

# THE OUTLOOK

Looking at the Cougars' current squad is like looking into a kaleidoscope. Shake it a little and you get all kinds of impressions and interesting combinations. Perhaps that is one reason it is difficult to come up with an unqualified statement about the 1968-69 team.

Viewed from one angle, that of returning lettermen, it would appear that the Cougars have a lot going for them. There are eight lettermen back, including three regulars from last year's squad. This group includes the leading scorer from the '68 squad, 6-8 forward Kari Liimo, and all but two of the players listed among the ten who carried the load last year.

Will this kind of experience be enough to give the Cougars an improved season? Hardly.

Two things that have earmarked the Cougars' recent good teams seem to be missing; the towering center and the steady scorer with the 20-plus scoring average.

One of the regulars not returning is Jim Eakins, the 6-11 center, who is now playing with the Oakland Oaks. Eakins was the team's number one man on the boards last year and he averaged nearly 15 points per game.

## Center Position

But the center problem could be solved with the addition of a prime prospect from the junior college ranks, 6-9 Paul Ruffner. A standout performer from the Cerritos Junior College, Ruffner could be the key to a successful season. He shoots very well, and his play reminds a lot of people of a former BYU great, John Fairchild. It could be that Ruffner is also capable of scoring 20-plus points per game, in which case the Cougars might be off and running.

Two other players will be vying for the post position; junior Scott Warner (6-6) and sophomore Veikko Vainio (6-9). Warner saw action in 24 games last year and was sixth in team scoring. Vainio, one of two Finnish students on the team, is making good progress.

## Trouble

One possible trouble spot exists on the forward line. Last year's starters, Marty Lythgoe (6-4½) and Kari Liimo (6-8), are both back, but the Cougars' haven't the depth on the forward line that they must have for a good season. These two positions must be forfeited, and steady performers must be forthcoming for BYU to be a threat.

Candidates for forward are lettermen Bruce Barron (6-5 and Bob Davis (6-3½), and church mission returnee LeRoy Maughn (6-7½). Anyone of the three may be pressed into service, if the forward positions don't materialize.

The guard line, it appears, will develop as the season progresses. Foremost among the guards is Doug Howard, a 6-3 junior from Salt Lake City, who is a sure-thing at one position. Howard looked very strong in the late stages of the '68 season.

## Seniors

Two seniors, both two-year lettermen, are also returning on the guard line. Lynn Parsons (6-3½) and Jon Dresser (6-2) know the system and can go with the fast-break. Backing up the seniors are three sophomore guards, the best of whom is Jim Miller (6-5). Although he missed practically all of his freshman year because of an injury, Miller will be pressing for a starting position. Two other sophomore guards are Chris Dowling (6-1) and Steve Kelly (6-3½).

## Height, Speed

Although there are no seven-footers in the lineup, the Cougars will have good height overall. Their speed, which is essential with the Watts' fast-break, should be adequate, but will vary with different combinations.

As per usual, the Cougar schedule will be a great test for a team with championship aspirations. Besides the usual WAC powers, the Cougars will meet half a dozen of the best teams in the country.

Three years ago (1966) the Cougars had a going combination; a 90-plus scoring average and an individual with a 20-plus scoring mean. The ingredients the Cougars had then seem to be missing now. But at least it will give this year's team something to shoot at.

# WATTS' RECORD

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
1961-62	.....	10	16
1962-63	.....	12	14
1963-64	.....	13	12
1964-65	.....	40	10
1965-66	.....	20	5
1966-67	.....	41	13
1967-68	.....	15	12
		368	212

Total: 580 Games  
Percentage: .634