



September 2024

### Podcast Review: Brad Nelson & Kelston McGuire

Stuart Bird  
*Brigham Young University*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/marriottstudentreview>

Marriott Student Review is a student journal created and published as a project for the Writing for Business Communications course at Brigham Young University (BYU). The views expressed in Marriott Student Review are not necessarily endorsed by BYU or The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

#### Recommended Citation

Bird, Stuart (2024) "Podcast Review: Brad Nelson & Kelston McGuire," *Marriott Student Review*. Vol. 7: Iss. 2, Article 13.

Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/marriottstudentreview/vol7/iss2/13>

This Recurring Feature is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in Marriott Student Review by an authorized editor of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact [ellen\\_amatangelo@byu.edu](mailto:ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu).

# Podcast Review: Brad Nelson & Kelston McGuire

By *Stuart Bird*

“Our core mission statement is to help each individual grow through the rigor of racing,” said the BYU Formula E Club captain, Brad Nelson. In a particularly electrifying Measuring Success Right podcast interview, host Hunter Hawkins interviews Brad Nelson and Kelston McGuire (co-captain) as they discuss their goal to build outstanding students and future engineering professionals by empowering them to construct a fully electric race car despite lacking previous experience in electric vehicle engineering.

Brad and Kelston highlight three truths they learned while leading the BYU Formula E club in this podcast interview. First, a successful person or organization is willing to work hard despite limited resources. The club started in 2022 when Brad spotted the need for another BYU automotive club. “I really love cars, and I bet that there’s a lot of people like me on campus that want to meet...,” said Brad. After some recruiting efforts by Brad, a few students – including Kelston - began to attend the weekly meetings. With no funding and only a few student volunteers, Brad’s small band began by researching how to build electric race cars. “We started with three or four of us reading out of a book,” says Brad.

Despite lacking resources and funding, the small team practiced making a car with PVC pipes and painter’s tape. They presented their efforts to engineering professors and industry leaders at the end of the winter 2023 semester. When the Department of Mechanical Engineering in the BYU College of Engineering saw the team’s work, they agreed to sponsor it. The sponsorship gave the team what it needed to prepare for the June 2024 competition in Detroit, Michigan. Thus, the BYU Formula E team began its journey.

A second principle Brad and Kelston explain in the podcast is that Christlike leadership requires action. Brad claims that the stand-out leaders of the team are action-oriented. They emphasized that - consistent with great corporate managers, organization leaders, and Jesus Christ Himself - effective leaders recognize that change is needed and are willing to participate in making the change happen. Impactful leaders recognize that for the race car to be built, wrenches must turn, hammers must hit, and saws must cut. When leaders step up and put in the work, others follow their example, and progress is made.

Third, Brad and Kelston pointed out that their measure of true success is not winning the competition in Detroit. Instead, “we want to measure success based on the growth of the individual,” said Brad, “what is most important are the individual lives that the team is touching.” Constructing a complete, fast, and reliable car requires each student to participate in good communication, problem-solving, and humility. Kelston stressed that working as a team requires team members to set aside their pride to accept others’ ideas. These are not only winning principles; they are also growth principles. “To me, it all centers on growth,” states Brad.

BYU Formula E focuses on helping students learn and grow through the rigors of racing. According to Brad and Kelston, the rigors of racing include what happens on the racetrack and, more importantly, what happens in the building garage. The communication, engineering, and leadership skills the students learn while helping to build the car are better indicators of success than crossing the finish line. However, Brad and Kelston are confident that BYU Formula E will be bringing home trophies shortly.

#### Notes

Marriott Student Review. 2017. “Measuring Success Right.” YouTube: Home. <https://open.spotify.com/show/4ymZvINKqzk57rGirw6KhV?si=c5130b2b29114758>.

