

The Outlook:

CATS MEASURE SHORT

The 1956-57 season at Brigham Young is one of those infrequent years when BYU cage fortunes temporarily dip for rebuilding purposes. This anticipated drop below par is accompanied by the usual shortages. There is a shortage of veteran lettermen, of tested personnel, of height, and other ingredients necessary for a front-runner. Consequently the Cougars aren't expected to floor a team that is a threat in the accepted sense.

Coach Stan Watts, who has yet to come up with more losses than wins in seven seasons at BYU, faces some major personnel problems. Graduation took the heart out of the team that finished in second place last year. Powering the Brighams last year were such standouts as Terry Tebbs, Little All-American who averaged 20 points a game; Herschel "Soup" Pedersen, the Y's 6-6 pivot ace; Ed Pinegar, Blaine Anderson, Dave Lewis and other key players. With these boys gone, the Cats must fill a most prodigious void.

Another problem Watts is wrestling with is height. While most of the major college teams in the country are snaring taller players, the Cougar timber seems to be dropping off. It's likely Stan's starting five will average 6-11/2, which indicates the Brighams may be in for a beating on the boards.

Stan will have only six returned lettermen to work with, and the distribution favors the forward position. John Benson (6-4), Lynn Rowe (6-3 1/2), Jack Anderson (6-6), and Hal Jensen (6-3) are all concentrated at forward. While there is good depth and height here, Benson is the only regular, and he could be headed for all-conference honors. A tremendous rebounder, Benson holds the current fieldhouse rebounding record with 26 recoveries in one game. Harry Anderson 5-11) and Tom Steinke (5-10) are the only letter winners at guard, and the center spot is without a letterman. Three sophomores will be vying for the pivot.

Another indication of the moulding job necessary is seen in the fact that 10 players or more than half the number on the 1957 roster, are sophomores.

The large turnover in personnel may also change the team's offensive pace. With Tebbs out of the picture, Stan may be forced to modify the fast break that had the Cougars scoring 77.2 points a game (a record high) last season. Without the height to control the boards, the Cats may lean more to a control game.

Coach Stan Watts has never had a team finish below third place in the Skyline standings, but the exception may take place in '57.

PAST CHAMPIONS

1927	.....	Montana State
1928	.....	Montana State
1929	.....	Montana State
1930	.....	Utah State
1931	.....	Utah University
1932	.....	Brigham Young
1933	.....	Brigham Young
1934	.....	Brigham Young
1935	.....	Utah State
1936	.....	Utah State
1937	.....	Montana State
1938	.....	Utah and Colorado
1939	.....	Colorado University
1940	.....	Colorado University
1941	.....	Wyoming University
1942	.....	Colorado University
1943	.....	Wyoming University
1944	.....	Wyoming University
1945	.....	No Schedule (World War II)
1946	.....	Wyoming University
1947	.....	Wyoming University
1948	.....	Brigham Young
1949	.....	Wyoming University
1950	.....	Brigham Young
1951	.....	Brigham Young
1952	.....	Wyoming University
1953	.....	Wyoming University
1954	.....	Colorado A&M
1955	.....	Utah University
1956	.....	Utah University

In the above table only western division champions are listed through 1937. 1938 was the first year which saw a full conference schedule between teams on both sides of the Rockies.

FIELDHOUSE ATTENDANCE MARKS

Year	Games	Total	Game Avg.
1951-52	10	66,640	6,664
1952-53	12	79,196	7,711
1953-54	14	84,247	6,018
1954-55	12	68,702	5,725
1955-56	14	116,103	8,286
TOTAL	162	414,888	6,692

Attendance Record: 11,614, Utah State, Feb. 9, 1956. Previous record was 10,838, University of Utah, Feb. 11, 1955.