

THE OUTLOOK

After suffering the agonies of last year's 8-17 season, BYU can best express its immediate outlook in one word—"improved."

Says Stan, in his own words: "If our sophomores can gain some experience, and if one or two of our junior college transfers can come through for us, we might have a pretty fair unit before the season is over."

While "improved" described the general outlook, it does not mean the youthful Pumas are strong enough to dominate the league. But it does mean they are ready to move back up the ladder.

No less than eight of the Y's varsity players are sophomores, and five others are transfers. That's a pretty big group of newcomers to fit into the system. But the placid Watts is one coach who will undoubtedly make the most of what he has.

Actually the '61 team will be built around two strong regulars; floor general Gary Earnest (6-0) and all conference pivot man Dave Eastis (6-4). These two have carried the load for the past two seasons.

Eastis, an astute, gritty student of the game, has the most impressive scoring average in BYU history. His 20.1 average in '60 was a school record, and his 21 field goals and 44 points against New Mexico is a mark future stars will have trouble surpassing.

Earnest, who has the touch of a pro, is as smart a player as you will find in the Skyline. His 13.9 average as a sophomore and 12.7 average as a junior may be over-shadowed in the season ahead.

There's a good chance Watts will team three sophomores with Eastis and Earnest for a starting five. The forward line, last year's soft spot, is without a returning letterman. Even so, the forward positions will be stronger with the likes of sophomores Bruce Burton (6-4), Timo Lampen (6-5), Jim Kelson (6-2) and transfers Gayle Butler (6-5), and Scott Iverson (6-3).

If Stan can find a good outside shot among his guards, he can add materially to the team's striking force. He is sure to have help in Gary Batchelor (5-10), Ron Steinke (5-10), letterman Ron Abegglen (5-8), and others.

Neither of the Y's two reserve centers, Lloyd Johnson (6-6) or Jack Manion (6-6) has the experience or finesse to force Eastis out of the post, but both will provide good reserve strength, however.

Unlike last year's squad, the 1960-61 group has already displayed signs of fire and a thirst for contest. With some steady play and a few surprises, the Cougars could return to their familiar haunt in the first division.

AT A GLANCE

RETURNING LETTERMEN (5)

Guard—Gary Earnest, Senior, Regular (319)
 Guard—Ron Abegglen, Senior, Reserve (124)
 Center—Dave Eastis, Senior, Regular (483)
 Guard—Larry Crowley, Junior, Reserve (27)
 Guard—Roland Bevell, Senior, Reserve (6)

LETTERMEN NOT RETURNING (6)

Guard—Dave Barber, Reserve, Mission (16)
 Forward—Mark Miller, Regular, Mission (252)
 Forward—Valoy Eaton, Regular, Graduated (177)
 Forward—Brent Peterson, Reserve, Transferred (37)
 Forward—Ron Bell, Reserve, Left School (115)
 Forward—Frank Berrett, Reserve, Graduated (62)

TRANSFERS (5)

Guard—Robert Wilson (5-11), Weber (Utah)
 Forward—Gale Butler (6-5), American River (Calif.)
 Forward—Scott Iverson (6-3), Cerritos (Calif.)
 Forward—Gene Kunz (6-4), Weber (Utah)
 Center—Jack Mannion (6-6), University of Utah

FRESHMAN LETTERMEN (8)

Guard—Jim Williams (5-10)
 Guard—Ron Steinke (5-10)
 Guard—Gary Batchelor (5-10)
 Center—Lloyd Johnson (6-6)
 Forward—Jim Kelson (6-2)
 Forward—Gail Johnson (6-4)
 Forward—Timo Lampen (6-5)
 Forward—Bruce Burton (6-4)

BYU VICTORIES IN FIELDHOUSE

Year	Won	Lost
1951-52	8	2
1952-53	12	0
1953-54	12	2
1954-55	9	3
1955-56	12	2
1956-57	11	1
1957-58	8	4
1958-59	11	2
1959-60	4	7
	<hr/> 87	<hr/> 23

Last BYU defeat in fieldhouse, 67-87, Montana Feb. 27, 1960.