



Athletic Media Relations

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

BASEBALL

Weekly Release - February 14, 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
2/16-18	San Jose St.	San Jose, CA	6,6,1 p.m.
2/23	Oregon St.	Davis CA%	2 p.m.
2/24	Washington St.	Davis, CA	10 a.m.
2/25	St. Mary's	Sacramento, CA	10 a.m.
3/2,4	Southern Utah	St. George, UT	2,2,1 p.m.
3/9-11	UC Riverside	Riverside, CA	3,3,1 p.m.
3/14	Utah	Provo+	7 p.m.
3/16-18	New Mexico St.	Provo+%	7,7,1 p.m.
3/21	Southern Utah	Provo+	7 p.m.
3/23-25	No. Colorado	Provo+	7,7,1 p.m.
3/29	UNLV*	San Diego%	1 p.m.
3/30	TCU*	San Diego%	11 a.m.
3/31	New Mexico*	San Diego%	11 a.m.
4/1	Utah*	San Diego%	11 a.m.
4/3	Southern Utah	Provo+	3 p.m.
4/6	UNLV*	Las Vegas#%	6:30
4/7	UNLV*	Las Vegas%	6:30
4/8	UNLV*	Las Vegas%	1 p.m.
4/11	Utah Valley St.	Orem	7 p.m.
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.
5/23-27	MWC Tourney	Las Vegas%	TBA
6/2-5	NCAA Regionals%		TBA
6/9-12	Super Regionals%		TBA
6/16-26	College World Series%	Omaha, NE	

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

BYU Returns to California

BYU, 0-3 overall, flies to play a three-game series at San Jose State, 3-3.

Probable Pitching Rotation

Feb. 16	San Jose St.	Jesse Craig (0-1, 3.00)	San Jose, 6 p.m.
Feb. 17	San Jose St.	Patrick Wells (0-1, 27.00)	San Jose, 6 p.m.
Feb. 18	San Jose St.	Brandon Christiansen (0-0, 2.57)	San Jose, 1 p.m.

Probable Lineup

1B-#25 Ben Saylor	2B-#13 Daniel Vargas	SS-#10 Marcos Villedcas
3B-#5 Chris Johnson	RF-#9 Kent Walton	CF-#1 Adrian Molina
or #19 Dane Nielsen		
LF-#16 Jeff Hiestand	C-#8 Casey Nelson	
DH-#33 Kasey Ko or #6 Austin Carter		

Radio Coverage

Live audiostream of the BYU-San Jose State games will not be broadcast live, but will all be carried on livestats. Later in the season in Utah, KOVO 960 AM, with veteran broadcaster Brent Norton calling the play-by-play, will only broadcast BYU's league games live. 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 on live audiostream and livestats.

BYU Among Leaders in 2005 NCAA Statistics

- 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.

Records Broken Last Year (13)

- **Brandon Taylor** got six consecutive hits in the 19-6 victory at Utah to tie a school record for six hits in a game.
- **Brandon Taylor** hit for the cycle again at Air Force (at Utah was his other one) to tie an NCAA record by hitting for two cycles in a season, only the third player to do so in NCAA history.
- **Brandon Taylor** tied an MWC Games Only record for most home runs by a

Baseball Scoring in 2005 with Two Outs			
Opponent	Runs w/2 out	% Scored w/2out	Result
UC Irvine	2	W, 5-0	40%
UC Irvine	0	L, 6-9	0%
San Jose St.	1	L, 4-5	25%
San Jose St.	7	W, 13-5	54%
San Jose St.	2	T, 3-3	67%
Oklahoma St.	3	L, 4-5	75%
Oklahoma St.	3	W, 9-8*	33%
Oral Roberts	3	L, 5-6	60%
Oral Roberts	4	W, 6-2*	67%
Oral Roberts	1	W, 7-4*	14%
UVSC	9	W, 15-8*	60%
N. Mexico St.	2	W, 5-3*	40%
N. Mexico St.	3	W, 11-7*	27%
N. Mexico St.	15	W, 22-7*	68%
CSU-Pueblo	0	W, 2-1*	0%
CSU-Pueblo	5	W, 7-5	71%
New Mexico	2	L, 5-6	40%
New Mexico	11	W, 19-6*	58%
New Mexico	2	W, 4-3*	50%
UVSC	1	W, 13-10*	8%
Utah	5	W, 6-5*	83%
Utah	4	W, 7-2*	57%
Utah	0	W, 5-3*	0%
Oregon St.	1	L, 5-12	20%
Oregon St.	1	L, 6-11	17%
Air Force	7	W, 25-2	28%
Air Force	5	W, 10-4*	50%
Air Force	3	W, 18-5	17%
UVSC	0	W, 4-1	0%
UNLV	3	W, 5-0	60%
UNLV	5	W, 11-9*	45%
UNLV	1	L, 6-10	17%
L. C. St.	1	W, 5-2*	20%
San Diego St.	1	L, 4-10	25%
San Diego St.	11	W, 13-12*	85%
San Diego St.	6	W, 18-11*	33%
UVSC	3	L, 4-7	75%
Utah	0	W, 10-8	0%
Utah	3	L, 10-11	30%
Utah	2	W, 19-6	11%
No. Colo.	3	L, 7-12	43%
No. Colo.	5	W, 6-2*	83%
Air Force	8	W, 17-2	47%
Air Force	0	L, 7-8	0%
Air Force	12	W, 17-9	71%
UVSC	4	W, 10-6	40%
New Mexico	7	W, 11-8	64%
New Mexico	0	L, 1-4	0%
New Mexico	0	L, 7-14	0%
UNLV	4	L, 7-8	57%
UNLV	5	W, 11-9*	45%
UNLV	2	W, 12-9*	17%
San Diego St.	1	W, 6-4*	17%
San Diego St.	0	W, 4-3	0%
San Diego St.	0	L, 1-12	0%
San Diego St.	3	W, 4-3	75%
UNLV	2	W, 7-2	29%
UNLV	0	L, 5-9	0%
UNLV	3	L, 4-7	75%
Totals:	195	500 total runs	39%
For 2006:			
Pacific	0	L, 1-2	0%
Pacific	1	L, 3-6	33%
Pacific	1	L, 3-4	33%
Pacific	2	7 total runs	29%

*Indicates come-from-behind victory

junior at 13.

- **Sean McNaughton** tied a league and school record by hitting two triples in the 18-5 victory over Air Force.
- BYU set an MWC Games most doubles in a season at 102.
- BYU set an MWC Games slugging percentage at .590.
- BYU set an MWC Games total bases at 677.
- **Dave Horlacher** tied an MWC Games for most games started, 10.
- **Casey Cloward** tied an MWC Games Sac Flies by a senior, 4.

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

- **Apana Nakayama** currently has the longest hitting streak for the Cougars, a four-game streak carried over from the 2005 season, but he has not yet been cleared to play. **Ben Saylor**, **Casey Nelson** and **Kasey Ko** have current two-game streaks.
- **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.
- Game-winning RBI were recorded last season by **Ben Saylor** with five; **Nakayama**, **Villezcas** and **Hiestand** each with 3; and **Molina** and **Nelson** each with two.
- 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

- BYU has nine current players who are married (**Devin Albrecht**, **Cortland Andrews**, **Anthony Bingham**, **Matthew Jensen**, **Casey Nelson**, **Justin Su'a**, **Mitch Woolf** and most recently **Clayton Barnes** and **Jeff Hiestand**).

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 Villezcas	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

- 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 75-years-old in March of 2005, but had seven-bypass heart surgery.

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 Villezcas	Mexico-youth baseball games
Coach 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.

They Said It

- 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."
- Utah Valley State College Coach Steve Gardner on his former player: "(Apana) Nakayama's gonna hurt somebody he's so big and strong. I always thought that you put a bat in his hands, it's a lethal weapon."
- Two coaches commenting on pitcher Mitch Woolf's complete game, 2-1 victory over Colorado State-Pueblo: "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."

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

Honors for 2006

Jeff Hiestand, Outfield, First Base
Pre-season All-MWC (coaches/media)

Ben Saylor, First Base, Outfield
Wallace Watch List
Pre-season All-MWC (coaches/media)

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

Top Pitching Outings of 2005

Hits	Pitcher	Opponent, W-L
1^	Mitch Woolf	UNLV, W 12-7
4*	Dave Horlacher	@ UNLV, W 5-0
4=	Lance Beus	San Diego St., W 4-3
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
10	Dave Horlacher (8+)	@ N.Mexico, L 5-6
9	Dave Horlacher (8 inn)	@ AFA, W 17-2
9	Lance Beus (7.2 inn)	@ SDSU, 4-3
8*	Dave Horlacher (8 inn)	ORU, L 5-6
6	Mitch Woolf (5inn)	UNLV, W 12-7

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

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)

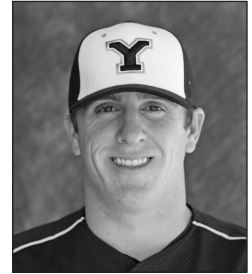
* Molina & Villezcas also speak fluent Spanish

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 (2)	Team
Jesse Craig	Atlanta Braves 36th round 2001
Mitch Woolf	Boston Red Sox 19th round 2002 & Chicago White Sox 40th round 2003

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	.083	3-3	12	0	1	1	0	0	2	2	0	3	0-0

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	.182	3-3	11	1	2	0	0	0	1	2	3	3	0-0

* At Utah Valley State College

Jesse Craig

Junior College transfer pitcher Jesse Craig 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	3.00	0-1	1	1	0	0	6.0	7	2	2	1	6

*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.



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.

- **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.
- **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.
- **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 is now looking to transfer back to California. 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	***Jeff Hiestand	OF/C	5-11	230	L-R	Sr.-3V	Chino, California/Chino
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	Jake Wortham	LHP/OF	5-11	205	L-L	Fr.-HS	Allen, TX/Allen HS
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	St. George, UT	2,2,1	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
3/21	Southern Utah	Provo	7	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	1	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: 0-3 Home: 0-0 Away: 0-3 MWC: 0-0

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%
KO, Kasey	.375	2	2	8	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	.375	0	0	1	0	.375	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	1.000
JOHNSON, Chris	.375	2	2	8	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	.375	0	0	1	0	.375	0	0	0	0	1	4	0	1.000
CROSBY, Blake	.333	3	0	3	0	1	1	0	0	1	2	.667	0	0	1	0	.333	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	.000
VILLEZCAS, Marcos	.250	3	3	12	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	.250	0	1	1	1	.308	0	1	0	0	3	7	1	.909
NELSON, Casey	.250	3	3	12	1	3	1	0	0	1	4	.333	0	0	1	0	.250	0	0	0	0	26	2	0	1.000
WALTON, Kent	.182	3	3	11	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	.182	2	0	4	0	.308	0	0	3	3	4	0	0	1.000
SAYLOR, Ben	.182	3	3	11	1	2	0	0	0	1	2	.182	3	0	3	0	.357	0	0	0	0	14	0	0	1.000
CARTER, Austin	.167	3	2	6	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	.167	3	0	2	0	.444	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	.000
VARGAS, Daniel	.167	3	3	6	2	1	0	0	1	1	4	.667	2	1	2	0	.444	0	1	0	0	5	7	0	1.000
HIESTAND, Jeff	.083	3	3	12	0	1	1	0	0	2	2	.167	0	0	3	0	.083	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	1.000
MOLINA, Adrian	.000	3	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	0	1	3	0	.167	0	0	1	1	7	0	0	1.000
NIELSEN, Dane	.000	2	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	1	0	2	0	.200	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	1.000
BANKS, Stetson	.000	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
HIGHMARK, Chris	.000	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Totals	.204	3	3	98	7	20	3	0	1	6	26	.265	11	3	24	1	.304	0	3	6	6	72	23	2	.979
Opponents	.287	3	3	94	12	27	4	0	2	12	37	.394	9	7	25	3	.391	0	1	1	2	81	22	3	.972

LOB - Team (27), Opp (27). DPs turned - Team (3), Opp (2).

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	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4.0	3	0	0	3	5	0	0	0	12	.250	0	1	0	0	1
HIGHMARK, Chris	0.00	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2.0	1	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	7	.143	0	0	0	0	0
BARRETT, Josh	0.00	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2.0	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	6	.167	0	1	0	0	0
ANDREWS, Cortland	0.00	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	.000	0	0	0	0	0
CHRISTIANSEN, Brandon	2.57	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	7.0	5	2	2	2	4	0	0	1	24	.208	0	1	0	0	0
CRAIG, Jesse	3.00	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	6.0	7	2	2	1	6	2	0	0	26	.269	0	3	0	0	0
WELLS, Patrick	27.00	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	2.0	8	6	6	1	1	1	0	1	14	.571	0	1	0	0	0
JENSEN, Matt	27.00	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0.2	2	2	2	1	1	1	0	0	4	.500	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	4.50	0	3	3	3	0	0	0	0	24.0	27	12	12	9	25	4	0	2	94	.287	0	7	0	0	1
Opponents	1.33	3	0	3	3	0	0	0	1	27.0	20	7	4	11	24	3	0	1	98	.204	0	3	1	0	3

PB - Team (2), NELSON 2, Opp (1). Pickoffs - Team (1), MUIR 1. SBA/ATT - NELSON (1-2), CRAIG (1-1), MUIR (0-1).

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

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.

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

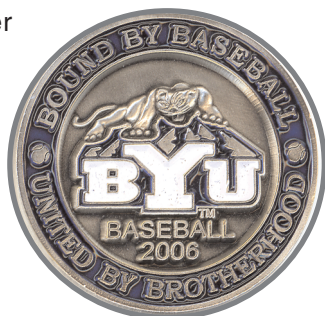
By James Davis
BYU Athletic Media Relations

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."

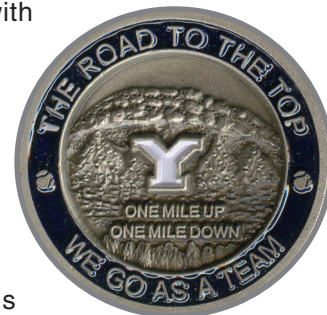
"It sounds kind of corny," head coach Vance Law said of using the do-it-for-the team clichés. "But we rely on each other. We ran up to the 'Y' together and it was a total team effort, guys didn't leave each other behind, we ran together."

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."

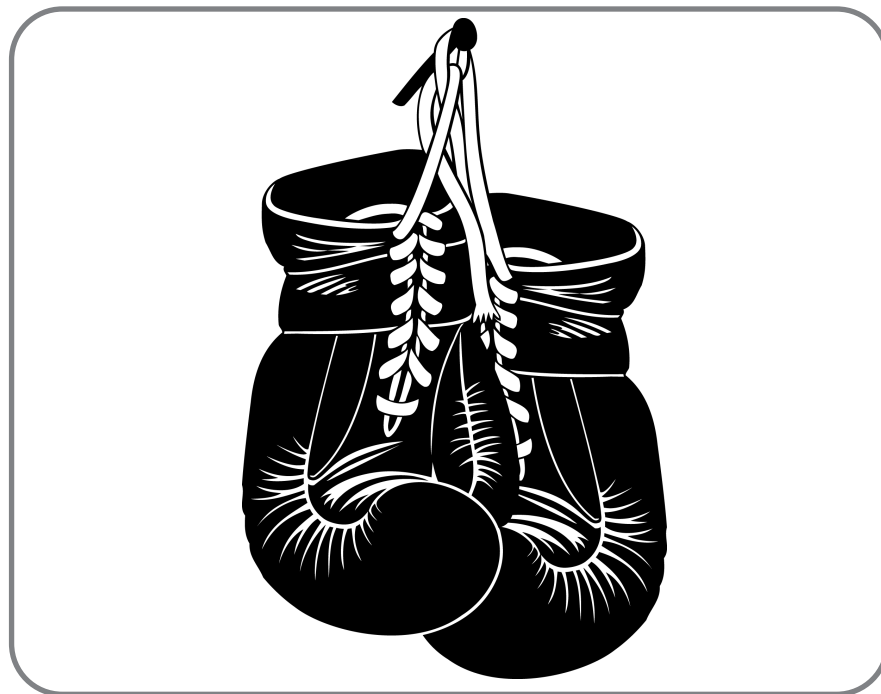
Applegate's exposure to boxing came during five years as an assistant baseball coach at the Air Force Academy, where all freshmen are required to take a combative course such as wrestling or boxing.

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."

APANA NAKAYAMA PICKS UP WHERE HE LEFT OFF

BY DENNIS ANDERSON
HAWAII GROWN REPORT
- FEB. 23, 2005

Welcome back, Apana Nakayama. The instantly likeable 2000 state high school Player of the Year from popular HHSAA champion Moloka'i High, has returned to Utah after a two-year Mormon Church mission to Japan.

In his first intercollegiate baseball game in almost three years — in his first time at bat — Nakayama lashed a line-drive triple to right-center field for his first hit, first extra-base hit and first RBI since May 2002.

Shortly after he scored what proved to be the winning run in BYU's season-opening, 5-1 victory at 19th-ranked UC-Irvine last Thursday.

"It was a good feeling off the bat," Nakayama said of the ball that he hit. "I kind of knew it was a ball where I could get to third; to the gap in right-center."



Apana Nakayama

For the first two games of his return to the game, Nakayama is batting .500 (5 for 10). A third scheduled game was a victim of the recent rains in California.

He is playing left-handed designated hitter and first base this season, behind a senior catcher.

During his mission, "I played catch

once or twice in two years," Nakayama said.

"That was a shock for me. I grew up playing baseball, but I got used to it.

"When I got home (to Kaunakakai) last August I was totally out of shape," he said.

Nakayama was in Japan, headquartered in Nagoya, from December 2002 to August '04.

"It was a good experience to be able to serve in Japan," he said. "I learned a lot of things (including speaking fluent Japanese)."

And he didn't forget how to hit a 1-2 hanging curve ball.

"It feels good to play ball again," Nakayama said.

NOTE: Nakayama has not yet been cleared to play or participate in full practices for 2006 because of a knee injury suffered last summer in New England.

2005 November BYU Baseball 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)
Reit Varner	RHP	6-5	190	Trophy Club, Texas (Northwest HS)
Stephen Wells	OF	5-10	175	Kenmore, Wash. (Inglemoor HS)