

COUGAR OUTLOOK

One look at the BYU basketball roster and the cage critics concede, "this looks like a good year for building at Brigham Young." The two necessary ingredients for a front-running club—experience and scoring power—are missing this year.

Coach Stan Watts, who has won his share of hardwood honors in seasons past, is without the services of such '54 stalwarts as Dean Larsen (all-conference forward and leading scorer in the Conference last year), Tom Karren, Sherm Crump, and Mac Madsen.

As this brochure goes to press, there are only two seniors—Nick Mateljan and Van Burgess—listed on the Watts roster. The balance of the squad is equally divided among juniors and sophomores, few of whom sport much in the way of experience. True, there is some real talent among the younger players, but right now they're too green to pose much of a threat.

The second ingredient—scoring punch—is available in limited quantities, but is spread rather thin, it appears. Fans are hoping two or three of the younger boys will come forward to pave the way with points.

This apparent lack of scoring punch is a real worry for Stan Watts who has had point-makers like Nelson, Hutchins, Minson, Richey, and Larsen at various times in seasons past.

But Cougar followers who know Watts, believe he can produce a double-digit scorer or two before the season is over. These fans also take encouragement from the fact Nick Mateljan has a great scoring potential that could, if it blossomed properly, make him one of the Skyline's best.

With Mateljan in the lineup the Cougars appear strong at the post. Nick, who has lettered the past three seasons, is backed by Herschel "Soup Bones" Pedersen (6-6).

At guard there is less height but most of the team's speed. Van Burgess and Dave Lewis both saw plenty of action last year, and Lewis could answer Stan's scoring problems on the guard line. Terry Tebbs is another guard whose speed and ball handling can lighten the load in that position.

The forwards will have height, which will help the Brighams gain control of the board. Players like Blaine Anderson, Ed Pinegar, Lynn Rowe, Ron Turner and others could mean the difference between a successful or mediocre season.

COACH STAN WATTS

The meteoric rise of Stan Watts in the basketball coaching world is one of the great assets of Brigham Young University athletics. Now in his sixth year at the Cougar helm, Stan has won for himself and BYU an international fame in the cage sport in the brief span of five years.



In five seasons Stan has won an NIT title, two Skyline Conference championships, and has yet to finish below third place in league standings.

Among other things, he holds several prominent positions on several boards. He is District Seven representative on the NCAA Basketball Rules Committee, a member of the National Basketball Board, and has penned many articles on the hardwood sport.

Amiable and pleasant on and off the court, Stan has developed for BYU, not only a name for quality basketball, but an enviable reputation in sportsmanship, an earmark of Cougar athletic teams.

Tabbed the "Scientist of the Hardwoods" because of his keen insight into the game, Stan keeps meticulous records and gives his boys the advantage of his penetrating observation.

Watts came to BYU as freshman coach of both football and basketball and later was named assistant basketball coach and assistant director of athletics. He took over the head basketball job in 1949.

A product of Murray High School (Utah), where he was an all-around star, he enrolled at Weber Junior College, transferring to BYU in 1936. Before graduating in 1938, Stan won two letters in football, basketball, and track, and was awarded the Y trophy as the outstanding all-around athlete.

Following graduation, Stan coached championship teams at Millard County High School and Dixie Junior College. From Dixie he went to Jordan High as head basketball mentor in 1949. He was at Jordan for only two years, but his cage teams tied for the Big Nine championship both years.