



Athletic Media Relations

30 Smith Fieldhouse • Provo, Utah • 84602
801-422-9769 • fax 801-422-0633

BASEBALL

Weekly Release - April 12, 2006

Media Relations Information

E-Mail: ralph_zobell@byu.edu

Date Opp/Event Time at site of game

2/9	Pacific	Stockton, CA%	L, 1-2
2/10	Pacific	Stockton, CA%	L, 3-6
2/11	Pacific	Stockton, CA%	L, 3-4
2/16	San Jose St.	San Jose, CA	L, 1-4
2/17	San Jose St.	San Jose, CA	L, 3-4
2/18	San Jose St.	San Jose, CA	L, 3-4
2/23	Oregon St.	Davis, CA%	L, 2-12
2/24	Washington St.	Davis, CA	L, 1-5
2/25	St. Mary's	Sacramento, CA	W, 10-5
3/2	Southern Utah	Cedar City, UT	L, 2-5
3/3	Southern Utah	Cedar City, UT	W, 9-2
3/4	Southern Utah	Cedar City, UT	W, 6-3
3/9	UC Riverside	Riverside, CA	L, 3-7
3/9	UC Riverside	Riverside, CA	L, 1-2
3/10	UC Riverside	Riverside, CA	W, 9-5
3/14	Utah	Provo+	L, 4-5
3/16	New Mexico St.	Provo+%	W, 3-1
3/17	New Mexico St.	Provo+%	W, 10-3
3/18	New Mexico St.	Provo+%	W, 8-6
3/22	Southern Utah	Provo+	L, 8-17
3/23	No. Colorado	Provo+	W, 4-3
3/24	No. Colorado	Provo+	W, 3-2 (10)
3/25	No. Colorado	Provo+	L, 7-11
3/29	UNLV*	San Diego%	L, 3-10
3/30	TCU*	San Diego%	L, 4-9
3/31	New Mexico*	San Diego%	W, 3-2 (12)
4/1	Utah*	San Diego%	L, 3-6
4/3	Southern Utah	Provo+%	W, 23-6
4/6	UNLV*	Las Vegas #	W, 9-5
4/7	UNLV*	Las Vegas%	W, 14-8
4/8	UNLV*	Las Vegas%	L, 8-18
4/11	Utah Valley St.	Orem%	W, 8-6
4/13-14	Washington*	Seattle%	6:30, 6:30 p.m.
4/15	Washington*	Seattle%	12 p.m.
4/18	Utah Valley St.	Provo+%	7 p.m.
4/20	TCU*	Provo+%	7 p.m.
4/21	TCU*	Provo+%#	7 p.m.
4/22	TCU*	Provo+%	1 p.m.
4/25-26	No. Colorado	Greeley, CO%	2,2 p.m.
4/27-28	Air Force*	Colorado Spgs.	2,2 p.m.
4/29	Air Force*	Colorado Spgs.%	12 p.m.
5/2	Utah Valley St.	Orem%	7 p.m.
5/4	New Mexico*	Provo+%	7 p.m.
5/5	New Mexico*	Provo+%	7 p.m.
5/6	New Mexico*	Provo+%#	1 p.m.
5/9	Southern Utah	Provo+	7 p.m.
5/11	San Diego St.*	Provo+%	7p.m.
5/12	San Diego St.*	Provo+%#	7 p.m.
5/13	San Diego St.*	Provo+%	1 p.m.
5/16	Utah Valley St.	Provo+%	7 p.m.
5/18-19	Utah*	Salt Lake City	12,12 p.m.
5/20	Utah*	Salt Lake City%	12 p.m.

* MWC Games, +webcast, #TV, %Internet Audio

League Series Season Starts

BYU, 14-18 overall and 3-4 in the Mountain West Conference, travels to Washington, 22-13 and 4-5 in the Pac-10, to start a three-game series on Thursday.

Probable Pitching Rotation

Apr. 13 @ Washington Patrick Wells (3-4, 5.93) Seattle, 6:30 p.m. PT
Apr. 14 @ Washington Jesse Craig (2-5, 3.65) Seattle, 6:30 p.m. PT
Apr. 15 @ Washington Brandon Christiansen (3-2, 6.85) Seattle, Noon PT

Probable Lineup

1B-#32 Jeff Hiestand 2B-#3 Stetson Banks SS-#10 Marcos Villezcas
3B-#5 Chris Johnson RF-#25 Ben Saylor CF-#1 Adrian Molina
LF-#26 Seth Johnson C-#8 Casey Nelson
DH-#33 Kasey Ko / #6 Austin Carter

Radio Coverage

KOVO 960 AM, with veteran broadcaster Brent Norton calling the play-by-play, will broadcast BYU's games this week at Washington. These broadcasts are also available on the Dish Network as well as over the Internet. Links to the webcasts and audiocast are on the BYU baseball's schedule page at www.byucougars.com. All of the BYU games will be on KOVO and on live audiostream and livestats.

Travel Plans

BYU flies to Washington on Wednesday and will headquarter at the Spring Hill Suites (206) 254-0500.

BYU in NCAA Statistics

NCAA statistics are out for the first time in 2006, but BYU is not among the nation's leaders. The best rating for BYU is 56th in stolen bases (1.68) and individually, Stetson Banks is 41st in sacrifice hits (.025). Last year BYU was:

- First in doubles with a 2.78 average
- First in slugging with a .545 percentage
- Third nationally with a .337 batting average
- Third in home runs per game with a 1.46 average
- Sixth in scoring at 8.5 runs per game
- 35th in win-loss percentage at .669
- 48th in triples with a 0.32 average
- 49th in double plays per game with a 1.0 average
- Ben Saylor was ranked third in RBI per game with an average of 1.43
- Ben Saylor was ranked fifth in doubles per game with a 0.46 average
- Jeff Hiestand was ranked 30th in runs per game with an average of 1.18

Coach Vance Law and staff

Vance Law played 14 years of pro ball, including 11 years in the majors with six different teams. In 2001 he was named Coach of the Year for the Mountain West Conference. The 49-year-old coach is in his seventh year at BYU and has a 195-155-2 (.557) record coming into the 2006 season. He is assisted by Ryan Roberts, in his fourth year at BYU. Pitching coach Bobby Applegate is in his third year with BYU, having last coached at the Air Force Academy. Volunteer assistant Brad Eagar is in his first year on the BYU staff.

BYU on TV Four Times

www.byucougars.com

Baseball Scoring in 2006 with Two Outs			
Opp.	w/2 out	Result	% Scored w/2out
Pacific	0	L, 1-2	0%
Pacific	1	L, 3-6	33%
Pacific	1	L, 3-4	33%
San Jose St.	1	L, 1-4	33%
San Jose St.	0	L, 3-4	0%
San Jose St.	3	L, 3-4	100%
Oregon St.	2	L, 2-12	17%
Wash. St.	0	L, 1-5	0%
St. Mary's	8	W, 10-5=	80%
So. Utah	2	L, 2-5	100%
So. Utah	8	W, 9-2	89%
So. Utah	3	W, 6-3=	50%
UC Riverside	3	L, 3-7	100%
UC Riverside	0	L, 1-2	0%
UC Riverside	6	W, 9-5	66%
Utah	1	L, 4-5	25%
N. Mex. St.	2	W, 3-1	67%
N. Mex. St.	6	W, 10-3	60%
N. Mex. St.	1	W, 8-6	13%
So. Utah	4	L, 8-17	50%
No. Colo.	3	W, 4-3=	75%
No. Colo.	0	W, 3-2 (10)=	0%
No. Colo.	3	L, 7-11	43%
UNLV	3	L, 3-10	100%
TCU	1	L, 4-9	25%
New Mexico	1	W, 3-2 (10)=	33%
Utah	1	L, 3-6	33%
So. Utah	5	W, 23-6=	26%
UNLV	7	W, 9-5	78%
UNLV	4	W, 14-8	29%
UNLV	1	L, 8-18	13%
UVSC	5	W, 8-6	63%
2006 Totals:	86	182 total runs	47%
2005 Totals:	195	500 total runs	39%

=Indicates come-from-behind victory

Top Pitching Outings of 2006		
Hits	Pitcher	Opponent, W-L
2*	Brandon Christiansen	SUU, W 6-3
3+	Jesse Craig	N.Mexico St., W 10-3
4	Jordan Muir (8 inn)	UNLV, W 9-5
5	Jesse Craig (9 inn)	New Mexico, W 3-2
+6	innings	

Top Pitching Outings of 2006		
K's	Pitcher	Opponent, W-L
7	Jesse Craig (6 inn)	NMSU, W 10-3
7	Jesse Craig (9 inn)	NM, W 3-2 (12)
6	Jesse Craig (7 inn)	No. Colo., W 3-2

Top Pitching Outings of 2005		
Hits	Pitcher	Opponent, W-L
1^	Mitch Woolf	UNLV, W 12-7
4+	Patrick Wells	San Jose St., W 13-5
5*	Mitch Woolf	CSU-Pueblo, W 2-1

*complete game, +6 innings, ^5 innings
=6.2 innings

Top Pitching Outings of 2005		
K's	Pitcher	Opponent, W-L
13=	Matt Jensen (6 inn)	L.Clark St., W 5-2
10	Matt Jensen (6 inn)	CSU-Pueblo, W 7-5
6	Mitch Woolf (5inn)	UNLV, W 12-7

*complete game=Justin Su'a also had 5 strike-outs that game

Four BYU games will be televised this season, starting with the April 6 game at UNLV by CSTV. Three games will be televised by BYUTV: April 21 vs. TCU, May 6 with New Mexico, and May 12 with San Diego State. The three BYUTV games will be carried live in three languages: English, Spanish and Portuguese.

BYU Scoring With Two Outs

The accompanying chart to the left shows BYU practices what Coach Vance Law preaches, you can still score with two outs. In 2005 BYU won 25 of its 39 games in come-from-behind fashion.

Team Notes

- **Kasey Ko** leads the team with current eight-game hitting streak and behind him are **Ben Saylor** at seven, and **Jeff Hiestand** and **Marcos Villezcas** at five. **Seth Johnson** led the team with a 10-game hitting streak, the longest for the Cougars this season, but it ended last Saturday. **Apana Nakayama** currently has a four-game hitting streak, a streak carried over from the 2005 season, but he has not yet been cleared to play.
- **Jeff Hiestand's** hitting streak ended last season in game three vs. UNLV at 29 consecutive games as he was walked three times and hit by a pitch in his fourth appearance at the plate. Counting that game, he had been on base 43 consecutive games and has only missed one game this season being on base in his 48 games.
- **Apana Nakayama** lead the team with 25 multiple hit games last year, followed by **Ben Saylor** and **Marcos Villezcas** with 24.
- **Adrian Molina** leads the team with three game-winning RBI this season (a double at So. Utah, a sac-fly and a homer vs. N. Mexico St.). Others who have hit the game-winning RBI this season include **Jeff Hiestand** (a single vs. N. Mexico St. & a two-run homer at UNLV), **Kent Walton** (a double vs. St. Mary's), **Blake Crosby** (a sac-fly vs. No. Colorado), **Dane Nielsen** (a walk-off single vs. No. Colorado), **Marcos Villezcas** (a walk-off single vs. New Mexico) and **Casey Nelson** (a single vs. So. Utah) and **Ben Saylor** (a two-out double at UVSC).
- This season BYU is 2-0 in extra-inning games. Last season BYU was 1-2 in extra-inning contests.

Last Years' Average Attendance Highest Ever at Miller Field

Last year, in its fifth full season at Larry H. Miller Field, attendance passed the 100,000 mark in the very first game. BYU averaged 1,442 fans per game for 2005 in 18 dates. The Cougars have ranked nationally in attendance in all five years at Miller Field.

Attendance Ranks Nationally

Attendance at Larry H. Miller field ranked 37th nationally in 2005 with an average of 1,442 in 18 games and a total of 25,952 fans. The Cougars' entered this season with a 67-25 (.728) record at Larry H. Miller Field.

Fifth Full Year at Home in New Ballpark

This is BYU's fifth full season at Miller Field, named in honor of Larry H. and Gail Miller, who made a significant financial contribution toward the facility. The baseball field is built on the site the original field was constructed on in 1969 and is named Larry H. Miller Field. The baseball portion seats 2,204 (675 in the lower bowl) and mirrors a back-to-back concept with the adjoining softball field and a shared press box. Both fields have lights. The field measures 400 feet in center, 388 in the alleys and remains at 345 down the lines. BYU played its first night games in Provo with the opening of Miller Park.

Last Year's Attendance

BYU drew 25,952 fans in 18 dates, including two doubleheaders that were forced by postponed games, for an average of 1,442 fans who witnessed a 16-4 home record at Miller Park. The top crowd for the 2005 season was 2,545 fans, fourth-best in school history, on the doubleheader date against UNLV on May 14. BYU drew 6,448 for an average of 2,149 fans during the three-game SDSU series, including the seventh-best crowd, 2,369 in the five-year history of Miller Park.

Regarding BYU this season

Eagle Scouts on BYU's Team (10)

Devin Albrecht	RHP	Fr.
Cortland Andrews	LHP	Sr.
Stetson Banks	SS/2B	Fr.
Joshua Barrett	RHP	Jr.
Chris Johnson	3B	Fr.
Brandon Michon	LHP	Fr.
Dane Nielsen	Util.	Fr.
Apana Nakayama	C/DH	Sr.
James Platt	RHP	Sr.
Ben Saylor	1B/OF	Sr.

College Coaches Who Played In Majors

Jerry Augustine	Wisc-Milwaukee
Scott Bradley	Princeton
Jim Farr	William & Mary
Wayne Graham	Rice
Tony Gwynn	San Diego State
Keith Kessinger	Arkansas State
Vance Law	BYU
Steve Rodriguez	Pepperdine
Ed Sprague	Pacific
John Stuper	Yale
Robbie Wine	Penn State

Pronunciation Guide

Brandon Christiansen	Christ-EE-an-suhn
Jeff Hiestand	HEE-stand
Adrian Molina	Moh-LEE-nuh
Apana Nakayama	UH-paw-nuh naw-kuh-YAW-muh
J.T. Musso	MOO-soh
Brandon Michon	mee-shawn
Justin Su'a	SOO-uh
Marcos Villedcas	vee-YES-kahs

BYU Quick Facts

Location: Provo, Utah 84602
 Enrollment: 33,278 (Daytime)
 Founded: Oct. 15, 1875, by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
 Colors: Navy, Tan and White
 Nickname: Cougars
 Mascot: Cosmo (the Cougar)
 Affiliation: NCAA Division I
 Conference: Mountain West
 Field: Larry H. Miller Field (2,300)
 President: Cecil O. Samuelson
 Men's AD: Tom Holmoe
 Ticket Office Phone: (801) 378-BYU1 or 1-800-322-BYU1

- BYU has nine current players who are married (**Devin Albrecht, Cortland Andrews, Anthony Bingham, Matthew Jensen, Casey Nelson, Justin Su'a, Mitch Wolf and most recently Clayton Barnes and Jeff Hiestand**).
- There are 15 players on the team who have served two-year volunteer Church missions, nine of whom were assigned outside the United States and speak six languages (Cambodian, Japanese, Russian, Spanish, Thai and Tagalog).
- Incorporated into this year's team are three players who have just finished serving two-year Church missions (**Clayton Barnes, Blake Crosby and Chris Johnson**).
- Three players transferred to BYU this season (**Austin Carter, Jesse Craig, and John Vaughn**).
- Among those throwing batting practice to BYU again this season is former Cy Young winner **Vernon Law** (1960 Pittsburgh Pirates), father of BYU head coach **Vance Law**. Vernon turned 76-years-old in March of 2006 and had seven-by-pass heart surgery last spring.

Double Dates with Softball

There is one date, April 20, when softball hosts Utah Valley State at 6 p.m., the same date at Miller Park when baseball hosts TCU at 7 p.m., and

International Flavor

There are 11 foreign countries represented and six foreign languages spoken on this year's baseball team. The Cougars have 15 players who volunteered two years for Church missions. Nine of the 15 spent their mission service outside the United States, including pitcher Joshua Barrett who served in three countries (Lithuania, Estonia, Latvia). See page six a list of these players and their respective areas of service and languages spoken. Page six also includes a list of former Cougar baseball players who are currently serving missions. Since missionaries don't play baseball while serving, the BYU players and coaches who have played baseball outside U.S. include:

Josh Barrett	Canada-2004 Summer League
Justin Su'a	Samoa-1998 Oceanic Games/Guam-1999 Summer Tourney
Marcos Villedcas	Mexico-youth baseball games
Coch Vance Law	Montreal, Canada; Japan-Pro Baseball; Dominican Republic & Puerto Rico for Winter Ball

On the Road Again

The Cougars will be on the road for more than 11,000 miles this season. With an early-season California trip, road trips to Seattle (Washington) and Colorado (Northern Colorado and Air Force), and the first-ever mid-season MWC tournament held in San Diego, the baseball team will tally some long hours in the bus. Prior to conference play the Cougars will net some 6,275 miles. By season's end they will have traveled a total of 8,574 miles for non-conference games.

Home Season Begins

On March 14 BYU opened its home season in a rare non-conference game with Utah, the fifth time BYU has opened the home season vs. Utah. It was a non-league game due to the MWC schedule of three-game series at one venue and the mid-season league tourney in San Diego.

Movie Night At Miller Park

On April 4th Movie Night at Miller Park featured "The Sandlot" plays on a big screen in the outfield.

Crossing Mendoza Line (.200)

Jeff Hiestand finally broke the Mendoza Line late last month when he raised his batting average to .206 and now at .277. Hiestand had been at .083 after three games, .091 after six games, .081 after 12 games and .095 after 15 games. Ben Saylor was at .172 after nine games and is now batting .322. The Cougars are now batting .261, but broke the Mendoza Line in early March.

Double Play Combinations			
Opp.	DP's	Result	Combo
Pacific	1	L, 1-2	6-4-3
Pacific	2	L, 3-4	6-4-3
Oregon St.	2	L, 2-12	4-6-3
Wash. St.	1	L, 1-5	6-4-3
St. Mary's	1	W, 10-5	1-6-3
So. Utah	1	L, 2-5	1-2-3
So. Utah	1	W, 9-2	5-4-3
So. Utah	1	W, 6-3	4-6-3
UC Riverside	1	L, 1-2	4-6-3
UC Riverside	1	W, 9-5	L3U
Utah	3	L, 4-5	6-4-3
N. Mex. St.	1	W, 3-1	1-6-3
N. Mex. St.	2	W, 10-3	6U3
N. Mex. St.	2	W, 8-6	1-6-3
No. Colo.	1	W, 4-3	L53
No. Colo.	1	W, 3-2	L3U
No. Colo.	1	L, 7-11	1-6-3
So. Utah	1	W, 23-6	5-4-3
UNLV	3	W, 14-8	7-2-6
UNLV	1	L, 8-18	6-4-3
UVSC	1	W, 8-6	6-4-3
			1-6-4-3
			L6-4

2006 MWC PRESEASON POLL			
Rk.	Team (1st-Place votes)	Points	
1	TCU (11)	89	
2	UNLV (1)	66	
	San Diego State	66	
4	Brigham Young (1)	64	
5	New Mexico	36	
6	Utah	28	
7	Air Force	15	

Final 2005 MWC Standings				
	MWC		Overall	
	W-L	GB	W-L	
UNLV	23-7	-	35-29	
BYU	21-9	1	39-19-1	
SDSU	17-13	4	26-35	
UNM	15-15	7	26-32	
Utah	10-20	10	19-36	
AFA	4-26	17	9-44	

Current 2006 MWC Standings				
	MWC		Overall	
	W-L	GB	W-L	
TCU	6-1	-	19-15	
SDSU	4-3	2	10-26	
UNM	3-3	2.5	20-11	
Utah	2-1	3	16-13	
UNLV	3-4	3	16-19	
BYU	3-4	3	13-18	
AFA	1-6	5	10-19	

Close Calls

BYU has had several close games, including six one-run losses. At UC Riverside made a diving catch in the outfield to end the seventh inning in the 2-1 loss. The Cougars won two one-run games against Northern Colorado and one this past week against New Mexico in the 12th inning, 3-2.

Outdoing the Opposition

BYU has out-hit its opponents 12 times, winning nine of those games. The Cougars have had nine games of errorless play, winning six of those games. BYU's opponents have had nine errorless games, winning once.

Villezas Pivotal in Double Plays

Of BYU's 30 double plays, 23 have involved shortstop **Marcos Villezas**, starting 10. Last year BYU turned 59 double plays in as many games.

Sandwiched Between Seniors & Freshmen

There are only six Cougars on the current squad who aren't seniors or freshmen: five juniors and a sophomore.

They Said It

- "That home run gave us a huge lift," Law said of **Ben Saylor** in a 4-3 victory over Northern Colorado.. "He (Saylor) was able to handle a high fastball in for the home run. Ben's the kind of hitter that thrives on confidence and he's starting to get that confidence as the season passes. I expect more of these nights from him."
- "For a big guy, he (**Jeff Hiestand**) get's down in that crouch, but boy he gets that bat out in front. That ball was crushed," Kevin Stoker, CSTV color analyst and former Major League shortstop.
- "As a freshman he had the most passion I've ever seen of any player we've had. He's got that passion and fire back and that is what his strength is. He is the guy who can carry us for a week or two," said BYU Coach Vance Law.
- Former Oklahoma State and New Mexico State head coach Gary Ward, who currently is OSU's radio color analyst, on BYU's **Jeff Hiestand**: "He's built like and swings like Rusty Staub, with a good, short, quick bat."
- "**Jordan (Muir)** did a great job," said UNLV coach Buddy Gouldsmith, of the BYU freshman who pitched eight innings of scoreless relief, allowing four hits, striking out five and walking two in BYU's 9-5 nationally-televised victory at UNLV. "He's a former UNLV camper and I can't say enough about him. He kept the ball down in the zone and forced guys to swing at pitches you can't swing at."
- "He (**Mitch Woolf**) can be dominant when he's throwing like that," said BYU coach Vance Law of Mitch Woolf's save in a 4-3 victory over Northern Colorado. "When he's pitching well, he's the guy that we saw tonight."
- Two coaches commenting on pitcher **Mitch Woolf's** complete game, 2-1 victory over Colorado State-Pueblo in 2005: "Woolf did a good job against us," said CSU Coach Stan Sanchez. "He found the curve and kept mixing pitches. We tried to stay on pitches but couldn't. He had a really, really tough curve." BYU Coach Vance Law said, "This is what we've seen from him in practice. He's got a nasty, nasty curve ball. He's got as good a curve ball as you'll see in college baseball. When you have command of a couple of pitches it keeps the hitters off balance."

Player Profiles

Cougars on Missions (10) Player, Pos., Year @ BYU	Place of Service
Leon Johnson, OF, 2004	Siberia
Mike Kessler, OF, 2004	Brazil
J.D. Stambaugh, LHP, 2004	Pocatello, Idaho
Jake Drzayich, 1B, 2005	Korea
Andrew Law, 2B, 2005	London, England
Sean McNaughton, 2B, 2005	Wash. D.C., South
Kevin Sloan, 3B, 2005	Italy
Brandon Relf, SS, 2005	South Africa
Blake Torgerson, P, 2005	St. Louis, Mo.
Bryce Ayoso, C, 2005	Houston, Texas

Missions Served (15, 6 languages*) Player, Pos., Year @ BYU	Place of Service
Devin Albrecht, RHP, Fr.	Boston (Cambodian)
Cortland Andrews, LHP, Sr.	Guatemala (Spanish)
Clayton Barnes, LHP/1B, So.	Mexico (Spanish)
Joshua Barrett, RHP, Jr.	Lithuania (Russian)
Anthony Bingham, RHP, Sr.	Chile (Spanish)
Austin Carter, Utility, Jr.	Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.
Jesse Craig, RHP, Jr.	Rochester, New York
Blake Crosby, 3B/SS, Fr.	Tampa, Fla. (Spanish)
Jeff Hiestand, 1B/OF, Jr.	Denver, Colo.
Matthew Jensen, RHP, Jr.	Thailand (Thai)
Chris Johnson, IF, Fr.	Everett, Wash
Apana Nakayama, C, Sr.	Japan (Japanese)
James Platt, RHP, Sr.	Russia (Russian)
Ben Saylor, 1B/OF, Sr.	Philippines (Tagalog)
Justin Su'a, RHP, Sr.	Nicaragua (Spanish)

*Molina & Villezcas also speak fluent Spanish

Married Players (9)	Wife
Devin Albrecht, RHP, Fr.	Megan Adamson
Cortland Andrews, LHP, Sr.	Mary Ann Cameron
Anthony Bingham, RHP, Jr.	Desirae Hadfield
Casey Nelson, C, Jr.	Wendi Wilson
Justin Su'a, RHP, Jr.	Melissa Sanchez
Matt Jensen, RHP, Jr.	Jenny Scoville
Mitch Woolf, RHP, Sr.	Brittany Webster
Clayton Barnes, LHP/1B, So.	Tiffany Cardon
Jeff Hiestand, 1B/OF, Sr.	Lynn MacDonald

Drafted Players (3)	Team
Jesse Craig	Atlanta Braves 36th round 2001
Patrick Wells	Houston Astros 42nd round 2001
Mitch Woolf	Boston Red Sox 19th round 2002 & Chicago White Sox 40th round 2003

Honors for 2006

- Jesse Craig, Pitcher**
 - MWC Pitcher of Week (vs. N.Mexico St.)
- Jeff Hiestand, Outfield, First Base**
 - Pre-season All-MWC (coaches/media)
 - CBF National Honor Roll Players of the Week
 - MWC Player of Week (vs. UNLV)
- Jordan Muir, Pitcher**
 - Sirius Satellite Radio Player of Game vs. UNLV
 - MWC Pitcher of Week (vs. UNLV)
- Ben Saylor, First Base, Outfield**
 - Wallace Watch List
 - Pre-season All-MWC (coaches/media)

Jeff Hiestand

First baseman/ outfielder Jeff Hiestand found himself on base in all but one of the 50 games in which he played in 2005. The First-team All-Mountain West Conference player led the team in on base percentage. An Academic All-Conference player, Hiestand laced together a 29 game hitting streak in the latter part of the 2005 season, the longest in the MWC. He set a MWC games-only record by junior for on base percentage at .560. Hiestand played all of the 2005 campaign with a broken bone in his right hand. He led all regulars on the team with a .446 in-conference batting average. He finished the 2005 season 30th in the nation in runs per game (1.18) and was among the NCAA leaders in batting average, doubles and slugging throughout the season. Former Oklahoma State and New Mexico State head coach Gary Ward, as radio color analyst for OSU last year, said of Hiestand, "he's built like and swings like Rusty Staub, with a good, short, quick bat." He caught a line drive with no outs in the ninth inning to start a L3U double play and help clinch a 7-5 Cougar victory over Colorado State-Pueblo.



Year	Avg.	G-GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	TB	BB	SO	SB-SBA
2001	.301	46-34	133	34	40	10	0	8	25	74	12	12	2-4
2004	.333	44-37	126	38	42	12	2	8	34	82	30	22	5-5
2005	.371	50-49	178	59	66	16	2	8	41	110	32	47	2-3
2006	.277	31-27	101	17	28	9	1	4	27	51	18	16	4-5

Ben Saylor

A 2006 Wallace Watch List candidate, Saylor was a first-team All-Mountain West Conference selection in 2005. A .356 hitter in 2005, he finished the season fifth in the nation in doubles per game, averaging nearly one every two games. In 2005 Saylor ended a 17 game hitting streak and then put together a new 15 game run. In the eighth inning of an 8-7 win over a No. 25 Oklahoma State, he doubled up a Cowboy runner who left first base early without tagging up. Saylor hit two of BYU's seven doubles in the ninth inning of a 19-6 victory at New Mexico. He was selected to the College Baseball Foundation National Honor Roll for the week of May 22. Saylor hit 5 game-winning RBI last season.



Year	Avg.	G-GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	TB	BB	SO	SB-SBA
2001*	.331	53-52	169	33	56	13	2	7	58	94	25	37	7-11
2004	.312	56-56	224	25	70	11	0	4	40	93	14	56	1-3
2005	.356	54-54	225	50	80	25	0	9	48	132	18	45	3-3
2006	.322	30-30	115	27	37	7	0	7	24	62	13	22	6-7

* At Utah Valley State College

Jesse Craig

Junior College transfer pitcher Jesse Craig was named MWC Pitcher of the week vs. New Mexico State. He was an Academic All-American at the Community College of Southern Nevada in 2005. The righty was selected as the team's most outstanding pitcher in 2005. He was drafted out of Basic High School by the Atlanta Braves in the 36th round of 2001 but opted to play college ball in his home state of Nevada. His Southern Nevada Coyotes won the league title and placed second in the conference tourney in 2005. He led his team in strikeouts and innings pitched. Craig averaged just over one strikeout per inning. In 2002 he also batted .274 for the Coyotes with 2 HR and 21 RBI.



Year	ERA	W-L	APP	GS	CG	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
2002*	4.50	1-2	5	3	0	0	16.0	16	10	8	9	11
2005*	1.30	8-2	14	14	2	0	83.0	66	25	12	25	84
2006	3.65	2-5	9	9	0	0	56.2	60	27	23	11	49

*at the Community College of Southern Nevada

Bloodlines for Current BYU Baseball Team

- **Devin Albrecht**—brother played quarterback at Ricks College and father-in-law played basketball at Snow College.
- **Cortland Andrews**—brother-in-law is former Cougar basketball player, **Garner Meads**, and sister-in-law is, **Julie Cameron Meads**, of the BYU track and cross-country teams.
- **Stetson Banks**—uncle, **Brian Banks**, played baseball at BYU (1990, 1993), played in the majors with the Florida Marlins, and was a member of the 2003 World Series Championship team.
- **Clayton Barnes**—father, **Clint Barnes**, played semi-pro baseball for the Cincinnati Reds organization, brother, **Bryce**, played baseball for Sacramento State, brother, **Kyle**, played baseball for UVSC, uncles, **Steve** and **Sean Covey**, played football for Harvard and BYU, respectively, and cousin played basketball for Ricks.
- **Anthony Bingham**—cousins, **Travis**, (1990, '93-'95), and **Tyson**, (1993, '96-'97) DowDell played baseball for BYU.
- **Blake Crosby**—father, **Ed**, was a second round draft pick and an Oakland A's scout, played for the St. Louis Cardinals (1970-73), Cincinnati Reds (1973), and Cleveland Indians (1974-76), and brother, **Bobby Crosby**, a first round draft pick, was American League Rookie of the Year in 2004 with the Oakland A's.
- **Christopher Highmark**—father, **David**, played baseball for Dartmouth College before playing in the Baltimore Orioles minor league organization, mother, **Allison**, played basketball and volleyball for the University of Miami.



Head Coach Vance Law, left, with his father Vernon (1960 Cy Young Winner). Vernon, now 75, had been throwing batting practice for BYU until he underwent seven-bypass heart surgery last year.

- **Matt Jensen**—sister, **Rachel**, swam for BYU and brother, **Michael**, played football at Snow College.
- **Chris Johnson**—father, **Ken**, played tennis for BYU and uncle, **Rick Bachman**, pitched for Long Beach State.
- **Jason Johnson**—grandfather, **Stan Frank**, ran track for the University of Texas.
- **Seth Johnson**—father, **Bill**, played semi-pro football for the Thunderbirds in Albuquerque, N.M.
- **Vance Law**, head BYU coach—father, **Vernon Law**, was 1960 Cy Young winner and was a pitcher for the Pittsburgh Pirates (1950-67), brother **Veryl Law** played basketball at BYU (1974-77) alongside Vance (1975-77), brothers **Veldon Law** (1975) and **Vaughn Law** (1979) played baseball for BYU, son **Tim Law** played baseball at Dixie in 1998, and at BYU in 2001, 2003-2004. Son **Andrew Law** played with BYU baseball in 2005 and is currently serving a Church mission in England.
- **Jordan Muir**—uncles played college baseball in Illinois and North Carolina. Grandfather played college baseball in Ohio.
- **J. T. Musso**—father, **John**, played semi-pro football for the Pueblo Crusaders, sister is a two-time state champion in gymnastics. J.T.'s name, by the way stands for John Thomas.
- **Dane Nielsen**—father, **Gifford Nielsen**, was an All-American football player at BYU (1975-1977) and played basketball for the Cougars, was a quarterback with the Houston Oilers before becoming a TV broadcaster in Houston, mother, **Wendy**, was a cheerleader at BYU, older brother, **Giff**, also played basketball for BYU, grandfather, **Stan Nielsen**, (1940-41) played basketball for BYU too.
- **Ryan Roberts**, assistant BYU coach—wife, **Angela Roberts**, played volleyball at Idaho State and UVSC, sister **Allison Roberts** plays volleyball at the Univ. of Houston, uncle **Larry Schenk** played baseball for BYU in 1959.
- **Justin Su'a**—father, **Murphy Su'a**, is a former BYU All-American (1978-79) and is the hitting coach at Cal State Dominguez Hills. Sophomore sister **Tasha** competed in the weight events for BYU's track team in 2005.
- **Daniel Vargas**—grandfather **William Vargas, Sr.**, played minor league baseball in the United States before going to the Korean War, but now lives in Puerto Rico.
- **John Vaughn**—brother, **Frank**, plays baseball at Northwestern Oklahoma A & M Junior College.
- **Michael Ward**—father, **Colby Ward**, (1983-86) pitched for the BYU baseball team, also pitched for the Cleveland Indians (11th round draft, 1986) in the majors, posting a 1-3 record in 22 appearances with one save and a 4.25 ERA in 36 innings.
- **Kent Walton**—brother, **Kyle**, played fall baseball at the University of Houston after playing at Saddleback Community College, but has now transferred to Cal-San Bernardino. Second cousin **Jeff Brown** played baseball at BYU from 1985-86.
- **Jake Wortham**—uncle, **Dave Bunnel**, played baseball for Ricks College.

BYU BASEBALL 2006 ROSTER & SCHEDULE

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	2006 B-T	ROSTER Yr.	Hometown
1	*Adrian Molina	OF	6-0	170	R-R	Sr.-1V	Montgomery, CA/Southwestern College
3	Stetson Banks	SS/2B	6-1	170	R-R	Fr.-HS	Mesa, AZ/Mountain View HS
4	*Patrick Wells	LHP	6-0	180	L-L	Sr.-1V	West Jordan /CEU
5	Chris Johnson	Infield	5-11	175	R-R	Fr.-RS	Laguna Hills, CA/Laguna Hills HS
6	Austin Carter	Utility	5-10	170	L-R	Jr.-JC	Lindon/Salt Lake CC
7	*James Platt	RHP	6-3	200	R-R	Sr.-1V	Cedar City/Dixie College
8	*Casey Nelson	C	5-9	185	R-R	Sr.-1V	Spanish Fork/Salt Lake CC
9	Kent Walton	CF	6-0	170	R-R	Fr.-HS	Yucaipa, CA/Yucaipa HS
10§	*Marcos Villezcas	INF	6-0	180	R-S	Sr.-1V	Montgomery, Calif. /Southwestern College
11	*Clayton Barnes	LHP/1B	6-1	180	L-L	So.-1V	Provo/ Provo HS
12	Jordan Muir	RHP	5-10	185	R-R	Fr.-HS	Las Vegas, NV/Cimarron-Memorial HS
13	Dan Vargas	2B	6-0	165	R-R	Fr.-HS	San Diego, CA/ Montgomery HS
14	John Vaughn	C/Utility	5-9	170	R-R	Jr.-JC	Colorado Springs, CO/NE Oklahoma A & M
15	Jason Johnson	2B	5-8	160	R-R	Fr.-HS	Houston, TX/Houston Christian HS
16	Jake Wortham	LHP/OF	5-11	205	L-L	Fr.-HS	Allen, TX/Allen HS
17	Chris Highmark	P/OF/1B	6-1	175	L-L	Fr.-HS	Paradise Valley, AZ/Brophy Prep HS
18	*Mitch Woolf	RHP	6-2	200	R-R	Sr.-1V	Rexburg, Idaho /College Southern Idaho)
19	Dane Nielsen	Utility	5-10	180	R-R	Fr.-HS	Sugar Land, TX/Clements HS
21	*Matthew Jensen	RHP	6-2	185	R-R	Jr.-1V	Alpine/Utah Valley State
22	J.T. Musso	C	6-1	195	S-R	Fr.-HS	Pueblo, CO/Pueblo County HS
23	**Joshua Barrett	RHP	6-1	180	R-R	Jr.-2V	Pleasant View/ Arizona St.
24	*Apana Nakayama	C	5-10	200	L-R	Sr.-1V	Kaunakakai,Hawai`i/Utah Valley State
25	**Ben Saylor	1B/OF	6-4	215	L-R	Sr.-2V	Sandy/Hillcrest
26	Seth Johnson	CF	6-2	200	R-R	Fr.-HS	Albuquerque, NM/La Cueva HS
27§	***Justin Su`a	RHP	6-4	210	R-R	Sr.-3V	Torrance, California (West)
28	**Anthony Bingham	RHP	6-2	195	R-R	Sr.-2V	Mission Viejo, California/Capistrano Valley
30	Blake Crosby	3B/SS	6-1	185	R-R	Fr.-HS	Cypress, CA/LaQuinta HS
31§	*Brandon Christiansen	RHP	6-2	210	R-R	Sr.-1V	West Jordan/College So. Idaho
32§	***Jeff Hiestand	OF/C	5-11	230	L-R	Sr.-3V	Chino, California/Chino
33	Kasey Ko	1B	6-2	228	S-R	Fr.-HS	Kailua, HI/Punahou HS
35	Jesse Craig	RHP	6-3	230	R-R	Jr.-JC	Las Vegas, NV/Southern Nevada CC
36	Devin Albrecht	RHP	6-1	185	R-R	Fr.-HS	Orem/Mountain View HS
37	Cortland Andrews	LHP	6-0	205	R-L	Sr.-SQ	Tampa, FL/Chamberlain HS
	Brandon Michon	LHP	5-11	150	L-L	Fr.-HS	Hamilton, VA/Loudoun Valley HS
	Michael Ward	RHP	6-0	160	R-R	Fr.-HS	Dallas, TX/Keller HS

Coaches

2—Vance Law, Head Coach, 29—Ryan Roberts, Assistant Coach, 34-Bobby Applegate, Pitching Coach, 38-Volunteer Coach Brad Eagar. * Letters §Co-captains

2/9-11	Pacific	Stockton, CA	6, 6,1	4/11	Utah Valley St.	Orem	7
2/16-18	San Jose St.	San Jose, CA	6,6,1	4/13-15	Washington	Seattle	6:30, 6:30 ,12
2/23	Oregon St.	Davis CA	2	4/18	Utah Valley St.	Provo	7
2/24	Washington St.	Davis, CA	10	4/20-22	TCU	Provo	7,7,1
2/25	St. Mary's	Sacramento, CA	10	4/25-26	No. Colorado	Greeley, CO	2,2
3/2-4	Southern Utah	Cedar City, UT	1,1,1	4/27-29	Air Force	Colorado Spgs.	2,2,12
3/9-11	UC Riverside	Riverside, CA	3,3,1	5/2	Utah Valley St.	Orem	7
3/14	Utah	Provo	7	5/4-6	New Mexico	Provo	7,7,1
3/16-18	New Mexico St.	Provo	7,7,1	5/9	Southern Utah	Provo	7
3/22	Southern Utah	Provo	3	5/11-13	San Diego St.	Provo	7,7,1
3/23-25	No. Colorado	Provo	7,7,1	5/16	Utah Valley St.	Provo	7
3/29	UNLV	San Diego	3	5/18-20	Utah	Salt Lake City	12,12,12
3/30	TCU	San Diego	11	5/23-27	MWC Tourney	Las Vegas	TBA
3/ 31	New Mexico	San Diego	11	6/2-5	NCAA Regionals	TBA	
4/ 1	Utah	San Diego	11	6/9-12	Super Regionals	TBA	
4/3	Southern Utah	Provo	3	6/16-26	World Series	Omaha, NE	
4/6-8	UNLV	Las Vegas	6:30, 6:30 ,1				

2006 Current BYU Baseball Statistics

Record: 14-18 Home: 6-3 Away: 6-10 Neutral: 2-5 MWC: 3-4

Player	AVG	GP	GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	TB	SLG%	BB	HBP	SO	GDP	OB%	SF	SH	SB	ATT	PO	A	E	FLD%
JOHNSON, Jason	.500	9	3	12	5	6	0	0	1	4	9	.750	4	0	1	0	.625	0	0	2	2	7	14	1	.955
JOHNSON, Seth	.327	16	12	49	19	16	1	1	0	6	19	.388	8	0	10	0	.421	0	0	3	4	22	1	1	.958
SAYLOR, Ben	.322	30	30	115	27	37	7	0	7	26	65	.565	13	2	22	3	.391	3	0	6	7	105	9	2	.983
BARNES, Clayton	.300	6	2	10	2	3	0	0	0	0	3	.300	2	0	3	0	.417	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	1.000
NELSON, Casey	.293	29	27	92	16	27	6	0	3	13	42	.457	9	2	16	5	.365	1	2	1	2	200	16	3	.986
HIESTAND, Jeff	.277	31	27	101	17	28	9	1	4	27	51	.505	18	3	16	4	.395	2	0	4	5	170	12	2	.989
MOLINA, Adrian	.277	28	26	94	13	26	6	3	2	19	44	.468	5	4	16	1	.337	1	1	5	7	60	2	3	.954
CROSBY, Blake	.266	24	19	64	6	17	3	0	0	8	20	.313	6	1	7	3	.324	3	4	1	1	11	33	1	.978
WORTHAM, Jake	.250	14	1	16	2	4	1	0	1	2	8	.500	5	0	7	0	.429	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	.000
KO, Kasey	.246	23	19	69	7	17	1	1	1	9	23	.333	8	2	10	0	.338	1	1	0	1	45	1	0	1.000
JOHNSON, Chris	.244	16	10	45	8	11	1	0	1	3	15	.333	4	0	12	1	.306	0	0	1	1	11	19	4	.882
WALTON, Kent	.240	28	24	100	14	24	5	0	1	11	32	.320	8	0	20	0	.294	1	1	9	11	32	2	1	.971
VILLEZCAS, Marcos	.238	32	32	126	12	30	3	0	0	19	33	.262	16	1	13	3	.322	3	4	2	3	56	119	11	.941
BANKS, Stetson	.237	25	19	59	8	14	0	0	0	7	14	.237	5	1	16	0	.308	0	6	7	7	30	37	4	.944
CARTER, Austin	.232	26	15	56	15	13	1	0	0	5	14	.250	15	0	10	0	.394	0	1	10	11	8	0	0	1.000
NIELSEN, Dane	.214	10	6	28	3	6	2	0	0	5	8	.286	2	1	4	1	.290	0	0	1	1	3	1	0	1.000
MUSSO, J.T.	.091	11	5	22	2	2	1	0	0	1	3	.136	3	0	10	0	.192	1	0	0	0	36	4	2	.952
VARGAS, Daniel	.077	18	11	26	3	2	0	0	1	2	5	.192	6	2	8	0	.294	0	2	1	1	18	29	4	.922
HIGHMARK, Chris	.000	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	1	0	.000	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1.000
VAUGHN, John	.000	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1.000
BINGHAM, Anthony	.000	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1.000
Totals	.261	32	32	1086	179	283	47	6	22	167	408	.376	137	19	202	21	.349	16	22	54	65	834	352	45	.963
Opponents	.290	32	32	1103	188	320	59	7	29	174	480	.435	109	40	226	28	.372	9	18	54	63	854	352	42	.966

LOB - Team (247), Opp (258). DPs turned - Team (30), Opp (26). CI - Team (1), MUSSO 1. IBB - Team (4), SAYLOR 2, VILLEZCAS 1, MOLINA 1. Picked off - BANKS 1, JOHNSON, C. 1, MOLINA 1, HIESTAND 1.

Player	ERA	W	L	APP	GS	CG	SHO	CBO	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	2B	3B	HR	AB B/Avg	WP	HBP	BK	SFA	SHA	
MUIR, Jordan	0.67	3	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	27.0	19	2	2	16	23	0	2	1	93	.204	1	2	1	0	2
BARRETT, Josh	1.56	1	0	12	0	0	0	0	2	17.1	15	4	3	1	19	1	0	1	63	.238	0	4	0	1	1
ANDREWS, Cortland	2.25	1	0	12	0	0	0	0	1	12.0	6	3	3	3	10	0	0	1	39	.154	0	2	3	0	0
CRAIG, Jesse	3.65	2	5	9	9	0	0	0	0	56.2	60	27	23	11	49	12	0	3	223	.269	1	7	0	1	4
HIGHMARK, Chris	4.85	0	1	10	0	0	0	0	0	13.0	22	13	7	4	13	5	0	1	59	.373	0	2	0	0	2
WELLS, Patrick	5.93	3	4	9	9	0	0	0	0	41.0	51	31	27	20	28	10	2	4	165	.309	2	5	0	2	5
BARNES, Clayton	6.00	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	3.0	5	2	2	1	4	2	0	0	12	.417	0	2	1	0	0
PLATT, James	6.20	0	1	10	1	0	0	0	0	24.2	28	22	17	11	19	7	1	4	98	.286	2	3	0	2	1
CHRISTIANSEN, Brandon	6.85	3	2	9	9	1	0	0	0	43.1	60	38	33	19	24	12	2	6	185	.324	1	8	1	1	2
WOOLF, Mitch	8.10	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	1	13.1	13	12	12	10	8	2	0	1	49	.265	2	3	0	2	0
JENSEN, Matt	8.31	0	4	7	4	0	0	0	0	17.1	25	16	16	9	16	7	0	5	73	.342	1	1	0	0	1
BINGHAM, Anthony	9.72	0	1	6	0	0	0	0	0	8.1	14	14	9	2	11	1	0	2	38	.368	0	1	0	0	0
WORTHAM, Jake	18.00	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1.0	2	4	2	2	2	0	0	0	6	.333	1	0	0	0	0
Totals	5.05	14	18	32	32	1	0	0	4	278.0	320	188	156	109	226	59	7	29	1103	.290	11	40	6	9	18
Opponents	4.52	18	14	32	32	0	0	0	5	284.2	283	179	143	137	202	47	6	22	1086	.261	11	19	7	16	22

PB - Team (4), NELSON 4, Opp (7). Pickoffs - Team (5), PLATT 1, CHRISTIANSEN 1, BINGHAM 1, WELLS 1, MUIR 1, Opp (4). SBA/ATT NELSON (46-51), WELLS (14-16), CRAIG (11-12), MUSSO (8-10), PLATT (7-10), JENSEN (6-6), CHRISTIANSEN (6-6), MUIR (2-4), WOOLF (3-3), HIGHMARK (3-3), BARNES (0-1), BARRETT (1-1), ANDREWS (1-1).

Date	Opponent	W/L	Score	Site	Rec.	Div-Rec.	Pitcher	Opp. Pitcher	Line	Opp. Line	Att.
2/9	@ Pacific	L	1-2	A	0-1	0-0	Craig	Harris	1-8-1	2-7-0	312
2/10	@ Pacific	L	3-6	A	0-2	0-0	Wells	Massetti	3-4-1	6-12-2	372
2/11	@ Pacific	L	3-4	A	0-3	0-0	Jensen	Pasma	3-8-0	4-8-2	377
2/16	@ San Jose St.	L	1-4	A	0-4	0-0	Craig	Dewing	1-4-3	4-4-2	344
2/17	@ San Jose St.	L	3-4	A	0-5	0-0	Jensen	Balatico	3-5-2	4-7-1	313
2/18	@ San Jose St.	L	3-4	A	0-6	0-0	Highmark	Shannon	3-2-1	4-10-0	356
2/23	Oregon St. #	L	2-12	N	0-7	0-0	Craig	Buck	2-5-3	12-14-1	206
2/24	Washington St. #	L	1-5	N	0-8	0-0	Wells	Ison	1-7-0	5-8-1	125
2/25	St. Mary's #	W	10-5	N	1-8	0-0	Christiansen	Nisco	10-12-3	5-14-1	108
3/2	Southern Utah	L	2-5	A	1-9	0-0	Craig	Hubbard	2-8-1	5-11-0	158
3/3	Southern Utah	W	9-2	A	2-9	0-0	Wells	Ellenbrook	9-8-3	2-7-4	93
3/4	Southern Utah	W	6-3	A	3-9	0-0	Christiansen	Wilson	6-8-3	3-2-0	192
3/9	UC Riverside	L	3-7	A	3-10	0-0	Wells	Simmons	3-4-4	7-13-1	198
3/9	UC Riverside	L	1-2	A	3-11	0-0	Craig	Reifer	1-4-0	2-7-0	—
3/10	UC Riverside	W	9-5	A	4-11	0-0	Christiansen	Winter	9-11-0	5-12-3	106
3/14	Utah	L	4-5	H	4-12	0-0	Platt	Devore	4-7-0	5-12-5	1147
3/16	New Mexico St.	W	3-1	H	5-12	0-0	Wells	Connor	3-6-1	1-5-0	905
3/17	New Mexico St.	W	10-3	H	6-12	0-0	Craig	Smith	10-12-2	3-8-2	455
3/18	New Mexico St.	W	8-6	H	7-12	0-0	Muir	Duran	8-13-1	6-15-2	1076
3/22	Southern Utah	L	8-17	H	7-13	0-0	Jensen	Job	8-10-5	17-21-1	613
3/23	Northern Colorado	W	4-3	H	8-13	0-0	Wells	Johns	4-8-0	3-6-1	860
3/24	Northern Colorado (10)	W	3-2	H	9-13	0-0	Barrett	Garr	3-8-1	2-6-1	1426
3/25	Northern Colorado	L	7-11	H	9-14	0-0	Christiansen	Maydew	7-18-1	11-14-0	1429
3/29	UNLV %*	L	3-10	N	9-15	0-1	Jensen	Saddoris	3-6-2	10-11-3	464
3/30	TCU %*	L	4-9	N	9-16	0-2	Wells	Farish	4-8-1	9-7-1	378
3/31	New Mexico % *(12)	W	3-2	N	10-16	1-2	Andrews	Miller	3-13-0	2-7-1	481
4/1	Utah %*	L	3-6	N	10-17	1-3	Bingham	Ast	3-4-1	6-8-0	497
4/3	Southern Utah	W	23-6	H	11-17	1-3	Muir	Ellena	23-23-1	6-10-4	685
4/6	UNLV *	W	9-5	A	12-17	2-3	Muir	Chalfant	9-12-0	5-8-0	906
4/7	UNLV *	W	14-8	A	13-17	3-3	Craig	Luca	14-14-0	8-14-2	408
4/8	UNLV *	L	8-18	A	13-18	3-4	Christiansen	Tabor	8-14-4	18-18-0	478
4/11	Utah Valley St.	W	8-6	A	14-18	3-4	Barnes	Christensen	8-9-0	6-14-2	904

#River City Classic @ Sacramento, Calif.

% Mountain West Conference Preseason Tournament @ San Diego, Calif.

* Mountain West Conference Game

Attendance at Larry H. Miller Field

5/11/01	UNLV (Night)	3,120	3/18/04	UNLV (Night)	1,494	4/26/01	San Diego St. (Night)	1,059
4/5/02	Utah (Night)	2,863	5/22/04	Air Force	1,487	4/17/04	SDSU	1,052
4/6/02	Utah (Night)	2,611	5/22/04	Air Force	— (DH)	5/8/04	New Mexico	1,042
5/13/05	UNLV (Night)	2,545	3/23/02	SDSU suspended	1,440	5/4/02	UNLV	1,040
5/13/05	UNLV	— (DH)	3/25/06	Northern Colorado	1,429	4/28/01	San Diego St.	1,014
5/2/03	Utah (Night)	2,512	3/24/06	Northern Colorado (Night)	1,426	5/10/03	San Diego St.	1,007
4/16/04	SDSU (Night)	2,505	4/27/01	San Diego St. (Night)	1,398	3/8/05	Utah Valley St.	985
5/25/02	SDSU	2,396	5/1/03	Utah (Night)	1,392	5/7/02	Southern Utah (Night)	948
5/25/02	SDSU (Night)	— (DH)	5/6/05	New Mexico (Night)	1,378	3/14/05	Colo. St.-Pueblo	947
4/15/05	SDSU (Night)	2,369	4/21/01	Utah	1,371	5/2/02	UNLV (Night)	913
3/19/04	UNLV (Night)	2,293	5/12/01	UNLV	1,318	3/16/06	New Mexico St. (Night)	905
4/11/03	Air Force (Night)	2,274	5/5/05	New Mexico (Night)	1,288	3/15/05	Colo. St.-Pueblo	880
4/4/02	Utah (Night)	2,251	5/10/01	UNLV (Night)	1,282	4/17/01	Southern Utah	862
4/30/04	Utah (Night)	2,201	4/12/03	Air Force	1,276	3/23/06	Northern Colorado(Night)	860
5/1/04	Utah (Night)	2,102	4/20/01	Utah (Night)	1,274	5/9/03	San Diego St.	820
4/16/05	San Diego State	2,064	4/25/02	Air Force (Night)	1,258	5/9/03	San Diego St.	— (DH)
4/14/05	San Diego State (Night)	2,015	5/6/04	New Mexico (Night)	1,252	4/12/05	Lewis-Clark St.	815
5/21/04	Air Force	1,986	4/15/04	SDSU (Night)	1,247	4/16/01	Southern Utah	809
5/21/04	Air Force (Night)	— (DH)	5/18/02	New Mexico	1,229	3/24/05	Utah (Night)	771
4/26/02	Air Force (Night)	1,964	5/7/05	New Mexico	1,221	4/3/07	Southern Utah	685
5/14/05	UNLV	1,872	5/12/03	Southern Utah	1,219	3/22/06	Southern Utah (Night)	613
4/1/05	Air Force (Night)	1,862	4/17/03	New Mexico (Night)	1,216	4/7/03	Southern Utah	543
5/7/04	New Mexico (Night)	1,850	3/31/05	Air Force (Night)	1,207	3/17/05	New Mexico St. (Night)	455
5/17/02	New Mexico (Night)	1,831	5/20/04	Air Force	1,202	3/22/05	Utah Valley St. (Night)	256
4/2/05	Air Force (Night)	1,759	5/20/04	Air Force (Night)	— (DH)	Totals	134,225 (Avg. 1,475, 10 DH)	
3/22/02	SDSU (Night)	1,748	5/3/02	UNLV (Night)	1,189	All Night time	93,327 (Avg. 1,582)	
3/26/05	Utah	1,718	5/16/02	New Mexico (Night)	1,183			
3/26/05	Utah	— (DH)	5/6/02	Southern Utah	1,178			
5/24/02	SDSU	1,713	5/22/02	Air Force (Night)	1,177			
5/24/02	UNLV (Night)	— (DH)	3/21/02	SDSU (Night)	1,176			
5/13/03	Southern Utah (Night)	1,711	5/23/02	UNLV (Night)	1,167			
4/19/03	New Mexico	1,668	3/14/06	Utah (Night)	1,147	2006	8,596 (9 dates)	(Avg. 955)
4/19/03	New Mexico	— (DH)	4/13/01	New Mexico (Night)	1,143	2005	25,952 (18 dates, 2 DH)	(Avg. 1,527)
4/19/01	Utah (Night)	1,609	4/29/04	Utah (Night)	1,138	2004	24,355 (15 dates, 3 DH)	(Avg. 1,624)
4/10/03	Air Force (Night)	1,601	4/14/01	New Mexico	1,119	2003	22,460 (16 dates, 2 DH)	(Avg. 1,404)
3/21/03	UNLV (Night)	1,530	4/14/01	New Mexico	— (DH)	2002	31,275 (20 dates, 2 DH)	(Avg. 1,564)
3/22/03	UNLV	1,527	3/20/03	UNLV	1,092	2001	17,378 (13 dates, 1 DH)	(Avg. 1,337)
3/20/04	UNLV	1,504	3/18/06	New Mexico St.	1,076	Night record:	41-18	
			5/3/03	Utah	1,072	Overall Record @ Miller Park:	73-28	
						Losses		

2006 BYU League Games Only Statistics

Record: 3-4 Home: 0-0 Away: 2-1 Neutral: 1-3 MWC: 3-4

Player	AVG	GP	GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	TB	SLG%	BB	HBP	SO	GDP	OB%	SF	SH	SB	ATT	PO	A	E	FLD%
JOHNSON, Jason	1.000	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	4	4.000	0	0	0	0	1.000	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1.000
CARTER, Austin	.500	5	0	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	.500	1	0	0	0	.667	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	1.000
KO, Kasey	.467	5	4	15	2	7	1	1	0	3	10	.667	0	0	0	0	.467	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
NELSON, Casey	.455	7	7	22	4	10	3	0	0	2	13	.591	1	1	3	0	.500	0	2	1	1	46	1	0	1.000
HIESTAND, Jeff	.440	7	6	25	5	11	4	0	1	13	18	.720	3	0	1	0	.483	1	0	1	2	44	5	0	1.000
SAYLOR, Ben	.348	6	6	23	5	8	2	0	2	8	16	.696	1	1	7	0	.357	3	0	0	0	18	1	0	1.000
MOLINA, Adrian	.345	7	7	29	5	10	1	2	1	4	18	.621	2	1	3	0	.406	0	0	1	2	23	0	0	1.000
WALTON, Kent	.273	4	2	11	2	3	0	0	0	0	3	.273	2	0	4	0	.385	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1.000
VILLEZCAS, Marcos	.233	7	7	30	4	7	2	0	0	4	9	.300	3	0	6	0	.294	1	1	0	0	16	24	3	.930
JOHNSON, Seth	.214	7	7	28	8	6	1	0	0	4	7	.250	3	0	8	0	.290	0	0	1	1	13	1	1	.933
JOHNSON, Chris	.200	2	1	5	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	.200	2	0	2	1	.429	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	1.000
BANKS, Stetson	.136	7	6	22	3	3	0	0	0	2	3	.136	2	0	4	0	.208	0	2	4	4	10	10	2	.909
CROSBY, Blake	.100	6	6	20	1	2	1	0	0	1	3	.150	3	0	3	2	.217	0	1	0	0	3	8	1	.917
NIELSEN, Dane	.077	3	3	13	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	.077	0	0	2	1	.077	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
MUSSO, J.T.	.000	3	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	3	0	.000	0	0	0	0	5	1	0	1.000
WORTHAM, Jake	.000	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	2	0	.000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
VARGAS, Daniel	.000	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	3	1	0	0	.800	0	0	0	0	1	3	1	.800
Totals	.280	7	7	254	44	71	15	3	5	43	107	.421	26	4	48	4	.349	5	6	9	11	189	69	8	.970

Player	ERA	W	L	APP	GS	CG	SHO	CBO	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	2B	3B	HR	AB	B/Avg	WP	HBP	BK	SFA	SHA
MUIR, Jordan	0.00	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	8.0	4	0	0	2	5	0	0	0	28	.143	0	0	0	0	0
ANDREWS, Cortland	2.45	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	3.2	2	1	1	0	4	0	0	1	13	.154	0	1	3	0	0
HIGHMARK, Chris	3.86	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2.1	6	5	1	1	4	0	0	1	15	.400	0	0	0	0	0
CRAIG, Jesse	4.40	1	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	14.1	15	7	7	2	11	1	0	2	54	.278	0	0	0	0	0
BARRETT, Josh	4.50	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2.0	3	1	1	0	4	0	0	1	9	.333	0	0	0	0	0
PLATT, James	5.91	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	10.2	10	11	7	3	7	2	0	4	42	.238	0	0	0	1	1
WELLS, Patrick	9.39	0	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	7.2	10	10	8	7	3	2	1	2	30	.333	0	0	0	0	0
CHRISTIANSEN, Brandon	12.38	0	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	8.0	14	12	11	4	6	2	1	2	38	.368	0	4	1	0	1
BINGHAM, Anthony	13.50	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2.0	3	3	3	0	2	0	0	1	9	.333	0	0	0	0	0
JENSEN, Matt	13.50	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	2.0	4	3	3	3	2	2	0	0	9	.444	1	0	0	0	1
WOOLF, Mitch	19.29	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2.1	2	5	5	6	0	0	0	1	9	.222	1	0	0	0	0
Totals	6.71	3	4	7	7	0	0	0	0	63.0	73	58	47	28	48	9	2	15	256	.285	2	5	4	1	3
Opponents	4.52	4	3	7	7	0	0	0	1	65.2	71	44	33	26	48	15	3	5	254	.280	2	4	3	5	6

PB - Team (1), NELSON 1, Opp (3). Pickoffs - Team (1), WELLS 1, Opp (1). SBA/ATT - NELSON (14-14), CHRISTIANSEN (4-4), WELLS (3-4), JENSEN (3-3), HIGHMARK (2-2), CRAIG (1-2), PLATT (1-1), MUSSO (0-1).

2005 November BYU Signings

<u>Player</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Ht.</u>	<u>Wt.</u>	<u>Hometown (School)</u>
Jonathan Cluff	OF	6-0	185	South Jordan (Bingham HS)
Chase Frampton	C	6-2	210	Gilbert, Ariz. (Mesquite HS)
Austin Hall	SS	6-3	190	Danville, Calif. (San Ramon Valley HS)
Blaine Howell	LHP	5-10	180	Asheville, NC (A.C. Reynolds HS)
Brad Kidd	RHP	6-4	220	Salem, Ore. (Sprague HS)
Mike McKeever	OF/C	6-4	215	San Diego (Southwestern College)
Rett Varner	RHP	6-5	190	Trophy Club, Texas (Northwest HS)
Stephen Wells	OF	5-10	175	Kenmore, Wash. (Inglemoor HS)

PITCHER WINDS UP FOR RETURN TO THE TEAM

BY JOHN COON

SALT LAKE TRIBUNE 3/10/06

Brigham Young University pitcher Patrick Wells struck out six batters and allowed two runs on five hits over six innings in his second start of the season. It represented a triumph for the senior.

Although the Cougars eventually lost 4-3 - the second of three consecutive setbacks to the San Jose State Spartans - Wells was gratified to turn in a solid game on the mound.

When he last faced San Jose in 2005, a left elbow injury cost him the rest of his season.

"It felt good to go out there and do well," Wells said. "I had a couple memories of the injury happening last year, but I was able to put that behind me."

Wells enters his senior season - put on a hold a year ago - hoping to recapture the pitching prowess that got him drafted by the Houston Astros and distinguished him as BYU's top pitcher two years ago.

Getting drafted

West Jordan High School rarely pops to mind when considering a Major League Baseball scout's travel itinerary, but Wells drew some serious attention there after shining in an out-of-state tournament.

During his senior year at West Jordan in 2001, the Jaguars traveled to an Easter baseball tournament in Las Vegas. Wells took the mound against Phineas Banning, an elite Southern California team.

He wasn't the reason Major League Baseball scouts came to watch, but after striking out 10 batters and delivering a 5-3 win, Wells gave them enough reasons to stick around.

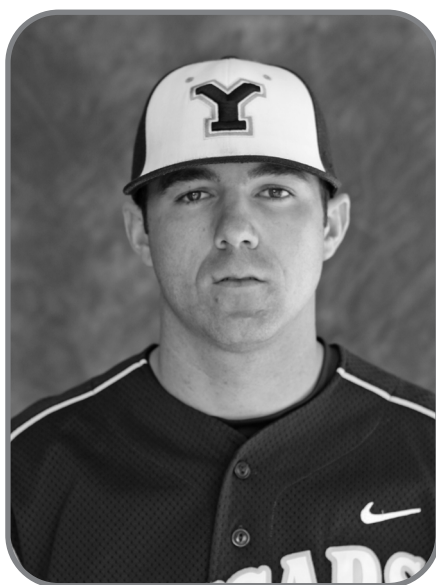
"He pitched really well," said fellow BYU pitcher Brandon Christiansen, also a teammate at West Jordan. "In my opinion, that's the game that got him drafted. Out at West Jordan High School, not many scouts come and watch your games."

Wells continued to impress scouts with a solid season, culminating with him helping lead the Jaguars to a runner-up finish at the Class 5-A tournament.

When the MLB draft came around, Wells learned he had been selected by the Astros in the 42nd round. The moment seemed almost surreal to him and his family.

"They were excited," Wells said. "My parents had always given me a lot of support growing up playing baseball. They always believed in me and thought I could do it. They were really excited about that and so was I."

Once his initial enthusiasm subsided, Wells realized he need-



ed to improve his draft position to increase his shot of catching on in the majors.

"I was a little young at the time, so I felt that it would be in my best interest to not go play professional ball and go to school," Wells said.

He took the junior college route and further honed his skills. Two years at the College of Eastern Utah validated his draft status with impressive stats.

Wells compiled an 8-2 record with a 1.29 ERA as a sophomore at CEU. He pitched five complete games and recorded two shutouts and one save in 63 innings. Those solid numbers landed him a scholarship with BYU and a prime spot in the Cougars pitching rotation.

Losing a season

Wells' junior season at BYU followed the same successful blueprint. He ranked second on the Cougars pitching staff with 61 strikeouts and twice struck out seven batters during a game.

Wells was expected to anchor a talented Cougar bullpen in his second year, but that plan was short-circuited by his second start.

His left elbow surged with pain after a 13-5 win over San Jose. Wells struck out five batters during the game, but his arm just didn't feel right.

"I was his roommate in the hotel room and I knew his arm was bugging him," Christiansen said. "I don't think he or I knew it was that bad of an injury."

Wells learned a buildup of scar tissue had generated a whole

mess of nerve problems. He traded in a once promising season for a medical redshirt.

It delivered a big blow to BYU's pitching staff, leaving only two other left-handed pitchers in Lance Beus and Ryan Chambers. As the season wore on without him, the Cougars fell out of first place in the MWC and exited early from the conference tournament.

"We would have loved to have him last year because he would have been the missing ingredient for a championship," BYU coach Vance Law said.

The injury built up, in part, after Wells overworked his arm. He had 17 starts and threw three complete games as a junior - both team highs. Then he left to play summer league ball in Missouri for the Nevada Griffons.

Wells left the Griffons early when his elbow problems began to surface. BYU coaches tried to get his arm healed up before the spring, but, after leaving San Jose, it became obvious rest was his only option.

"We thought we had worked through that in the fall, but after a start or two it was apparent it was still bothering him," Law said.

The road back

Since returning to the pitching rotation, Wells is 0-2 in his first three starts with an ERA of 10.97. His arm remains a little rusty and Wells' initial numbers aren't up to his usual standard.

But his elbow feels much stronger. Wells is confident that both he and BYU - which lost eight of its first nine games - can recover from their respective slow starts. And he is hungry to show his arm that once impressed major league scouts is back to form.

Most importantly, he doesn't want to relive frustrations of not being able to contribute to his team's success.

"I just felt like I could have helped the team win more games than we did," Wells said. "It was dissatisfying to sit on the bench and watch a lot of the games."

Patrick Wells at a BYU team practice. Wells is one of few local baseball players to have success at the Div. I level.

The Wells File

- Wells was drafted in the 42nd round of the MLB draft by the Houston Astros in 2001.
- He started 17 games for BYU as a junior in 2004, finishing with 61 strikeouts and an 5.76 ERA.
- He missed all but two games in 2005 because of a lingering elbow injury.

2006 BYU Team Highlights

- **Daniel Vargas'** first college hit of his career was a lead-off homerun in the third inning of a 4-3 loss in game three at the University of Pacific.
- **Casey Nelson's** two doubles in game three at Pacific.
- **Ben Saylor's** three-run homer in the fourth inning of game three at San Jose St.
- **Nelson's** solo homer against No. 8 Oregon St. in the second inning at the River City Classic.
- **Kent Walton's** lead-off first-inning homer against Washington St. in the River City Classic.
- **Marcos Villezcas** deep in the shortstop hole fielding a short hop and throw a strike to put out a St. Mary's runner at first.
- **Brandon Christiansen** throwing 118 pitches in a 6-3 complete game victory at SUU.
- With bases loaded in the 7th inning of the 2-1 nightcap, UC Riverside made a diving catch of J.T. Musso's liner.
- **Coach Vance Law** getting his 200th career victory in a 3-1 win against New Mexico St., when **Josh Barrett** got his first save.
- **Jesse Craig** striking out seven in six shutout innings of a 10-3 victory vs New Mexico St. for MWC Pitcher of the Week honors.
- Defensive gems recorded by **Jeff Hiestand, Villezcas and Adrian Molina** in an 8-6 victory over New Mexico St. Hiestand turned a double play surprisingly fielding a liner with a foot first base to end the eighth inning with runners on the corners, Villezcas went to his right in the shortstop hole, throwing out a runner at third in the ninth, and Molina made a spinning catch on a tricky deep ball in center field for out No. 1 in the eighth. **Josh Barrett** got his second save.
- **Mitch Woolf** baffling Northern Colorado batters with his curve in a 4-3 victory for his first save of the season.
- **Chris Johnson's** game-tying homer to lead off the ninth-inning, followed by **Dane Nielsen's** walk-off RBI single in a 3-2 victory of a 10-inning affair with Northern Colorado, which allowed **Josh Barrett** to pick up his first victory of the season.
- **Villezcas'** walk-off single between first and second with one out, scored **Hiestand** barreling around the bases from second in the 12th inning vs. New Mexico at San Diego. Pinch-hitter Hiestand hit a two-out double to the centerfield alley, scoring **Seth Johnson** from first to tie the game in the 12th and tie the game, 2-2.
- **Saylor's** towering home run mid-way in the 10-run sixth inning with no outs for the Cougars. That homer, his team-leading sixth, hit the dormitory beyond rightfield, in a 23-6 victory vs. Southern Utah.
- **Hiestand's** two-run homer paired with eight innings of shutout relief by **Jordan Muir** in a nationally-televised game at UNLV.
- **Hiestand's** lead-off homer which bounced off the top of the UVSC scoreboard.

SAYLOR LOOKS TO LEAD COUGS TO VICTORY

BY DANIEL LUND

BYU DAILY UNIVERSE 1/26/06

For senior BYU baseball outfielder Ben Saylor, playing for the Cougars has been a lifelong dream of his.

"Ever since I was little, I wanted to play at the Y," Saylor said. "It's weird because my family all went to the U."

Saylor, who is ranked fifth in the nation in doubles per game, has been listed on the 2006 Wallace Watch list.

The Wallace Award is presented annually to the national college baseball player of the year.

"At first I didn't even know what it was," saylor said. "It was a complete surprise to me to even hear about it."

Saylor's teammates attribute his success to his work ethic. Pitcher Matt Jensen said his extra efforts have helped him succeed.

"He always stays behind and takes extra swings in the batting cage," Jensen said. "He works really hard to be as good of a hitter as he is."

Jensen said Saylor is the type of guy that puts the team



first.

"If he had a secret to hitting or something like that, he would tell everybody," Jensen said. "He's not the kind of guy that would keep it to himself."

Saylor's successful baseball career includes a diving, game-ending catch in the 17th inning his sophomore year against in-state rival University of Utah. Former cougar Brandon Taylor, who played with Saylor for several years, said when the ball was hit in Saylor's direction in the game, everyone on the team was pretty anxious.

"He said there was no doubt in his mind, but we were all a little worried when it was hit; but he ended up catching the ball and we ended up winning the game," Taylor said.

Saylor said he hopes that this year will be one of his best.

"I just want to have no regrets coming out of this year," Saylor said. "I want to have the best year that I can have."

Taylor said he has no doubts Saylor will have a great year.

"He wants to win. He doesn't want to lose," Taylor said. "He wants to do everything the right way. When he plays, he plays pretty dang hard."

As for Saylor's future, he said he wants to see how far he can go with baseball.

"It's always been a dream of mine to play professional baseball, so I'll pursue that as long as I can."

TEAM COIN BRINGS UNITY

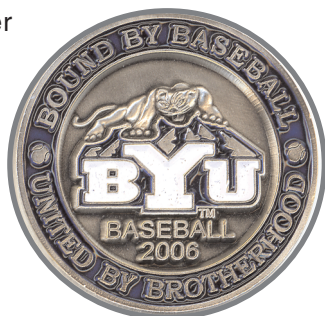
By James Davis
BYU Athletic Media Relations

PROVO, Utah (February 6, 2006)—This season the Cougar baseball team will be clinging on to a little reminder from 2005.



In a season which saw BYU go 39-19-1 and finish second in the Mountain West Conference, every member of the team carried their own minted team coin. The coin was one

of the many things BYU pitching coach Bobby Applegate brought with him from the Air Force Academy. The coins were given to each player after the team ran up the white "Y" on a nearby mountain which overlooks the campus in the fall of 2004 and again in the fall of 2005.



The coin reminded each player of the commitments they have made to the team and the accomplishment of running up the mountain. The coin had inscribed on one side "The Road to the Top" and "We Go as a Team."

Like last year this season's club will be carrying its own newer version of the coin. Once again the words, "We Go as a Team," are inscribed on one side. This year the 2006 coin has phrasing like "No One Left Behind," "Bound By Baseball," and "United By Brotherhood."

"It sounds kind of corny," head coach Vance Law said of using the do-it-for-the team clichés. "But we rely on each other. We ran up to the 'Y' together and it was a total team effort, guys didn't leave each other behind, we ran together."

One side of the coin is engraved with a team photo taken at the top of "Y" mountain. Around it are the words "Preparation, Execution, Champions."

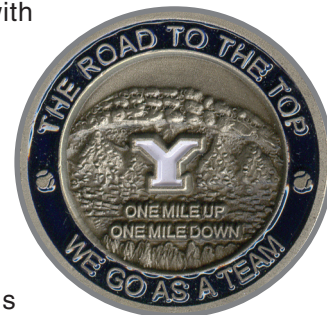
The various military institutions have similar programs. In the military each soldier has the opportunity to earn a specially minted coin. The coins are issued by a company's commanding officer and are a very big honor. Each individual coin is minted especially for a given unit. Also, each individual military operation—such as Operation Iraqi Freedom—has its own coin created for the soldiers who participated.



The soldiers are required to always keep their coin with them. As encouragement, the military has developed an incentive. At any time a soldier can pull his coin on a fellow soldier. If his counterpart does not have his coin at the time the other pulls it, the counterpart has to buy a drink that night. However, if the counterpart can show the coin, he gets the free drink.

BYU has developed a similar system. If a player or coach pulls the coin on his teammate (or coach) and the teammate doesn't have the coin, the teammate must buy a drink for all of his teammates who have theirs.

The coin provides a great opportunity to create and build team unity.



BASE-BOX: COUGAR PITCHERS PUNCH UP THEIR OFFSEASON TRAINING

BY J.G. ASKAR

DESERET MORNING NEWS 1/26/06

PROVO — Sometime in mid-March, once winter snows have melted and the BYU baseball team has finally begun its home schedule, a Cougar pitcher will inevitably encounter a healthy dose of adversity at Larry H. Miller Field.

The opposition will bat the pitcher's offerings through the thin mountain air like whiffle balls at a summer picnic. The hurler will step off the mound, doff his cap and use his sleeve to wipe sweat from his brow.

Digging deep, searching for the wherewithal to quell his opponent's rally, the BYU pitcher will find solace and strength in . . . his fledgling career as an amateur boxer?

Don't laugh — such a scenario could well play itself out this spring. The Cougar pitching staff has incorporated boxing into its offseason training regimen.

The idea to have pitchers moonlight as boxers was the brainchild of BYU pitching coach Bobby Applegate.

"I just kind of tried to think of something a little bit different that these guys weren't used to," Applegate said. "I tried to put them in a different arena where everyone started from the same place basically, so they could work their way up and they could all learn it together."

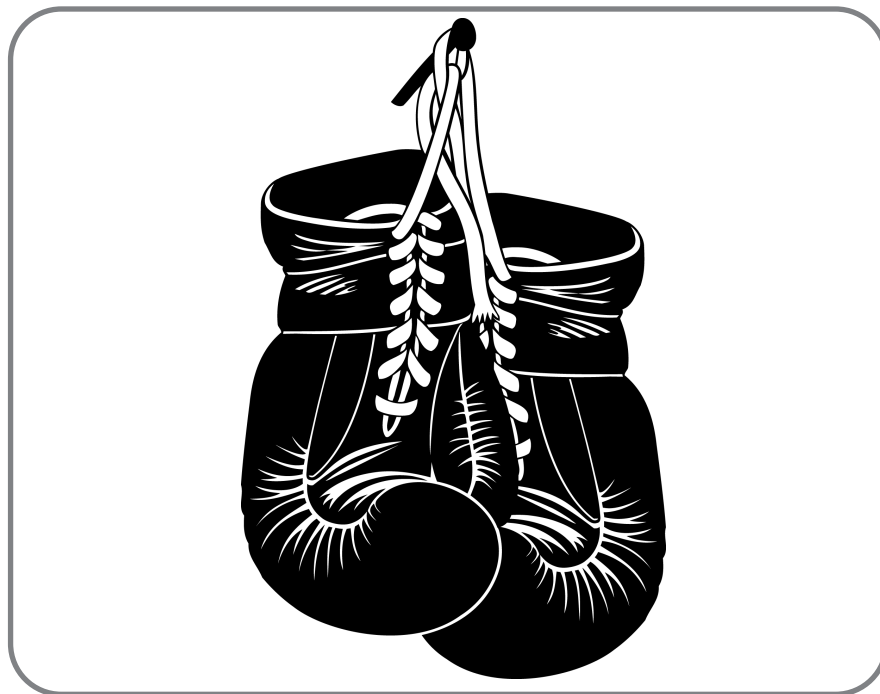
Applegate's exposure to boxing came during five years as an assistant baseball coach at the Air Force Academy, where all freshmen are required to take a combative course such as wrestling or boxing.

According to Applegate, the overlap in the skill sets required for boxing and pitching makes the sweet science a natural fit for a pitching staff's offseason cross training.

"In boxing, there's basically a lot of the upper-body workout (that pitchers need)," Applegate said. "I mean, we're getting a lot of fast-twitch fibers firing in our upper body, our shoulders. It's a great conditioning workout for upper body, and most important is to try to work on our leg endurance and foot speed as well."

But netting the physical benefits inherent in boxing was just a part of what Applegate was looking to do — instilling confidence and mental toughness was on the agenda, too.

"One important part of this is just the confidence factor," Applegate said. "We're really trying to develop a confidence within



these players where they know that they've tried something new through some difficult situations and learned how to overcome some adversity.

"Obviously, the higher level of competition that you go in baseball, the more the talent pool evens out and there's less of a (talent) difference between the players. So I think our edge will come if we can compete a little bit harder and create some mental toughness over the other guys, and boxing played into that."

Because of the dangerous nature of boxing, Cougar players took several precautions aimed at minimizing the risk of injury. Such measures included the use of protective headgear and 16-ounce practice gloves as well as an emphasized preference on body blows over head shots.

To Applegate's delight, BYU pitchers took to boxing like ducks to water.

"It was a lot of fun," pitcher Justin Su'a said. "We were rooting for each other, cheering for each other, and when you weren't boxing you were someone else's corner man. It brought us together in a way I didn't think it would."

In the case of Su'a, a senior right-hander, boxing was so well-

received that it even infiltrated his subconscious.

"I just got so into boxing that I was boxing in my dreams," Su'a said. "This one time, I was sleeping and in my dream I was dreaming like I was boxing. My wife, Melissa, was awake in bed next to me.

"In my dream, I could feel myself just going at it. Finally, I was ready to throw the knockout punch. I threw a right hand in my dream, but in reality I threw the covers off the bed. Melissa woke me up; she was like, 'Hey, hey — take it easy! I'm afraid you're going to hit me!'"

The foray into pugilism ended Dec. 5 with a "box-off." Nine matches consisting of two three-minute rounds were held. An impromptu ring and arena were erected, and a referee and judges were on hand.

According to Applegate, top performers included Jesse Craig, Brandon Christiansen, Mitch Woolf and Su'a.

Ultimately, the boxing experiment proved to be such a success that it's a good bet to return next offseason.

"Obviously, it's a different sport," said Applegate. "But we work real close with our players to make sure we get feedback, and the feedback we got was 100 percent positive. They would all like to do it again next year; they thought it was great."

JEFF HIESTAND: WALK-ON NOW KEY PLAYER

By Kim Jones
BYU Athletic Media Relations

Jeff Hiestand picked up his first plastic bat and ball not long after he picked up walking. At two years old, he was already being pitched to, and he could slam his plastic ball across the yard.

Two years later when Jeff started his first tee-ball league, his mother Julie said he couldn't figure out what they needed the tee on home plate. "He's always been able to hit the ball," she said. "And he's always wanted to play baseball."

Along with his toddler bat and ball, his parents gave him a football, basketball and golf clubs. Golfing entertained him some of the time. But, it was evident early on that Jeff's real passion was baseball. When Jeff's mom asked him what he wanted to be when he grew up, he would reply; "a baseball, a golf or a meat-cut (like grandpa)."

For the most part, Jeff has given up golfing and meat cutting, but baseball has always been an integral part of his life. So his family decided to join the team. Before high school, Jeff's dad was often team manager or coach; his older sister Heather would announce or keep score and his mom took on the role of cheerleader, proudly calling out "that's my boy" every chance she got.

"We've always supported him," his mom said. "But we also taught our kids, you can't get through on anyone's coat-tail. You've got to do it yourself." Jeff took that advice to heart. "He's never been a brown-noser," she said. "It's just hard work."

Looking back, Jeff said he doesn't remember ever thinking he would even go on to play college baseball. He just played because he loved it. But Jeff's dedication payed off, and he played for Chino High School in Chino, Calif., where he set the school records for batting average, hit by pitches and walks.

He was also named first team all-league, team captain and MVP in 2000 and MVP in both pre-season tournaments and first-team all-league. He was later recruited to the American Legion team, which went on to become the Area Nine district and California state champions.

After his senior season at Chino High School, his mom said he took all the awards at the closing awards ceremony. "I was so embarrassed," she said. "I turned and apologized to the mother sitting next to me, and all she said was, 'he deserves it.'"

After a successful high school career, Jeff decided he wanted to keep playing, and he wanted to play for BYU.

"I tried to get my high school coach to call BYU and talk to Coach Law, but he said I wasn't good enough to play at BYU," Jeff said.



Jeff Hiestand

The University of San Francisco offered Jeff a scholarship to come and play, but he had already decided he would only play for BYU. "I didn't really know the difference between Division I and junior college baseball, I just wanted to come to BYU," he said.

Without the help of his coach, Jeff decided to take matters into his own hands. "I just decided I could come to BYU and try out and make the baseball team," Jeff said. "I didn't think twice about it."

Coach Vance Law remembers the first time Jeff showed up at the field his freshman year at BYU. He described Jeff as a brick of a guy, short, stocky, strong and basically fearless.

"Normally walk-ons come in and they're scared to death because their window of opportunity is very small, we've got a lot of good players," Law said. "But he hit a bunch of balls off the wall, a couple home-runs in tryouts and the next thing you know he's one of our main guys."

Jeff's freshman year as a walk-on he started 34 of 45 games, had the fourth best slugging percentage on the team at .556, hit home runs against every league rival except UNLV and was voted honorable mention Freshman All-American by Collegiate Baseball.

"Even as a freshman he had a major contribution throughout the conference tournament," Coach Law said. After his freshman season Jeff was called to serve a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Denver, Colo. Coach Law offered him a scholarship if he would come back to BYU and play after his mission.

"It wasn't like I wanted to play baseball so I could get a free college education," Jeff said. "But it worked out that way."

Jeff returned to the 'Y' in 2004, ready to play. He led

the Cougars his sophomore season with a .651 slugging percentage and 30 walks to help the team finish second in the league. Jeff was called a top hitter returning for 2005, but prior to the season he broke his hamate bone in his right hand doing medicine ball pushups.

"I throw right and bat left, so it's my bottom hand when I bat," he said. "So it's the most important hand, and my throwing hand."

That still didn't stop Jeff, he went to practice that same day, and kept going. "I really wasn't able to play to my potential, but I tried to," he said. "I played the whole season. I only missed a few games to give my hand a rest."

Not playing to his full potential, Jeff recorded a 29-game hitting streak, led the Cougars with a .371 batting average and was on base all but one of his 50 games.

"Jeff not only played with a broken hand, he played well," Law said. "He was still able to get his hits, driving a lot of runs. I only wish we could have seen what could happen if he had been healthy."

In 2005, the Cougars came just one win away from winning the Mountain West Conference Tournament. Coach Law said he expects the Cougars to continue winning in the 2006 season just like 2005. And Jeff will be ready.

Jeff had surgery on his hand over the summer between his junior and senior season so he could be ready for his final season at the 'Y'.

Even with the surgically repaired hand, Coach Law says sometimes Jeff doesn't know how strong he is.

Normally, when Coach Law's players hit home runs he tries to shake their hands as they round third base. Even with his broken hand, Law said he was always cautious when Jeff comes around.

"He's a real big strong guy," he said. "So I try to temper that a little bit when I shake his hand or make sure I get in deep, otherwise he'll squeeze my fingers too hard."

But that makes for good hits, and that's what Jeff is looking forward to.

"I want to be able to contribute to the team as much as I can," he said. "We really are going to be good this year."

During the preseason, Jeff is focusing all his time towards baseball.

"I actually don't really have free time," Jeff said. "It's nice to have a break but all I want to do is play baseball."

Coach Law said he is also looking to Jeff this season for leadership.

"He's very competitive, he likes to win," Law said.

"That's the kind of guy we want, who competes fairly, but is relentlessly trying to achieve the goals we set as a team and individually."