

**RESOLUTION HONORING THE UNIVERSITY  
OF UTAH FOOTBALL TEAM**

2005 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Jeff Alexander**

Senate Sponsor: Karen Hale

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This concurrent resolution of the Legislature and the Governor recognizes the success of the University of Utah's 2004 Championship Football Team and its coaching staff.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This resolution:

- ▶ recognizes the extraordinary performance of the 2004 University of Utah Football Team and coaching staff for a perfect 12-0 season, including their second consecutive Mountain West Conference Championship, their convincing victory in the 2005 Fiesta Bowl, and their individual and team recognitions, including their top five national ranking; and
- ▶ expresses gratitude to the University of Utah Football Team for the positive image it has projected for the state.

**Special Clauses:**

None

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*Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:*

WHEREAS, the 2004 University of Utah Football Team is the outright Mountain West Conference football champion for the second straight year;

WHEREAS, the 2004 University of Utah Football Team, returning 17 starters from its Liberty Bowl-winning 2003 team that achieved a 10-2 win-loss record, began the season nationally ranked;

WHEREAS, week after week the Ute offense, led by Heisman Trophy candidate Alex Smith at quarterback, crushed, dominated, and with its potent, high-powered offense perplexed one opponent after another;

WHEREAS, the Ute defense, greatly improved from a very good 2003 season, stunned foes with its swarming coverage and punishing blitzes;

WHEREAS, the Utes were motivated by a common goal: to prove that they could beat any team in the nation, anywhere;

WHEREAS, as the season progressed with victory after victory, the Utes consistently advanced in the national rankings;

WHEREAS, Head Coach Urban Meyer and his coaching staff worked the team hard, pushing each player to be his very best;

WHEREAS, Ute team members built on the success of the 2003 season, recognized areas where their play needed improvement, and persistently eliminated all barriers to individual and team success;

WHEREAS, the Utes capped the regular season with a 52-21 defeat of rival Brigham Young University, became the first Ute team to win 12 games in a single season, and the first undefeated Utah team in 74 years;

WHEREAS, quarterback Alex Smith and defensive back Morgan Scalley were named the Mountain West Conference's Offensive and Defensive players of the year, respectively, and Coach Urban Meyer was named the Mountain West Conference Coach of the Year;

WHEREAS, Alex Smith was also named the Sporting News and Sports Illustrated's National Player of the Year;

WHEREAS, Smith and offensive lineman Chris Kemoatu were named First-Team All-Americans;

WHEREAS, other Utes named to All-American teams were wide receiver Steve Savoy and defensive backs Ryan Smith and Morgan Scalley;

WHEREAS, the University of Utah was the only Division 1 school in America to have two football players, Alex Smith and Morgan Scalley, named Academic All-Americans, with

both players making the first team;

WHEREAS, the academic honors continued with Alex Smith being named the Football Academic All-American of the Year and Morgan Scalley being named the Anson Mount Scholar Athlete of the Year;

WHEREAS, the Utes proved themselves perfect on the gridiron by crushing the Pittsburgh Panthers in the Fiesta Bowl on New Years' Day, 35-7;

WHEREAS, Utah's popular and explosive offense, one of the best in college football, was more than matched by its defense in the Fiesta Bowl;

WHEREAS, in their 11 previous games the Utes had 24 sacks, an average of a little more than two per game, but in the Fiesta Bowl the Utes racked up nine sacks against the Panthers and broke the Fiesta Bowl record of seven, set in 1996;

WHEREAS, for the game, the Panthers were held to 17 net yards rushing, thanks to the 74 yards lost in sacks, and 268 yards total offense;

WHEREAS, the Ute defense extended its scoreless streak in bowl games to seven quarters by shutting out the Panthers in the first half;

WHEREAS, Ute quarterback Alex Smith, who completed 29-of-37 passes for 328 yards and four touchdowns, and wide receiver Paris Warren, who scored twice and made a Fiesta Bowl-record 15 catches, were named co-Offensive Players of the Game;

WHEREAS, nose guard Steve Fifita, responsible for one of the Utes' record-setting quarterback sacks, claimed Defensive Player of the Game honors, while teammates Eric Weddle and Tommy Hackenbruck contributed 11 tackles and three sacks, respectively;

WHEREAS, Utah's perfect season was capped when Coach Urban Meyer received the Football Writers Association/Eddie Robinson Coach of the Year Award;

WHEREAS, under Coach Meyer, Utah finished 12-0 for the year, 22-2 during his two years with the team, and was guided to the first Bowl Championship Series (BCS) game for a team from a conference without an automatic BCS berth;

WHEREAS, Utah is the first team from a conference without an automatic bid to participate in one of the NCAA's financially lucrative bowl games, with an expected payout of

between \$14-17 million for the Mountain West Conference; and

WHEREAS, Urban Meyer, his coaching staff, and the University of Utah Football team should be commended for their extraordinary success and for the positive attention they have brought to the state of Utah:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein, recognize the 2004 University of Utah Football Team for its tremendous success, including its top five ranking in season-ending college football polls.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the members of the 2004 Fiesta Bowl-winning University of Utah Football Team, former University of Utah Football Coach Urban Meyer, current University of Utah Football Coach Kyle Wittingham, the other members of its coaching staff, and the University of Utah.