

Detmer leading BYU title march

Junior quarterback tops Heisman list

By Ashley Conklin
Emerald Sports Editor

The Ty that binds the Brigham Young offense may give the Cougars a tie to the Heisman Trophy and a national championship this season.

The Ty is Ty Detmer, the outstanding junior quarterback who runs the powerful BYU offense.

Like all of the great Cougar quarterbacks before — Virgil Carter, Gifford Nielsen, Marc Wilson, Jim McMahon, Steve Young and Robbie Bosco — Detmer is a master at running Coach Lavell Edwards' passing offense.

But unlike all of the great BYU quarterbacks, except Bosco, Detmer has an excellent chance of bringing the Cougars a national championship this season, and unlike all the other quarterbacks before him in school history, he has an excellent chance of winning the Heisman.

Away from the field, though, Detmer is just Ty, a simple unassuming Texan from Southwest High School in San Antonio.

To know Detmer, Edwards said, is like knowing two different individuals.

"He's a guy that's almost shy off the field in a way," Edwards said. "He's a very polite young man and a very nice young man."

Then there is the other side, the other side that shot down opponents and NCAA records at will last year, and led an upset of top-ranked Miami on Sept. 8 that has since vaulted the 4-0 Cougars to a No. 4 national ranking and talks of a repeat of their 1984 title campaign.

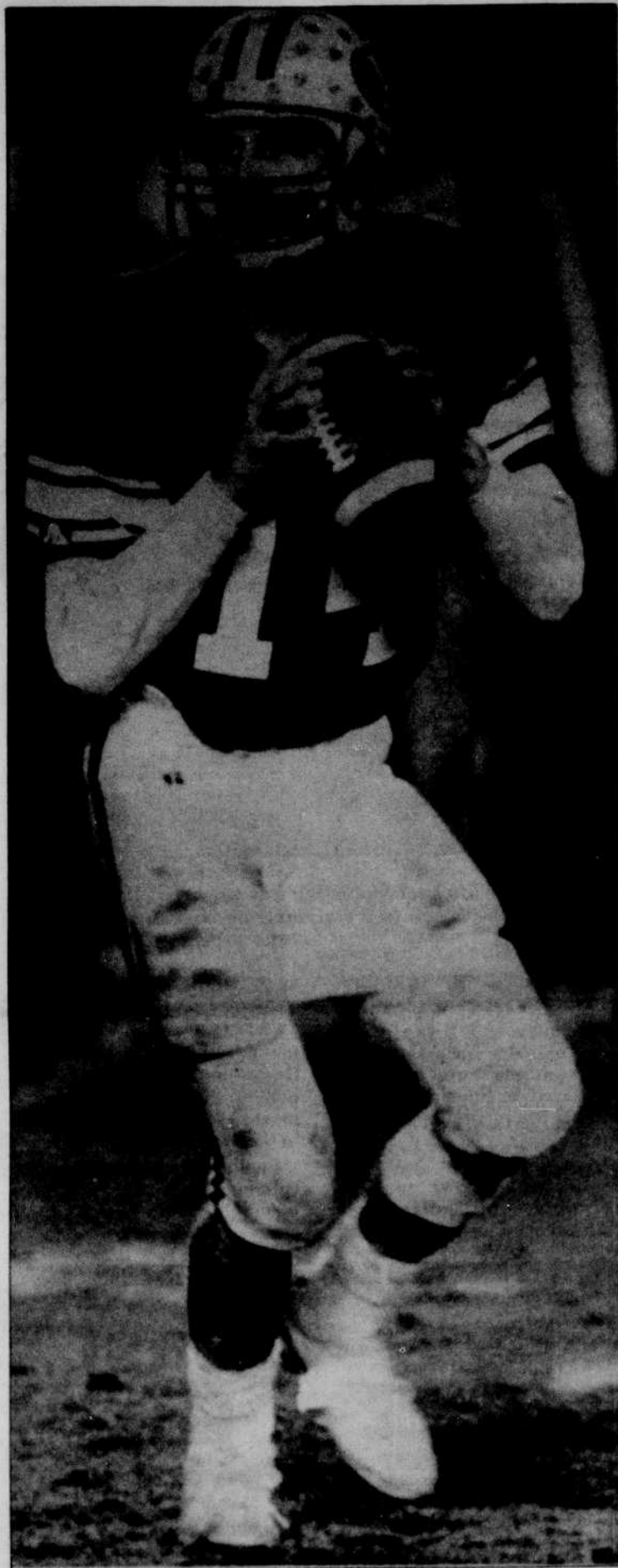
"He gets on the field," Edwards said of Detmer, "and he doesn't turn into a bulldog, but he's like that."

"He has confidence and the guy knows what he's doing," he said. "He has that ability to really turn it up a notch when he gets into competition."

For Detmer, the chance to play under Edwards and his high-profile offense was the perfect opportunity after coming from a Southwest High-system that threw the ball most of the time.

"We did (throw a lot) in high school and so that's why I chose BYU," Detmer said. "because I knew they were going to do it. It always makes the game exciting for me and I think I get into the game the more we're throwing."

"A lot of the emphasis is put on the quarterback and it takes more responsibility on reads, more so than in other pro-



Courtesy Photo by Brigham Young Sports Information Dept.

The Ty Detmer-charged Cougar offense is poised to bring a title to Provo and a Heisman to Detmer.

grams, I think," he said. "I didn't grow up in Provo to see the tradition growing and really see the full effect of it."

And, oh, how Detmer does make an emphasis when he throws.

Two years ago Detmer was

mostly a back-up but did throw for more than 1,200 yards and was named the Most Valuable Player in a 20-17 Freedom Bowl win over Colorado.

Last year BYU went 10-3, and Detmer broke 12 NCAA

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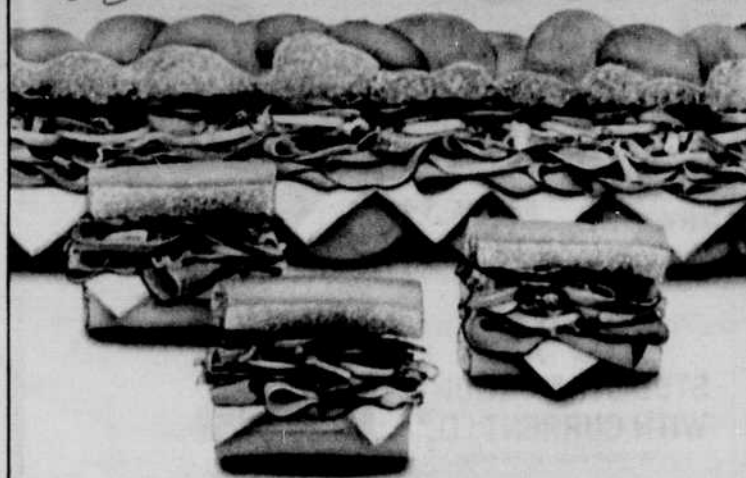
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