

2007 UTAH FOOTBALL



Jon M. Huntsman Center • 1825 E. South Campus Dr.
Salt Lake City, Utah 84112-0900
Phone 801.581.3511/3510 • Fax 801.581.4358
www.UtahUtes.com

Associate Athletics Director/SID: Liz Abel
Associate Director: Andy Seeley
Assistant Director: Scott Pettett
Assistant Director: Brooke Frederickson
Office Manager: Sally Anderson

2007 Utah Football Schedule			
Date	Opponent	TV	Time
Aug. 30 (Thu.)	at Oregon State	FSN NW	7:00 p.m. PT
Sept. 8	Air Force*	The Mtn.	4:00 p.m. MT
Sept. 15	UCLA	VERSUS	3:00 p.m. MT
Sept. 22	at UNLV*	The Mtn.	7:00 p.m. PT
Sept. 29	Utah State (HC)	The Mtn.	1:00 p.m. MT
Oct. 5 (Fri.)	at Louisville	ESPN	8:00 p.m. ET
Oct. 13	San Diego State*	No TV	1:00 p.m. MT
Oct. 18 (Thu.)	at TCU*	VERSUS	7:00 p.m. CT
Oct. 27	at Colorado State*	The Mtn.	3:30 p.m. MT
Nov. 10	Wyoming*	CSTV	1:30 p.m. MT
Nov. 17	New Mexico*	The Mtn.	3:30 p.m. MT
Nov. 24	at Brigham Young*	The Mtn./CSTV/VS	12:00 p.m. MT

HC=Homecoming ; *-Mountain West Conference game

Television

Stations: FSN NW, FSN Utah (Comcast cable channel 52, Dish Network 426, DirecTV 651), FSC Pacific
Talent: Todd Mansfield (play by play), Steve Preece (analyst), Cathy Marshall (sidelines).

Radio

Stations: KALL 700 AM (Salt Lake City), KVEL 920 AM (Vernal)
Internet: <http://www.kall700sports.com/>
Talent: Mike Lageschulte (play-by-play), Frank Dolce (analyst), Sharrieff Shah (sidelines)

Weekly Teleconference

Every Tuesday from Aug. 28-Nov. 20, Utah head coach Kyle Whittingham will be on the MWC teleconference call at 10:02 a.m. (MT). The call-in number (media only) is 866-316-1365. Replay number is 402-220-3687 (call Utah SID for replay passcode).

Weekly Press Conference

Mondays** from Aug. 27-Nov. 19 at noon in the Smith Athletics Center.
**Exceptions: Tuesday, Sept. 4 and no press conference on Oct. 29.
Web quality live video streaming and text quotes will be available at www.UtahUtes.com.

Television Coach's Show

The Red Zone Coach's Show with Kyle Whittingham is televised live on KTVX ABC-4 Sundays during the season at 10:30 p.m. MT.

Radio Coach's Show

The Kyle Whittingham Show on the Utah Sports Network is aired live on site at Famous Dave's Barbeque in Midvale every Thursday from 7-8 p.m. Exceptions: Tue., Aug. 28, Wed., Oct. 3, Tue, Oct. 16.

Weekly MWC Satellite Feed

Wednesdays from Sept. 5-Nov. 28 game highlights from all nine MWC teams will be shown from 3:00-3:30 p.m. MT on Galaxy 11, Transponder K13, KU Analog, Downlink 11960 Horizontal. Direct questions to Lanier Korsmeyer at 414-617-8785.

Released: Aug. 27, 2007

Contact: Liz Abel, Associate Athletics Director 801.581.3511

UTES OPEN SEASON AT OREGON STATE

Third season under head coach Kyle Whittingham

Week 1 Utah (0-0, 0-0 MWC) at Oregon State (0-0, 0-0 Pac 10)

Date Thursday, Aug. 30

Time 7:00 p.m. Pacific Time (8:00 p.m. Mountain Time)

Site Corvallis, Ore. (Reser Stadium/46,000/FieldTurf)

TV FSN NW, FSN Utah, FSC Pacific

Radio KALL 700 Sports Radio

> Utah (0-0, 0-0 MWC) kicks off the 2007 season against Oregon State (0-0, 0-0 Pacific 10) on Thursday, Aug. 30 in Corvallis, Ore. Game time is 7:00 p.m. Pacific Time (8:00 p.m. Mountain Time) in Reser Stadium.

> The game will be televised on FSN NW and will be shown locally in Salt Lake City on FSN Utah (Comcast channel 52, DirecTV 651, Dish Network 426).

> Utah has won four of its last five games against Pac-10 opponents. **Kyle Whittingham** is 1-1 against the Pac-10 as Utah's head coach (beat Arizona in 2005 and lost to UCLA in 2006) and 9-9 against the Pac-10 counting his years as a Ute assistant coach – dating back to 1994.

> Oregon State leads the series, 8-4-1, although Utah has won the last two games and three of the last four. Before Utah's back-to-back wins in 1991-92, the two teams hadn't met since 1970. More series information can be found on page 2. Oregon State is scheduled to play in Salt Lake City next September.

> Since 2001, Utah is 12-6 against BCS schools: 7-0 in Rice-Eccles Stadium, 3-0 at neutral sites (bowl games) and 2-6 on the road.

> Utah is 64-48-1 all-time in season-openers and 17-29 when the season opener is on the road. Utah's most recent season-opening road win was in 2002 at Utah State and the last time the Utes began the year with a road win over a Pac 10 foe was in 1999 at Washington State.

> The Utes are 45-25-5 all-time in games played on a Thursday.

Interview Opportunities and Practice Policies

Interviews are conducted after practice or with prior arrangements made through Associate Athletics Director Liz Abel (801-581-3511). Practices are closed to the public. Television stations may shoot the first 30 minutes of practice and post-practice interviews.

Practice Schedule Aug. 27-28

Mon.	3:00-4:45 p.m.	Rice-Eccles Stadium
Tue.	3:00-4:30 p.m.	McCarthy Practice Fields (Whittingham interviews only)

2007 UTAH FOOTBALL NOTES

Utah General Information

Location: Salt Lake City, Utah
 President: Michael Young
 Athletics Director: Dr. Chris Hill
 Conference: Mountain West Conference
 Enrollment: 28,619
 Nickname: Utes
 Colors: Crimson, White
 Stadium: Rice-Eccles (45,017/FieldTurf)

Utah Sports Information Contacts

Associate Athletics Director/SID: Liz Abel
 O: (801) 581-3511; C: (801) 209-6346
 email: label@huntsman.utah.edu
 Assistant SID: Scott Pettett
 O: (801) 581-8302; C: (801) 580-4502
 email: spettett@huntsman.utah.edu

Utah Football Coach Kyle Whittingham

Year	School	Overall	MWC	Bowl
2005	Utah	7-5	4-4	W (beat Georgia Tech)
2006	Utah	8-5	5-3	W (beat Tulsa)
Totals		15-10	9-7	2-0

Education

Brigham Young
 Bachelor's in educational psychology (1984)
 Master's in athletic administration (1987)

Coaches' Game Day Locations

On The Field

Kyle Whittingham (Head Coach)
 Gary Andersen (Defensive Coordinator/Defensive Line)
 Jay Hill (Tight Ends/Special Teams)
 Kalani Sitake (Inside Linebackers)
 Dave Schramm (Running Backs)
 Aaron Roderick (Receivers)
 Charlie Dickey (Offensive Line)

In the Press Box

Andy Ludwig (Offensive Coordinator/Quarterbacks)
 Aaron Alford (Cornerbacks)
 Derrick Odum (Safeties)
 Morgan Scalley (Defensive Graduate Assistant)

2007 Team Captains

Brian Johnson, Kyle Gunther, Steve Tate, Joe Jiannoni

FAST FACT

Utah has the second-longest postseason win streak in the nation, going 6-0 in bowl games since 1999. Bowl wins during that time came against Fresno State in 1999, USC in 2001, Southern Miss in 2003, Pittsburgh in 2005 (2004 season), Georgia Tech in 2005 and Tulsa in 2006.

LAST YEAR

Utah concluded an 8-5 season with a 25-13 victory over Tulsa in the Armed Forces Bowl. The Utes went 5-3 in conference play to tie for third place. Senior defensive back Eric Weddle was named a Consensus All-American.

KYLE STYLE

Kyle Whittingham is 15-10 entering his third year as Utah's head coach and a perfect 2-0 in bowl games. This is his 14th season on the Ute staff: He spent 11 years as an assistant coach (defensive line coach in 2004 and defensive coordinator from 1995-2004), before accepting the head job on Dec. 8, 2004. A month after his appointment, he served as the co-head coach in Utah's 35-7 Fiesta Bowl victory over Pittsburgh – capping a 12-0 season. Whittingham's first game as the head coach was on Sept. 2, 2005 – a 27-24 win over Arizona. As a head or assistant coach, Whittingham has taken part in 101 victories and 51 losses at Utah.

GRIDBITS

A school-record 24,750 season tickets had been purchased for the 2007 Utah football season as of Aug. 27, breaking the previous mark of 24,250 set last year. In the last four years, Utah's season ticket base has increased by over 8,000. Season and individual game tickets are still available at Utahutes.com, the Rice-Eccles Stadium box office and by calling 801-581-UTIX ... ESPN.com tabbed the University of Utah football program as the 28th best in the nation over the last decade. ESPN picked Utah ahead of perennial powers Texas A&M (No. 29), Arkansas (30) and Alabama (34). The Utes also rated better than conference rivals Brigham Young (44) and Colorado State (48), and regional foes California (35), Oregon

Utah-Oregon State Series History

Series Record: Oregon State leads 8-4-1

First Game: 1931 (OSU 12-0)

Series Streak: Utah 2

Last Utah Win: 1992 (42-9)

Last OSU Win: 1970 (31-21)

In Corvallis: OSU 3-1-1

Last Ute Win in Corvallis: 1991 (22-10)

Last Beaver Win in Corvallis: 1970 (31-21)

Series Notes

Oregon State owns an 8-4-1 advantage, although Utah has won three of the last four. The two teams have not played since Utah won back-to-back games in 1991-92. OSU leads 3-1-1 in Corvallis.

Last Meeting

Frank Dolce, now Utah's radio color commentator, passed for three touchdowns in the first half en route to a 42-9 Utah victory in Salt Lake City in 1992. Utah's final score came when current Ute safeties coach Derrick Odum recovered a blocked punt in the end zone. Utah out-gained OSU 527-312 in total offense.

2007 UTAH FOOTBALL NOTES

State (37), Fresno State (38), Arizona State (41), Washington State (45) and Colorado (49) ... Utah will make five national television appearances this year, including a CSTV/VERSUS simulcast of the BYU game on Nov. 24 (also televised regionally on The Mtn.). Other national games include UCLA (VERSUS), Louisville (ESPN), TCU (VERSUS) and Wyoming (CSTV).

INSIDE THE HUDDLE

Preseason all-conference offensive lineman **Jason Boone**, who was preparing for his third year as a starter, was lost for the season after tearing his ACL in a non-contact drill on Aug. 9. Replacing Boone at left tackle is sophomore **Zane Beadles** – the starter at left guard a year ago. Taking over at left guard is junior **Corey Seiuli** ... Heralded junior college running back **Matt Asiata** will be available for Thursday's game after recovering from a foot injury suffered on Aug. 8. He returned to full workouts last Monday ... Three players are vying to start at running back against OSU: **Asiata**, senior **Darryl Poston** and junior **Ray Stowers**. All three are listed as possible starters on the current depth chart ... Competition is heated for two backup positions on the defensive line, where **Aaron Tonga** and **Casey Sutura** are in a dead heat for the No. 2 job at tackle, and **Koa Misa** and **Alex Puccinelli** are neck and neck behind starter **Greg Newman** at right end ... In addition to the injured Boone, Utes who were voted to the 2007 Preseason all-Mountain West Conference team were quarterback **Brian Johnson**, offensive lineman **Robert Conley** and place kicker **Louie Sakoda**. Sakoda, also Utah's starting punter, was named the preseason Special Teams Player of the Year.

Utah Rankings on Offense (2006 Final)			
Category	AVG	MWC	NCAA
Rushing Offense	140.5	4	54
Passing Offense	227.9	2	34
Pass Efficiency	132.7	4	43
Total Offense	368.4	3	41
Scoring Offense	27.9	3	33

Utah Rankings on Defense (2006 Final)			
Category	AVG	MWC	NCAA
Rushing Defense	106.5	2	22
Passing Defense	215.7	7	80
Pass Efficiency Defense	132.6	5	78
Total Defense	322.2	4	43
Scoring Defense	19.8	3	37

Utah Individual Rankings (2006 Final)			
Player, Category	AVG	MWC	NCAA
Eric Weddle, interceptions	0.54	1	8
Brett Ratliff, total offense	235.1	2	25
Brett Ratliff, pass efficiency	133.2	6	40
Louie Sakoda, punting	44.0	2	13
Louie Sakoda, field goals	1.2	3	T33
Steve Tate, tackles	8.5	4	40
Joe Jiannoni, tackles	8.4	5	48

UTAH'S ALL-TIME RECORD

Utah's all-time football record is 573-413-31. The Utes are 354-172-16 at home (including a 36-15 mark in Rice-Eccles Stadium, which opened in 1998), 204-227-13 in road games and 15-14-2 in games played at neutral sites.

QUARTERBACK NOTEBOOK

- > **Brian Johnson** (6-1, 210, Jr.) returns to start at quarterback after missing last season while recovering from knee surgery.
- > **Johnson**, a second-team all-conference selection as a sophomore in 2005, was named to the 2007 Preseason All-Mountain West Conference team.
- > **Johnson** started the first 10 games in 2005 before injuring his knee. He led the MWC and ranked No. 4 in the nation in total offense (337.0 ypg) and finished first in the MWC and No. 11 in the nation in pass efficiency (151.0).
- > **Johnson**, who ranked second in the MWC in passing yards per game (289.2 average) as a sophomore starter two years ago, completed 210-of-330 for 2,982 yards and 18 touchdowns (7 interceptions).
- > **Johnson** had four 300-yard passing games in 2005, including a career-best 417 yards against San Diego State.
- > **Johnson** was also Utah's second-leading rusher in 2005, netting 478 yards on 152 carries. He led the team in rushing touchdowns (8) and had three 70-plus yard rushing games, including a career-high 98 yards vs. North Carolina.
- > As a 17-year-old true freshman in 2004, **Johnson** played in 10 games as Alex Smith's backup.
- > No. 2 on the QB depth chart is senior **Tommy Grady** (6-7, 235). Grady played in seven games a year ago, completing 7-of-14 passes for 102 yards, 1 touchdown and 3 interceptions.
- > **Grady**, who transferred from Oklahoma in August of 2005, played in five games for the Sooners in 2004 as Jason White's backup. He completed 12-of-14 passes for 63 yards and 1 TD.

RUNNING BACK NOTEBOOK

- > The starter at running back could come down to a game-day decision. Contenders for the job are senior **Darryl Poston** and juniors **Matt Asiata** and **Ray Stowers**. Regardless of who starts, all three are expected to play.
- > **Poston** was Utah's leading rusher in 2006, carrying the ball 145 times for 553 yards (3.8 average) and five touchdowns. He appeared in all 13 games and started 11.
- > **Poston** is in his seventh year of collegiate eligibility. He played as a true freshman at USC in 2001. A series of injuries caused him to miss all or parts of the 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004 seasons. He transferred to Utah prior to the 2004 season and played in one game that year before suffering a season-ending knee injury.
- > **Matt Asiata**, a 2006 junior college All-American (Snow College), is in the hunt to start after recovering from a preseason foot injury. Asiata rushed for 1,365 yards and 15 touchdowns in 2006, averaging 6.3 yards per carry.
- > **Ray Stowers** threw himself into the mix with a great spring showing. Like Poston, Stowers has struggled with injuries for most of his career – missing the 2004 and 2005 seasons with a shoulder injury.

2007 UTAH FOOTBALL NOTES

Mountain West Conference Standings

Team	MWC	Overall
Air Force	0-0	0-0
Brigham Young	0-0	0-0
Colorado State	0-0	0-0
New Mexico	0-0	0-0
San Diego State	0-0	0-0
TCU	0-0	0-0
UNLV	0-0	0-0
Utah	0-0	0-0
Wyoming	0-0	0-0

This Week's Mountain West Conference Games

Thursday, Aug. 30

Utah at Oregon State, 7 p.m. PT, FSN NW, FSN Utah
UNLV at Utah State, 6:05 p.m. MT, no TV

Saturday, Sept. 1

Colorado State at Colorado, 10 a.m. MT, FSN
S. Carolina State at Air Force, 12 p.m. MT, The Mtn.
Virginia at Wyoming, 12 p.m. MT, VERSUS
Arizona at BYU, 3:30 p.m. MT, VERSUS
Baylor at TCU, 5 p.m. CT, CSTV
New Mexico at UTEP, 8 p.m. MT, CSTV
San Diego State is off

MWC Bowl Arrangements

Pioneer Purevision Las Vegas Bowl

Sat., Dec. 22 • Las Vegas, Nev. (Sam Boyd Stadium)
5:00 p.m. (PST) • ESPN
MWC vs. Pacific 10

San Diego County Credit Union Poinsettia Bowl

Thur., Dec. 20 • San Diego, Calif. (Qualcomm Stadium)
6:00 p.m. (PST) • ESPN
MWC vs. Navy/At Large

Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl

Mon., Dec. 31 • Fort Worth, Texas (Amon Carter Stadium)
11:30 a.m. (CST) • ESPN
MWC vs. Pacific 10

New Mexico Bowl

Sat., Dec. 22 • Albuquerque, N.M. (University Stadium)
2:30 p.m. (MST) • ESPN
MWC vs. WAC

2007 Utah MWC Players Of The Week

> **Stowers** played in seven games in 2006, rushing five times for 23 yards and one touchdown.

RECEIVER NOTEBOOK

> Dubbed the 'Six Pack,' all of Utah's best receivers from 2006 return. While **Derrek Richards**, **Brian Hernandez** and **Brent Casteel** have locked down starting jobs, **Bradon Godfrey**, **Marquis Wilson** and **Freddie Brown** will see plenty of action.

> **Richards** led Utah last year as a junior, catching 60 balls for 717 yards and six touchdowns. The honorable mention all-MWC selection started in all 13 games.

> Versatile junior **Brent Casteel**, a second-team all-MWC choice last season, finished second on the team in both receiving and rushing.

> **Casteel** had 39 catches for 600 yards and a team-best 10 touchdowns. He rushed 51 times for 262 yards (5.1 average) and one TD.

> **Hernandez** has 86 catches in his two years at Utah and enters his senior season completely healthy for the first time since transferring in for the 2005 season.

> Along with starter **Casteel**, Utah's powerful junior class includes **Godfrey** (22 catches for 360 yards and one touchdown in 2006), **Wilson** (25 receptions for 398 yards and three touchdowns) and **Brown** (17 catches for 196 yards).

OFFENSIVE LINE NOTEBOOK

> Would-be senior **Jason Boone** was slated to move to left tackle after starting for two years at right tackle. Boone was picked to the preseason all-MWC team but was felled by a season-ending knee injury in August.

> Junior **Robert Conley**, named to the preseason all-MWC team after an honorable mention season a year ago, will start for his third season at right guard.

> **Conley** led Utah's offensive linemen in total plays in 2006 (809) and pancake blocks (34). He also recorded 26 knockdowns and 20 cuts.

> Back for his second year as the starting center is senior **Kyle Gunther**. Gunther, named to the Rimington Trophy watch list (honors the nation's top center), led the Utes with 38 knockdowns. He also tallied 19 pancake blocks and 15 cuts.

> Sophomore **Zane Beadles**, who started at left guard as a freshman in 2006, has moved to left tackle to replace Boone. Beadles totaled 10 pancake blocks, 10 cut blocks and 19 knockdowns in 13 games last year.

> New to the starting lineup are junior left guard **Corey Seuli** and junior right tackle **Dustin Hensel**.

SECONDARY NOTEBOOK

> The task this fall is to replace **Eric Weddle**, a 2006 Consensus All-America defensive back and four-year starter who played corner, safety, and several other defensive, offensive and special teams positions.

> The only returning starters in the secondary are senior free safety **Steve Tate** and junior cornerback **Brice McCain**.

> **Tate** was Utah's tackle leader a year ago (102 total stops), when he made honorable mention all-conference.

> **McCain** led the Utes in pass breakups in 2006 with five.

> Getting their first collegiate starts will be converted receiver **Sean**

2007 UTAH FOOTBALL NOTES

Next Opponent: Oregon State

Oregon State Sports Information Contact

Steve Fenk
Office: 541-737-7470
Cell: 541-230-0627
Email: steve.fenk@oregonstate.edu
Web Site: osubeavers.com

Oregon State Head Coach Mike Riley

Alma Mater, year: Alabama, 1975
Career Record (year): 38-34, 7th
Record at Current School (year): 38-34, 7th

Oregon State Schedule/Results (0-0, 0-0 Pacific 10)

Date	Opponent	Result
8-30	Utah	
9-6	at Cincinnati	
9-15	Idaho State	
9-22	at Arizona State	
9-29	UCLA	
10-6	Arizona	
10-13	at California	
10-27	Stanford	
11-3	at USC	
11-10	Washington	
12-1	at Oregon	

Oregon State Offensive Rankings (2006 Final)

Category	Avg.	PAC 10	NCAA
Rushing Offense	118.2	8	81
Passing Offense	242.4	4	24
Total Offense	360.6	6	45
Scoring Offense	27.8	4	36

Oregon State Defensive Rankings (2006 Final)

Category	Avg.	PAC 10	NCAA
Rushing Defense	110.1	3	29
Passing Defense	223.7	7	88
Total Defense	333.9	6	59
Scoring Defense	22.2	5	54

Oregon State Individual Rankings (2006 Final)

Player, Category	Avg.	PAC 10	NCAA
Yvenson Bernard, rushing	100.5	2	18
Matt More, passing	215.9	4	27
Sammie Stroughter, receiving	92.4	1	10

Smith at cornerback and **Joe Dale** at strong safety.

> When Utah utilizes an extra defensive back, **R.J. Stanford** will start at nickel back.

> Junior college transfers who will contribute right away are safety **Robert Johnson** and cornerback (nickel back) **Terrell Cole**.

DEFENSIVE LINE NOTEBOOK

> Utah graduated both starting tackles into the NFL after the 2006 season. **Kelly Talavou** and **Paul Soliai** were all-conference players a year ago – Talavou first team and Soliai second team.

> The clear-cut starters at tackle since the spring have been senior **Gabe Long** and sophomore **Kenape Eliapo**. Long and Eliapo played quite a bit as backups a year ago.

> All-conference candidate **Martail Burnett**, honorable mention all-MWC in 2006, will start for a third year at left end.

> **Greg Newman**, who was awarded a scholarship in August, will start at right end.

> Backups who will see game time include ends **Paul Kruger**, **Koa Misi** and **Alex Puccinelli**, and tackles **Aaron Tonga**, **Lei Tala-maivao**, **Casey Sutura** and **Neli A'asa**.

> Of Utah's top defensive linemen, only **Long**, **Eliapo**, **Burnett**, **Newman** and **Puccinelli** have NCAA experience.

LINEBACKER NOTEBOOK

> Senior **Joe Jiannoni** has started since his sophomore season at middle linebacker.

> **Jiannoni** was named a second-team all-MWC pick in 2006 after a 92-tackle season (second on the team).

> Senior **Malakai Mokofisi** starts for the second year at 'stud' linebacker and **Kyle Brady**, a part-time starter for the past two years, has won the job at rover.

> Backing up Brady is another part-time starter, **Stevenson Sylvester**, who played in 11 games and got three starts as a true freshman last year.

SPECIAL TEAMS NOTEBOOK

> Utah returns an All-America, Lou Groza and Ray Guy award candidate in junior **Louie Sakoda**.

> **Sakoda** was voted the preseason MWC Special Teams Player of the Year and a first-team place kicker.

> **Sakoda** was the 2006 MWC Co-Special Teams Player of the Year and the Armed Forces Bowl MVP.

> **Sakoda** made 80% of his field goal tries (16-of-20) and was 43-of-43 in PATs.

> **Sakoda**, Utah's starting punter since his freshman year, averaged 44.0 yards per punt to rank second in the MWC and 13th in the nation in 2006.

> **Sakoda** placed 30 of his 59 punts inside the 20-yard line to lead Utah to a No. 1 national ranking in net punting (41.6).

> **Sakoda** has a career long punt of 75 yards and has 15 punts of 50 yards or longer.

> Handling kickoffs for a second year is sophomore **Ben Vroman**. Vroman could also get the call on long field goal attempts.

> Junior **Clint Mower** returns as the starting long and short snapper. Mower did not make a bad snap all season in 2006 (59 long snaps, 20 short snaps).

> **Brent Casteel** will work on both the punt and kick return teams.

2007 UTAH FOOTBALL NOTES

Ute Single Game Career Highs

Passing Yards

Brian Johnson 417 vs. San Diego State, 2005

Rushing Yards

Brian Johnson 98 vs. North Carolina, 2005
 Brent Casteel 74 vs. Arizona, 2005
 Darryl Poston 72 vs. Northern Arizona, 2006
 72 vs. UNLV, 2006
 Darrell Mack 65 vs. Wyoming, 2005
 Ray Stowers 10 vs. Utah State, 2006

Receiving Yards

Brian Hernandez 148 vs. SDSU, 2005
 Brent Casteel 100 vs. Brigham Young, 2006
 Derrek Richards 96 vs. New Mexico, 2006
 Bradon Godfrey 80 vs. Northern Arizona, 2006
 Marquis Wilson 72 vs. Northern Arizona, 2006
 Freddie Brown 63 vs. Air Force Academy, 2006

Tackles

Steve Tate 17 vs. Boise State, 2006
 Joe Jiannoni 15 vs. Wyoming, 2006
 15 vs. Air Force, 2006
 Kyle Brady 8 vs. San Diego State, 2006
 Martail Burnett 8 vs. Air Force, 2005
 Gabe Long 7 vs. UNLV, 2006
 Malakai Mokofisi 7 vs. Arizona, 2005
 Brice McCain 5 vs. New Mexico, 2006
 5 vs. Colorado State, 2005
 Joe Dale 3 vs. Air Force, 2005
 R.J. Stanford 2 vs. TCU, 2006
 Sean Smith 1 vs. Brigham Young, 2006
 1 vs. Tulsa, 2006

Interceptions

Steve Tate 1 vs. Georgia Tech, 2005
 1 vs. San Diego State, 2006
 Stevenson Sylvester 1 vs. Utah State, 2006
 Malakai Mokofisi 1 vs. UNLV, 2006
 Joe Jiannoni 1 vs. Colorado State, 2006
 Brice McCain 1 vs. Colorado State, 2006

Field Goal Long

Louie Sakoda 45 vs. Tulsa, 2006

Punt Long

Louie Sakoda 75 vs. Northern Arizona, 2006

Kickoff Return Yards

Brent Casteel 102 vs. SDSU, 2005
 Brice McCain 84 vs. New Mexico, 2006
 Derrek Richards 61 vs. Georgia Tech, 2005

Punt Return Yards

Marquis Wilson 77 vs. UNLV, 2006
 Derrek Richards 17 vs. TCU, 2006

He's battling for the starting punt return job with **Marquis Wilson**, who finished second in the MWC in punt return average (11.2) last year.

> Kick returners are **Casteel**, **Brice McCain** and **Derrek Richards**. McCain was an honorable mention all-MWC kick returner last year after taking over the starting job in game five.

> **McCain** averaged 22.4 yards per kick return.

HEAD COACH KYLE WHITTINGHAM SAYS

"The season opener is always exciting, and playing a team the caliber of Oregon State right out of the gate tends to get players and fans alike even more charged up. Playing a Pac 10 school is always a challenge, but one that our players and coaches look forward to. While winning the Mountain West Conference championship is our primary goal, non-conference games like Oregon State, UCLA and Louisville can put us on the national radar screen if we perform well.

"We feel good about where our team is right now in terms of physical conditioning, health and ability to execute our game plan. Obviously, losing Jason Boone was a big setback, particularly because he was a preseason all-conference pick and a great team leader. However, the team has responded well to the situation and we have moved forward. We still have a log jam at running back, which we hope will work itself out in the last couple of practices before the first game. We feel we have a chance to be a potent offense with Brian Johnson back at quarterback and a talented supporting cast surrounding him. The defense has shown steady improvement throughout camp and all that is left now is to find out how our young players respond in a game situation."

WALK THE WALK

Utah will start a new tradition this fall at its home games. The Ute Walk will allow fans an opportunity to greet the team as it walks from the Smith Center to Rice-Eccles Stadium. The Ute Walk will begin two and a half hours prior to kickoff. The path will take the team down Guardsman Way and on to 500 South, before entering the south side of the stadium.

2007 MWC PRESEASON POLL

1. TCU (18)	202
2. Brigham Young (3)	178
3. Utah (2)	165
4. New Mexico	120
5. Wyoming	110
6. Colorado State	107
7. Air Force	62
8. San Diego State	45
9. UNLV	35

UTAH DEPTH CHART (8-27-07)

Offense

Left Tackle

- 68 Zane Beadles (6-4, 312, So., 1VL)
- 71 Walter Watts (6-2, 300, Fr., RS)

Left Guard

- 74 Corey Seiuli (6-3, 320, Jr., 1VL)
- 72 Caleb Schlauderauff (6-5, 300, Fr., RS)

Center

- 63 Kyle Gunther (6-4, 304, Sr., 1VL)
- 57 Tyler Williams (6-1, 300, So., 1VL)

Right Guard

- 66 Robert Conley (6-1, 316, Jr., 2VL)
- 77 Zane Taylor (6-3, 305, Fr., RS)

Right Tackle

- 65 Dustin Hensel (6-7, 320, Jr., 1VL)
- 79 Zeke Tuinei-Wily (6-4, 308, So., 1VL)

Wide Receiver

- 26 Derrek Richards (5-11, 175, Sr., 3VL)
- 88 Freddie Brown (6-3, 207, Jr., 2VL)

Wide Receiver

- 5 Brent Casteel (5-10, 193, Jr., 2VL)
- 2 Marquis Wilson (5-11, 175, Jr., 2VL)

Wide Receiver

- 16 Brian Hernandez (6-0, 183, Sr., 2VL)
- 81 Bradon Godfrey (6-3, 197, Jr., 1VL)

Quarterback

- 3 Brian Johnson (6-1, 210, Jr., 2VL)
- 15 Tommy Grady (6-7, 235, Sr., 1VL)

Running Back

- 9 Darryl Poston (5-11, 200, Sr.) or
- 24 Ray Stowers (6-0, 223, Jr., 1VL) or
- 4 Matt Asiata (6-0, 235, Jr., JC)

Tight End

- 48 Matt Sims (6-1, 251, Sr., 1VL)
- 45 Colt Sampson (6-4, 250, Jr., 1VL)

Defense

Left End

- 93 Martail Burnett (6-3, 262, Sr., 3VL)
- 11 Paul Kruger (6-5, 255, Fr., RS)

Tackle

- 94 Gabe Long (6-3, 290, Sr., 1VL)
- 98 Aaron Tonga (6-2, 290, Jr., JC) or
- 91 Casey Sutera (6-3, 266, Sr., 1VL)

Nose Tackle

- 92 Kenape Eliapo (6-0, 303, So., 1VL)
- 43 Lei Talamaivao (6-2, 290, Fr., HS)

Right End

- 56 Greg Newman (6-4, 260, Jr., 1VL)
- 41 Koa Misi (6-3, 263, So., JC) or
- 13 Alex Puccinelli (6-2, 252, Sr., 2VL)

Rover Linebacker

- 14 Kyle Brady (6-1, 234, Sr., 3VL)
- 10 Stevenson Sylvester (6-2, 220, So., 1VL)

Middle Linebacker

- 44 Joe Jiannoni (6-0, 235, Sr., 2VL)
- 20 Mike Wright (6-2, 225, So., 1VL)

Stud Linebacker

- 22 Malakai Mokofisi (6-2, 243, Sr., 2VL)
- 59 Kepa Gaison (5-11, 230, So., SQ)

Cornerback

- 4 Sean Smith (6-3, 217, So., 1VL)
- 8 Elijah Wesson (5-11, 175, So., 1VL)

Cornerback

- 1 Brice McCain (5-9, 189, Jr., 2VL)
- 29 Justin Jones (5-10, 170, So., 1VL)

Free Safety

- 28 Steve Tate (5-11, 195, Sr., 2VL)
- 7 RJ Rice (5-8, 183, Jr., 1VL)

Strong Safety

- 43 Joe Dale (5-11, 197, So., 1VL)
- 17 Robert Johnson (6-3, 185, So., JC)

Nickel Back

- 25 R.J. Stanford (5-11, 180, So., 1VL)
- 21 Terrell Cole (5-11, 190, Jr., JC)

Special Teams

Punter

- 35 Louie Sakoda (5-10, 178, Jr., 2VL)
- 30 Ben Vroman (5-11, 187, So., 1VL)

Place Kicker

- 35 Louie Sakoda (5-10, 178, Jr., 2VL)
- 30 Ben Vroman (5-11, 187, So., 1VL)

Kickoffs

- 30 Ben Vroman (5-11, 187, So., 1VL)
- 35 Louie Sakoda (5-10, 178, Jr., 2VL)

Long Snapper

- 64 Clint Mower (6-0, 210, Jr., 1VL)
- 60 Scott Coleman (6-2, 210, Jr., HS)

Short Snapper

- 64 Clint Mower (6-0, 210, Jr., 1VL)
- 91 Casey Sutera (6-3, 266, Sr., 1VL)

Holder

- 81 Bradon Godfrey (6-3, 197, Jr., 1VL)
- 7 RJ Rice (5-8, 183, Jr., 1VL)

Punter Returners

- 5 Brent Casteel (5-10, 193, Jr., 2VL) or
- 2 Marquis Wilson (5-11, 175, Jr., 2VL)
- 16 Brian Hernandez (6-0, 183, Sr., 2VL)

Kickoff Returners

- 1 Brice McCain (5-9, 189, Jr., 2VL) or
- 5 Brent Casteel (5-10, 193, Jr., 2VL) or
- 26 Derrek Richards (5-11, 175, Sr., 3VL)