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“Et tu Brute”

by
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Et tu Brute`... or should I say Et tu Riche`? Just a few short months ago the dreaded Blue and Maize Wolverines from the ice and snow cave Ann Arbor, Michigan, crept into West Virginia and grabbed WVU Head Basketball Coach John Belien and lured him back to their lair using millions of delicious tidbits to entice him along the way. Now those same Wolverines have returned to the same feeding place in West Virginia and snapped up another tasty morsel by the name of Rich Rodriguez, WVU's Head Football Coach. Not surprisingly they used the same dollar flavored morsels to trap him.

Both coaches had taken lethargic, inherited programs at WVU and raised them up to national prominence and, at the same time, raising the bar as to what the fans of WVU sports expected from their teams. Needless to say, excellent college coaches don't remain a secret in NCAA circles and it is expected that they will be sought after, especially with the National Championship feeding frenzy existing in the hearts of College Alumni Associations throughout the nation. Coach Belien worked miracles with little known, unheralded WVU players to win the NIT and reach the rarified sweet heights of the Big East Conference.

Rodriguez did essentially the same job with the football team... incorporating a brand new system that started out slow and then morphed into an entirely different system when Coach found out he had two superstars in the backfield, i.e., White and Slaton. Whereas previous Bowl invitations were spotty and Bowl wins almost non-existent, Coach Rod showed he could deliver more of each so much that our fans began to expect not only Bowl bids and wins, but Big East and National Championships as well. WVU, the team and the fans, caught fire in Rodriguez' brief 7 year reign and, hopefully, will keep that momentum toward the top.

Many WVU related web sites are currently maligning Rich Rodriguez in a great way and I suppose that is to be expected. But folks, let's not get carried away with all this... remember what I said just a short couple of weeks ago... **IT'S ONLY A GAME.** We as a state, and a people, should not base our happiness and future on how well our boys in gold and blue do, or who their coach is while they're doing it. They're all only temporary, fleeting *things* that in the overall scheme of things really shouldn't hold that much importance in our lives.

As we all go into the New Year of 2008 three days from now let's look forward to the great things we can accomplish within our own selves... our attitudes, our choices, our priorities and how we can make positive changes in our own lives and the lives of those around us. We are constantly

telling our children to pursue excellence and do the best they can in all that they do. Should we expect any less of Coach Rich Rodriguez or the school that hired him?

Happy New Year! And... oh yeah... Go Eeers!

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