

There's an old vaudeville adage that suggests it's wise to leave the audience hungry. And that's just what BYU's basketball team is doing as they buck and wing off the roundball stage while the fans are screaming for more.

BYU wrapped up a surprisingly good season over the weekend. At Albuquerque the Cougars fired a hot 61% from the field, but ultimately dropped an 80-84 decision to the NIT-bound Lobos. In the finale at Laramie, BYU shot 56% to beat Wyoming 96-90, and ace third place in the WAC's final standings.

"It's too bad we're coming on so strong so late," lamented Watts on the team's return to Provo. "I really believe we were playing as good a game of basketball as any team in the league."

Few-even the Y's opponents-would dispute that statement.

The Wattsmen wound up with a 13-12 season mark, which was somewhat better than the cage experts had forecast before the campaign got underway last December. With nine lettermen not returning, only one senior on the roster, and the Cats facing one of their tougher schedules, a losing season seemed inevitable.

Now there is plenty of evidence which would indicate that the '64 squad was, in many respects, one of the better teams in BYU history in recent years.

According to a final statistical tally, the Cougars accomplished the following:

---set a school offensive record with a scoring average of 79.0 points per game (the old mark of 77.2 was set in 1956).

---set a new school mark in field goal accuracy, hitting 44% of their shots from the floor (the old mark 41% was set in 1959 and 1961).

---chalked up a new attendance record of 9,128 fans per game, which is nearly 850 better than the record average set in 1956.

Individual honors all gravitated in the direction of John Fairchild, the 6-8 all-conference center who worked the pivot like a pro. Among other things, Fairchild managed to accomplish the following:

---set an all-time school record in scoring with a 20.3 average for the season (the old mark of 20.1 was set by Dave Eastis in 1960).

---was credited with a higher rebound average than any other player in BYU history (13.2 per game as compared to the 12.7 mark set by Mel Hutchins in 1951).

---was second only to Hutchins in most rebounds for one season (John had 330 for the season).

Had the lanky junior from Encinitas, Calif., played in as many games as did some of his forerunners, he would have cornered a majority of the individual marks in the BYU record book. The Cougars played only 25 games this season, while some former teams played half again as many.

Other individual highs of note: sophomore forward Steve Kramer had the best shooting percentage from the field, connecting on 47% of his attempts. Bob Quinney barely nosed out Mike Gardner in free throw percentages; Quinney had 83%, Gardner 82 %.

Fairchild led the Cougars in all other departments.

No less than nine of the games played by BYU were against teams now slated for post-season action. They include UCLA, Seattle, Oregon State, Utah State, Arizona State and New Mexico.

With only one senior, Bill Blumenthal, not returning next year, and half a dozen good freshman prospects moving up to the varsity, the future bodes well for the Cougars.

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