

OUTLOOK FOR 1950

The Cougars should field a better team than the 1948-49 edition which finished fourth in the conference standings. The loss of Randy Clark, diminutive little guard who piloted the 'Cats for the past three seasons, will be felt. The little play-maker had one year of eligibility left, but decided to begin coaching at the end of school last spring. Joe Weight, high-scoring forward now making a big hit with Eastern fans and the pro ranks, will also be missed, as will Clark Greenhalgh, starting center last season. Greenhalgh was eligible for another year under conference regulations but the N.C.A.A. ruled against him. Also missing from last year will be Kent Durrant, 6 ft. 7 in. center who was dogged by injuries last season. Durrant dropped out of school this year but should return for next season.

This will mark Coach Stan Watts' first season as head coach, stepping in to fill the shoes of Floyd Millet, who resigned to enter private business. Watts will have his hands full molding the squad into shape for the tough 20-game conference slate. Had last season's schedule been the usual 10 game length, the Cougars would have repeated as conference champions. After dropping their first three and getting a taste of the conference cellar, the Cats won the next seven straight and skyrocketed into first place. Then a distasteful road trip across the Rockies sent them into a spin from which they never recovered.

The Cougars' one-two-three punch should raise the hopes of local followers this year. Joe Nelson, Roland Minson, and Mel Hutchins are without a doubt three of the finest players ever to wear a Cougar uniform. There have been a lot of famous duos cavorting on the hardwoods for Intermountain teams in the past (Arnie Ferrin and Vern Gardner of Utah to mention one), but never in the history of the Intermountain sport has there been a more promising trio of hoopsters than Nelson, Minson and Hutchins. Nelson has been a regular for three seasons and the team's top scorer all three of them, Minson was chosen last year as the West's greatest sophomore, and Hutchins returns to the Provo campus after amazing hoop fans who saw him play for 20th Century Fox last year. He played for the "Y" in 1947-48.

Add to this trio a galaxy of lettermen from last year, a couple of outstanding J.C. transfers, some good sophomore prospects, and you have the 1950 edition of Brigham Young University's basketball team.

The Cougars have one of the toughest schedules in the conference. A long pre-season schedule, two tournaments, and only a short rest before the conference race begins will give the Cats a definite disadvantage. And then the fact that every team in the conference, with little exception, will have a better team than last year . . . well, it'll be an interesting scramble.