

It wasn't the winningest season on record, but the basketball campaign just completed by BYU's team will definitely go into the books as the Cougars' most memorable.

Actually, it was more than a basketball season; it was a long, drawn out mixture of sport, social tension and demonstration. And under such circumstances it isn't surprising that the Cougars had to settle for an 8-18 overall record.

The best evidence that BYU was off its usual game can be found in the Cougars' record at home. Prior to this year, Coach Stan Watts' teams had lost only five home games over a five-year period. But in the season just concluded, the Cougars ended with a 6-6 split at home.

Playing under more social pressure than any team should be expected to handle, the Cougars finished well back in the Western Athletic Conference standings. But they managed to finish ahead of last-place Arizona State.

Individual scoring honors were taken by Doug Howard, the 6-3 senior guard from Salt Lake City who wound up his playing career with an 18.2 scoring average. Howard also finished among the top ten free throw shooters in collegiate ball, hitting 85 percent of his attempts from the free throw line. Doug also became the fourth highest scorer in BYU history.

Paul Ruffner, the Y's 6-9 center, finished his senior year with a 17.7 scoring average, plus rebounding honors. Ruffner averaged 10 rebounds per game over the 26-game schedule.

Scott Warner finished the season as the number four scorer with a 10.1 average, and was the team's number two rebounder.

There is other evidence that the Cougar's game was well below the BYU standard. The team's scoring output was the lowest it has been in the past five years, and the Cougars excelled opponents in only one department---rebounding.

The Cougars lost four seniors---Howard, Ruffner, Warner and Bob Davis---but will have three starters returning. The three are forwards Phil Tollestrup and Steve Kelly, and guard Jim Miller.