



2004 UTAH FOOTBALL

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

Assistant AD/Sports Information Dir.: Liz Abel
Associate SID: Mike Lageschulte
Assistant SID: Hope Wagner
Publications Coordinator: Melissa Hall
Office Manager: Sara Ray

UTAH SPRING FOOTBALL INFORMATION

WEEK 1 PRACTICE SCHEDULE

Tuesday 3:00-5:00 p.m.
Thursday 3:00-5:00 p.m.
Friday 4:15-6:05 p.m.
Saturday 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

RED-WHITE GAME

Sat., April 17, Noon
Rice-Eccles Stadium

INTERVIEW REQUESTS

Player and coach interviews are conducted at the conclusion of practice. To arrange for phone interviews and to check on practice times or location, please contact assistant athletics director Liz Abel at 801-581-3511.

LOCATION

McCarthy Practice Fields (most weekdays)
Rice-Eccles Stadium (most Saturdays)

PRACTICE IS OPEN

For spring ball only, Utah's practices and scrimmages are open to the public and the media. Television cameras may shoot any part of spring practices in the spring.

2004 UTAH FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

8-2+ Texas A&M (ESPN)
9-11 at Arizona
9-18 at Utah State
9-25 Air Force*
10-2 at New Mexico*
10-9 open
10-16 North Carolina
10-23 UNLV*
10-30 at San Diego State*
11-6 Colorado State*
11-13 at Wyoming*
11-20 Brigham Young*

Legend

+Thursday game on ESPN

*Mountain West Conference Game

Game times are tba

Released March 18, 2004

UTE FOOTBALL TEAM AWAITS START OF SPRING DRILLS Urban Meyer's Utes kick off spring ball on March 23

SECOND SPRING OF MEYER ERA

Utah head football coach Urban Meyer opens his second year of spring drills at the U. on Tuesday, March 23 starting at 3 p.m. Meyer and his staff will run the Utes through 15 practices over a four-week period. Spring training will conclude with the second annual Red-White game in Rice-Eccles Stadium on Saturday, April 17 from noon-2 p.m. Practices, scrimmages and the Red-White game are free and open to the public.

FIRST WEEK

The Utes will start their 2004 spring drills with two days of no-pads practice, Tuesday and Thursday, March 23 and 25. Both practices are scheduled for 3-5 p.m. at the McCarthy Practice Fields, weather permitting. Friday will be a no-tackle practice from 4:15-6:05 p.m., also at the practice fields. The tackling starts on Saturday in a 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. practice. A decision will be reached later on whether Saturday's practice will be held on the practice fields or in Rice-Eccles Stadium.

LOCATION, LOCATION

Most weekday practices will be held at the McCarthy Practice Fields. Saturday scrimmages are tentatively planned for Rice-Eccles Stadium. Please check with the sports information office at 581-3511 for daily updates.

SPRING SCRIMMAGES

The Utes will scrimmage on Saturday, April 3 and 10 in Rice-Eccles Stadium. Both scrimmages are scheduled for 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

A RED-WHITE MUSS

The second annual Utah Red-White Game will be played on Saturday, April 17 in Rice-Eccles Stadium. The public is invited to attend free of charge. Preceding the spring game will be a flag football game featuring the "Muss," Utah's student fan club. The Muss game will start at 11 a.m. The Red-White game, which concludes Utah's spring drills, will start at noon.

INTERVIEW POLICIES

All interviews with Head Coach Urban Meyer, his staff and players must be arranged through Assistant Athletics Director Liz Abel (801-581-3511). Interviews are conducted at the conclusion of practice unless otherwise arranged through Abel. *During spring drills only, television cameras are welcome the entire practice.*

2004 UTAH SPRING FOOTBALL NOTES

PRESEASON PRAISE

ESPN.com senior writer Ivan Maisel, in his preseason poll issued on March 11, has ranked the Utes No. 10 in the nation. Maisel's latest top 25: 1. USC, 2. LSU, 3. Georgia, 4. Oklahoma, 5. Miami, 6. Texas, 7. Florida State, 8. Michigan, 9. Maryland, **10. Utah**, 11. California, 12. West Virginia, 13. Ohio State, 14. Tennessee, 15. Iowa, 16. Auburn, 17. Missouri, 18. Clemson, 19. Florida, 20. Virginia, 21. Purdue, 22. Kansas State, 23. Minnesota, 24. Oregon State, 25. Toledo.

HEAD COACH URBAN MEYER

Urban Meyer is 10-2 in one season at Utah and 27-8 in three years as a head coach. He was named the 2003 National Coach of the Year by *The Sporting News* and was also elected the 2003 Mountain West Conference Coach of the Year. Meyer capped his first season at Utah with a win over Southern Mississippi in the Liberty Bowl. He led Utah to a No. 21 final ranking in both the Associated Press and ESPN/USA Today polls. Meyer became the first Ute

2004 UTAH STAFF

Urban Meyer, Head Coach (2nd year)
 Kyle Whittingham, Defensive Coordinator/Safeties (11th year)
 Mike Sanford, Offensive Coordinator/Running Backs (2nd year)
 Gary Andersen, Defensive Line (1st year)
 Kurt Barber, Linebackers (2nd year)
 Billy Gonzales, Wide Receivers (2nd year)
 Chuck Heater, Cornerbacks (1st year)
 John Hevesy, Offensive Line (2nd year)
 Dan Mullen, Quarterbacks (2nd year)
 Keith Uperesa, Tight Ends (1st year)

Matt Balis, Strength Coach
 Sonnie Aloia, Director of Football Operations
 Jon Clark, Administrative Assistant
 Hiram DeFries, Community Liaison



Head Coach Urban Meyer

coach to go to a bowl game in his first year. Ditto for his 10 wins, which also tied the school record. Against BCS teams, Meyer has an impressive 7-1 career mark, with the only blemish a 28-26 setback to Texas A&M in 2003. Meyer, 39, was hired by Utah on Dec. 12, 2002 after leading Bowling Green to

a two-year record of 17-6. Under Meyer, BGSU cracked the AP Top 20 after starting the 2002 season with eight straight wins. Named the Mid-American Conference Coach of the Year as a first-year head coach in 2001, Meyer went 8-3 and 9-3 in his two years at BG. His previous coaching stops included assistantships at Ohio State (graduate assistant), Illinois State, Colorado State and Notre Dame.

SPRING SCHEDULE

Weather permitting, Utah's schedule is as follows. Please note that heavy rain or snow could cause practice to be moved to another day. Check with the sports information office at 581-3511 for daily practice schedule updates.

| | |
|---|-----------------------|
| Tues., Mar. 23 (no pads) | 3:00-5:00 p.m. |
| Thu., Mar. 25 (no pads) | 3:00-5:00 p.m. |
| Fri., Mar. 26 (no tackle) | 4:15-6:05 p.m. |
| Sat., Mar. 27 (tackle) | 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. |
| | |
| Tue., Mar. 30 (no tackle) | 3:00-5:00 p.m. |
| Thu., Apr. 1 (tackle) | 3:00-5:00 p.m. |
| Fri., Apr. 2 (no tackle) | 4:15-6:05 p.m. |
| Sat., Apr. 3 (scrimmage) | 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. |
| | |
| Tue., Apr. 6 (tackle) | 3:00-5:00 p.m. |
| Thu., Apr. 8 (no tackle) | 3:00-5:00 p.m. |
| Sat., Apr. 10 (scrimmage) | 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. |
| | |
| Tues., Apr. 13 (tackle) | 3:00-5:00 p.m. |
| Thu., Apr. 15 (no tackle) | 3:00-5:00 p.m. |
| Fri., Apr. 16 (no pads) | 4:15-5:30 p.m. |
| Sat., Apr. 17 (Red-White game) | noon-2:00 p.m.* |

*Note time change from preseason prospectus. The spring game will be preceded by a "Muss" (student fan club) flag football game at 11 a.m.

CAPSULE OUTLOOK

Thirty-seven lettermen and 15 full or part-time starters return from Utah's record-setting 2003 team that went 10-2, won its first outright Mountain West Conference championship, beat Southern Mississippi in the Liberty Bowl and finished the season ranked No. 21 in both major polls. Among the offensive starters returning are second-team all-MWC quarterback **Alex Smith** and first-team all-MWC receiver **Paris Warren**. Defensive starters returning include second-team all-MWC free safety **Morgan Scalley** and freshman All-America cornerback **Eric Weddle**. Kicker **Bryan Borreson** and punter **Matt Kovacevich** also return.

2004 UTAH SPRING FOOTBALL NOTES

CHASIN' JASON

The playing status of two-time first-team all-conference defensive end **Jason Kaufusi** remains uncertain going into spring drills. Kaufusi, who is still recovering from a shoulder injury that sidelined him all of last year, hopes to return to the team in August.

ODDS & ENDS

Ute senior wide receiver **Travis LaTendresse** will be unable to participate in contact drills in spring ball due to a shoulder injury. He will be the starter at Z receiver when he returns in the fall. Until then, senior **Jerome Wright** is the leading candidate ... senior **Kawika Casco**, who missed last season after preseason knee surgery, is listed as the starter at strong safety but will be limited in the spring ... Defensive back **Stephen Gordon**, a JC transfer who redshirted last year, had knee surgery on Mar. 1 and will miss spring ball. He is questionable for fall ... Safety **Fano Tagovailoa** and receiver **Justin Walker** are two JC signees from the latest recruiting class who are already on campus and expected to make an impact in spring ball.

DEFENSIVE MOVEMENT

Kurt Barber will coach the linebackers this year after overseeing the defensive ends last year. **Kyle Whittingham** will coach the safeties, new assistant **Chuck Heater**, who came from Washington, will coach the cornerbacks and second-time around assistant **Gary Andersen** will coach the defensive line. Andersen was the head coach at Southern Utah last year after assisting with the Utes from 1997-2002.

PERSONNEL PICTURE

Offensive Starters Returning (8*)

Makai Aalona, OL (6-4, 300, Sr.); Jesse Boone*, OL (6-4, 305, Jr.); Chris Kemoeatu, OL (6-4, 334, Sr.); Travis LaTendresse, WR (6-1, 199, Sr.); Steve Savoy, WR (5-11, 187, So.); Alex Smith, QB (6-4, 205, Jr.); Tavo Tupola*, OL (6-4, 299, So.); Paris Warren, WR (6-1, 214, Sr.).

*split starting duties

Defensive Starters Returning (7*)

Corey Dodds, LB (6-3, 225, Sr.); Steve Fifita, DT (5-11, 309, Jr.); Marquess Ledbetter, DE (6-2, 242, Jr.); Sione Pouha*, DT (6-3, 324, Sr.); Morgan Scalley, DB (5-10, 192, Sr.); Spencer Toone, LB (6-2, 232, Jr.); Eric Weddle, DB (5-11, 194, So.).

*split starting duties

Starting Kickers/Punters Returning (2)

Bryan Borreson, K (5-10, 194, Jr.); Matt Kovacevich, P (6-0, 193, Sr.).

Lettermen Returning (37)

Offense (13): Makai Aalona, OL; Jesse Boone, OL; Blake Burdette, TE; Lynzell Jackson, WR (2002); Chris Kemoeatu, OL; Travis LaTendresse, WR; Mike Liti, RB; John Madsen, WR; Steve Savoy, WR; Alex Smith, QB; Tavo Tupola, OL; Paris Warren, WR; Jerome Wright, WR.

Defense (20): Aaron Bryant, LB; Kawika Casco, DB (2001-02); Corey Dodds, LB; Casey Evans, DB; Jonathan Fanene, DL; Steve Fifita, DL; Gerald Fletcher, DB; Tommy Hackenbruck, LB; Shaun Harper, DB; Jason Kaufusi, DE (2000-02); Tevita Kemoeatu, DL; Marquess Ledbetter, DE; Grady Marshall, DB; Zak Nugent, LB; Sione Pouha, DL; Morgan Scalley, DB; Spencer Toone, LB; Eric Weddle, DB; Reza Williams, DE; Antonio Young, DB.

Specialists (4): Bryan Borreson, K; Matt Kovacevich, P; Bo Nagahi, KR/DB; Brady Parkhurst, LS.

MEYER SAYS

"Last year we spent the first day of spring ball trying to learn how to break the huddle. There are a lot of inherent issues with the shotgun offense and I don't think we started to figure them out until the last week of camp. We didn't have a long snapper or a punter. Now we have both. We had very few returning starters on defense, although we had some good players.

"This spring, I'll be very disappointed offensively if we can't put in darn near everything in the first week. I'll put a lot of pressure on the coaches to get that done. I think we have a terrific thrower in Alex Smith. He is the best pure-thrower I've ever been associated with. We need to experiment with throwing the ball in some ways we maybe haven't done yet.

"Defensively, we lost only four starters, but they were terrific players and leaders. My concern and Kyle Whittingham's concern is evaluating who can step up and play. The defensive system has been intact for a long time here, but people may not know that (Whittingham) does change things every year. Teams that don't change get stale and develop problems.

"We went on to have a good season last year. We were a good team, but we are not a good program yet. Good programs have depth. Guys fit right in where another guy graduated. We don't have that kind of depth and continuity yet. We have no one at quarterback after Alex Smith; who is going to replace Brandon Warfield; can Jonathan Fanene step right in for Josh Savage? Those are the kinds of questions we must address on our way to becoming a good program.

"The top priority on this team will be the offensive line. That is our worst area. Somehow we won last year with an offensive line that was simply not physical enough. That will be the No. 1 emphasis of Urban Meyer, Mike Sanford and John Hevesy this spring."

SPRING TWO DEEP (3-18-04)

OFFENSE

Left Tackle

78-Tavo Tupola (6-4, 299, So.)
69-Jason Boone (6-3, 284, Fr.)

Left Guard

73-Steve Dahl (6-5, 358, So.) or
75-Eric Pettit (6-3, 294, So.)
98-Jason Voss (6-3, 269, So.)

Center

79-Jesse Boone (6-4, 305, Jr.) or
55-Andrew Johnson (6-2, 300, Jr.)
63-Kyle Gunther (6-4, 290, Fr.)

Right Guard

68-Chris Kemoeatu (6-4, 334, Sr.)
71-Mitch Arquette (6-4, 307, So.)
77-Siuaki Livai (6-1, 301, Jr.)

Right Tackle

70-Makai Aalona (6-4, 300, Sr.)
74-David Dirkmaat (6-7, 300, Jr.)

Tight End

39-Jon Clark (6-4, 225, Jr.) or
97-Willie Sao (6-3, 260, So.)

Quarterback

11-Alex Smith (6-4, 205, Jr.)
9-Brigham Au (6-1, 216, Jr.)
3-Adam Madsen (6-0, 204, Jr.)

Tailback

20-Mike Liti (6-0, 210, So.)
43-Joe Johnson (5-7, 185, Fr.)
36-Orlando Medlock (5-10, 241, So.)

X-Receiver

86-Steve Savoy (5-11, 187, So.)
23-John Madsen (6-4, 220, Jr.)
49-Derrek Richards (5-10, 169, Fr.)

Z-Receiver

4-Jerome Wright (6-0, 179, Sr.)
84-Thomas Huff (6-4, 206, Fr.)
13-Lynzell Jackson (6-2, 193, Sr.)

H-Receiver

82-Paris Warren (6-1, 214, Sr.)
85-Rob Gueck (5-8, 182, So.)

DEFENSE

Open End

55-Marquess Ledbetter (6-2, 242, Jr.)
53-Reza Williams (6-3, 238, Sr.)

Tackle

90-Sione Pouha (6-3, 324, Sr.)
72-Paueli Tamasoa (6-0, 305, Jr.)

Nose Guard

94-Steve Fifita (5-11, 309, Jr.)
96-Tevita Kemoeatu (6-2, 307, Sr.)

End

91-Jonathan Fanene (6-4, 290, Sr.)
92-Tony Castaldi (6-2, 236, Fr.)

Rover Linebacker

9-Spencer Toone (6-2, 232, Jr.)
40-Tommy Hackenbruck (6-1, 220, Sr.)

Middle Linebacker

38-Aaron Bryant (6-1, 232, Sr.)
40-Tommy Hackenbruck (6-1, 220, Sr.)

Stud Linebacker

93-Corey Dodds (6-3, 225, Sr.)
95-Alex Puccinelli (6-1, 222, Fr.)

Right Corner

32-Eric Weddle (5-11, 194, So.)
34-Gerald Fletcher (5-9, 167, Sr.)
22-Bo Nagahi (5-10, 183, Sr.)

Left Corner

21-Shaun Harper (5-9, 179, So.)
29-Ryan Smith (5-10, 160, Fr.)

Nickel Back

32-Eric Weddle (5-11, 194, So.)
22-Bo Nagahi (5-10, 183, Sr.)

Free Safety

25-Morgan Scalley (5-10, 192, Sr.)
41-Grady Marshall (5-11, 205, Jr.)

Strong Safety

11-Kawika Casco (5-10, 196, Sr.)
2-Antonio Young (5-11, 194, Jr.)
17-Fano Tagovailoa (6-0, 194, Jr.)

SPECIALISTS

Kickoffs

7-Bryan Borreson (5-10, 194, Jr.)
TBA

Field Goals/PAT

7-Bryan Borreson (5-10, 194, Jr.)
TBA

Punter

19-Matt Kovacevich (6-0, 193, Sr.)
7-Bryan Borreson (5-10, 194, Jr.)

Snapper

58-Brady Parkhurst (6-1, 224, Sr.)
TBA

Holder

19-Matt Kovacevich (6-0, 193, Sr.)
TBA

Punt Returns

82-Paris Warren (6-1, 214, Sr.)
22-Bo Nagahi (5-10, 183, Sr.)

Kickoff Returns

22-Bo Nagahi (5-10, 183, Sr.) and
25-Morgan Scalley (6-0, 192, Sr.)

Note: Class listed by
each athlete is year of
eligibility in fall 2004.