

OUTLOOK

If Stan Watts has a five-year program in the making, he's going to have to junk the masterplan and start all over again. According to the Watts calendar, this was supposed to be a year a team of experienced seniors was to reap the big harvest. But the start of the '59 season finds Stan starting from scratch.

At the end of last season the Cougars had only one player, guard Mel Wilkes, who was a senior. Conceivably this could mean that all but one regular from the 15-man squad would be returning from last year's second place club.

But, as fate would have it, the bottom fell out. Between March and September the Cougars lost a total of eight players. Two signed pro baseball contracts, and several others were academically hamstrung from further action.

So the 1959 season, the one BYU fans had circled a couple of seasons in advance, will have to be classed as another building year. But in fairness to Cougar opponents, it must be stated that the cagey Mr. Watts has the ability of making a building year look like the finished product. Last year, for instance, the Cats had only one senior. His team lost seven of its first nine games before bouncing back to take the lead in the Skyline race and eventually finish in a tie for second place.

Much of BYU's load will fall to John Nicoll, 6-5 all-conference forward who came within a few points of snaring the Skyline scoring title in 1958 as a junior. John's scoring saved many a game last year. Two other regulars, guard Russ Peterson (6-0) and center Roy Thacker (6-4), will beef up the squad with their experience.

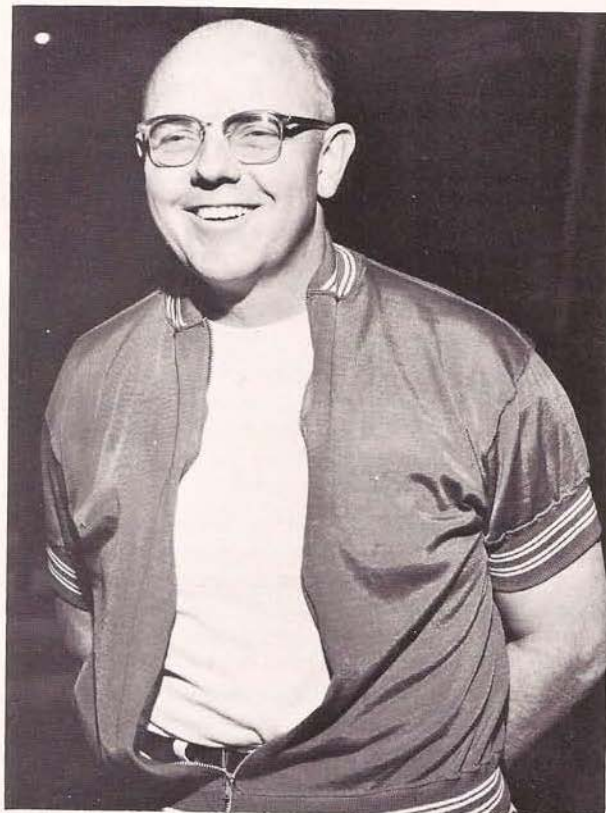
Five transfers and several sophomores will attempt to fill the gap left by players not returning. Two of these sophomores, forward Bob Skousen (6-4) and guard Gary Earnest (6-0), are expected to crack the starting five along with Nicoll, Thacker and Mac Madsen (6-2).

BYU's reserve strength may prove to be the key to the season, however. Stan has seven or eight boys who can take the front line fire, but the reserve strength thereafter may require more experience to adequately hold the fort.

The Cougars will not have a tall team, but will probably have better team speed and scoring punch this season. Stan also admits this year's squad is a month ahead of last year's, which got off to an unbelievably poor start.

Watts' own succinct evaluation of the '59 club: "We'll be as good as our sophomores will let us."

STAN WATTS



Stan Watts isn't just another well-known personality on campus at BYU—he's a living, breathing tradition. And his reputation in the coaching profession extends well beyond the boundaries of this country.

The 1959 season finds Stan entering his tenth year as head coach at Brigham Young University. In the span of the nine past seasons he has never lost more than he has won, and within the conference he has yet to finish below third place in the final standings. He is one of seven coaches in the country to win over 100 games his first five years of college coaching, and the BYU trophy case contains one NIT championship cup, plus three conference trophies.

The Watts-coached clubs at BYU have always been colorful, and he hand-picks his own schedule. A year seldom passes but what BYU doesn't travel coast to coast, seeking out for games the best college teams in the country.

Murray High School was the starting point of the Watts athletic career. He was an outstanding prep