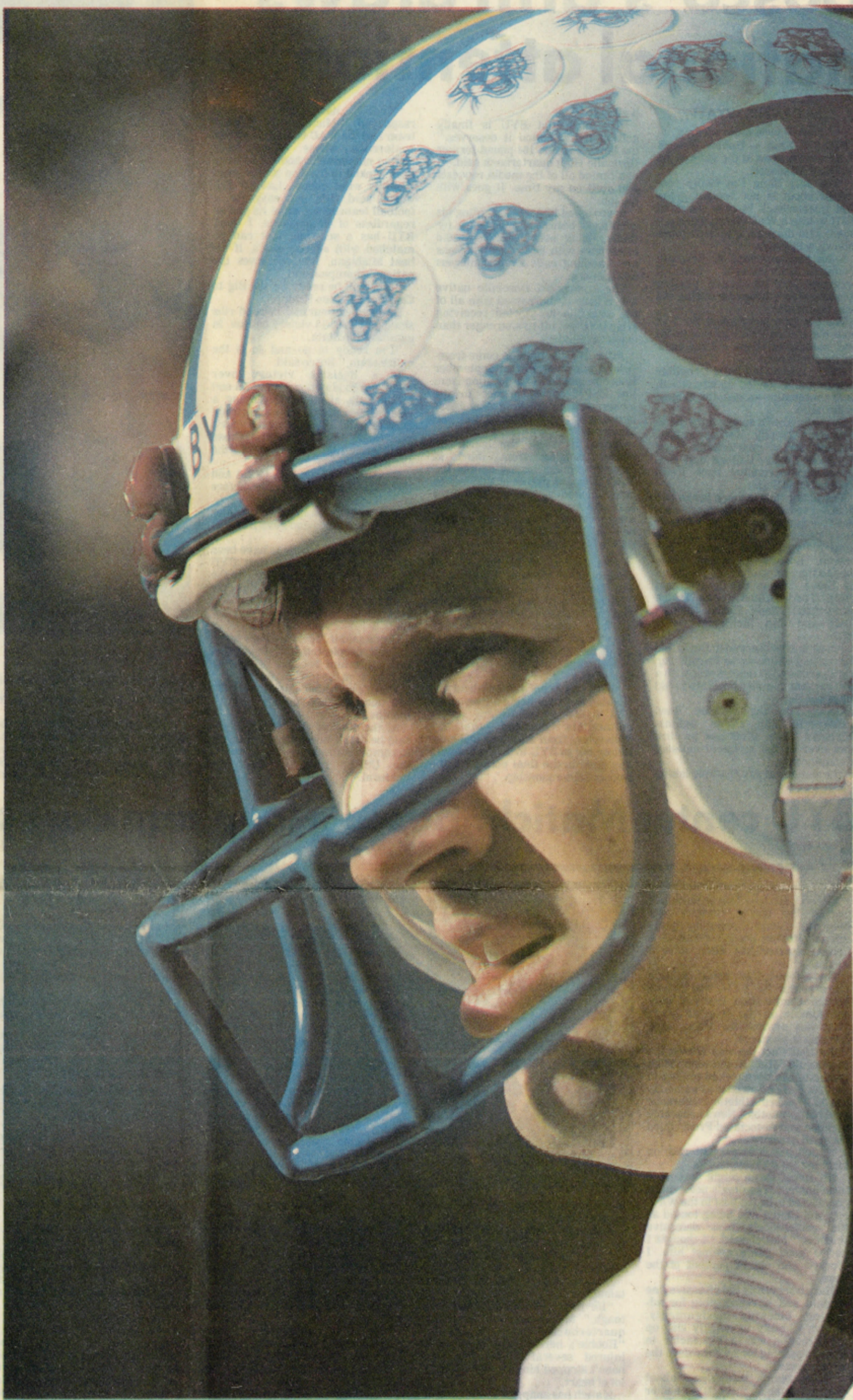


Bosco & BYU taking aim at national title

Roseville native ends stellar year at Holiday Bowl



Robbie Bosco goes back to pass.

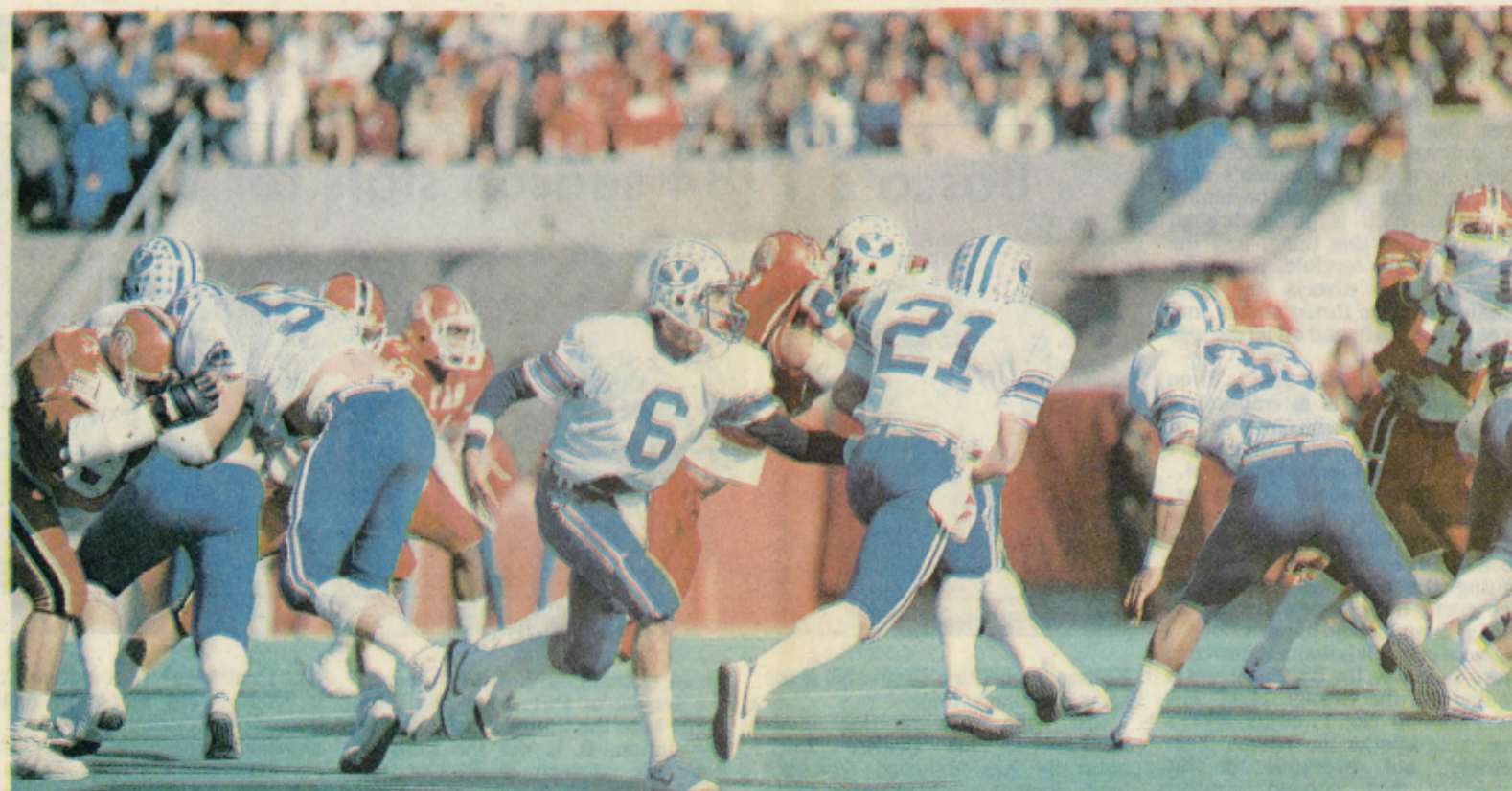


Brigham Young University quarterback Robbie Bosco ponders action.

**Holiday Bowl
Friday, 6 p.m.
ESPN Cable TV**

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- ✓ Match at the center of attention for BYU
- ✓ Bosco's 1984 season stats
- ✓ Holiday Bowl outlook



Photos courtesy of Brigham Young University

BYU
MICKELSON

Robbie Bosco (6) hands ball off to running back Kelly Smith (21) while center Trevor Match (50) and back Thor Salanoa block defenders.



Bosco & Co. ready to take Holiday in San Diego

Bosco's arm draws national attention

By DENNIS WYATT

Press-Tribune sports editor

PROVO, Utah — Robbie Bosco's goals were modest at the start of the 1984 football season.

"The only thing I'm really concerned about is not becoming the first quarterback in nine years at BYU to lose a WAC championship," Bosco said during a late September interview in Provo.

A lot has happened to Brigham Young University's football program and its junior passing sensation from Roseville during the past 2½ months.

The Cougars are ranked No. 1 in both the United Press International and Associated Press college polls for the first time.

BYU completed the regular season and extended its win streak to 23 consecutive games, the longest in the nation.

Bosco finished a strong third in the Heisman Trophy voting behind winning senior quarterback Doug Flutie of Boston College and runner-up senior running back Keith Byars of Ohio State.

The junior quarterback broke two NCAA records for the most consecutive games gaining 200 yards or more passing in a season and the most 200 yards plus games in one season. Bosco's 12 game mark topped the previous one of 11 shared by Steve Young (BYU, 1982 and 1983), Todd Dillion (Long Beach State 1982), Tony Eason (Illinois 1982) and Jim McMahon (BYU 1980).

Bosco finished second in the nation for passing efficiency as he rolled up 3,932 yards and 33 touchdowns with a .618 percent completion rate in 543 plays.

Going into the Holiday Bowl Friday in San Diego against Michigan State, BYU has its first shot ever at the mythical national championship.

The somewhat shy Bosco is taking

it all in stride.

"It's nice that BYU is finally getting the attention it deserves," the lanky 6-foot-3, 184-pound former Roseville High quarterback said. "I don't mind all of the media requests and stuff on my time. It goes with the job."

Bosco spent last week juggling his evenings between studying for finals, doing over-the-phone radio interviews with East Coast stations and handling calls from numerous newspapers.

The 21-year-old Roseville native was a little embarrassed with all of the attention he started receiving after BYU got off to a stronger than expected 4-0 start.

After BYU's typical come-from-behind win over Pitt in September Bosco responded to a question from the ESPN sports anchor in the locker room by thinking a moment and saying "gee, could I tell you tomorrow?"

Bosco takes all the honors in stride, ranging from third in Heisman voting, being named the WAC offensive player of the year to being picked as second and third team All America by various sports wire services. There is one subject he's a little defensive about — BYU's No. 1 ranking.

"We deserve to be the national champions if we beat Michigan in the Holiday Bowl," Bosco said. "Michigan beat No. 1 Miami at the start of the season, but then they got a lot of injuries to key players. They're all healthy now so they're going to be the same team in San Diego that defeated Miami in September."

Much has been written about the Holiday Bowl not being a true test of BYU's 12-0 record. Many sports columnists contend the 6-5 Wolverines from Michigan will have to lose big to BYU to do the Cougars any good in the final voting for the national championship.

"That's not true," Bosco responded. "Michigan is a good team and the WAC is a fairly strong conference whose teams have beaten numerous schools that have been ranked in the Top 20 this year. It's like what coach (LaVell) Edwards said. It's not easy for a football team to win all of its games regardless of its schedule. I think BYU has a schedule that can be matched with anyone else's. If we beat Michigan, BYU deserves the national championship."

Bosco will be ready for the Big 10 Conference foe on Friday.

He has been nursing bruised ribs since BYU's 38-13 victory on Nov. 24 against Utah State.

"I'm ready to go and so is the entire team," Bosco said.

If a decisive victory over Michigan Friday doesn't put an end to the talk about BYU playing a weak schedule, Bosco hopes a strong performance during next year's preseason will quiet those questioning the validity of the Cougars' passing program.

The Cougars open with UCLA and then Washington at home before traveling to Temple.

The BYU communications major is the son of Louis and Elva Bosco of Roseville.

"It's an honor for me to have been the quarterback on the first BYU team ever to be ranked No. 1 in the nation," Bosco said. "A lot of people would love to be in my position. I'm grateful for the chance to play for BYU."

Bosco said it "feels kind of weird" to have people tell him youngsters look up to him because of his performance on the football field.

There's one other thing that Bosco has accomplished in the past 2½ months.

At the start of the season, Bosco said he didn't mind everyone trying to compare him with Young, now of the USFL, since it was only "natural."



(Photo special to The Press-Tribune)

Brigham Young University center Trevor Match gets ready to hike the ball to quarterback Robbie Bosco during Air Force Academy game.

"I'm working hard to make them forget about Young and to start thinking about Bosco," the Roseville High product said back in September. "If they're still talking

about Young at the end of the season and comparing us, I might feel a little bit different."

Bosco doesn't have to worry about the comparisons anymore. His

debut season as a BYU quarterback already has some East Coast columnists mentioning Bosco as the early leader for the 1985 Heisman Trophy.

BYU center Match: Bosco's long arm best among Cougar greats

By DENNIS WYATT

Press-Tribune sports editor

PROVO, Utah — Trevor Match is one of the bigger reasons why Brigham Young University quarterback Robbie Bosco's debut as a Cougar starter has been such a success.

The 6-foot-4, 266 pound Match plays center for BYU. The Bosco-Match combination has had only one fumble on the snap all year. That was against Air Force in a freezing snow storm.

But that's not the only reason the 23-year-old Rio Americano High graduate has been picked to play in the 1985 Senior Bowl. He is named to the All Western Athletic Conference first team, Football News honorable mention and Associated Press' third team All America.

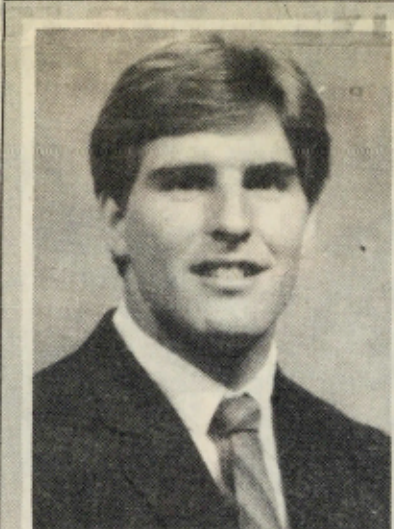
Match has a 93 percent rate on blocking out BYU opponents.

His finest game might just have been against Wyoming's nose guard considered to be the best in the WAC. "Paul Chitca was being touted as the conference's best defensive lineman," Match said. "I thought I had a good game against him. I blocked him out 98 percent of the time."

Match serves as the offensive line captain and is responsible for adjusting blocking assignments. Match's ability to quickly size up the situation was a big factor in Bosco's passing for 3,932 yards in the regular season.

"Most teams throw just about everything at us," the BYU senior center said. "It's not unusual to have an eight-man line one play and eight men in the backfield the next."

"We're a good quarterback-center combination," Bosco said. "Trevor's really smart. He's about as good as they come. He's a good



Match

man-to-man blocker and gives me plenty of time."

Although Bosco and Match prepped just 14 miles apart, they did not meet each other until they both reached BYU.

Match also is high on Bosco's talents.

"He may not look big, but he's tough," Match said of the junior quarterback from Roseville. "Robbie's here to play. He's been injured several times, but that hasn't stopped him. He plays with a lot of heart."

Match has snapped at one time or another for all the BYU quarterback greats — Marc Wilson, Jim McMahon, Steve Young and now Bosco.

"For his experience and starting as a junior, Robbie's done one heck of a job," Match said. "He had some tremendous shoes to fill

BYU center rates QBs from Wilson to Bosco

"If Steve Young's hands are worth \$40 million, I wonder what my rear end would go for?" — BYU center Trevor Match as quoted in an October edition of "The Sporting News."

During his collegiate career at Brigham Young University, Match has been at the center of attention handing off snaps to quarterback greats such as Marc Wilson, Jim McMahon, Steve Young and Robbie Bosco.

The Sacramento resident is expected to be snapped up in either the USFL or NFL player drafts next year. He alternated at the center spot on the Cougar varsity last year when the USFL's \$40 million quarterback

— Steve Young — was playing his last season at BYU. He also has snapped as a backup center for Wilson now of the Los Angeles Raiders and McMahon of the Chicago Bears.

He has been on every down this year with Roseville native Bosco.

Here are Match's view from down under on the snap preferences of the four quarterbacks he has hiked to:

➤ **WILSON:** "He held his hands way, way back to get the snap. It was really different."

➤ **McMAHON:** "He was easy to get along with. He didn't care how he got it as long as he got it."

➤ **YOUNG:** "He's lefthanded, so he held his hands differently than the others. It took some getting used to."

➤ **BOSCO:** "He likes the laces (on the ball) to be between his hands and the nozzle (where the ball is pumped up) to be on top so it won't hit his hands."

Three of the quarterbacks Match has snapped for have gone on to big money contracts in either the USFL or NFL. Bosco, of course, will be returning to BYU next season and also has a promising pro future ahead if all goes well in 1985.

Match shared snapping duties last year with Robert Anae.

Match played tight end his freshman year at Rio Americano High. He said he didn't mind at all when he was switched to center once he reached the varsity.

"Sure it might have been nice to play another position, but it's much more fun to be the starting center than it is to be the second or third string quarterback," Match noted.

Since the center plays such a crucial role in the success of BYU's passing game, recruiting is extremely critical.

"Basically we were looking for the type of athlete that was tall, showed potential and was going to fill out once we got him on a program," Olson said. "We liked Trevor's quickness and agility. We liked his height and we liked his attitude and intelligence. There wasn't anything we didn't like about him."

"People get the wrong image of football players," Match, a communications major, said. "They think we're all dumb jocks."

Besides being strong in academics, Match also has participated in non-athletic pursuits such as a Sacramento-based song and dance group organized by area Mormon churches.

Match said dancing and not singing is his strongest forte when he's on the stage.

"Sure I'd like to play pro ball if the opportunity comes up," Match said. "But I'm going to make sure I have a degree to fall back on. You can't play football all your life."

Will Friday's Holiday Bowl showdown settle the No. 1 question?

By NICK CANEPA

Copley News Service

SAN DIEGO — Picture, if you will, LaVell Edwards, his name swabbed with controversy, on the cover of the National Enquirer, captured by the paparazzi in a Provo Baskin-Robbins. Close your eyes tight. The superimposed photo has LaVell, vanilla sugar cone in hand, going nose-to-nose with Barry Switzer.

Nah, I just won't buy it, try as I might. LaVell Edwards? Controversial? Skip it. LaVell is so clean, he makes the Pillsbury doughboy look like Lyle Alzado.

"Yeah, I'm a real controversial guy," the BYU head coach says. "I'm always the first guy to grab the mike and stir things up."

And yet, here he is, in town this week with his football team for the Cougars' annual, so-what-else-is-new? appearance in the Holiday Bowl, with the Michigan Wolverines and Bo Schembechler — that ebullient Santa — as their guests. Only this time, LaVell is in the news.

This time, he and his charges aren't in town as just another WAC champion about whom no one one east of Bozeman or west of Pocatello

cares. This time, LaVell's men are 12-0, and ranked No. 1 in America.

Now, normally, the nation's only unbeaten has little trouble becoming No. 1. But BYU is going through childbirth with this thing, and the labor pains are terrible. Edwards, easygoing and always the gentleman, has been thrust smack into the center of it all, and all he did was coach a 12-0 club.

BYU. The unwanted No. 1. Even the Holiday Bowl is attempting to reword its charter with the WAC, so that the conference champion won't always be automatically invited.

"I'm worried about next year," Edwards claims, "because we may not go to the Holiday Bowl if we win the WAC. They're talking about not inviting the conference champion once every three years. It isn't official yet, but it could happen."

Meanwhile, Oklahoma's Switzer, whose team won the Big Eight and is heading for the Orange Bowl, has laid claim to No. 1, citing BYU's weak schedule as the reason. Fortunately, not everyone in his fraternity has echoed similar thoughts. In his railings, Barry conveniently failed to mention that his club lost a game to mighty

Bosco's 1984 season stats for BYU

1984 Opponent	Carries	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Att.	Comp	HI	Yards	TD	%	Plays	TO
Pittsburgh	11	38	19	19	0	43	25	2	325	1	.581	54	344
Baylor	6	21	34	-13	0	43	28	0	363	6	.651	49	350
Tulsa	7	42	21	21	1	33	22	0	314	1	.618	40	335
Hawaii	8	5	38	-33	0	33	18	1	264	1	.545	41	231
Colorado St.	3	7	4	1	21	16	0	246	2	762	24	249	399
Wyoming	8	23	8	15	0	44	29	0	384	5	.618	52	377
Air Force	8	16	23	-7	0	41	28	1	484	4	.683	49	477
New Mexico	7	35	26	9	0	29	19	0	227	3	.645	36	236
UTEP	1	0	0	0	0	31	19	1	237	4	.613	32	237
San Diego St.	8	15	32	-17	0	44	24	2	326	2	.545	52	309
Utah	7	35	5	30	0	44	27	3	367	3	.614	51	397
Utah State	11	54	24	30	0	52	28	1	338	1	.538	63	368
TOTALS	85	291	234	57	2	458	238	11	3875	33	.618	543	3932

1984 Pass Efficiency: 151.83

Kansas, something forgivable if the sport were basketball.

NBC, the network that gives millions to the Orange Bowl, naturally has followed Switzer's lead. Bryant Gumbel, who hosts NBC's "Today Show," has gushed that the Cougars scheduled a bunch of "Bo Diddley Techs." Bryant also

failed to mention that BYU opened the season at Pitt, when the Panthers were the third-ranked team in the nation. It is not the fault of Edwards, Joseph Smith or the Mormon Church that Pitt went on to have a bad season.

"In fact," Edwards says, "who knows how much we took out of them

(the Panthers)? The emotional thing is such a big factor in football. Sometimes it's more important than physical preparation. A lot of things can happen in 12 games. That's why a Baylor can come back and beat a Texas, and that's why a Pitt can come back and beat a Penn State.

We had our chances for letdowns

the last two games of the season against Utah and Utah State. We already had won the WAC title. The opportunity to let down was there. But we didn't."

No, they didn't. And because of this, BYU should be No. 1. Is there another club that deserves the call? "You're asking the wrong guy," Edwards says. "I didn't set up this system. All I know is that, in the past, when a team won all its games and got to No. 1 before a bowl game, it remained at No. 1 if it won the bowl game. Going by how it's been done in the past, if we beat Michigan Friday night, we should be No. 1."

"We went undefeated in 1979, but so did five or six other teams," Edwards says. "I don't think we were the best team in the country then. This year, I feel we can line up and play with anybody. But I also think that there are 25-to-30 teams out there that could line up and play with anybody."

LaVell hasn't pushed this No. 1 thing. It's not his nature — a fellow cut from a bolt of Switzer tweed were coach at BYU, you could bet there would be nap boxes piled all the way to Salt Lake City. Alas, Edwards is not a media animal.