

If BYU is following any kind of basketball cycle, chances are the Cougars should come up with the strongest team produced in the past three years. How strong remains to be seen. But it appears the building years Watts has silently endured in seasons past may have produced something more than a foundation.

On paper the Y's newest club has good team depth on the forward and guard lines, fair experience, fair height, and much promise for the future. Only two players on the 16-man roster are seniors, with the largest class representation among the juniors.

Looking at the team by position, the forward positions are well manned. Bob Skousen, (6-4) who set a sophomore scoring record before answering a mission call, hasn't lost a thing in his three year's absence from the college courts. Both of last year's forwards, Bruce Burton (6-4) and Jim Kelson (6-3), are back, along with three good sophomore prospects: Bill Blumenthal (6-4), John Alstrom (6-6), and Bill Wylie (6-6).

The spectacular play provided by Gary Earnest last year will be missing, but the guards should be deeper and better balanced. Regular Gary Batchelor (5-11) is back, as is semi-regular Bob Wilson (6-1). Ron Steinke, who did not letter last year, is pressing for a starting berth, and Gene Kunz, who can play any position, has been moved over to give the position depth.

It's at center, where Watts has to find a replacement for durable Dave Eastis, that the picture is uncertain. Lloyd Johnson (6-6) is the only returning letterman, and looks like the best of four prospects. Stan Ashby (6-6), a transfer from Snow, could move in, as might Steve Merta, Bakersfield transfer. Bob Inglis (6-10), if he continues to improve, could help.

If Watts can come up with a smooth-working first team and also get steady support from the reserves, the Cougars could move back into the conference picture with force. But there is enough new talent to make this a difficult task for a team with only two seniors.

Returning Lettermen: (7)

- Robert Wilson, Guard (6.9)
- Gene Kunz, Guard (4.0)
- Gary Batchelor, Guard (6.7)
- Bob Skousen, Forward (17.7)
- Bruce Burton, Forward (10.9)
- Jim Kelson, Forward (8.8)
- Lloyd Johnson, Center (1.5)

Lettermen Not Returning: (5)

- Gary Earnest, Guard (16.5)
- Dave Eastis, Center (14.9)
- Timo Lampen, Forward (5.6)
- Jack Mannion, Forward (3.9)
- Roland Bevell, Guard (2.5)

Sophomore Prospects:

- Jerry Dahlman, Guard (17.3)
- Bill Blumenthal, Forward (15.6)
- Bill Wylie, Forward (13.0)
- John Alstrom, Center (8.9)

Transfers:

- Bill Crow, Guard, El Cerritos
- Stan Ashby, Center, Snow
- Steve Merta, Center, Bakersfield

WATTS' COACHING RECORD		
	W	L
1949-50	22	12
1950-51	40	9
1951-52	14	10
1952-53	22	8
1953-54	18	11
1954-55	13	13
1955-56	18	8
1956-57	19	9
1957-58	13	13
1958-59	15	11
1959-60	8	17
1960-61	15	11
	217	132
Total: 349 Games		
Percentage: .622		