

Brigham Young University: Protests of the Western Athletic Conference Against Latter-Day Saints' Racism

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The protests against the racial policies of the Latter-Day Saints as represented by Brigham Young University began at the University of Texas-El Paso in the Spring of 1968 and escalated to involve all of the WAC schools. At this time, Blacks were denied access to the Mormon priesthood, which was an integral part of the Mormon religion. The protest garnering the most national attention was at the University of Wyoming in the Fall of 1969. It was sparked by the arbitrary dismissal of 14 Black athletes from the then-undefeated football team. The Blacks, several of whom later played in the NFL, were dismissed when they indicated to the coach a desire to participate in some form of Protest against Brigham Young University. These events were reported in all of the major dailies, the national TV news, and *Sports Illustrated*.