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Utah State Season Preview

MWC ReSpectrum: 0-0

# The Bangarang

*"Re-Refracting since 2013 without mercy or filter"*

## A New Generation of Newsletter

Welcome to the BANGARANG! We'll cut to the chase. The Spectrum needed a game-day newsletter again to get us organized and on the road to more undefeated home seasons, and we at the Bangarang are happy to oblige this need. While this first issue is just an intro to our team, watch out for issues for EVERY HOME GAME after this point, as well as the journeys of the Spectrum on Wheels! Give us a follow on twitter @usubangarang, and hit us up with any ideas or thoughts you may have.

## #ReSpectrum: Home of Spectrum Magic

It's basketball season people. While our football team has had recent success, Utah State basketball has been an amazing program for quite some time. Since Stew Morrill has been our head coach, USU has won 91 percent of its home games. Think about that, 9 out of 10 times you'll be doing "Winning Team. Losing Team." in our arena. Much of that success can be directly attributed to you, the readers of this newsletter.

Many opposing players and coaches have said the Spectrum is the hardest place they have ever had to play. We've been put on a pedestal and each new generation of Aggie students needs to realize that. Very few student sections have as good a reputation as the HURD. There also may not be a more famous student section on YouTube. Seriously, search for it on YouTube and we have more videos and views that just about anybody.

Why is that though? What makes the Spectrum and you students so special? The student section at Utah State is coordinated, innovative, knowledgeable and most importantly... loud! We don't do social functions full of snapchats and selfies at our basketball games. You come to yell until your voice is gone to support the team.

This is a special arena. This is a special program. And YOU are a special student section.

## This Season's Roster

G- Preston Medlin- 2012 Preseason All-WAC Player of the Year before getting injured 16 games into the year. Averaged 16.3 ppg and should be the vocal leader on the court in his final season at Utah State. Watch him hit a big 3-pointer and you'll fall in love if you haven't already.

G- Spencer Butterfield- Hustles harder than just about anybody. As an All-MWC candidate this year, he will give nightmares to any team who tries to key on his counterpart, Medlin. Also, he looks more like a mob-boss than anyone we know.

C- Jarred Shaw- Jarred, or "Slim", is yet another All-MWC candidate on this team. Started in 30 games last season. The Chain "Shaw" averaged 14.2 ppg last year, but more importantly, he is a true "team first" kind of guy. Shaved Danny's number into his head.

G- Marcel Davis- Call him "Doc," brings everything you want in a guard: efficient ball handling, a crisp passing game and some down right true-soul all-things pretty dribble drive. He can score, he can work the court, he's simply gonna cut kids up. Kinda like a doctor. Heh.

G- TeNale Roland- Roland really came into his own toward the end of last year. He should play a ton of quality minutes. Roland is an excellent passer and has some seriously sick handles as well.

C- Jordan Stone- 6'10. 270 Lbs. Looks to finally be coming into his own in the system. Also is living evidence of the theory of evolution. There also may not be a more intimidating physical specimen on the planet.

F- Danny Berger- This guy literally died on the court last year. Something tells me he has special things in store for us. Our guess, a game-winning bucket, or several. Teammates started calling him Iron Man.

F- Ben Clifford- Big Ben creates amazing space down low and can be a rebounding machine. Currently out with a foot injury, look for him to battle for starting minutes upon returning. Look for him to compete with Butterfield for most hustle, to make more than his fair share of 3's, and most importantly look for... well... those eyes. We have no shame, the kid's a dreamboat.

F- Jalen Moore- Local kid. Scoring freak. Insane afro. That's all you need to know.

F- Kyle Davis- Sophomore transfer from SUU. Long-armed work horse who can create huge plays in the paint. His first possession as an Aggie? A two-handed-jam-to-double-armed-hulk-up combo.

F- Sean Harris- Has a better flat-top than the Fresh Prince of Bel-Air. Been waiting a long time to see him play. Will be worth the wait.

G- JoJo McGlaston- Kid can get up. And we mean GET UP. Check his YouTube vids. He's as freakish as freakish athletes come. If you're a fan of dunks - and that's all of you - you'll enjoy every second of him.

G- Viko Noma'aea (Vee-ko No-muh-eye-uh)- Sees the floor and gets the ball where it needs to be. Will be a fantastic PG for the Aggies.

C- Carson Shanks- When you see him you'll think "Tall Minnesota." When you watch him play you'll think "the next Dikembe Mutumbo." Big time shot blocker, big time scoring machine. He's just big time.

G- Terrell Young- Comes out of Judge Memorial High School which has been a factory producing solid college players.

F- James Croasdell- Should have hookups with Walter White being from New Mexico. Will redshirt this season before going on LDS mission.

## Adventures in the Mountain West

Something you'll note as you peruse through this Aggie roster is the exciting and uplifting onslaught of newcomers. The names almost dance off the tongue: Jalen, Davis, Jojo.

What you may not realize is the biggest newcomer of them all: this conference.

Sound funny? It really shouldn't. We're talking about a web of programs that welcomed five teams into the NCAA Tournament last season, boasting the nation's best collective RPI and the number one NBA draft pick to boot (Anthony Bennett, UNLV). Where the Mountain West is good on the gridiron it is phenomenal on the hardwood.

What's more, be ready to experience basketball in some of the best venues you can find. "The Show" at SDSU and "The Pit" at New Mexico are just two of many raucous crowds ready to attempt their will against the Spectrum, and if there ever was a time for the Spectrum to be at it's most iconic it's now. If this Aggie squad can do what is expected we could very well see more than one in-conference Top 25 matchup - let me re-emphasize this point, that's *Utah State ranked in the Top 25 against another team ranked in the Top 25*, "the irresistible force versus the immovable object" kinda stuff - on our home court this season. That's marquee, ESPN, did-you-just-see-that caliber basketball right here in Logan almost weekly. Just take a second and try to think about that without getting chills.

So what does this mean? Well, they say "Join the Climb" for a reason. It means an almost sure-fire seed in the NCAA Tournament, better exposure for our players, better excitement for the fans, better stories all around, and altogether just better better basketball.

So our question is... will YOU be better? Will the Spectrum be better? We're in if you're in. Bangarang, Aggies.

## The Greatest Coach In USU History. Ya. We Said it.

If you want to know why USU Basketball has had the incredible amount of success that we have had over the past decades, there is no reason to look any further than Stew Morrill. Say what you can, the man win's basketball games. He boasts the 19th best winning percentage out of active coaches, with a 584-267 all time record as a head coach, and an even more astonishing 366-129 for his 15 seasons at Utah State. He has more victories that all but 13 active coaches, and is 47th ALL TIME in victories. Plus, he's within 10 victories of the 5 coaches in front of him, and none of them are currently coaching. That means by the end of the season, he will be the 42nd most winning coach in the history of college basketball. He has coached in more games than all but 16 other coaches in the nation; has had 18 twenty win season as a head coach, and is currently leading a streak of 14 consecutive 20 win seasons, good for the 8th longest of ALL TIME.

Even more impressive is his home record at Utah State. He currently sits at 224-22, for a 91% winning percentage. That means while at home, 9 out of 10 times, you'll be doing the "Winning Team, Losing Team" Chant. In fact, only 22 times in the past 14 years have we not walked away with a victory. Over almost 3 decades of coaching, he has literally seen only a 9% regression in his winning percentage. He has won countless awards, tournaments, league championships, including being voted one of the top X's and O's coaches in the nation by his peers this last year; the cap stone of which came in 2011 when he was awarded the Jim Phelan Award for Best Coach in the Nation, the official NCAA Award selected by collegeinsider.com.

For those with sense, the above stands as a solid testament and evidence as to the efficacy and absolute genius of the man coaching our boys. And we support him every minute of the way.

Post Script: A Word to the Haters: I know that there are those who want to say Stew has padded stats, a chicken attitude, and a complacent mentality. To you, the Bangarang asks three basic questions. A) If it was that easy, why doesn't every program win that much? B) How many non-power conference universities that have both division 1 basketball and football have more success than him? And C) Are you bloody crazy and just hate winning?