

SEASON OUTLOOK

About the only safe statement that can be made about this year's BYU team is that it shouldn't be anything like former Cougar squads. The Cougars will continue to break fast and fire away at the basket, but the most noticeable difference will be in the overall makeup of club personnel.

True, seven lettermen from last year's 17-10 team that tied Wyoming for the WAC championship are back. That's half a team, but the players who pumped in 60% of the Cougars' points in '67 have since moved on. This group includes the likes of Craig Raymond (6-11 center), Neil Roberts (6-5 forward), Gary Hill (6-4 guard-forward), and guards Ken James and Jim Jimas.

There is enough talent returning that if Coach Stan Watts were to look to his lettermen only, he could fill the five starting positions without any trouble. But the incoming talent is of such a quality that the best playing combination will probably have to come from both the seasoned and the new.

Looking at the team as a whole, the best fortified positions, in terms of experience and ability, are up front. The post will be manned by Jim Eakins, a 6-11, two-year letterman, who will be hard to dislodge. The two forwards on the front line, All-WAC forwards Kari Liimo (6-8) and Marty Lythgoe (6-6), will be among the region's best, even though they are only juniors. Liimo displays a lot of class as a player, and with his height and with his ability, he will be hard to match anywhere in the country. Lythgoe, too, has a fine combination of court talents.

The reserve strength at center and forward will not be as strong. Orville Fisher (6-11) and Scott Warner (6-7) can spell off Eakins, but neither can claim much in the way of playing experience. The other candidates at forward are all sophomores, though the Cats could get some assistance from Gary Schneider (6-7).

The talent thins out, once Watts has to turn to his bench.

The two guard positions are also something of a question mark, too, but for another reason. The three lettermen (Randy Schouten, Lynn Parsons, and Jon Dresser) saw only reserve action last year, and at this writing none of the three can be labeled a standout comparable to BYU guards of recent years. But they have some experience, and that will mean a lot, at least in the fore part of the season.

A newcomer who could work himself into a starting berth at guard is Doug Howard (6-4), a sophomore who averaged 15.0 points per game on the freshman squad (12-2) of last winter. Howard has excellent moves and shoots well, much in the tradition of former BYU guards. Another new member of the varsity, transfer Gary Foster (6-3), figures on the Cougar's guard line. They are good shooters and have good speed.

There is one thing that should work to the Y's advantage this year—the Cougars' summer tour of the Orient-South Pacific. An 11-man squad from BYU completed a 27-game tour that gave them an opportunity to play a lot of ball together. How much this will mean in the team's overall development remains to be seen.

In summary, one fact is rather evident—Watts will have less to work with than he did in either '66 or '67 campaigns. Even so, BYU will likely win its share of games.

PERSONNEL

LETTERMEN RETURNING (7)

Player	Ht.	Pts.	Avg.
*Kari Liimo, f	6-8	327	(13.6)
**Jim Eakins, c	6-11	193	(8.4)
*Marty Lythgoe, f	6-6	158	(6.9)
*Jon Dresser, g	6-3	26	(2.4)
**Randy Schouten, g	6-0	21	(1.7)
*Orville Fisher, c	6-11	8	(1.5)
*Lynn Parsons, g	6-3	11	(1.0)

LETTERMEN NOT RETURNING (6)

***Craig Raymond, c	6-11	342	(14.2)
***Neil Roberts, f	6-5	268	(11.1)
***Gary Hill, g	6-4	243	(10.1)
***Ken James, g	6-3	214	(9.3)
***Jim Jimas, g	6-1	120	(6.3)
*Jim House, g	6-4	25	(1.6)

OUTSTANDING NEWCOMERS (5)

Scott Warner, c	6-7	*(13.9 as a Frosh)
Gary Schneider, f	6-7	(16.4 as a Frosh)
Bob Davis, f	6-4	(16.2 as a Frosh)
Doug Howard, g	6-4	(15.0 as a Frosh)
Gary Foster, g	6-3	(21.0—JC)
*1966 Frosh Team		

WAC OVERALL

TEAM	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	TOT.
BYU	6-4	5-5	8-2	6-4	8-2	33-17
UNM	4-6	7-3	5-5	4-6	5-5	25-25
ASU	9-1	7-3	4-6	3-7	1-9	24-26
UTAH	5-5	4-6	3-7	7-3	5-5	24-26
WYO.	3-7	3-7	5-5	5-5	8-2	24-26
ARIZ.	3-7	4-6	5-5	5-5	3-7	20-30