

BYU Shuts Out Arizona State to End Season

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Provo, UT--The BYU Cougars won the College Premier Division Western Conference today by beating the Arizona State Sun Devils at South Field by the score of 80-0.

The Cougars' shutout against the Western Conference's third best team marks the fifth shutout that BYU has dealt an opponent this season. Notably, the BYU defense was able to stop the CPD's third best try-scorer in ASU's No. 8 Travis Hughes from seeing the end zone.

The win also marks an undefeated season of 13-0, something the Cougars haven't done since 2009, the same year BYU won their first ever national title.

BYU was able to run in 12 tries against the Sun Devils being led a trio of try-scorers who each scored a pair of tries in captain No. 8 Ryan Roundy, freshman center Jared Whippy and flyhalf Dylan Lubbe.

The scoring started in the 5th minute after an ASU turn over led to senior lock Viliami Vimahi offloading the ball which eventually ended up in the hands of another senior wing Zeke Mendenhall who ran the remaining 20 meters for the game's first score.

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The BYU forwards would get their share of tries in the following minutes with flanker Hynie Leaaetoa and hooker Ishmael Tilialo lunging over for tries from short distances in the 12th and 16th minutes respectively.

Whippy would get his bevy of tries in sequence in the 24th and 31st minutes as the Lubbe put the center into space out wide from a scrum and turn over ball.

The first half scoring was rounded out by a bollocking carry by prop Mikey Su'a who carried a few ASU defenders 10 meters after picking the ball up from the base of the ruck.

At half time, with six tries and six conversions by scrumhalf Shaun Davies in the bag, BYU led 42-0.

"We started well, but were loose at times," said assistant coach Wayne Tarawhiti, "We caused ourselves some head aches, but part of that was ASU's making it tough early."

Going into the second half Roundy got his chances to score in the 44th and 47th minutes. One such try came from distance as the BYU captain dummied and bullied his way for a 50 meter plus individual try.

Lubbe would score in the 59th minute before ASU began to pressurize the Cougar defense for over 12 minutes. As the Sun Devils made territory against the Cougars and strung phases together the BYU defense held true and denied the ASU offensive attempts.

The pressure led to a fracas after a tackle which saw BYU lock Mark Bonham and an ASU player get yellow carded and sent to the sin bin for the remainder of the match.

After settling the nerves and egos the Cougars were able to see replacement wing and senior Lokahi Vuikadavu chase down a Lubbe kick and gallop the remaining 15 meters for the try in the 74th minute.

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A little juke and weave by Davies in the 78th minute gave the Cougars another try, while Viliami proved his kicking skills by nudging the ball behind the ASU defense which was regathered in the end zone by Lubbe for the final try of the game in the 80th minute.

"We wanted to play well and use this game as a springboard going into the playoffs," said BYU head coach David Smyth, "We did that I think, but will have to continue to work on our execution in greater detail now that we're to the business end of the season."

Honored seniors following the BYU win were: Viliami Vimahi, Inoke Hafoka, Daniel Hansen, Andrew Harrison, Jordan Lontine, Ra Lawrence, Steve McFarland, Zeke Mendenhall, Kumi Tua'one, Mike Price, Lokahi Vuikadavu and Rocky Kalamafoni.

After BYU honored their seniors following the game with their BYU Rugby blankets, senior fullback Andrew Harrison spoke on what it meant to play at BYU.

"We've come a long ways a program since I first started," he said, "This is a great program and I'm privileged to be a part of it. Fortunately, we get one more game here at South Field and hopefully, we'll be able to move on past that."

BYU 80

Tries: Mendenhall, Leaaetoa, Tilialo, Whippy 2, Su'a, Roundy 2, Lubbe, Vuikadavu, Davies, Lubbe

Convs: Davies 11

Arizona State 0