

# '80-81 Prospectus

Time--a few more weeks of time--is going to be the key in bringing together the BYU squad which Coach Frank Arnold feels is as talented as last year's conference champions.

"We will struggle in December because of a much more difficult schedule (i.e. Oregon State, Michigan State, Illinois, Tennessee) and because this group of players hasn't played that much as a unit," says Arnold.

Nine lettermen return (four lettermen were lost), one transfer, and two freshmen make up the Cougar roster. The two remaining starters have received national and/or regional acclaim.

By the time Western Athletic Conference play begins (Jan. 8), Arnold thinks his team will be ready to defend two previous WAC titles (1979 and 1980). Graduated are experienced pivot-man Alan Taylor, backcourt leader Scott Runia and passing-shooting whiz Devin Durrant (now on an LDS mission in Spain).

Returning is all-time BYU scorer (1,685 points) and All-American Danny Ainge. Ainge, 6-5, signed a new contract with the Toronto Blue Jays, and will devote his full attention to baseball at the conclusion of his senior year. Joining Ainge is power forward Fred Roberts, a 6-10 junior, who is a sure bet for this third season as a starter.

"It will be difficult for us to defend the WAC title," says Arnold. "The conference favorite on paper should be Utah, who appears to have two of the top 12 players in America (Vranes and Chambers). Utah has "final four" (NCAA) potential, but we accept the challenge."

To bid for the title, individual struggles for the three open starting spots must refine, not scar, the talent, according to Arnold.

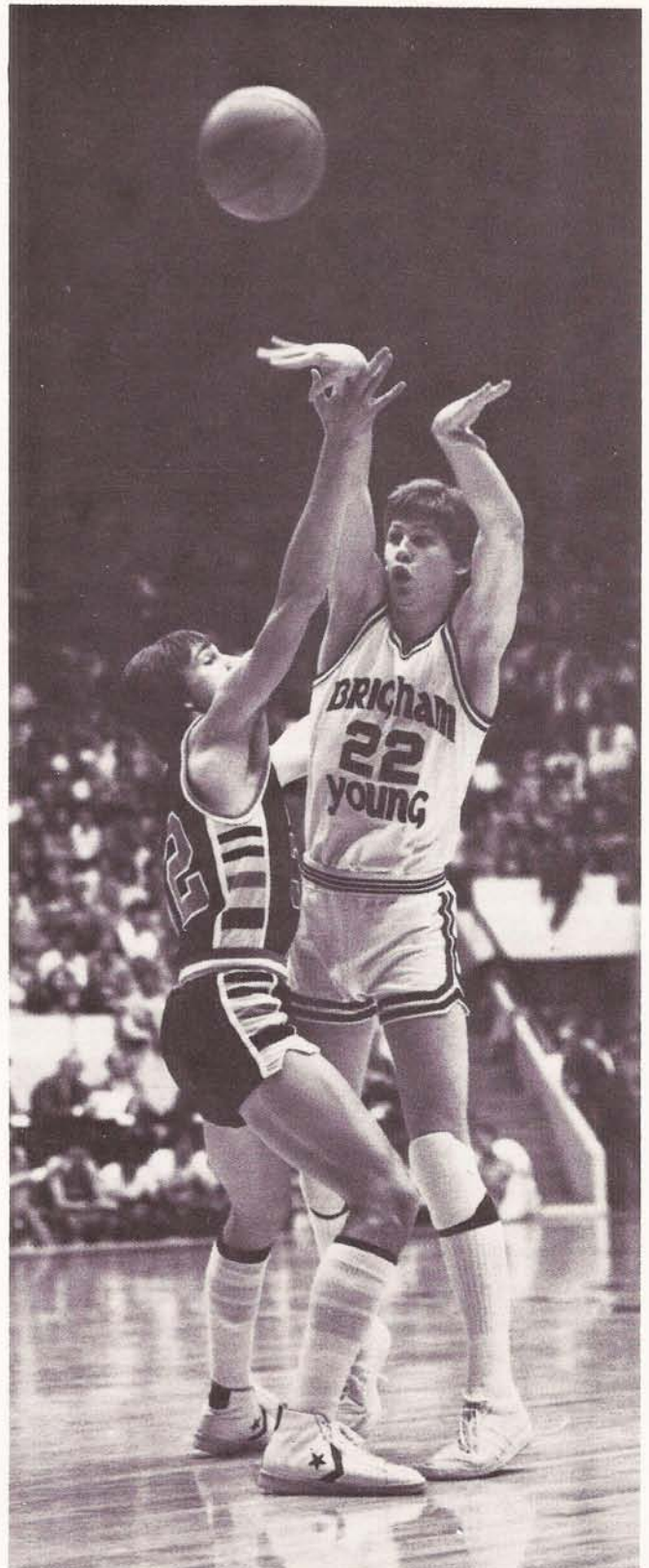
The battle for center is led by sophomore Greg Kite, a player of great physical proportions (6-11, 255), who vastly improved his game over the summer. Challenging Kite, last year's backup center, is 7-0 Dave McGuire, the 1978 reserve and 6-8 swingman Steve Trumbo.

In the battle for the small forward, Trumbo is the leading candidate. Newcomers vying for the position include Finnish freshman Timo Saarelainen, (6-6), and Utah State transfer Gary Furniss (6-8), who just returned from a South Pacific mission.

In the struggle at point guard, senior Steve Craig (6-3), and junior Greg Ballif (6-3) are the front runners. However, 6-4 redshirt Craig Christensen and 6-4 freshman Richie Webb can't be taken lightly. Injury-prone Craig saw the most action of the bunch last year and has started a number of games since his freshman year.

"It's too bad we can't play four guards at the same time," says Arnold. "If the forward battle proves unsatisfactory then we will think seriously about putting Ainge there--we will likely do both (use Ainge as a swingman)."

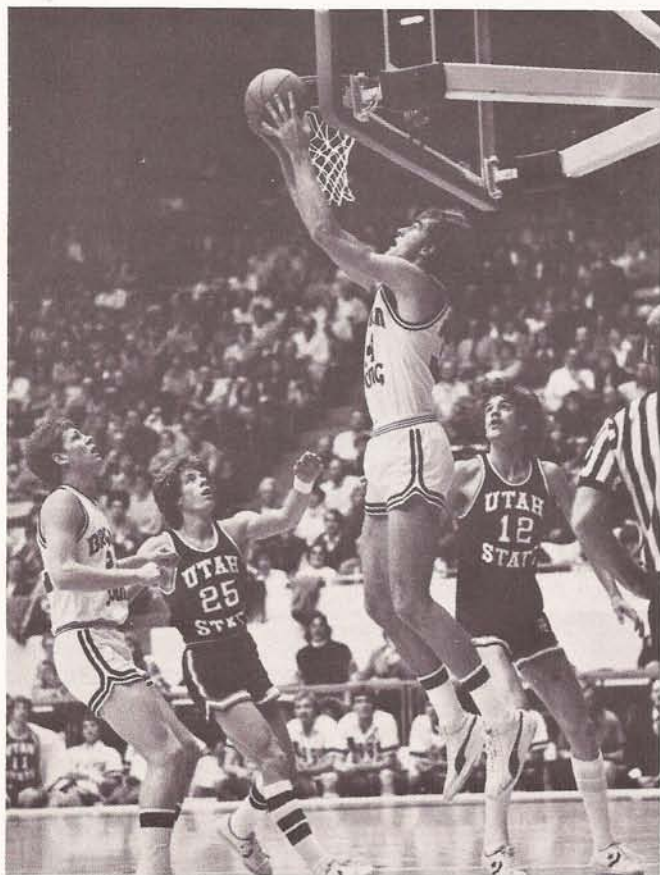
This year's personnel provides Arnold with good rebounding, defensive play, excellent depth, and more size and strength. An area where the Cougars may now be weak is ball handling (dribbling and passing).



"Virtually all of our players except Danny Ainge had a good summer of individual workout in basketball, and Ainge (who spent the summer in major league baseball) is already good enough."

# Personnel Picture

PLAYERS NOT RETURNING (4)	Ht.	Scoring Average	Rebounding Average	Scoring Position
**** Alan Taylor, C	6-10	12.5	10.9	4th
**** Scott Runia, G	6-1	9.3	1.3	6th
** Devin Durrant, F	6-7	13.3	5.9	2nd
** Steve Anderson, F	6-6	3.0	1.5	11th
<b>PLAYERS RETURNING</b>				
*** Danny Ainge, G	6-5	19.1	3.9	1st
** Fred Roberts, F.	6-10	13.1	6.1	3rd
*** Steve Craig, G	6-3	5.6	1.4	7th
** Steve Trumbo, F-C	6-8	4.2	3.4	8th
** Greg Ballif, G	6-3	2.6	0.9	9th
* Mike Maxwell, G	6-1	3.2	0.3	10th
* Greg Kite, C	6-11	1.4	3.0	12th
** Dave McGuire, C	7-0	1.5	1.5	12th (1979)
* Craig Christensen	6-4½	2.0	0.6	11th (1979)
<b>FRESHMEN, NEWCOMERS</b>				
Timo Saarelainen, F	6-6	21.3	Fr. 9.2	Finnish National
Richie Webb, G	6-4	17.4	Fr. 9.2	Bonneville High
Gary Furniss, F	6-8	4.2	Tr. 2.9	Utah State
John Bartholomew, F	6-6	—	Fr. —	Woodrow Wilson
Dave Challis, G	6-4	—	So. —	Northgate



# Arnold Answers Questions on 1980-81 Team

How do you plan to replace players like Alan Taylor, Scott Runia and Devin Durrant?

- Obviously, this won't be an easy task, but we have several athletes who can, in time, replace these losses. Greg Kite is bigger, stronger and faster than Alan Taylor, and he spent more time improving his skills this summer than all the centers who have played for me in the past five years. He could become one of the finest centers we've had at BYU.

In Dave McGuire, who has always had the ability to shoot, we sense real improvement. Dave's put on between 15-20 pounds. The one thing lacking, of course, is playing experience, and that will come in time.

Filling the shoes of Runia won't be easy, but we have fine players in Steve Craig, Greg Ballif and Mike Maxwell.

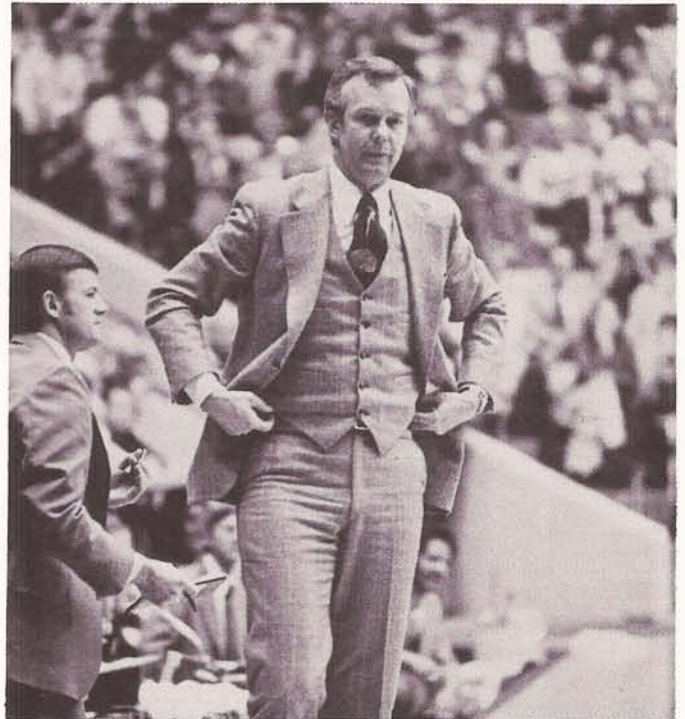
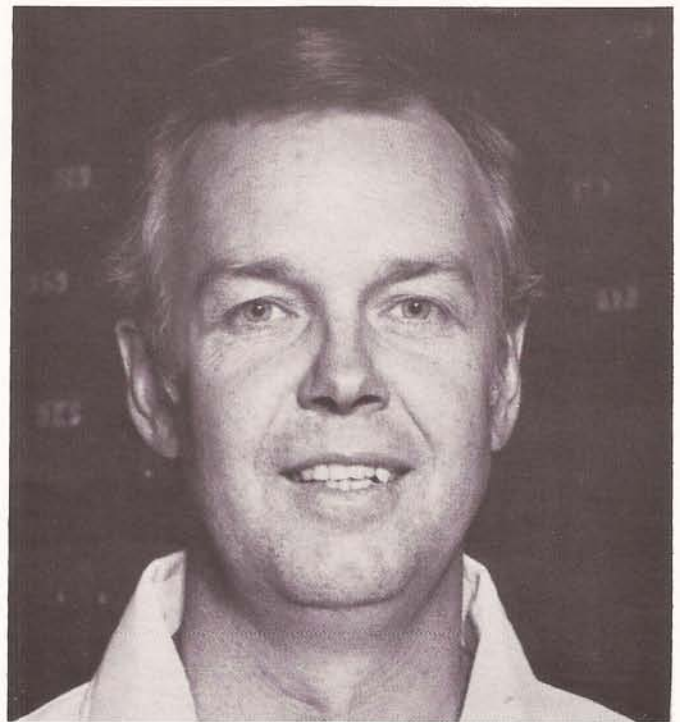
Devin's vacancy creates a somewhat bigger problem. We have great athletes in Steve Trumbo and two new players--Timo Saarelainen and Gary Furniss. In some areas they are stronger than Devin, in others weaker. For example some will give us better rebounding and better defense, but are not as good in shooting and passing. What it boils down to is this--we will simply have to develop our strategies around the personnel we have at hand, much as we have in the past. I'm confident we will come out of this adjustment with another strong club.

What strengths do you pick up from the new players on the team?

- We have three new players, plus the return of Dave McGuire. Richie Webb, I feel, will prove to be one of the finest guards we have recruited in the six years I've been here. Richie has the uncanny ability to pass the basketball at the right time to the right man, besides having great shooting accuracy and the quick release. Great guards possess all four attributes mentioned. However, he needs physical maturity and game experience.

Timo Saarelainen can best be described as an outstanding athlete. He shoots the ball exceptionally well, has good speed and jumping ability. But his limited experience in organized basketball may be a drawback.

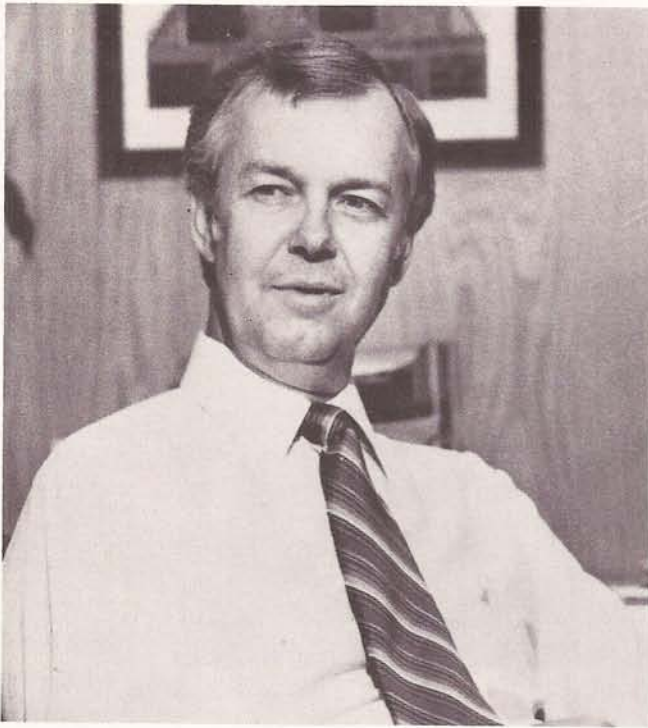
We regard Gary Furniss as potentially an outstanding forward prospect; big strong, very competitive, and an outstanding perimeter shooter for his size. His two-year



church mission, obviously, will slow him down a bit. But, again, time may solve any problems he may have.

Specifically, what do you regard as the strengths and challenges on your schedule?

- We feel a demanding schedule will help us, and we will open with three road games against teams with great basketball traditions. Two of the games will be against teams in the Pac-10--Washington and Oregon State.



In the Volunteer Classic in Knoxville, Tenn., we open against Illinois, another team from the Big Ten. This is the team that beat us by ten points in our opener at home. The Illini have a new player, Derek Harper, reportedly one of the top guard prospects in the nation.

All in all, we may take our lumps in December, but by the time we play our first conference game, I think we will have a very good basketball team.

**Now that you are in your sixth year at BYU, would you comment on what you regard as your successes?**

- While we are proud of two conference championships, and the NCAA tournament bids, a more important fact is that we now have a foundation that is very solid. We expect to have some very good--if not outstanding--teams for the immediate future. The fact we are drawing well in the Marriott Center tells us our fans are pleased with the program's growth. We expect to maintain this on a year-to-year basis.

**As defending champion, how do you view the conference race?**

- On paper, I'd have to say Utah will be the favorite this season. Danny Vranes is an exceptional ball player, and in Tom Chambers they have a center who was outstanding in the Olympic trials. Those two, along with their other standouts, should put Utah in a special class. However, in our Conference it's hard to count any team out, so some consideration should be given Wyoming and Texas-El Paso. And I look to Colorado State as a team on the rise.

The Air Force is a new entity, and I'm simply not familiar enough with their program to rank them. Hawaii, too, will be a better basketball team, which can also be said for San Diego State and New Mexico. That leaves the Cougars.

**With the personnel returning, will you favor a quicker unit or a tall, power lineup for this season?**

- As of right now, I really don't know what our lineup will look like. However, it is evident to me that we could have either or both. Therefore, our offensive strategies will be designed with both types in mind; an offense designed with big people up front or perhaps a three-guard system, similar to the one we used on occasion last year.

But I don't feel offense will be a problem. The question seems to be, how good a pressing team will we be; or how good a defense will we have, or how good a fast-break team will we have with the new personnel.

The answers, and the decisions, will come after 45 days of practice, plus some experimentation during the pre-season games in December. So by the time the WAC race rolls around, we will have the very best possible team, and we hope, the best strategic system on the floor.



OSU has everyone back, plus freshman Charles Sitton, one of the finest prep forwards in the country. The third game will be against Utah State, which is always a test, a hard-fought game.

We are fortunate to have Michigan State (NCAA champion of two years ago) on our home schedule. We also face Weber State on the road, in Ogden, where they have a phenomenal win-loss record at the Dee Special Events Center.