USU offers apology to BYU for inappropriate behavior

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(Craig J. Peterson, Craig Peterson//CacheValleyDaily.com)

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LOGAN, Utah (ABC 4 News) - The president of Utah State <u>University</u> has offered an apology to Brigham Young University concerning USU fan behavior during Friday's basketball game at The Spectrum.

The Aggies won the game 69-62, but not before thousands of rowdy student fans shared their opinions of BYU, and more specifically, BYU center Brandon Davies.

Davies was suspended from BYU's basketball team after violating the school's honor code in February, during the Cougar's run to the NCAA tournament. Davies reportedly engaged in premarital sex with his girlfriend, which is forbidden under the school's code. BYU is owned and operated by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Davies was reinstated as a BYU student in August, and rejoined the team last month.

USU fans displayed several placards and posters during the game that sniped at Davies' situation.

One poster read, "Welcome Back Brandon...," while a poster next to it said, "From your fornication probation."

Another said, "Davies, how much did you pay your bishop to play in this one?"

Another said, "Brandon, congrats for the sex."

Many fans also engaged in chants that reflected similar sentiments toward Davies.

USU President Stan Albrecht and Athletic Director Scott Barnes released a statement on Wednesday, saying:

"Some fans chose to conduct themselves in ways that went far beyond mere school rivalry, fair play and — most importantly — basic human decency. We have to be able to find some way to display incomparable enthusiasm and school spirit without resorting to crude language, outright vulgarity and deeply personal insults chanted at an opposing player. It is inappropriate for us to invite a guest to come into our home and then have to suffer the language and personal insults tossed at him. We have visited personally with both President Samuelson and Athletic Director Tom Holmoe and apologized on behalf of the USU community."

To read the full letter, click here.

USU fans are known for rowdy behavior and insulting visiting teams, and have been featured on several national sports programs and websites for their enthusiastic support of the men's basketball team. The Spectrum is widely known as one of the toughest places to play.

To see more pictures of some of the signs and messages shared by USU Aggie fans during the BYU game, click here.

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