

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF



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Stan Watts
Head Basketball Coach



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Freshman Basketball Coach



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THE OUTLOOK

After BYU's surprise finish in first place in the Sky-line standings last March, any forecast as to the Cougars eventual outcome in 1958 is bound to be pure guess work. In 1957 the Cats turned a lean year into an unexpected feast, one the prognosticators are still trying to explain.

Anything nearing a repeat performance this year would be asking too much, even for the gifted Stan Watts and his boys. In fact, at this writing the Cougars will need some breaks to win a few on the road and crack the first division in league play.

The loss of four starters from last year's team will undoubtedly be felt. Gone is the great rebounder and workhorse John Benson (18.4 points a game) and the great outside shot, Tom Steinke (19.7 points a game), and such regulars as Lynn Rowe and Harry Anderson.

Only one of last year's starters, Center Roy Thacker, is returning, and Thacker will not be eligible until the end of fall quarter just before Christmas.

Thus Mr. Watts must use his magic in bringing forth new talent, new stars with which to build the 1958 team. And while the material is promising, it is also green enough to keep the coaching staff in an uncomfortable position, at least until they start clicking with regularity.

True, the Cougars will have five or six lettermen returning, but they played only parts of games last year. Forwards John Gustin, Russ Jones, and Jack Cravens could surprise, as might Mac Madsen, Gary Miles, Russ Peterson and Mel Wilkes.

There isn't a senior on the squad this season, so Coach Watts will have to look to sophomores and juniors for personnel.

Last year Coach Bob Bunker's frosh were undefeated in 12 games, and the sophomores moving up to the varsity include Valoy Eaton, 6-2 guard and highest scorer (14.3 average); Dick Sawyer, 6-6 center (13.3 average); Lynn Gleave, 6-4 forward (8.2 average); Don Helm and Gary Crandall.

Other sophomores include Larry Crowley, a guard transfer from Chaffey Junior College; Bill Treu, a forward who lettered as frosh and returned just recently from mission; the Cats will also have the help of John Nicholl, junior college All-American from Eastern Arizona.

Certainly the Cougars have good cause for calling the season a building year. But with a few breaks and a little time to develop new talent, the Brighams once again might mean trouble for opponents.