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THE REFRACTION

(16-11)



Streak: Won 3

The unofficial game day newsletter of The Spectrum

Streak: Won 2

Vol. 4, Issue 17 - Feb. 26, 2011

Utah State vs. Idaho

ReSpectrum: 192-13

"A Cold-Blooded Wrecking Machine since 2007"

The Hit List

#	NAME	HT	POS	YR
25	Deremy Geiger	5-11	G	Jr.
3	Shawn Henderson	6-3	G	Sr.
2	Jeff Ledbetter	6-3	G	Sr.
11	Brandon Wiley	6-6	F	Sr.
21	Luiz Toledo	6-8	F	Jr.
4	Sheridan Shayne	6-0	G	Jr.
10	Landon Tatum	5-11	G	Jr.
12	Paul Jorg	6-8	F	Fr.
20	Matt Borton	6-5	G	Fr.
22	Djim Bandoumel	6-8	F	Jr.
33	Kyle Barone	6-10	C	So.
34	Stephen Madison	6-5	F	Fr.
42	Joe Kammerer	6-9	C	Fr.

Head Coach: Don Verlin

In All Honesty: A game preview

If ever there were a perfect storm of everything going horribly wrong for a team to beat the Aggies, it was the first match-up against the Vandals this season. Utah State could not hit a shot to save their lives, and Idaho made all the big plays they needed to down the stretch.

But this is a completely refocused Utah State team than the one that lost in Moscow earlier this month.

Idaho still poses a threat with their team's defense, which as we've seen can be among the best in the WAC, as well as a handful of guys who can go off for big nights at any given time. In many ways, they are a lot like Utah State. But the Aggies are still the big dog, and it only seems logical to think that USU will be out for revenge tonight.

For USU to bust the defense that kept them in check in Moscow, the 3-point shooters will need to be on their A-game tonight. If Idaho sticks to a zone defense, it could mean big nights for Pooh, Tyler and Brian. If they get hot, it'll open everything up nice and wide for Tai, Nate and Brady to go to work too.

Introducing your new Refraction Staff...

With the founders bidding a final farewell, it's time to introduce Generation Two!

Taking over The Refraction next year will be the duo of Charley Riddle and CJ Hales. They've each got a full year of front row experience under their belts now, which is exactly where Kraig and Faf were when they began this thing.

They're also pretty damn funny, which is probably more than what could be said about Kraig and Faf four years ago.

It will be a new era for sure, but we're confident that these two will carry on with what we've been doing, and who knows? Maybe they'll totally kick more ass than we ever did.

What's important though is that The Refraction is going to live on. Let's hope that there's eventually a Generation Three, Four, Five, etc... Hopefully this never goes away.

2010-2011 WAC Champions!!!

In case you didn't hear already, it's now four-in-a-row. Seems fitting that we forever remember this year's senior class as "The Quad Squad" for winning titles in every season of theirs.

Unfortunately, the clinching of the outright title came via another team losing for the second straight year, but it only seems fitting that for the second straight year, we celebrate anyway on senior night.

Are our nets tired of getting cut down? Probably... Is anybody losing sleep over winning another championship though? We say nay! Let's party if we win.

The 2011 All-Refration Team

Honoring this year's players who were most rattled by The Spectrum, the Aggies and our heckling

First team

David Foster - Utah

1-2 FG, 1 TO, 2 pts, 3 PF

Foster's place on the first team is due almost entirely to the fact that he is 7-foot-3 and got rejected by the BOTTOM of the rim, not once, but twice!!! We are definitely going to miss watching Foster stumble around the court as he attempts to play the game of basketball during his senior year seeing as how his team and coach will be refusing to play us from now on.

Juwan Howard Jr. - Western Michigan

1-8 FG, 0-3 3-pt, 2 TO, 2 pts, 4 PF

We'd say that the apple has fallen far from the tree, but was Juwan Howard Sr. really all that good? Either way, Jr's performance in The Spectrum this year was basically an epic fail all-around. 1-8 shooting, two turnovers and four fouls was a less than stellar follow-up to the prior day when he hung 24 on Troy in the first day of this year's Gossner's.

Wil Carter - San Jose State

1-6 FG, 4 pts, fouled out... in eight minutes

Whether it was Tai Wesley's unguardable post moves down low, or from fouling Brock-eith Pane on his way to the bucket, Carter was simply abused in Logan this year. He managed to foul out from the game with just eight minutes played on the night. Thanks for coming. Amazingly, this wasn't his worst game against Utah State this year either. He went scoreless with four turnovers and three fouls in the game against USU at San Jose.

Christian Kabongo - New Mexico State

1-8 FG, 1-6 3-pt, 1 TO, 3 pts, 1 PF

New Mexico State fans have nicknamed him "KABANG!!!"... mostly because New Mexico State fans are dorks. One can't help but wonder if that shattered backboard wasn't at least partly due to the staggering amount of bricks thrown up at it by basically every NMSU player not named Gillenwater in that game.

Greg Smith - Fresno State

1-6 FG, 2 TO, 2 pts, 3 PF

Welcome back Greg Smith! An All-Refration first teamer a year ago, the second-year center is making a repeat appearance during his sophomore campaign. Smith, who has routinely been wasting the time of NBA scouts with his lackluster performances, got abused down low by the Wesley-Bendall-Jardine trio yet again, shooting just 1-6 from the field with two turnovers and more fouls than he had points.

2011 Refraction Player of the Year

La'Shard Anderson - Boise State - 0-4 FG, 0-2 3-pt, 4 TO, 0 pts, 4 PF

It's tough for there to be any argument left to be had when an opposing team's leading scorer comes to The Spectrum and drops a goose egg in scoring. That was the case though with Boise State's La'Shard Anderson this year. While he only missed four shots, that number also speaks to how much of a ghost he was during that game. But then again the same can be said for the Broncos' entire team. They never really showed up to play, falling behind 15-2 to USU in the first few minutes of a game that was never even close.

Seeing as how Boise State will likely never be coming back to The Spectrum, Anderson will go down forever as the senior leader for BSU who went scoreless in the Aggies' final blowout of Boise.

Honorable mention

Head coach Dan Monson - Long Beach State - The head coach who started Gonzaga's rise to fame lasted all of four minutes and 15 seconds in The Spectrum before losing his mind at Brock-eith Pane and getting a double-technical and ejected from the game. He just couldn't out-douche Boylen for top honors though. But his accomplishments were impressive nonetheless.

Mitchell Young - Saint Mary's - Sure, he didn't play in The Spectrum this season, but for how badly he was posterized by Brady Jardine last week, he deserved at least some kind of mention. Young had a good game too... Too bad he'll only be remembered for that last part.

Second team

Lindsey Hughey - Weber State

1-8 FG, 2 TO, 4 pts, 4 PF

As if it wasn't bad enough to be a dude named Lindsey, having to deal with all of the harassment that comes along with being a visiting player in The Spectrum couldn't have helped. Hughey was straight-up dismal in this year's game.

Greg Plater - Long Beach State

0-5 FG, 0-5 3-pt, 0 pts

While Plater is only the fourth-leading scorer for the 49ers, his 0-5 from 3 performance was everything short of stellar. Not quite a first team caliber showing, but still pretty excellent, and definitely worth honoring.

Stephon Carter - Cal State Bakersfield

2-11 FG, 3 TO, 4 pts, 1 PF

Carter leads his team in points, assists and steals and is second on the team in rebounding. All of that kind of went out the window though when thrown into the fire of The Spectrum.

Hamidu Rahman - New Mexico State

1-4 FG, 3 TO, 2 pts, 2 PF

Rahman saved his sophomore slump for his junior season. After earning honorable mention All-Refration honors as a freshman, Rahman finally cracked into the teams as a junior.

Troy's entire team

12-61 FG, 5-26 3-pt, 9 TO, 39 pts

For you non-math majors out there, 12-61 is a dismal 19.7 percent shooting from the field. And that's mostly only because they got hot in the second half. The Trojans were also out-rebounded 55-32 by the Aggies.

2011 Coach of the Year

Jim Boylen - University of Utah

It's rare that you'll see a coach give up on a game before it even begins, but that was absolutely the case with Boylen this year. Fresh off of the news leaking that the Utes would be ending the series against Utah State (also known as Boylen's declaration of his lack of manliness), Boylen wanted to just get in, take his Spectrum beating, and get out.

He indeed got the beating, and along with it, the reputation of being a coward. He'll likely be unemployed soon too, so the joke's probably on him (karma!). But given the fact that he never even emotionally showed up to this game, seemingly knowing how screwed he was, makes him the 2011 All-Refration Coach of the Year.

THE BACK PAGE

The bigger the game, the bigger The Refraction

This is not the greatest page in the world... This is just a tribute

Senior night tributes

Before getting too deep into how bad ass each individual player of this year's senior class is, it is crucial to point out what they have accomplished as a team over their time at Utah State. Tai Wesley, Tyler Newbold, Pooh Williams and Matt Formisano have more wins in their Utah State careers than any other players in the history of Aggie basketball with a record so far of 105-27. The next highest win total is 96 wins by hero to The Refraction Nate Harris, with 96 wins.

With the WAC title already wrapped up, Tai, Tyler, Pooh and Matt will graduate having never played a season in which they failed to win a WAC championship. They also currently have a 67-1 record at home in The Spectrum, which is just effing ridiculous.

For Brian Green and Nate Bendall, they also have a pair of WAC titles during their last two years here, with the only year out of all six of these players that didn't see a WAC title being Bendall's freshman year when USU finished No. 2 in the standings during our first year in the WAC.

For what our opinion is worth, even if the numbers don't already make this obvious, this is the best senior class of our generation, and arguably in USU history. So with that said, let's get on to the individual tributes.

Matt Formisano - If there is any player who has put in all the work and gotten the least reward, it is Matt Formisano. The playing time was never abundant, but his contributions have always been solid, and for a player to stick through five years in a program like he has speaks more than what any amount of words can say about his character. Matt was always the guy who you wanted to see get his when he got into a game, and he rarely, if ever, disappointed. He is also one of three players in this class who have a last-second game-winning shot on their resume.

Brian Green - If you are looking for a basketball player who has true grit, you are in luck! If there is ever an award given out for the amount of hustle a player plays with, that award damn well had better be named after Brian Green. On top of the hustle, he is also the most accurate 3-point shooter in school history. The dude just makes exciting things happen. He is one of those guys we all wish we could have had for more than just two years.

Nate Bendall - After a solid freshman season in 2006, Nate left the Aggies for a mission, and upon his return did not have a scholarship available to him. All he did was go and win a NJCAA National Championship at Salt Lake Community College before holding true to his USU loyalty and coming back to Logan to continue ripping apart the WAC. His post defense and mid-range jumper have been absolutely essential to USU's last two WAC championships, and his toughness and leadership will be difficult to replace.

Pooh Williams - As if being one of the most lockdown defenders to ever wear an Aggie uniform wasn't enough, Pooh Williams is also a guy who can take over a game offensively. And in several big games over his career, he did just that. He was also a constant threat to bust

out a huge play or throw down a huge dunk that would get The Spectrum rocking off the hook. He also seems to have a knack for getting breakaway dunks to finish off opposing teams in big games. Just a straight-up stud.

Tyler Newbold - Pooh wasn't the only lockdown defender manning the wings for the last four years as an Aggie. Tyler Newbold has been just as crucial as anyone to USU's recent success with both his defense, his stellar outside shooting, and the unity he brought to the team that goes largely unnoticed on a stat sheet. He led the nation in assist-to-turnover ratio as a sophomore, and was right at the top as a junior as well. He is currently No. 2 in USU history in games started, No. 7 in career assists and 3-point percentage, No. 5 in career 3-pointers made, and by the end of the season, will be alongside Tai Wesley as having the two players to have appeared in more games in an Aggie uniform than any other players ever.

Tai Wesley - What the hell do you even say? He's got more career statistics than any other player in the nation right now. There are few things more enjoyable than watching a pissed off Tai Wesley take over a game in the post, both offensively and defensively. Tai currently ranks No. 8 in USU history in total points and assists, No. 7 in career rebounds and made field goals, No. 10 in steals, No. 3 in blocks and No. 4 in field goal percentage. The records go on and on for Wesley, and chances are it will be a long time until anybody sees another player with a skill set as diverse as Tai's. From the first day anyone saw him in an Aggie uniform, we all knew that he was going to be one of the backbones of the team for several years, and that's exactly how it went down. His season numbers might not say it, but if Tai isn't this year's WAC Player of the Year, he was just straight-up robbed. It's been a hell of a ride.

Staff picks: Best moments of each senior's career

This will be short and sweet, but if you don't clearly remember each of these, the problem is you, not our lack of explaining.

Matt Formisano - The game-winning put back vs. UC Santa Barbara in 08-09. It was a hell of a game that Matt won in the clutch as part of a school record 30-win season.

Brian Green - Hawaii. Overtime. 3-pointer. OMFG!!!

Nate Bendall - Nate's offensive rebound and put-back basket with the and-one against Louisiana Tech in the Spectrum last year was as clutch as it gets. It sealed a huge win and got us some revenge that year.

Pooh Williams - Pooh's alley-oop dunk during the "winning team/losing team" against Nevada in the closing seconds of the 2009 WAC Championship game was as good as it gets. So what if it interrupted our chant... We just went ahead and did it again before storming the court!

Tyler Newbold - Also going to the 2009 WAC Tourney... USU was down one, with six seconds to go. Newbold catches a pass on the wing, lets a shot go and it rattles in to send Utah State to the finals... Epic.

Tai Wesley - Amazingly, finding one true standout moment from Tai was hardest out of this entire bunch, mostly because there were so many good ones to choose from. We're going with the entire second half from last Saturday's win over Saint Mary's. That was absolute domination in a must-win game.

Refraction graduation... One final rant

After four seasons, 72 issues, more than 600 hours of work, and \$1,440 spent in printing costs (almost entirely out of our own pockets), it's the end of the road for the founders of this newsletter. This season has been mostly solo for me (Matt/Fafner), since Kraig graduated last year, but tonight is senior night for me too finally. Not like I took my time graduating or anything...

It's tough to really know what to say other than THANK YOU to everybody who has helped us along the way!!! If it weren't for people actually caring about what we had to write and people supporting us the whole way, we could never have pulled this off like we have. In other words, we may have been two guys trying to inform everyone about opposing teams, make people laugh with our articles and even start crazy chants like "winning team/losing team" and "I believe"... But we could never have done any of it off without the help of 3,998 other students each game helping us make it happen. The Spectrum is really as good as it gets. It's the best part about going to Utah State. It is a hell of a time every night and it brings everyone together like nothing else can.

Now, The Spectrum is also widely recognized as THE BEST college basketball in the country. It had long been seen as among the best, but we've taken the next step, and that credit belongs to every person who has come out and lost their voice at games over the past several years.

But regardless of any local or national accolades, going to games at The Spectrum have been the best times of my life. Even when life has thrown its curveballs through school, jobs, heartbreak, illness, or whatever life has dealt, there was always one thing to count on to be a release from anything else. That release has been Aggie basketball.

What else could be more fun than throwing on a blue shirt, coming to a game with your friends and screaming your lungs out for our school's team? The answer is that nothing tops The Spectrum. It doesn't get better than this.

I've spent the past four years pouring my heart and soul into everything Aggie basketball, and like anything in life, it's had its ups and downs, but the ride has been incredible. And with way more ups than downs, what with a 67-1 record at home since Kraig and I started this newsletter, that ride has definitely been worth it, and I wouldn't have had it any other way.

It's something I could never forget. For everyone out there who I have only briefly met, as well as those of you close to me, you all have helped make this experience what it was for me. And I hope everyone else has enjoyed it too. Thank you thank you thank you!!!! It's been incredible!!!

Go Aggies!

- Matt Sonnenberg (a.k.a. Fafner)

The Petri Dish - The last one ever with the original crew... So it's only going to get better from here!

Head coach Don Verlin - Was a long time assistant to Stew Morrill, and just like the case is with Randy Rahe at Weber State, he should be treated with respect, but also made to hate his life for two hours in The Spectrum and miss us all very dearly.

#2 Jeff Ledbetter - Has girly hair, so much so that he was the original recipient of the "Jodie Foster" chant before Justin Graham took that title from him earlier this year. Is a fan of "Curvy girls are better than skinny girls" on Facebook

#4 Sheridan Shayne - Is so anonymous that the team website does not even have a bio on him. So far this season he has registered four minutes with one

missed shot, one foul, and one turnover.

#21 Luiz Toledo - From Brazil. Is a cousin of Denver Nuggets center Nene.

#22 Djim Bandoumel - From Quebec, Canada. First name is one awkwardly placed "D" away from being a very normal first name.

#25 Deremy Geiger - Played for Utah State his freshman year. All around good dude and good player as far as we know... But most definitely hate on him during the game.

#34 Stephen Madison - Is a fan of Farm Town on Facebook. If you are going to play a farming simulation on Facebook, everyone knows Farmville is the way to go

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