

BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY  
ATHLETIC PUBLICITY BUREAU

Basketball at Brigham Young University for the 1956-57 season ended officially last weekend ~~at~~<sup>with</sup> the NCAA regional playoffs at Corvallis, Ore. Only the usual banquet circuit and perhaps a bid or two to an all-star game remain before the season becomes history.

For a season that was filled with all sorts of dismal forecasts at its inception last November, it will have to be listed as one of the greatest in BYU sports history. Although the 19-9 record set by Coach Stan Watts and his boys wasn't exceptional as win-loss records go, the season was packed with a rich supply of thrills and surprises.

The Wattsmen attacked the scheduled, described by Watts as perhaps the toughest in the school's history, with more than their usual amount of grit. They tangled with four schools from the PCC (Oregon State, Washington, UCLA and California), plus such powers as Notre Dame, Ohio State, Iowa State, Michigan State, and St. Johns during the course of the season.

They captured the Skyline championship, finished third in the Holiday Festival Tournament, and third in the recent playoffs at Corvallis.

Because of their unusual accuracy at the free throw line, the Cougars will probably rank among the top three in the nation. And Tom Steinke's charity shooting will probably put him in company with the top ten in the nation.

Steinke also set several records during his scoring splurge of 1957. His 19.6 point average is a new high for a BYU player,

and he will join the likes of Roland Minson, Mel Hutchins, Joe Nelson and Joe Richey among the all-time high scorers for BYU.

Steinke, who was a first string selection on the Little All-America selection, will likely play in one of the two major college all-star games that follow the conclusion of each season.

Another player on this year's squad who will long be remembered is John Benson, the BYU player chosen on the NCAA western regional all-tournament team last Saturday.

Benson copped the Y scoring crown with a total of 516 points and an average of 18.4 points a game. His three year point total is 964 points, which puts him in the same ~~xxxx~~ select company with Minson, Hutchins and Nelson. Benson's three-year average is 11.9 points a game.

The BYU rebounding crown, too, will go to the Parowan star. He plucked off 317 this season, which places him second only to Mel Hutchins in this department. John's 26 rebounds against Washington should stand for a while as a fieldhouse record.

Coach Stan Watts' boys lost only one game in the George Albert Smith fieldhouse this season (Oregon State in first game of season) and that may be a factor in the Y's home attendance. The Cougars attracted 94,872 fans to 12 home games, or an average of 7,906 per game.

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