they still highlight and give emphasis to the BCS teams and conferences.

Another reason that I would have booed CT is because of the pathetic bowl situation that the conference currently has. Four bowls before Christmas? Our conference champion playing a 4th place team from the PAC 10? CT is directly responsible for negotiating bowl contract and in my opinion, he is getting a failing grade. As has been mentioned, MWC teams had better win most if not all of their bowl games in order to get some semblance of respect.

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In defense of Craig Thompson

Posted by Metallicat - 2006/11/25 08:42

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I really don't think the MWC has been "shunned" Do you even watch ESPN. They've shown BYU highlights ever since we've been ranked. They've been brief but about the same as any other team that's not playing for a shot at OSU. We've been in the top 10 plays three weeks in a row. Their have have been articles about the team on espn.com. I think we actually get about as much love now as we did before.

In defense of Craig Thompson

Posted by pogipingel - 2006/11/25 09:15

I am in West Virginia. I got to see Arizona and BC, which were nationally televised on national channels. 2 games. No mtn or verses here. Boo to CT!!

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In defense of Craig Thompson

Posted by Metallicat - 2006/11/25 09:42

They just talked about the BYU/utah game on Game Day and gave Jo Beck some love comparing his stats to Troy Smith's

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In defense of Craig Thompson

Posted by hamrdown - 2006/11/25 09:45

MJHad I been at LES last Saturday I would have booed CT. While it may seem unsportsmanlike or even un-Christian to some, it is the only way to collectively communicate the feelings of thousands of Cougar fans.

I was at the game in the South endzone and booed as loud as I could. Many of the fans around me looked at me in disbelief. My 10 year old son did not know why I was booing but thought it was the right thing to do so he joined in. I hope CT got the message.

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In defense of Craig Thompson

Posted by NC-Puma - 2006/11/25 09:48

last night I figured out how to get CSTV for 3 bucks a month (package includes FS Pac-10, amd NBA TV) on time warner cable (east coast) so I'm not hatin CT as much anymore. BYU UTAH from my living room! Oh yeah

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In defense of Craig Thompson

Posted by rackem - 2006/11/25 10:24

Metallicat I think we actually get about as much love now as we did before.

THAT'S THE PROBLEM!!!! We're not improving our situation! Status quo doesn't sit well with cougar faithful. We want the spotlight when we're good. We want the spotlight when we're bad. This is a school and team that represents the Church. We want it out there for everyone to see. Good teams or Bad. The point is to spread the Word no matter how the team is doing. We can't spread it if no one can see them. Craig Thompson isn't getting it done for us. He needs to fish or cut bait.

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In defense of Craig Thompson

Posted by Hawkwing - 2006/11/25 10:48

etyotxthe mtn. is available in eagle mountain.

To be fair, the MTN. is only available in Eagle Mountain via a tiny little satellite provider, which is bankrupt and likely going out of business soon (USDTV). In many areas they aren't even accepting new subscribers (although, they still are for now in EM). It is not yet available through any of the other TV options.

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In defense of Craig Thompson

Posted by Metallicat - 2006/11/25 10:51

rackemMetallicat I think we actually get about as much love now as we did before.

THAT'S THE PROBLEM!!!! We're not improving our situation! Status quo doesn't sit well with cougar faithful. We want the spotlight when we're good. We want the spotlight when we're bad. This is a school and team that represents the Church. We want it out there for everyone to see. Good teams or Bad. The point is to spread the Word no matter how the team is doing. We can't spread it if no one can see them. Craig Thompson isn't getting it done for us. He needs to fish or cut bait.

I agree that the lack of availability is a problem, a big problem. I still can't believe I've only been able to see two games this year. However, no team gets their "word out" when they're bad unless maybe it's one of the giants that's fallen i.e. Miami and FSU.

The point I was making with the statement you quoted me on is that we are not being shunned by ESPN. Yes this crappy deal needs to be worked out but no ESPN is holding a grudge and not talking about us. They talked about the BYU/utah game TWICE on game day and Jo Beck was nominated as a game changing performer.

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