

SEASON OUTLOOK

There's one built-in danger that every successful team has to learn to live with—too high a level of expectation from those who must fill the shoes of the champs. There's a wide-spread belief that, despite the loss of key personnel, every title team should pick up where it left off the season before. And memories of that NIT team are still fresh in the minds of the fans.

Viewed realistically, however, it should be apparent that this year's team will not resemble the '66 club; at least not in the fore part of the season. Certainly they should not be expected to come near the 20-5 record of last year.

Coach Stan Watts has only three regulars to replace—guards Dick Nemelka and Jeff Congdon, forward Steve Kramer. But with all his fababled court wizardry, Watts really isn't expected to replace this trio that averaged nearly 60 points per game between them. Congdon and all-American Dick Nemelka comprised the best backcourt twosome in college basketball last year, and the shooting and aggressive play of forward Kramer was the best seen at BYU within a decade. Over and above the loss of their shooting, speed and experience, they left a big void in leadership.

Consequently, there are bound to be some changes, and some experimentation to develop a new core.

Viewed at closer range, this year's team will have plenty of height (the eight forwards and centers will average 6-8), will be a hot-shooting group, but may not have the speed, court savvy or cohesiveness that pulled the Cougars through many a tight game last year.

Past injuries, too, provide a precarious element to the outlook. At least three key players—forward Neil Roberts and guards Gary Hill and Jim Jimas—stand on uncertain stems. All have undergone knee surgery within the last year or so. At this writing, Jimas is still recovering from a knee injury suffered during pre-season practice.

Looking at the team by position: The guard line, without Jimas, will be a little inexperienced. Senior Ken James (6-3) could fill the gap, but Watts has moved Hill into the back court where the veteran can lend a little balance. Lynn Parsons (6-3) and Jon Dresser (6-2) are two sophomores up from the frosh team that will eventually add to the depth.

With three centers towering around 6-11, Watts has all the depth he needs. In lieu of a standout post man, the Cougars will very likely alternate with two

proven players, Craig Raymond and Jim Eakins. Raymond looked like an all-American in the NIT championship game, and he was the Cougars' top man in rebounding last year. Eakins had the best shooting percentage—57%—on the squad, and worked well on the boards. Orville Fisher and Scott Warner (6-7) will play backup roles.

On the forward line, Roberts (6-5) has been alternating with Hill at one forward position since his sophomore year. He should have one forward position nailed down. A pair of sophomores, Marty Lythgoe (6-5) and Kari Liimo (6-7) who averaged over 20 points a game as freshmen, are vying for the other starting forward position.

Once this club is given a little time to mature and is brought into focus, it should be able to battle with the best. Until then, it will probably have to age under fire.

* * *

PERSONNEL

LETTERMEN RETURNING (8)

Player	Ht.	Pts.	Avg.
**Ken James	6-3	51	(5.1)
**Jim Jimas, g	6-1	84	(5.3)
*Randy Schouten, g	6-0	19	(2.7)
**Gary Hill, f	6-4	170	(7.7)
**Neil Roberts, f	6-5	237	(10.8)
*Jim Eakins, c	6-11	139	(6.0)
*Orville Fisher, f-c	6-11	18	(2.0)
*Craig Raymond, c	6-11	188	(7.5)

LETTERMEN NOT RETURNING (4)

***Dick Nemelka, g	6-1	599	(24.0)
***Steve Kramer, f	6-4	457	(18.3)
***Jeff Congdon, g	6-1	382	(16.0)
**Bill Ruffner, f	6-5	44	(3.4)

OUTSTANDING NEWCOMERS (7)

John Dresser, g	6-2	(10.4 as a Frosh)
Lynn Parsons, g	6-3	(12.5 as a Frosh)
Jim House, g	6-4	(Transfer)
Kari Liimo, f	6-7	(24.4 as a Frosh)
Paul Loveday, f	6-10	(Red-shirt)
Scott Warner, c	6-7	(20.0 as a Frosh)
Marty Lythgoe, f	6-5	(13.9 as a Frosh)