

Monday, November 28, 2011

A Homestarmy Christmas?!

Shall we gather together once again to partake of group-oriented holiday festivities?

Posted by Ancient of Days in Group Activities at 19:16

Tuesday, November 22, 2011

Red, Blue And Pigskin

It's Rivalry week baby. Finally 11 weeks of the season are done with, leading up to this week everyone has been waiting for. It's time for the annual rivalry game.

Wait, oh yea, not so much anymore. The Holy War has already been played, with a Utah dismantling of the Cougars, 54-10, in week three. This year for Rivalry week Utah gets a home game against Colorado. A team, that no matter how hard the Pac-12 tries, or no matter which lame name they give the game (Rumble in the Rockies, awful), Colorado and Utah are not rivals.

As for the Cougars, their big Rivalry week opponent is.... lethargy. The Cougars don't have an opponent this week, as they have their second bye of November, although it won't be their easiest week of the season, that belongs to Idaho State week.

You could say this is a negative side effect of change. Stadium Bookend

On September 30, 1972, in front of a crowd of 20,600 people, the Washington State Cougars opened up their brand new Martin Stadium with a 20-6 loss against the Utes. On Monday Washington State University began major renovations on Martin Stadium, meaning Saturday's OT loss to the Utes are the last game at the current iteration of Martin Stadium.

I can't say what happened in 1972, but the crowd of just over 16,000 at the game on Saturday had to brave a game that started with some snow, dried up, and then turned into a white out blizzard.

The first half of the game, the two teams combined to put offensive football back 20 years. The Utes managed to play arguably their worst offensive half of the season. They couldn't do anything offensively with the football, and what few positive plays they managed to successfully complete, they immediately followed it up with boneheaded and stupid penalties.

The only truly successful offensive play of the first half for the Utes was an 47 yard touchdown pass. Completed by the punter on a fake pass.

Crazily enough, during halftime when the snow started really coming down the game turned into a high scoring shootout, with Jon Hays making some great, clutch passes, and John White doing what John White does. Unfortunately this was also when Utah's defense decided to play it's worst half of the season. Twice the defense gave up 10 point leads, as they switched from their man press defense to a soft zone, and even a near prevent defense late.

Utah's defense went without a sack the entire game, and although they did hit Washington State's QB a lot, enough that he was hospitalized with a lacerated liver, in truth the Utes didn't get much defensive pressure.

Fortunately with 10 seconds to go, and pass to the end zone was just short enough, that the WR had to come out of the end zone to catch the ball at the 1, forcing the Cougars to settle for a game tying field goal. In OT Mo Lee intercepted Halliday, and the Utes kicked the winning field goal.

Chugging Along

Another game, another massive workload, another great game. Although John White was contained in the first half with a measly 49 yards, the second half was a different story. White ended the game with 42 carries for 186 yards. He also added two TD's. One of them a 57 yard scamper. The other was a measly three yard run, setup on the play before by his refusal to go down, or step out of bounds, and one legged hopping for extra yards.

The two TD's have tied the Utes single season rushing TD record. The 186 yards put White at 1,377 yards on the season. That currently makes him 1st in the Pac-12 and 5th in the nation. Although, how he wasn't a Doak Walker semifinalist I'll never know.

Those 1,377 yards leaves him 131 yards away from breaking the Utah single season rushing yards record. White is averaging 125 yards per game on the season. Since the Pitt game, that average is 146 yards per game. During the

current 4 game win streak, it's 166.7 yards per game. All this means is there is a really good chance he breaks the record on Saturday. However, with a bowl game still to be played, he simply needs to average 65.5 yards per game for the next two.

I'm really not sure that it can be put into words, exactly how valuable White has been to this team.

Not Feline Friendly

The Utes this season have not been friendly to the feline community. This year the Utes have beat two types of Cougars, Bobcats, Panthers, and Wildcats. Of the Utes 7 wins, 5 have come against teams with feline mascots.

Well At Least It's Over

The only thing of note about the BYU/New Mexico State game, is that it means that BYU's awful, boring November schedule is now at an end. A Month that saw two stinker games, and two bye weeks.

As for the game itself there's not a whole lot to say. Jake Heaps played a solid B game. He still showed tendencies to overthrow his WR and lock on to his target. About all we learned from this game, is that when Heaps doesn't get any pressure on him, which NMSU couldn't do all game, Heaps can lead a team down the field.

Somehow this game was actually close after about 20 minutes which itself was probably inconceivable. But eventually, the Cougars did what they were supposed to do, and finish off yet another garbage opponent. Now the Cougars get to rest up for a season finale on the road next week against Hawaii.

I'll Be Honest, This Sucks

One truly negative aspect of having the Rivalry game in September is that it's not Rivalry week in September. Rivalry week is now. Only now, we don't get to enjoy the build up around Thanksgiving towards the rivalry.

Instead BYU is preparing for a bye. While it's good for the Students who wouldn't have really been able to be involved anyways, since BYU is out of school for the holidays, it still has left a huge void.

Instead Utah is preparing for Colorado. A terrible Colorado that is. In fact, Colorado is so terrible, they make New Mexico State look good. The Pac-12 keeps trying to tell us this is the new rivalry. No matter how hard the Pac-12 pushes, and no matter whatever lame, lazy name they give this game (Rumble in the Rockies??? Really?), and no matter what happened the last time these two teams played, fifty freaking years ago, this is not a rivalry game. Utah and Colorado's coaches put it best when they called this game an arranged marriage.

This week just feels hollow.

Posted by Sideshow in Red, Blue And Pigskin at 07:30

Tuesday, November 15, 2011

Red, Blue And Pigskin

Apparently football in the state of Utah is meant to be played in cold, snowy conditions, as all four Northern Utah teams won in varying conditions of perfect football weather last week.

One team flipped the script from earlier in their season by coming back when behind in the fourth, another ended in a fitting score, a third ended up bowl eligible for the 9th consecutive year, and the fourth finds themselves with a story that just won't die. A Fitting Sendoff

Last week we talked about the impending retirement of Weber State football coach Ron McBride. Last Saturday was the final home game of the season for the Wildcats, and therefore the final home game for Coach Mac. It's fitting then, that it would be played in cold and snowy weather, as it was the kind of weather that McBride loved.

Even more fitting was the final score. A 34-31 victory for the Wildcats.

Rewriting The Story

For much of the first half of the season, the Utah State Aggies would climb out to 4th quarter leads, only to lose them in dramatic and heartbreaking fashion. None more difficult than seeing former prodigal son Riley Nelson lead the Cougars from behind, to win with 11 seconds left.

An argument could be made that through their first 7 games, the Aggies could easily have been sitting at 7-0. Instead they were at 2-5, teetering on the edge of bowl ineligibility, and a trip to the islands coming up.

Apparently the Aggies have decided that the secret to winning is to be trailing late in the 4th quarter. Two 4th quarter deficits with 4 minutes or less to go, two 4th quarter rallies, and the Aggies are now sitting at 4-5.

Utah State has ended the last two seasons with that very same 4 win total. Moreso, it's been since before 2000 when the Aggies last had 3 consecutive wins. This week the Aggies travel to Moscow to take on a dreadful Idaho Vandal team, with a chance to not only break past the 4 win barrier, but to notch three consecutive wins.

They could be the first of many barriers to fall for the Aggies over the next several years.

YAAAAAAAAAAWN!

BYU could give the Aggies some pointers on the Idaho Vandals, as this past weekend they dispatched of them in an utterly boring, and dreadful game. Just the most recent such boring game for the Cougars, as now that the TCU game is over, they plod through the end of their WAC Conference schedule.

While the game itself was a snore-fest, there was one storyline that came out of the game. A storyline I'm sure that most BYU fans wish would just go away.

That Had To Hurt

Thanks to a borderline hit during the first half, Cougars starting QB Riley Nelson had to leave the game, with what would later be diagnosed as a broken rib, and a partially collapsed lung. With his style of play, it's not all that surprising that Nelson eventually got hurt. What is surprising is that it happened on a play where Nelson actually passed the ball.

With Nelson injured, that meant that Jake Heaps once again is the Quarterback. With rumors of red-shirting or transferring in 2011, this could be Heaps' last chance to prove he's deserving of the starting job. The problem for Jake Heaps is that due to the lack of quality of opposition he faces, Heaps can only prove that he's not worthy of the starting job by struggling. Any success will be tempered with a grain of salt, in the face of dreadful opponents. Especially since most of the hype surrounding Heaps coming into 2011, was built on the back of a bad second half of the schedule in 2010.

Nonetheless, this is his chance, and the review from the Idaho game is mixed. Heaps' numbers were good, going 15 of

20 for 195 yards and two TD's. But there were also a couple of the throws we're used to from Heaps, including an overthrow that led to a red zone interception.

Of course, with Head Coach Bronco Mendenhall saying that when Nelson is healthy, which could possibly be as early as the Hawaii game, or as late as the bowl game, he will be the starter, one must wonder if the ship has already sailed for Jake Heaps.

There was another bit of good news for Heaps during the Idaho game, during his limited time in mop up duty, 3rd string QB James Lark, was really unimpressive.

The End Is Nigh

The good news for BYU fans, is that the end of their dreadful home schedule is now upon us. Unfortunately, it's still a terrible matchup, that will require most viewers, either live or on tv, to take heavy doses of caffeine to stay awake. Especially with it being buried as an 8:15 p.m. kick off.

This week the Cougars host the New Mexico State Aggies. Much like five of their last six opponents, there really is no feasible reason why this should even be a close game.

With it being the final home game, that means it Senior day for the Cougars. This will be the last chance for fans at LaVell Edwards Stadium to say goodbye to players such as JJ DiLuigi, Brian Kariya, and Mackay Jacobsen.

And while some seniors such as Matt Reynolds will have a chance to continue their career, this senior day will probably be most bittersweet for LB Jordan Pendleton.

Pendleton's time at BYU will always leave him and fans wondering about what could have been. Pendleton had the talent and the fire to be one of the all time best at BYU, unfortunately for him, his hard hitting, ruthless style of play and his body never we able to mesh, as his career has been littered with injuries, including the knee injury that ended his year early this season.

Bowling Over Bruins

I'm sure losing to a coach you fired the previous year is never fun, but I wonder if it hurts even more when you are still paying them. For the Bruins that's just what happened when they lost to the Utes, and former Offensive Coordinator Norm Chow.

For the Utes, this game was much like their previous two. What you saw from the Utes is the recipe that they will need the rest of the year. For them it's simple.

Jon Hays will have to throw the ball a few times, just to keep them honest, but the Utes don't really want him throwing the ball. Run the ball with John White IV. Don't let Jon Hays be in a position to hurt you. Keep the defense rested, and let them dominate the opposing offense, and run the ball with John White.

That's exactly what happened. Defensively the Utes shut down UCLA's pistol offense. With their running game stymied the be game was left to UCLA QB Kevin Prince. Prince was unable to response. When he wasn't being harassed in the backfield, Prince was busy throwing two interceptions to Conroy Black, one of which Black returned for a TD, as Prince could only lead the Bruins to first and fourth quarter field goals.

With the Bruin offense stymied, that left it in the questionable hands of Jon Hays, and the steady legs of John White. Hays had another not terrible game. He only had 67 yards of passing, but honestly the Utes really don't want to see him passing the ball that much. What Hays did manage to do, was not turn the ball over, and throw one or two passes that were just enough to keep UCLA honest. After that his job was simple. Turn around and give the ball to White.

Assaulting The Record Books

White ran 33 times for 167 and two touchdowns, with a third one in the receiving game, during the Utes 31-6 victory. That left White with a Pac-12 second best 1191 yards so far this season. White climbed from 10th all time to 4th all time in Utah single season rushing yards.

The Utah record for rushing yards in a season is 1507 by Carl Monroe in 1982. With 2 games and a bowl game left to play that record is clearly achievable, especially since the White is the first, second and third option for the offense.

White is currently 316 yards behind the record. To break the record during the regular season, White will need to average 158 yards in his next two games. During the Utes current three game winning streak, White has averaged 160.3 yards per game.

When you add in the Bowl game, the Utes are now eligible for, the record really becomes within reach. White simply needs 105.3 yards per game to catch Monroe, well below White's 132.3 yard per game average on the season.

The other record that White is assaulting is Marty Johnson 2004 record of 14 TD's. His two rushing TD's against UCLA left White with 12 TD's. I'll leave the math up to you to determine what is needed for that record.

View From The Red Zone

Sitting in the North End Zone means that when teams are in the pregame warm ups, the visiting team is at our end. Being so close to the end zone of course leads to the home town fans heckling the visitors. Of the 11 teams I've seen in Rice-Eccles since I've started sitting in the End Zone, the UCLA Bruins are by far the best natured about it.

Most teams simply ignore the heckling. Occasionally a player will put his hand to his ear, or acknowledge the heckling slightly. The Bruins were the first to actually respond to it with some good-natured joking of their own.

For that I give the Bruins kudos.

A Sense Of Deja Vu

For the second straight week, the Utes are facing a team that is suddenly confident, and now slightly dangerous thanks to a stunning upset of the Arizona State Sun Devils the week prior. For the second time in three weeks, the Utes opponent is fight to stave off bowl elimination.

Unlike last week, the Utes won't have the friendly confines of Rice-Eccles Stadium, as they have to travel to Pullman Washington to face off against the Washington State Cougars.

Interesting side note: the Utes were the first opponent to play in Martin Stadium (Home of the Cougars), and they will be the last opponent to play in Martin Stadium as construction to re-do the stadium will begin on Sunday.

Interesting side note number two: Utah and Utah State will both be playing road games, but will be closer in proximity than if they were both playing home games. The two teams will be 8 miles apart, and playing at the same time this weekend.

The big news for the Cougars out of their Arizona State upset, other than the upset itself, was the play of freshman QB Connor Halliday throwing for a school freshman record of 494 yards. He also had 4 td's to go with it. The Cougars do not run the ball much, currently ranked 103rd in the nation, meaning this game is going to be a test of a defensive backfield, that seems to have continued a tradition of stout secondaries for the Utes.

In addition the secondary, the other aspect of the Utah defense that will help shut down the gun slinging freshman will be the defensive line. If the Utes can continue to get pressure and rush the youngster, it will help the defense overall.

As for the offense it's simple. The Cougars will try to stack the box to stop John White. Jon Hays simply has to not turn the ball over, and if the Offensive Line can open holes, allowing White room to run, the Utes will be fine. If White gets stopped, that means that the game will be in Hays' hands, which is the last thing, any Utah fan wants to see.

How About A Scholarship For A Kicker

For the second straight season the Boise State Broncos saw their undefeated season, and national championship dreams disintegrate as a last second kick sailed wide of the target. This time against the TCU Horned Frogs. The loss means that in their first season in the MWC, the only season in the MWC with any sort of a decent opponent, and possibly their only season in the MWC period, the Broncos most likely will not win the conference.

However what it hasn't done, until next week, is eliminate them from a BCS Automatic Qualification. While it's a long shot, Boise is one of four teams that still have a legitimate chance to nab the non-AQ Automatic BCS Bid.

In the pole position are the Houston Cougars. Houston is 10-0, thanks mainly to a schedule that even BYU thinks is a

bit easy. Houston is currently ranked 11th in the BCS, one behind Boise State, meaning if Houston wins out, they will qualify by being a conference champion in the top 12. The Cougars schedule however, gets much tougher over the next few weeks as they host 6-4 SMU, and travel to 7-3 Tulsa. Should they win those games, they then must face currently 20th ranked Southern Miss in the Conference Championship game.

Should Houston slip up in any of those games, TCU is next waiting in the wings. Thanks to their upset over Boise State, the Horned Frogs have the pole position for the MWC title, and are currently ranked 19th. Since the Big East does not have a single team ranked in the BCS top 25, if the Horned Frogs can climb to 16th, they would qualify under the provision of a non-AQ Champion being in the top 16, and a AQ champion being ranked behind them. While neither of the next two opponents for the Horned Frogs will inspire much help in their rankings, they will benefit from the fact that two of the three teams directly ahead of them play this week.

Should TCU slip up, Southern Miss is sitting right behind TCU at 20, with the same possibility. The big difference is that Southern Miss will have one extra game in the Conference USA champion, against what should be a Top 10 Houston Team.

Finally there are the Boise State Broncos who are still alive. They slipped to 10th with their loss to TCU. The automatic non-AQ bid only goes to conference champions though. So if Boise wins out, and TCU were to somehow lose out, the Broncos would win the MWC, and they would be in the top 12. However their dream dies this week when TCU beats Colorado State, effectively clinching the MWC championship thanks to holding the tie breaker because of their head to head victory over the Broncos.

Posted by Sideshow in Red, Blue And Pigskin at 12:33

Monday, November 14, 2011

Podcast 122: Occupy Babylon 5

The Looter telepaths show up and decide to make a stand as the "99%" in their efforts to Occupy Babylon 5. What a terrible dish of episodes this week. I laughed so hard at things I know weren't intended to be jokes. And the TW5 intern, Aaron joins us. We cover episodes 5-8 of Babylon 5, Season 5.

Various topics discussed in this podcast include:

Â Â Â Â Joey's Culture Corner: The Host by Stephanie Meyer

Â Â Â Â Facebook Find of the Week: Listener Carbonite Man- Stop Motion Mario Bead Adventure

Â Â Â Â extra credit thing - need link

Â Â Â Â At what point should you stop trying to improve on things you are not good at?

Â Â Â Â Would you listen to what Morden had to say?

Â Â Â Â What dead person would you want to come back and visit you?

Â Â Â Â Music Intro: Hear Me by Imagine Dragons

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Here are the ratings that we gave for each show: Learning Curve: 51min 53sec

Peter: SciFi - 3 Television - 2

Joey: SciFi - 5 Television - 2

Aaron: SciFi - 6 Television - 6

Strange Relations: 22min 22sec

Peter: SciFi - 4 Television - 3

Joey: SciFi - 5 Television - 4

Aaron: SciFi - 4 Television - 4

Secrets of the Soul: 27min 51sec

Peter: SciFi - 5 Television - 3

Joey: SciFi - 8 Television - 0

Aaron: SciFi - 6 Television - 1

Day of the Dead: 44min 22sec

Peter: SciFi - 7 Television - 5

Joey: SciFi - 9 Television - 4

Aaron: SciFi - 8 Television - 6

If you have something to say then we welcome your comments below, or feel free to email us at trekwest5@thehomestarmy.com, twitter us at hashtag [TrekWest5](#), or leave us a voicemail at 801-788-4913.

Posted by Radar in Podcast at 04:00

Tuesday, November 8, 2011

Red, Blue And Pigskin

Red, Blue And Pigskin will again not be around this week because the Utes have won their last two games, and I'm an extremely superstitious fella.

Okay so that's not true, but you better believe I'm scared to death that I'm jinxing the Utes, in what has become an surprisingly scary game.

A lot has happened since last we met. Utes got their first conference win, and followed it up with a brilliant defensive effort to secure their first conference road victory and first conference win streak. It also served as the first win streak of 2011.

BYU had their last chance to legitimize their eventual 8-4, or 9-3 record, and failed. During that game Riley Nelson managed to blow it for the Cougars, while at the same time proving their should be no QB competition in camp next season.

However, this week's will be spent in a mode of remembrance, as a sideline incident during the Weber State vs. Montana State game has led to the retirement of the man responsible for getting the Utes where they are now. A Costly Loss

In the opening moments of last weekends 44-24 loss by the Weber State Wildcats to the Montana State Bobcats, there was a sideline collision that involved Weber State head coach Ron McBride. After the collision, coach Mac shrugged it off, let know one know he was hurt, and continued coaching the game, even seeing his Wildcats takes a 24-20 lead into half time.

After the game, we found out exactly how bad the collision was. Coach Mac tore his Anterior Cruciate Ligament, and sustained a Micro Fracture in his knee.

Today, the damage gets even worse, as Coach McBride is going to announce that the end of this season, will also be the end of a coaching career that began in 1965.

There And Back Again

During his tenure McBride has been around the country, but always seemed to find his way back to the Beehive State. During his career McBride coached in the Pac-10, the Big Ten, and in SEC country, but he always seemed to come back to the state of Utah. He had four different tenures in this state, three of them with the Utes, and the one that just ended with the Wildcats.

His first tenure with the Utes was at Offensive Coordinator during the Wayne Howard era. It was during this tenure that he witnessed, what he would later recall as one of the moments of the BYU/Utah rivalry that left a bitter taste in his mouth. This of course, was when despite sitting comfortably in the 4th quarter with a 38-8 lead, and having previously pulled his starters, BYU Coach LaVell Edwards was alerted that starting QB Marc Wilson was on the verge of setting an NCAA record for passing yards. Edwards would then re-insert Wilson to allow him to break the record.

While it never bothered Coach Mac the way it did Howard, in many interviews since then Coach Mac points out this moment as one of his least favorite rivalry moments.

After Wayne Howard resigned McBride went to Wisconsin as their OL coach, until Jim Fassel brought him back for a couple years as the OL coach at Utah. This tenure would only last for two seasons before he'd go to Arizona for three seasons.

Then came 1990. Jim Fassel was released as head coach, and Utah Football was beyond rock bottom. Utah football was so low, that the requirements for success at the job wasn't to win bowl games. McBride described the state of the Utah Football program as such:

Utah was a soft program, an underachieving program and a program that was going nowhere. Their expectations

weren't that high. When they hired me they said, 'Well, if you cannot embarrass us against BYU and be in about the middle of the league, and be respectable you can stay here as long as you want.' The bar was low. The expectations were they just didn't want to get embarrassed on Saturday.

Ironically, McBride did so well, and raised expectations at Utah so much, that when he went through a few years of accomplishing exactly what he said above (Being middle of the league, respectable, and not being embarrassed by BYU, it wasn't enough anymore, and Utah let him go.

McBride would spend two seasons in SEC country as the Linebacker's coach for Kentucky, before coming back to Utah as the head coach of the Weber State wildcats. There he's spent the last 7 seasons making the Wildcats a playoff contender in a competitive Big Sky conference. He won the Big Sky Championship in 2008, and took the Wildcats to the playoffs in 2008, and 2009.

Changing a culture

In 1992 the Utes made it to their first bowl game in 28 years, a 31-28 loss to Washington State. They would follow it up in 1993 with a 28-21 blow loss to USC.

1993 was special for another reason. That was the first 34-31 year. It was also the first Utah victory in Provo since 1971.

I remember going to an early season game in 1994 with my dad, where we got two T-shirts with the slogan saying 3rd down and Bowl. Simply going to a bowl game wasn't enough, the Utes wanted to win.

No one knew how special that 1994 season was going to be, but an early season upset of eventual Rose Bowl bound Oregon Ducks, started everyone dreaming. Then came week 7. The undefeated and 18th ranked Utes, met up with undefeated and 12th ranked Colorado State. In what was an exciting matchup, the Utes held a 38-31 lead. The Colorado State Rams were driving down the field to tie the game up. With 7 seconds left, the Rams were knocking on the door for a TD. What happened next is a play I will always remember.

Colorado State's QB dropped back to pass, and saw his WR in the end zone, and let his pass fly. Instead of a touchdown for the Rams, Utah DB Harold Lusk sealed his place in Utah lore by stepping in front of the pass and taking it back 100 yards for a Utah TD and the game was sealed.

Unfortunately for Utah, they suffered two inexplicable victories a couple weeks later. These losses were the type of losses that would become far too frequent during McBride's tenure, and was part of the reason his teams never made the leap. But after starting the season 8-0, before two sudden losses to New Mexico, and Air Force, Utah found itself ranked 21, and matching up with a 20th ranked BYU team, eager for vengeance after the previous year's defeat.

Instead the Holy War was officially a rivalry again, and the numbers 34-31 forever became ingrained in State Lore.

That bowl season, Utah finally got it's long awaited bowl victory.

Planting The Seeds

That 1994 season would end up being the high point of McBride's tenure, but the roots created during those early years, eventually would spread to much greater heights.

1994 was significant for another reason. That was the year that McBride hired a 35 year old up and coming defensive coordinator away from Idaho State to become his Defensive Line coach. In 1995, that line coach would later become McBride's defensive coordinator.

If you need any proof that the roots of the McBride era are what would influence Utah today in the Pac-12, that defensive line coach should provide all the evidence required. After all, he's now the coach of the Utes.

MAFU Forever

While roaming sidelines or practice fields, a common site, is to see McBride sporting a ball cap adorned with the acronym M.A.F.U. The acronym stands for mental toughness, attitude, fanatical effort and unity. It was this philosophy that transformed the Utah football program from the joke it was, to the team that would go to 6 bowl games during his tenure, and finish 1994 ranked #8 in the nation.

This attitude could be seen by the types of recruit McBride would go after. Specifically it was the setup of the "Poly Pipeline" that truly built Utah's success. McBride worked the Islands. He went after the polynesian players, and brought them to Utah. With them came an attitude, and an unmatched toughness.

So much so, that when McBride's replacement Urban Meyer was hired, then defensive coordinator, Kyle Whittingham took him aside and gave him, what Meyer would later call, the best advice he received. Whittingham told Meyer to take a trip to Tonga, but when he got there, don't knock on any recruits doors, don't talk football, don't do any recruiting whatsoever. Instead, Whittingham told him, simply become a part of the community.

Meyer listened to Whittingham, and was able to land some major recruits from the Polynesian culture.

It was this philosophy of M.A.F.U. that helped Utah McBride send over 70 players into the NFL. Names such as Jamal Anderson, Mike Anderson, Kevin and Andre Dyson, Luther Ellis, Steve Smith, and Jordan Gross, along with many more.

Rival, Opposition, Friend

One cannot think of the Ron McBride era of Utah football, and not immediately think of how he brought back the Holy War rivalry. I'm not sure that any rivalry that would become as competitive, and closely matched, as the Holy War, could ever have had the opposing coaches be such friends.

On the field, the two wanted nothing more than to defeat the other. In the 11 years that both LaVell and McBride were on the opposing sidelines, the Holy War saw 6 BYU victories, and 5 Utah victories. Keep in mind, this was a rivalry that saw Utah win a measly two times in the 17 previous years. Of Course, McBride likes to remind everyone, that it should have been 6 victories for Utah, as Staley did fumble on that final drive of LaVell's final miracle.

Yet even as the two coaches become fierce rivals and opposition on the field of play they became even bigger friends off the field. They are frequently linked together. When the two get together, you can bet that they will start ribbing one another, and start remembering fond moments of the rivalry.

It's a relationship that is rare among such rivals, and a relationship that is definitely gone from the current iteration of the rivalry.

Goodbye To An Icon

At the end of this season, when McBride hangs up the headset he will be saying goodbye to a game he loved. At the Utah vs Oregon State game, Mad Giggler and I were talking about how much McBride loves coaching. McBride will always have a place in the hearts of all Utah fans.

Even moreso, when he steps down, the state of Utah will be losing a Football Icon. You could argue, that there is only one other person, to have done so much for Football in this state. There are only a handful of people who have done as much for sports in the state of Utah as Coach McBride.

In 2006 and 2007 the curse the cost McBride his job, seemed destined to cost Kyle Whittingham his job. A frequent joke was that Whittingham was Ron McBride 2.0. Coach Mac got Utah as high as he could take it, and Urban Meyer came in and took them to a whole new level. Going back to simply being respectable wasn't acceptable any longer. In everything one does in life, one should strive to make the situation much better than it was before you got there. McBride certainly did this for Utah.

Make no mistake, without Ron McBride, there is no Urban Meyer in Utah. Many members of that magical Fiesta Bowl team were recruited by coach Mac, including Alex Smith. McBride left a foundation. Urban Meyer built the house, and Whittingham has continued the remodeling project, but Utah football is the house that Ron built.

In a way, as McBride as the curtain closes on his coaching career, it's fitting Utah begins it's new era in the Pac-12 with a team that is most reminiscent of a McBride team. McBride would love a running back like John White who only gets stronger as he gets that 26th, 27th, or 34th, and 35th carry. McBride would love to watch as his defense dominated, and secured victories. This is a team that has started to win games with M.A.F.U. The team that we'll take Rice-Eccles Stadium this Saturday against new conference mate UCLA, is a team that would do Ron McBride proud.

More than just a football icon, McBride was a great person. You'll be hard pressed to find anyone talk badly about McBride. When McBride recruited a kid, he wasn't recruiting them to join a football team, he was recruiting them to join

a family. Even now, McBride isn't content to just go off into the sunset. Determined to uphold the promises he made to families of his most recent recruits, he has asked to be able to stay around the Weber State football program for the next few years. He wants to be there for the kids.

Mac loved football. It's what he's done for 46 years. Even a heart attack couldn't keep him away. Sports fans in this state, whether you are red, blue, or purple are better for him having been here.

Posted by Sideshow in Red, Blue And Pigskin at 07:57

Monday, November 7, 2011

Podcast 121: Braination Invasion

Everybody, make yourself comfortable as Joey reads JMS version of events behind Claudia Christian leaving Babylon 5. You can listen to Claudia's version at this link (be careful as it contains a lot of foul language). I think Joey and I both take the side of JMS. Oh and this music intro was provided by Listener Brainy Smurf, entitled "This is Wrong Tool". We cover episodes 1-4 of Babylon 5, Season 5.

Various topics discussed in this podcast include:

- Â Â Â Â Joey's Culture Corner: Foundation by Isaac Asimov
- Â Â Â Â Facebook Find of the Week: Listener Fishhead - Peter Jackson video blog: The Hobbit
- Â Â Â Â Blog from Listener Brainy Smurf: The Braination
- Â Â Â Â JMS version of why Claudia Christian left B5
- Â Â Â Â <http://thebraination.blogspot.com/>
- Â Â Â Â Assignment TW5: Send in parenting advice about teaching a child not to lie.
- Â Â Â Â The hard/tough life is sometimes the life you need.
- Â Â Â Â Scifi never talks about friendly fire.

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Here are the ratings that we gave for each show:No Compromises: 1hr 16min 39sec

Peter: SciFi - 5 Television - 5

Joey: SciFi - 6 Television - 5

The Very Long Night of Londo Mollari: 20min 56sec

Peter: SciFi - 6 Television - 6

Joey: SciFi - 8 Television - 4

The Paragon of Animals: 22min 33sec

Peter: SciFi - 7 Television - 6

Joey: SciFi - 6 Television - 4

A View From the Gallery: 25min 43sec

Peter: SciFi - 8 Television - 7

Joey: SciFi - 7 Television - 9

If you have something to say then we welcome your comments below, or feel free to email us at trekwest5@thehomestarmy.com, twitter us at hashtag [TrekWest5](#), or leave us a voicemail at 801-788-4913.

Posted by Radar in Podcast at 04:00

Wednesday, November 2, 2011

Parli Pro

In lieu of this week's "Red, Blue, and Pigskin", I offer all of you my (still in-progress) prezi.com presentation of an Introduction to Parliamentary Procedure, per Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised 10th edition (yes, yes, I know the 11th edition was recently released, but I still haven't certified on the 10th yet!)

If you're interested, you should be able to view it here (warning: requires Flash). If you would like to see it presented live, you are welcome to join our ParliPro group at the Novell Cafeteria on Thursday, November 3rd. This slide will be part of the "Beginner's Course", which starts at 7pm.

Posted by Ancient of Days in Politics at 21:32

Red, Blue And Pigskin

Hey Guys,

Sorry but there won't be an RB&P this week. Adjusting to the new little one, and trying to get Bree ready for me to go back to work next week. Next week it should return.

Sorry.

Posted by Sideshow in Red, Blue And Pigskin at 16:30