

# **Athletic Media Relations**

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BASEBALL

#### Weekly Release — February 24, 2003

Media Relations Information Baseball contact: Ralph Zobell
E-Mail: ralph_zobell@byu.edu <b>Date Opp/Event Time at site of game</b> 1/30 Arizona Tucson, AZ W, 6-3 1/31 Arizona Tucson, AZ L, 13-17 2/1 Arizona State Tempe, AZ + L, 5-6 2/7 Arizona State Tempe, AZ + L, 6-17 2/8 Arizona State Tempe, AZ + L, 6-6 2/15 Cal Poly, Scottsdale, AZ W, 11-1 2/15 Northwestern, Scottsdale, AZ L, 0-1 2/27 %Uewis-Clark St., Lewiston, ID Noon 2/27 %Lewis-Clark St., Lewiston, ID 3:30 p.m. 2/28 Univ. of Portland, Lewiston, ID 3:30 p.m. 3/1 Gonzaga, Lewiston, ID 4 p.m. 3/6-7 %TCU Ft. Worth, TX 6:30 p.m. 3/8 %TCU Ft. Worth, TX 1 p.m. 3/13-14New Mexico *Albuquerque 2 p.m. 3/15 New Mexico *Albuquerque 1 p.m. 3/20-21UNLV * Provo + 7 p.m. 3/22 UNLV * Provo + 7 p.m. 3/24 SDSU * San Diego 6 p.m. 4/3-4 SDSU * San Diego 1 p.m. 4/3-4 SDSU * San Diego 1 p.m. 5/10-12Air Force * Provo + 7, 7, 1 4/24-26UNLV * Las Vegas 6:30, 6:30, 2 5/1-2 Utah * Provo + 7 p.m. 5/3 Utah * Provo + 7 p.m. 5/3 Utah * Provo + 7 p.m. 5/3 Utah * Provo + 7, 7, 1 4/24-26UNLV * Las Vegas 6:30, 6:30, 2 5/1-2 Utah * Provo + 7 p.m. 5/10 SDSU * Provo + 7 p.m. 5/13 So. Utah Provo + 7 p.m. 5/13 So. Utah Provo + 7 p.m. 5/14 SDSU * Provo + 7 p.m. 5/15-17Air Force * Colorado Spgs. 2 p.m. 5/15-17Air Force * Colorado Spgs. 2 p.m. 5/13 So. Utah Provo + 7 p.m. 5/13 So. Utah Provo + 7 p.m. 5/13 So. Utah Provo + 7 p.m. 5/14 SOSU * Provo + 7 p.m. 5/15-17Air Force * Colorado Spgs. 2 p.m. 5/14 SOSU * Provo + 7 p.m. 5/15-17Air Force * Colorado Spgs. 2 p.m. 5/21-24MWC Tournament 6/13-23College World Series Omaha, Neb. * MWC Games, %Internet Audio + webcast
<b>2002 Mtn. West Standings</b> MWC W-L Overall W-L San Diego State 20-10 43-23 Utah 16-14 33-26 #BYU 15-14 31-31-1 Air Force 14-15 27-28 UNLV 13-17 30-30 New Mexico 11-19 22-35 #Won MWC Tourney

#### Fourth Appearance at Lewiston, Idaho

BYU, 2-6, is one of five teams playing in the Cellular Two Way Banana Belt Tournament Thursday through Saturday at Lewiston, Idaho Washington State has a record of 1-8, host Lewis-Clark State is 7-0, the University of Portland is 2-5 and Gonzaga is 2-5. Four of the teams other than BYU will finish the tourney on Sunday.

#### A Quick Look at the Cougars

Fourth-year coach Vance Law returned four position starters and had several experienced pitchers. Players to watch include junior 2002 pre-season All-American Kainoa Obrey who was granted a medical hardship for last season and fellow juniors Doug Jackson, Ranger Wiens and Rob Itri. Pitchers to watch include junior Jeff Mousser and reliever Tyler Dabo.

#### **Probable Pitching Rotation**

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Feb. 27 Washington St.	Jeff Mousser (2-0, 2.70)	Lewiston, ID, Noon
Feb. 27 Lewis-Člark St.	Paul Jacinto (0-3, 4.15)	Lewiston, ID, 3:30 p.m.
Feb. 28 U. of Portland	Jason Garcia (0-1, 46.29)	Lewiston, ID, 10 a.m.
Mar. 1 Gonzaga	Ken Gravley (0-0, 7.04)	Lewiston, ID, 4 p.m.

#### **Radio Coverage**

There will be no BYU radio coverage until league play begins. At that point all MWC games for BYU will be carried live on local radio KOVO (960 AM) and/or the Internet. All BYU home games will have livestats on www.byu-cougars.com. Selected road games will also have livestats on the Internet. The Washington State and Lewis-Clark State games with BYU will be carried live through an audiocast.

#### **Probable Lineup**

1B-#1-Tim Law or #33-Ja	ke Stubblefield	2B–#21 Rob Itri
SS-#8 Ranger Wiens	3B-#32 Kainoa Obrey	C-#9 Casey Cloward
RF-#27 Ryan Chambers		LF-#13 Doug Jackson
DH-#33 Jake Stubblefield	d or #25-Beau Seil or #11-Cl	ayton Barnes

#### **Regarding BYU this season**

BYU has six current players who are married (Jacob Chrisman, Casey Cloward, Tyler Dabo, Brock Jacobsen, Jake Stubblefield, Adam Wilkes). There are 19 players on the team who have served two-year volunteer Church missions, 11 of whom were assigned outside the United States and speak Spanish, Portuguese, Japanese, Chinese and Russian. Incorporated into this year's team are three players who have just finished serving two-year Church missions (Anthony Bingham, Casey Cloward, Tyler Heid, Bryce Searle). Brock Jacobsen is one of five players (Kory Knell, Blair Lucas, Mike Bergeron, Beau Seil) who have transferred to BYU this season. On April 18 there will be a reunion of the 1983 BYU baseball team that was ranked No. 1 in the nation. 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. In January, Vance Law was in Washington, D.C., where he was again a resource player (yearly for 11 of the past 12 years) for the major league rookie training. Also in January, Coach Law attended the Cubs Convention, an annual gathering which draws thousands of fans and he was on the winning 1989 Jeopardy team with Ryne Sandberg which defeated the 1969 Cubs team with Ferguson Jenkins.

## www.byucougars.com -

## BYU Baseball Release Page 2

#### BYU Quick Facts

Location: Provo, Utah 84602 Enrollment: 30,069 (Daytime) Founded: Oct. 15, 1875, by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Colors: Blue and White Nickname: Cougars Mascot: Cosmo (the Cougar) Affiliation: NCAA Division I Conference: Mountain West Field: Larry H. Miller Field (2,300) President: Merrill J. Bateman Men's AD: Val Hale Ticket Office Phone: (801) 378-BYU1 or 1-800-322-BYU1

#### **Baseball Staff:**

Head Coach: Vance Law (BYU, 1978) Office Phone: (801) 378-5049 Record: 98-82-1, fourth season Assistant Coaches: Ryan Roberts (BYU, 1998) Mike Karpel (Cal State San Bernardino, 1994) Nate Mathis (BYU, 2000) Trainer: Jared Hutchinson **Baseball Facts:** 2002 Record: 31-31-1 (13-8 home, 18-23-1 away) Conference Finish: 15-14, MWC Champions NCAA Finish: Eliminated, first round at Los Angeles Final National Ranking: NA Starters Returning (5): Ryan Chambers, 6-0, So., OF Rob Itri, 6-3, Jr., 2B/3B Doug Jackson, 5-7, Sr., OF Kainoa Obrey, 6-3, Jr., 3B--redshirted in 2002 Ranger Wiens, 6-3, Jr., SS Jake Stubblefield, 6-1, Sr., DH Starters Lost (4): Lars Birkeland, C Dave Jensen, 1B Cameron Coughlan, 2B Matt Carson, OF Other Key Letterwinners Returning: Kevin Bills, 3B/OF Casey Cloward, C Tim Law, 1B/OF Mike Weingarten, C Adam Wilkes, C Top Returning Pitchers from 2002: Tyler Dabo, 6-2, RHP, Sr., 2-2, 5 saves, 3.90 Jason Garcia, 6-0, RHP, Sr., 3-1, 6.50 Paul Jacinto, 6-0, RHP, Jr., 2-3, 7.83 Scott Koffman, 6-2, RHP, Jr., 4-4, 6.59 Jeff Mousser, 6-2, RHP, Jr., 9-4, 4.88

#### **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 47-year-old coach is in his fourth year at BYU and has a 98-82-1 record. He is assisted by Ryan Roberts, in his first year at BYU. Pitching coach Mike Karpel is in his fourth year with BYU. Volunteer assistant Nate Mathis is in his second year on the BYU staff, succeeding Hank Taylor who joined the U.S. Military Academy last season at West Point as a member of its baseball staff.

#### Second Full Year in New Ballpark at Home

This is BYU's second full season at Miller Park, 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.

#### Attendance Record

Three attendance records were set this season, overall attendance at 31,275 surpassing 17,378 for last season; average attendance; and the series record. The three-game series with Utah at the start of April established a new record with 7,725 fans attending, including the second, third and fourth best crowds in Miller Park history of 2,863, 2,611 and 2,251. The old record was 5,720 against UNLV last season, including the record-setting 3,120 fans who watched BYU clinch the MWC title. The average attendance at home was up to 1,422 compared to 1,241 last season. BYU improved to 32nd from 50th the preceding year in average fans per game. Last season in total attendance BYU moved up the rungs to 38th nationally compared with 50th place in 2001.

#### **Team Notes**

- Doug Jackson has the longest hitting streaks on the team at five games, followed by Ranger Wiens and Adam Wilkes at three games and Jake Stubblefield and Rob Itri each at two games.
- BYU's MWC regular season title in 2001 was its first since 1994 when it won the Western Athletic Conference playoff. By winning the MWC title in 2001 and 2002, it marks the first time BYU has repeated as the league champ since 1988-89, the only other time it has happened for the Cougars. The Cougars have won 11 league titles dating back to the WAC's inception in 1962.
- Last season Doug Jackson tied a school record with seven at bats in the 14inning victory at Cal-Irvine. Jackson got six hits in a row in the 2002 MWC Tournament and set a record of 13 hits in the MWC tourney.
- Dave Jensen, Matt Carson and Cameron Coughlan are three players who could have returned to this year's team, but have foregone remaining college eligibility. Jensen, ended up signing as a third-round draft pick by the Kansas City Royals, Coughlan, was the fourth Cougar drafted (signed as the 18th-round-pick by the Texas Rangers), Matt Carson was drafted in the fifth round and signed by the New York Yankees. Kainoa Obrey, who was an 11th round draft in 2002 by the Royals, ended up not signing.

#### **NCAA Rankings**

As a team in 2002 BYU finished 12th nationally in doubles averaged at 2.40 (151 total), 18th in triples at .41 (26 total), and 27th in batting average at .321. Individually, Dave Jensen was 10th in doubles .46 (29 total) and 30th in batting average at .411, while Cameron Coughlan was 15th in runs scored 1.25 (76 total) and 23rd in triples .11 (seven total).

## **BYU Baseball Release**

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Attorne		
	I. @ Larry Mille	Attendance
Date 0  5/11/01	UNLV (Night)	3,120
<u>4/5/02</u>		
4/6/02	Utah (Night)	<u>2,863</u> 2,611
	Utah (Night)	2,611
5/25/02	SDSU SDSU (Night)	2,396
5/25/02 4/4/02		 ງ ງ⊑1
	Utah (Night)	2,251 <u>1,964</u>
<u>4/26/02</u>		<u>1,904</u> 1,831
	New Mexico (Night)	
	<u>SDSU (Night)</u>	<u>1,748</u> 1,712
<u>5/24/02</u> 5/24/02		<u>1,713</u>
	UNLV (Night)	1 400
<u>4/19/01</u>	<u>Utah</u> (Night)	<u>1,609</u>
3/23/02		<u>1,440</u>
4/27/01	San Diego St. (Night)	1,398
4/20/01	Utah (Night)	1,274
<u>4/21/01</u>	<u>Utah</u>	<u>1,371</u>
5/12/01	UNLV	1,318
5/10/01	<u>UNLV (</u> Night)	<u>1,282</u>
4/25/02		1,258
<u>5/18/02</u>	New Mexico	<u>1,229</u>
5/3/02	UNLV (Night)	1,189
5/16/02	New Mexico (Night)	1,183
5/6/02	Southern Utah	1,178
5/22/02	Air Force (Night)	1,177
3/21/02		<u>1,176</u>
5/23/02	UNLV (Night)	1,167
4/13/01	New Mexico (Night)	1,143
4/14/01	New Mexico	1,119
4/14/01	New Mexico	— (DH)
4/26/01	San Diego St. (Night)	1,059
5/4/02	UNLV Son Diago St	1,040
4/28/01	San Diego St.	1,014
5/7/02	Southern Utah (Night)	948
	UNLV (Night)	<u>913</u>
<u>4/10/01</u>	Southern Utah	<u>809</u>
4/1//01 Tatala	Southern Utah	862
Totals	24-12 48,65	3 (avg. 1,351)
2002	31,275(22game)(Avg.	1,422)
2001	17,378 (14 games)	(Avg. 1,241)
All Nightti		3 (Avg. 2,330)
	ight record: 16-7	1 10
Uverali Ke	cord @ Miller Park=24	+- I Z

#### Kainoa Obrey (see feature story at the end of this release)

Kainoa Obrey, who was granted a medical hardship redshirt, brought a 12-game hitting streak into 2002, but it ended at 13 games. Obrey had a 13-game hitting streak at one point in 2001. He was a repeat selection as a tri-captain this season. Year Avg. G-GS 2000 .342 54-51 2B TB AB R Н 3B HR RBI BB SO 190 37 65 13 0 9 45 105 23 37 2001 .381 59-59 226 13 31 48 86 20 0 56 58 145 2002 .242 10-10 33 8 5 0 8 16 3 11 5 1 12 2003 .375 8-8 32 6 4 0 8 19 3 8 1 Totals.356 131-128 481 96 42 0 24 285 60 171 117 114

#### Jeff Mousser

Junior Jeff Mousser picked up the first honor of the 2003 season. He was named the Mountain West Conference Pitcher of the Week when he struck out nine in 6.1 innings pitched and earned his 13th career victory as the Cougars defeated Arizona, 6-3, in the season opener for both teams. He allowed two earned runs, walked two and scattered six hits vs. the Wildcats. His nine strikeouts average 12.8 per game using the NCAA formula.

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Year	ERA	W-L	APP	GS	CC	SV	IP	Н	R	ER	BB	SO
2001	6.38	3-0	12	4	0	0	36.2	47	30	26	22	35
2002	4.88	9-4	19	12	1	1	90.1	109	68	49	38	73
2003	2.70	2-0	3	3	0	0	20	18	8	6	5	18
Total	4.96	14-5	34	19	1	1	147	174	106	81	65	126

#### Father and Son

BYU Coach Vance Law and his son Tim are one of at least three father/son combinations that have a coach/player relationship in college baseball. San Diego State Coach Tony Gwynn and his son Anthony and Kansas Coach Ritch Price and his son Ritchie are the other combinations.

#### Last Action

If you had told BYU Coach Vance law his defense would give up two runs in a doubleheader he probably would have taken it, not knowing BYU would beat Cal Poly-SLO, 11-1, then lose the nightcap 1-0 to Northwestern at the Oakland A's Spring Training Tournament delayed by record rains. Those rains cause three of BYU's scheduled five games to be canceled. In the victory over Cal Poly, BYU pitcher Jeff Mousser threw 103 pitches in eight innings. In the loss to Northwestern, BYU pitcher Paul Jacinto threw a three-hitter in a complete game with 105 pitches.

#### **Travel Plans**

BYU will fly via Southwest Airlines on Wednesday evening to Spokane, then bus to Lewiston where players will be staying with a number of local families. The team's return flight will be Saturday evening. BYU Coach Vance Law will be staying at the Red Lion Hotel 208-799-1000.

#### Past BYU Action at Lewiston, Idaho

The Cougars have played three times in tournaments at Lewiston, Idaho. The last appearance was in 1990 (3-2). BYU also made appearances in1981 (1-5) and 1978 (3-3). In the three tourneys at Lewiston, BYU has a 1-4 record against WSU, a 3-2 record against LCSU and a 0-1 record against Gonzaga. BYU also played in 1995 at the Gonzaga Tournament where it beat Portland and Gonzaga, but lost to Lewis-Clark State and Oregon State.

## **BYU Baseball Release**

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Cougars on Missions	Bloodlines for Current BYU Baseball Team
Player, Pos., Year @ BYU Place of Service	Clayton Barnes—father Clint played semi-pro baseball for the Cincinnati Reds
Thomas Bills, 1B, 2003 Montreal (French)	organization, brother Bryce played baseball for Sacramento State, brother Kyle played baseball for UVSC, uncles Steve and Sean Covey played football for
Brian Nielsen, LHP, 2002 Germany	Harvard and BYU, respectively, and cousin played basketball for Ricks.
Brad Hales, SS, 2001 Spain	• Luke Beck—father Kevin played football for Harvard and cousins played lacrosse
Jeff Hiestand, DH, 2001 Colorado-Denver South	for Loyola College in Maryland.
Jeff Stearman, RHP, 2001 Perth, Australia	• Michel Bergeron—father Richard was a running back for theRoyal Military Naval
Justin Su`a, RHP, 2001 Nicaragua	Academy. • Kevin Bills—father Jeff played catcher for BYU from 1972-75, grandfather Karol
Missions Served	played football and baseball in the late 1940s and early 1950s.
Player, Pos., Year @ BYU Place of Service	• Anthony Bingham—cousins are former BYU baseball players Travis (1990-95) and
Kevin Bills, 3B, Jr. Orlando, Fla.	Tyson DowDell (1993-97).
Anthony Bingham, SS, 3B, Fr. Chile	• Clayton Carson—older brother Matt was BYU's right fielder last season and
Casey Cloward, C, So. Mexico	signed as a junior draft of the New York Yankees, father Eric played water polo at BYU, mother's cousin is former major leaguer Bill Buckner who played for the
Tyler Dabo, RHP, Sr. Peru	Boston Red Sox.
Tyler Heid, RHP, Fr. Japan	• Jacob Chrisman—father Rick played shortstop for the Cincinnati Reds, brother
Rob Itri, INF/OF, Jr. Portugal	Jed was an outfielder for the University of Utah, sister played softball at the
Brock Jacobsen, OF, 1B, Jr. Michigan	University of Colorado-Colorado Springs.
Paul Jacinto, Pitcher, Jr. Brazil Kory Knell, Infield/1B, Jr. Illinois	• Tyler Dabo—brother Mitch played water polo at BYU, grandpa David Grow was a pro boxer, uncle Lorin Grow played major league baseball for the Cincinnati
Tim Law, OF, 1B, Jr. Toronto (Chinese)	Reds and Snow College, uncle David Grow played baseball for BYU.
Blair Lucas, 3B, Jr. Brazil	Tyler Heid—father Edward is a scout for Seattle Mariners, uncle David played
Curtis Rodriguez, Pitcher, So. Texas (Spanish)	baseball for BYU.
Bryce Searle, RHP, Fr. Écuador	• Jason Garcia—cousins Jason and Jeremy Dietrich played baseball for Pepperdine and then both went on to play AAAball, cousin Eddie Guzman played football at
Beau Seil, OF, Jr. Japan	the University of Texas and then in the WFL.
Jacob Stubblefield, DH, Sr. Chile	Adam Hanselman—father Michael played football and wrestled for Juanita
Wade Vest, 2b, Jr. Chile	College in Pennsylvania.
Mike Weingarten, Catcher, Sr. Toronto, Canada Ranger Wiens, SS, Jr. Hawai`i	• Rob Itri—father Nick pitched for Drexel University.
Adam Wilkes, Catcher, Jr Russia	<ul> <li>Doug Jackson—brothers Mike and Tony played baseball for Hawai`i-Hilo.</li> <li>Brock Jacobsen—father Bill was head baseball coach at Dixie JC and is currently</li> </ul>
	an assistant football coach there for the Rebels.
Married Players	• Paul Jacinto—grandfather Alvin played one year on the major league Chicago
Jake Chrisman, Pitcher, Jr. Emy Castagnetto	White Sox and then played in the San Francisco Giants organization, father David
Casey Cloward, Catcher, So. Amberlee Searle	swam and played water polo for BYU, uncles Scott, Brett and Mark Favero were
Tyler Dabo, RHP, Sr. Jamie Lynn	<ul> <li>swimmers for BYU and uncle Rex Favero swam for UCLA.</li> <li>Chris Johnson—father Ken played tennis for BYU, uncle Rick Bachman pitched</li> </ul>
Brock Jacobsen, OF, 1B, Jr. Dusty Hart Jacob Stubblefield, DH, Sr. Shauna Nielsen	for Long Beach State.
Adam Wilkes, Catcher, Jr Erin Nelson	Mike Karpel, assistant BYU coach—father Peter played basketball at Bowling
	Green, sisters were four-time All-American tracksters at the Air Force Academy
	(Shannon) and Boise State (Kathy), cousin Jeff Lamb currently plays basketball for Cal Tech.
Series Record vs. 2003 Teams	• Scott Koffman—father Barry played football at the University of Missouri, great
Opponent BYU-OPP Last Y Win Last Loss	uncle was a catcher for the St. Louis Browns organization.
Arizona 9-20 2003 2003	• Vance Law, head BYU coach—father Vernon was 1960 Cy Young winner and was
Arizona State 7-43 1993 2003	a pitcher for the Pittsburgh Pirates (1950-67), brother Veryl played basketball at
Northwestern 0-2 - 2003	BYU (1974-77) alongside Vance (1975-77), brothers Veldon (1975) and Vaughn (1979) played baseball for BYU, son Tim played baseball at Dixie and in 2000 and
Cal Poly-SLO 1-1 2003 2002	2002 for BYU.
Washington St. 15-16 1990 1985	• Nate Mathis, assistant BYU coach—grandfather LeGrand Mathis played football
Lewis-Clark St. 6-8 1985 1985	at the University of Utah.
Univ. of Portland 2-2 1995 1990	• Ryan Roberts, assistant BYU coach—wife Angela played volleyball at Idaho State and LIVSC, sister (Allicon) plays volleyball at the Univ. of Houston, uncle Larry
Gonzaga 6-7 1995 1994	and UVSC, sister (Allison) plays volleyball at the Univ. of Houston, uncle Larry Schenk played baseball for BYU in 1959.
TCU 1-4 1998 1999	• Curt Rodriguez—uncle Bob Palmer played baseball for BYU.
New Mexico * 57-32-1 2002 2002	• Bryce Searle—father Craig ran track and played freshman basketball for BYU in
UNLV * 49-47 2002 2002	1974 with Gifford Nielsen and Dave Checketts.
So. Utah 133-2 2002 2002	<ul> <li>Jake Stubblefield—father James played football for BYU.</li> <li>Mike Weingarten—father Robert played semi-pro basketball, cousin was an</li> </ul>
Utah * 181-84-1 2002 2002	Olympic gymnast for the New Zealand women's team.
SDSU * 27-51-1 2002 2002	• Ranger Wiens—father Randy played AAAbaseball for the Toronto Blue Jays,
Air Force * 108-20 2002 2002 2002	grandfather Lloyd Brink played football for BYU (1938-40), uncles Bill and Justin
*MWC Opponents	Brink played baseball for BYU.
	• Adam Wilkes—father James played baseball for the University of Arizona, grand- father was a scout for 30 years with the Los Angles Dodgers, younger brother
	Garrett played basketball for the College of Eastern Arizona.

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## **BYU BASEBALL NEWS**

### **2003 SCHEDULE**

2/27-3/1	<b>Banana Belt Tourney</b>	Lewiston, ID	
2/27	Washington St.	Lewiston, ID	Noon
2/27	Lewis-Člark St.	Lewiston, ID 3:	00 p.m.
2/28	Univ. of Portland	Lewiston, ID	10 a.m.
3/1	Gonzaga	Lewiston, ID	4 p.m.
3/6-7	Texas Čhristian	Ft. Worth, TX 6:	30 p.m.
3/8	Texas Christian	Ft. Worth, TX	1 p.m.
3/13-14	New Mexico *	Albuquerque	2 p.m.
3/15	New Mexico *	Albuquerque	1 p.m.
3/20-21	UNLV *	Provo	7 p.m.
3/22	UNLV *	Provo	1 p.m.
3/25	Southern Utah (dh)	Cedar City	Noon
3/27-28	Utah *	Salt Lake City	6 p.m.
3/29	Utah *	Salt Lake City	1 p.m.
4/3-4	San Diego St. *	San Diego	6 p.m.
4/5	San Diego St. *	San Diego	1 p.m.
4/10-11	Air Force *	Provo	7 p.m.

## Schedule/Roster

4/12	Air Force *	Provo	1 p.m.
4/17-18	New Mexico *	Provo	7 p.m.
4/19	New Mexico *	Provo	1 p.m.
4/24-25	UNLV *	Las Vegas	6:30 p.m.
4/26	UNLV *	Las Vegas	2 p.m.
5/1-2	Utah *	Provo	7 p.m.
5/3	Utah *	Provo	1 p.m.
5/8-9	San Diego St. *	Provo	7 p.m.
5/10	San Diego St. *	Provo	1 p.m.
5/12	Southern Utah	Provo	4 p.m.
5/13	Southern Utah	Provo	7 p.m.
5/15-17	Air Force *	Colorado Spg	
	MWC Tournament	Albuquerque	-
5/30-6/1	NCAA Regionals	TBA	
6/6-8	NCAA Super Region	nals TBA	
6/13-23	College World Series	s Omaha, Neb.	
* Indica	ntes MWC Games		

2003 ROSTER No.Player Pos. Ht. Wt. B-T Yr. DOB Hometown													
No	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	B-T	Yr.	Hometown						
1	*Tim Law	1B/OF	5-10	180	L-L S-R	Jr1V	11-6-78 12-31-78	Provo, Utah (Dixie JC) Santa Clara (Dixie JC)					
3 5 6 7	Brock Jacobsen	OF/1B	6-2	195	S-K	JrJC	12-31-78	Santa Clara (Dixie JC)					
5	Wade Vest	2B	5-9	160	Ř-Ř R-R	JrJC	12-15-79 3-23-80 9-27-81	Spanish Fork, Utan (Utan Valley St.)					
0 7	Blair Lucas **Scott Koffman	ĨŇF RHP	5-10 6-2	$\begin{array}{c}185\\210\end{array}$	R-R	JrJČ Jr2V	3-23-80 0-27-81	Salt Lake City, Utah (Olympus)					
ģ	*Ranger Wiens	22	6-2	200	R-R R-R	$J_{1}^{-2}V$ Ir $_{-1}V$	5-7-80	Marcad California (Navada)					
89	*Ranger Wiens *Casey Cloward **Kevin Bills	SS C	6-3 5-11	<b>ĩ80</b>	R-R	Jr1V So1V Jr2V	5-7-80 12-8-80 3-5-80	Spanish Fork, Utah (Utah Valley St.) Lake Forest, California (Saddleback CC) Salt Lake City, Utah (Olympus) Merced, California (Nevada) Salem, Utah (Spanish Fork) Reno, Nevada (Reno)					
1Ŏ	**Kevin Bills	3̃B∕OF	6-2	175	Ř-Ř R-R	Jr2V	3-5-80	Reno, Nevada (Reno)					
11	Clayton Barnes	LHP/1B	6-1	175	Ĺ-Ĺ Ŗ-Ŗ	FrHS	12-20-83	Provo, Utah (Provo)					
12	Kořv Knell	OF	6-0 5-7	190	R-R	JrJC Sr3V	2-6-80	Salt Lake City (Saddleback CC)					
11 12 13 14 15 16	***Doug Jackson *Mike Weingarten	ŎF	5-7	155	S-R	Sr3V	12-20-83 2-6-80 1-31-81 6-28-78 1-18-80 2-17-79	Provo, Utah (Provo) Salt Lake City (Saddleback CC) Kailua, Hawai'i (Jolani)					
14	*Mike Weingarten	C	6-2 6-0 6-2	200	R-R R-R R-R	Sr1V Jr2V Sr1V	6-28-78	Orem, Utah (Utah Valley St.) Encinitas, California (LaCosta)					
10	**Paul Jacinto	ŘHP RHP	0-0	190 180	K-K DD	Jr2V	1-18-80	Encinitas, California (LaCosta)					
17	*Tyler Dabo *Jason Garcia	RHP	6-2 6-0	100	К-К DD	Sr1V Sr. 1V	2-17-79 1.96 Q0	Hollister, California (Dixie JC)					
18	**Jacob Chrisman	RHP	6-8	195 225 185	R-R R-R	Sr1V Jr2V	12-1-81	Garden Grove, Califòrnia (Long Beach CC) Provo, Utah (Provo)					
19	Kenneth Gravley	LHP	6-8 6-0	185	R-L	Fr -HS	5-5-84	Long Beach, California (Millikan)					
2ľ	**Rob Itri	INF	6-3	180	Ĩ-Ŕ	Jr2V So1V FrHS	1-26-80 12-1-81 5-5-84 12-17-79 12-31-82	Broomall Pennsylvania (Marnle Newtown)					
22	*Ryan Chambers	OF	6-0	165 175	L-R L-L	So1V	12-31-82	Yucaipa, California (Yucaipa)					
23	Clavton Carson	INF	6-1	175	S-R	FrHS	4-6-83	Yucaipa, California (Yucaipa)					
24	*Adam Wilkes	C OF_	5-9 6-5	165 220 215	Š-Ř R-R R-R	Jr2V JrJC FrRS	10-26-79	Yucaipa, California (Yucaipa) Yucaipa, California (Yucaipa) Tucson, Arizona (Sabino) Boise, Idaho (Ricks JC) Spanich Fork, Utab (Spanich Fork)					
25	Beau Seil	OF	6-5	220	K-K	JrJC	11-30-78	Boise, Idaho (Ricks JC)					
21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 30 32 33 33 35 36	Bryce Searle	RHP	6-3 5-11	215	R-R	FrKS FrHS	4-6-83 10-26-79 11-30-78 11-1-80 3-30-84	Spanish Fork, Utah (Spanish Fork)					
21	Chris Johnson *Curtis Rodriguoz	INF RHP	0-11 6-0	$175 \\ 165$	R-R	So1V	3-30-84 1_20_80	Janush Fork, Utah (Spanish Fork) Laguna Hills, California (Laguna Hills) Laguna Niguel, California (Capistrano Valle Ottawa, Ontario, Canada (St. Petersburg JC) Honolulu, Hawai'i (Iolani) San Diego, California (Ricks JC) Mission Viejo, California (Capistrano Valley Tempe Arizona (Marcos de Niza)					
<b>30</b>	*Curtis Rodriguez Michel Bergeron	RHP	6-0 6-2	$\frac{165}{195}$	Ř-Ř L-R	JrJC	1-29-80 6-22-82	Ottawa Ontario Canada (St. Petersburg IC)					
32	**Kainoa Obrey	3B	6-3	225	R-R	Jr -2V	10-6-80	Honolulu Hawai'i (Iolani)					
33	*Jake Stubblefield	3B 1B RHP	6-3 6-1 6-2	225 200	R-R R-R	Jr2V Sr1V FrRS	10-6-80 8-16-79 11-26-80	San Diego, California (Ricks JC)					
34	Anthony Bingham **Jeff Mousser	RHP	6-2	195	R-R	FrRS	11-26-80	Mission Viejo, California (Capistrano Valley					
35	**Jeff Mousser	RHP RHP	6-2	215	R-R	<u>Jr2V</u>	9-10-81 1-24-83						
36	Kirk Williamson	RHP	6-2 6-0 6-2 6-2 6-2 6-2 6-3	215 175 205	R-R R-R R-R	Jr2V FrRS FrHS	1-24-83	Ripón, California (Ripon) Malibu, California (Malibu)					
	Luke Beck	RHP	6-Z	205	K-K	FrHS	9-18-84	Malibu, California (Malibu)					
	Adam Hanselman	OF RHP	6-2 6-2	195 175	L-R R-R	FrHS	3-4-84	Frederick, Maryland (Gov. Thomas Johnson)					
	Tyler Heid Trevor Kuresa	1B	0-2 6-3	215	R-R	FrHS FrRS FrHS	3-2-81	Glendale, Arizŏna (Càctus) Roșeville, California (Del Campo)					
	Tyler Manning	LHP	6-2	175	L-L	FrHS	3-4-84 8-5-80 3-2-84 1-29-84	Jacksonville, Florida (Terry Parker)					
Lost	Tyler Mulling			170		11.110	1 20 01	successfulling, i forficu (ferry furker)					
	*Han Yi	2B-SS-OF	5-10	170	R-R	So1V	12-12-81	Torrance, California (West)					
5	***James Ray **Matt Ward	LHP	5-9 6-2	160	L-L R-R	Sr3V Sr2V Sr2V	9-30-78 12-30-79 7-12-78	St Augustine Florida (Jacksonville U)					
.9	**Matt Ward	RHP	6-2	170	R-R	Sr2V	12-30-79	Spanish Fork, Utah (Utah Valley St.)					
12	**Lars Birkeland	C	6-1	205	R-R	Sr2V	7-12-78	Spanish Fork, Utah (Utah Valley St.) Salt Lake City, Utah (Saddleback JC)					
25	***Ryan Adams	RHP	6-3	200	R-R	Sr3V	4-3-78 10-15-77	Highland, Utah (UVSC) Taylorsville, Utah (Taylorsville) Malibus California (Malibus)					
4 5 12 25 23 11	****Jeff Stone ***Cameron Coughlan	LHP DE/2B	6-1 5-11	185 175	L-L S-R	Sr4V Jr3V	10-10-77	Malibu, California (Malibu)					
28	***Matt Carson	OF	J-11 6-2	195	R-R	J13V Ir_3V	7_1_81	Vucaina California (Vucaina)					
$\frac{\overline{28}}{17}$	**Dave Jensen	1B	6-2 6-3	195 205	L-L	Jr3V So2V Jr2V	8-12-81 7-1-81 12-16-79 6-28-79	Yucaipa, California (Yucaipa) Henderson, Nevada (Green Valley)					
- 36	***Brandon Boothe	RHP	6-9	$\tilde{2}\tilde{6}\tilde{5}$	R-R	Jr2V	6-28-79	Merced, California (Golden Valley)					
$\frac{29}{26}$	*Sam Fernley	RHP SS/OF	6-4	200	Ĺ-Ŕ R-R	So1V	1-29-82 10-20-79	Long Beach, California (Long Beach CC)					
	*Ryan Thurgood	SS/OF	<b>Š-</b> 10	160	R-R	Fr1V	10-20-79	Long Beach, California (Long Beach CC) Vancouver, Washington (Evergreen)					
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2—Vance Law, Head Coach, 29—Ryan Roberts, Assistant Coach, 31—Mike Karpel, Assistant Coach 4—Nate Mathis, Volunteer Coach \* Letters

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## **2003 BYU Baseball Statistics**

Record: 2-6 Home: 0-0 Away: 1-5 Neutral: 1-1 Conference: 0-0

Player	AVG	GP	GS	AB	В	н	2B :	3B	HB	RBI	TB	SLG%	BB⊦	IBP	SO (	GDF	OB%	SF	SH	SB	ATT	PO	А	E FLD%
CARSON, C.	.600	5	0	5	0	3	1	0	0	1	4	.800	2	0	1	0	.714	0	0	0	0	1	1	0 1.000
VEST, Wade	.500	5	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	O	2	1.000	0	1	1	0	.667	0	0	1	1	0	1	0 1.000
OBREY, Kainoa	.375	8	8	32	6	12	4	Ο	1	8	19	.594	З	1	8	1	.444	Ο	Ο	Ο	Ο	4	13	2 .895
JACOBSEN, B.	.367	8	8	30	6	11	Ο	Ο	2	11	17	.567	З	1	10	Ο	.441	Ο	1	1	1	17	Ο	0 1.000
JACKSON, Doug	.364	8	8	33	8	12	2	2	Ο	2	18	.545	1	2	2	Ο	.405	1	Ο	2	З	16	0	0 1.000
CHAMBERS, R.	.346	8	7	26	4	9	2	Ο	1	7	14	.538	4	Ο	5	1	.433	Ο	Ο	Ο	Ο	10	0	3 .769
WIENS, Ranger	.344	8	8	32	7	11	4	Ο	1	5	18	.562	2	2	4	Ο	.405	1	Ο	З	З	13	24	4 .902
STUBBLEFIELD	.276	8	8	29	5	8	2	Ο	1	5	13	.448	З	Ο	5	Ο	.344	Ο	0	0	Ο	20	2	3 .880
WILKES, Adam	.250	5	З	12	1	З	0	Ο	0	2	З	.250	Ο	Ο	З	1	.250	Ο	Ο	Ο	Ο	15	1	0 1.000
ITRI, Rob	.200	8	7	25	7	5	1	Ο	2	2	12	.480	З	Ο	4	1	.286	Ο	1	Ο	0	13	13	3 .897
LUCAS, Blair	.200	5	1	5	Ο	1	0	Ο	0	Ο	1	.200	1	2	2	Ο	.500	Ο	0	0	1	2	З	2 .714
LAW, Tim	.143	7	5	14	З	2	1	Ο	0	1	З	.214	5	1	2	1	.381	1	0	0	1	38	1	1 .975
SEIL, Beau	.125	4	2	8	Ο	1	0	Ο	0	Ο	1	.125	Ο	Ο	5	Ο	.125	Ο	Ο	1	1	2	0	0 1.000
CLOWARD, C.	.083	6	5	12	Ο	1	0	Ο	0	Ο	1	.083	1	Ο	4	Ο	.154	Ο	Ο	Ο	0	33	2	0 1.000
WEINGARTEN	.000	4	1	7	Ο	Ο	0	Ο	0	Ο	Ο	.000	1	Ο	З	Ο	.125	Ο	Ο	Ο	Ο	6	0	0 1.000
BILLS, Kevin	.000	З	1	6	Ο	Ο	0	Ο	Ο	Ο	Ο	.000	Ο	Ο	4	Ο	.000	Ο	Ο	Ο	Ο	1	0	0 1.000
BARNES, Clayto	n.000	З	Ο	З	1	Ο	Ο	Ο	0	Ο	Ο	.000	1	Ο	1	Ο	.250	Ο	Ο	Ο	0	1	2	0 1.000
JOHNSON, Chris	000.	1	Ο	1	Ο	Ο	0	Ο	0	Ο	Ο	.000	Ο	Ο	Ο	Ο	.000	Ο	0	0	0	0	0	1 .000
Totals	.284	8	8	282	48	80	18	2	8	44	126	.447	30	10	64	5	.369	З	2	8	11	198	68	21 .927
Opponents	.344	8	8	302	83	104	16	5	12	74	166	.550	33	8	53	6	.419	З	2	9	10	213	89	10.968

LOB - Team (66), Opp (67). DPs turned - Team (8), Opp (5). IBB - Team (1), OBREY 1. Picked off - LAW 2, OBREY 1, CLOWARD 1, ITRI 1.

Player	ERA	W	L	APP	GS	CG S	SHOC	BO	SV	IP	Н	R	ER	BB	SO	2B	ЗB	HR	ABE	3/Avg	WP	HBP	BK S	SFA S	HΑ
SEARLE, Bryce	0.00	Ο	0	1	Ο	0	0	0	0	0.1	3	3	0	1	0	Ο	0	0	4	.750	1	Ο	Ο	1	0
MOUSSER, Jeff	2.70	2	0	З	3	0	0	0	0	20.0	18	8	6	5	18	З	1	З	78	.231	0	2	1	0	1
JACINTO, Paul	4.15	0	З	5	1	1	0	0	0	17.1	16	9	8	5	12	1	1	1	68	.235	1	1	0	1	0
BERGERON, Michel	6.48	0	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	8.1	18	16	6	8	7	2	1	1	42	.429	З	2	1	0	0
GRAVLEY,Kenneth	7.04	0	0	З	1	0	0	0	0	7.2	11	6	6	4	З	1	0	2	32	.344	1	0	0	0	0
DABO, Tyler	9.00	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	3.0	5	5	З	4	2	2	1	0	14	.357	1	0	0	1	0
BINGHAM, Anthony	15.00	0	0	З	0	0	0	0	0	3.0	8	8	5	0	4	2	0	0	19	.421	1	1	0	0	0
CHRISMAN, Jacob	23.62	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2.2	11	10	7	2	З	1	0	1	20	.550	1	1	1	0	0
KOFFMAN, Scott	27.00	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1.1	4	5	4	0	1	2	0	1	8	.500	0	1	0	0	1
GARCIA, Jason	46.29	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	2.1	10	13	12	4	З	2	1	З	17	.588	1	0	0	0	0
Totals	7.77	2	6	8	8	1	0	0	0	66.0	104	83	57	33	53	16	5	12	302	.344	10	8	З	З	2
Opponents	4.44	6	2	8	8	0	1	1	1	71.0	80	48	35	30	64	18	2	8	282	.284	З	10	1	3	2

PB - Team (2), WEINGARTEN 1, WILKES 1, Opp (3). Pickoffs - Team (0), Opp (5). SBA/ATT - CLOWARD (6-7), BERGERON (3-3), MOUSSER (2-3), WEINGARTEN (2-2), WILKES (1-1), BINGHAM (1-1), GARCIA (1-1), GRAVLEY (1-1), KOFFMAN (1-1).

Date	Opponent	W/L	Score S	Site	Rec.	Div-Rec.	Pitcher	<b>Opp. Pitcher</b>	Line	Opp. Line	Att.
1/30	@ Arizona	W	6-3	Α	1-0	0-0	Mousser	Little	6-12-2	3-7-2	651
1/31	@ Arizona	L	13-17	Α	1-1	0-0	Koffman	Meloan	13-15-3	17-19-1	828
2/1	@ Arizona	L	3-32	Α	1-2	0-0	Garcia	Gardner	3-7-10	32-32-1	998
2/6	@ Arizona St.	L	5-6	Α	1-3	0-0	Jacinto	Schroyer	5-9-3	6-10-1	2,850
2/7	@ Arizona St.	L	6-17	Α	1-4	0-0	Bergeron	Thurmond	6-9-2	17-18-3	2,896
2/8	@ Arizona St.	L	4-6	Α	1-5	0-0	Jacinto	Schroyer	4-10-0	6-9-0	2,691
2/15	Cal Poly-SLO	W	11-1	Ν	2-5	0-0	Mousser	Fitch	11-13-1	1-6-1	121
2/15	Northwestern	L	0-1	Ν	2-6	0-0	Jacinto	Konecny	0-5-0	1-3-1	143

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## BYU Baseball

# BYU'S HAWAIIAN PUNCH

#### BY DEVEN McCANN, ATHLETIC MEDIA RELATIONS

f you drive by Miller Park these days you are likely to see one of BYU's baseball stars battling the bitter cold to work on his game. The cold is not something he's accustomed to nor something he prefers but whatever it takes to improve is worth it to him.

The BYU baseball team enjoyed success last season despite having one of the team's best players and best kept secrets on the bench. Kainoa Obrey 6-3, 225, Jr., from Honolulu, Hawai` i played in just 13 games during the 2002 campaign. His name is pronounced k-IGH-noh-uh OH-bree.

BYU head coach Vance Law knows what the team missed not having him in the lineup.

" He's a big strong kid who can hit the ball a mile," said Law. Obrey plays third base for BYU and has become one of the most

feared hitters in the Mountain West Conference, but his junior season was cut short due to an injury suffered in practice last fall.

"We were doing base running drills and I went to plant and I couldn't because of the pain in my back," Obrey said.

The injury was diagnosed as a slight herniated disk in his lower back—an injury that makes it very painful to swing a bat or pick up ground balls. Obrey was out most of fall drills but started to feel better as the season drew closer.

" I thought I could tough it out and play through the pain but it just hurt too much," he said.

Just 13 games into the season, Obrey hung up his cleats to let his back heal.

Kainoa is the son of John Obrey and Iwalani Dayton. He grew up on the island of Oahu playing baseball and volleyball. He attended Iolani High school-a private school which includes kindergarten through 12th grade. He lettered three times in



volleyball during high school--but his main interest has always been baseball.

" I always thought baseball was my best chance to play in college and hopefully play professionally," Obrey said.

He began building his baseball resume early in his career. Obrey was named Gatorade State Player of the Year as a prep junior. He earned all-league and all-star honors while helping his team to a sixth -place national ranking in 1997.

He led his team to two state championships and was named the 1999 American Legion State Tournament MVP and won the batting title.

While achieving much success Obrey began thinking about the next level—some-

where that would offer him an education and a chance to play ball. To his surprise, the University of Hawai`i didn't do much to keep

him on the island, which Obrey admits was a little disappoint-ing.

He kept his options open and shopped around for a school that would offer him a scholarship.

Given his talent and accomplishments it's not hard to see why BYU came knocking on his door. Former BYU assistant coach David Eldredge is a Hawai` i native an began expressing interest in Obrey.

BYU liked what they saw and offered Obrey a scholarship.

" My mom was real happy when BYU came into the picture. She was excited about the opportunity for me to come here and that factored into my decision." he said.

Obrey signed a letter of intent before even visiting BYU and has never regretted his decision.

" I am happy I came here, I would recommend BYU to anyone," he said.

#### Continued

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#### Baseball Schedule for 2003

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME
1/30-31	Arizona	Tucson, AZ	3 p.m.
2/1	Arizona	Tucson, AZ	1:30 p.m.
2/6-8	Arizona State	Tempe, AZ	7,1 p.m.
2/13-15	Rawlings Tourney		
2/13	Northwestern	Scottsdale, AZ	2 p.m.
2/14	Cal Poly	Scottsdale, AZ	10 a.m.
2/13	Missouri	Scottsdale, AZ	Noon
2/27-3/1	Banana Belt Tourney	Lewiston, ID	
2/27	Washington St.	Lewiston, ID	Noon
2/27	Lewis-Clark St.	Lewiston, ID	3:00 p.m.
2/28	Univ. of Portland	Lewiston, ID	10 a.m.
3/1	Gonzaga	Lewiston, ID	4 p.m.
3/6-7,8	Texas Christian	Ft. Worth, TX	6:30, 1 p.m.
3/13-14, 15	5 New Mexico *	Albuquerque	2, 1 p.m.
3/20-21, 22	2 UNLV *	Provo	7, 1 p.m.
3/25	Southern Utah (dh)	Cedar City	Noon
3/27-28, 29	Utah *	Salt Lake City	6, 1 p.m.
4/3-4, 5	San Diego St. *	San Diego	6, 1 p.m.
4/10-11, 12	Air Force *	Provo	7, 1 p.m.
4/17-18, 19	New Mexico *	Provo	7, 1 p.m.
4/24-25, 26	SUNLV *	Las Vegas	6:30, 2 p.m.
5/1-2, 3	Utah *	Provo	7, 1 p.m.
5/8-9, 10	San Diego St. *	Provo	7, 1 p.m.
5/12, 13	Southern Utah	Provo	4, 7 p.m.
5/15-17	Air Force *	Colorado Spgs.	2 p.m.
5/21-24	MWC Tournament	Albuquerque	
5/30-6/1	NCAA Regionals	ТВА	
6/6-8	Super Regionals	ТВА	
6/13-23	College World Series	Omaha, Neb.	
* Indicates	MWC Games		

Perhaps influenced by Obrey's decision, long-time friend from home and teammate Doug Jackson also chose to play ball at BYU. Obrey says Jackson's decision to play at BYU doesn't have anything to do with him, but he is glad to have his friend here.

The two can rarely be seen without the other.

After their freshman year they both returned to Hawai`i and played ball on the island. Since then, they have spent their time-off playing in summer leagues on the east coast.

In 2001 Obrey played for the Newport Gulls of the New England Collegiate Baseball League. Obrey was named to the all-star team and was named as one of the leagues Top 10 Prospects.

During the past summer the two friends played in the Cape Cod League. Their teams were located just 10 minutes apart and they were able to spend time together when they weren't playing ball.

Obrey says playing in those leagues gave him a good chance to improve since they played 45 games in two months.

" When you play almost every day it's easier to work on things and get into a rhythm rather than playing a few days then taking a few off like in college."

As a freshman Obrey was named Honorable Mention Freshman All-America by Collegiate Baseball magazine. He hit a team-high nine homers and batted .342 overall. He hit an 11th-inning home run to beat San Diego State 7-6.

Obrey led the team in hitting his sophomore year with a batting average of .381. He had 13 homeruns and 29 doubles. He hit a grand slam against New Mexico off prep teammate Marvin Wong.

His junior season he was named to Collegiate Baseball magazine's pre-season All-America third team. Despite the pain in his back, he hit a three-run homerun in the 14th inning to beat UC Irvine for the first Cougar win of the season. A few games later the pain increased and Obrey decided he couldn't play anymore that season.

Obrey was drafted by the Kansas City Royals in the 11th round and was given the option to leave BYU for the pros. He decided not to go.

"We talked about it for a few weeks and decided that I would come back to BYU," Obrey said. "I am so close to graduating and that is something I have to do."

Obrey hopes after a full, healthy season his value will increase in the eyes of the pro scouts. He said Kansas City had some concerns regarding the status of his back.

After losing big hitters Dave Jensen and Matt Carson to the draft, Obrey understands his status. " My role on the team is to drive in runs. I need to look for extra base hits and bring guys in," Obrey said.

Coach Law echoed Obrey's comments and agrees with Obrey's role on the team.

"We are looking for him to drive in a lot of runs this year. He is going to be our big RBI man this season," Law said.

Whether or not Obrey can drive in a lot of runs will influence the Cougar's season and Obrey's career in baseball.

" His future depends on how well he can drive in runs," Law said. Obrey is not very vocal, but he possess what Law calls " quiet intensity." Law says Obrey is not afraid to vocalize his opinion if things aren't going as they should.

Obrey returns the praise to his coach and says he has been able to learn a lot from Law because of his experience.

" He is a great coach," Obrey said. " He has helped me out so much defensively because he played third base. He has also taught me so much about hitting-especially with a wood bat. There is so much more skill involved when swinging a wood bat."

Law has his players using wooden bats during workouts this fall. Obrey feels using the wood bat has forced him to generate more power with his body and to find the sweet spot of the bat.

" With a metal bat you can cheat hits when you get jammed because the bat won't break. You have to be more disciplined with a wooden bat," Obrey said.

Coming in to this season, expectations are high for BYU since the team fared so well and made it to the NCAA Tournament last year. Obrey is excited to play a full season and to see what he can do.

According to Law, Obrey

has the ability to decide how good he wants to be. When asked to describe Obrey's talent in a few words Law chose "un-tapped potential.

"Once in a while everything he has learned comes together and he hits the ball as hard as anyone I've ever seen. He could put baseballs on the steps of the Marriott Center."

Obrey isn't really thinking too far down the road yet.

" First things first, I just want to play all season and stay healthy," he said.

Law thinks if he stays healthy he could be one of the top hitters in the nation.

One day, Obrey's days at BYU will be done and playing everyday somewhere is pretty realistic.

The Island Boy has only one preference when it comes to where he plays professional ball, "hopefully, somewhere warm," he said with a smile.

from former major-leaguer Vance Law, BYU's coach, who says "there's not telling how good he could be."



All-American Obrey learned how to play the hot corner

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