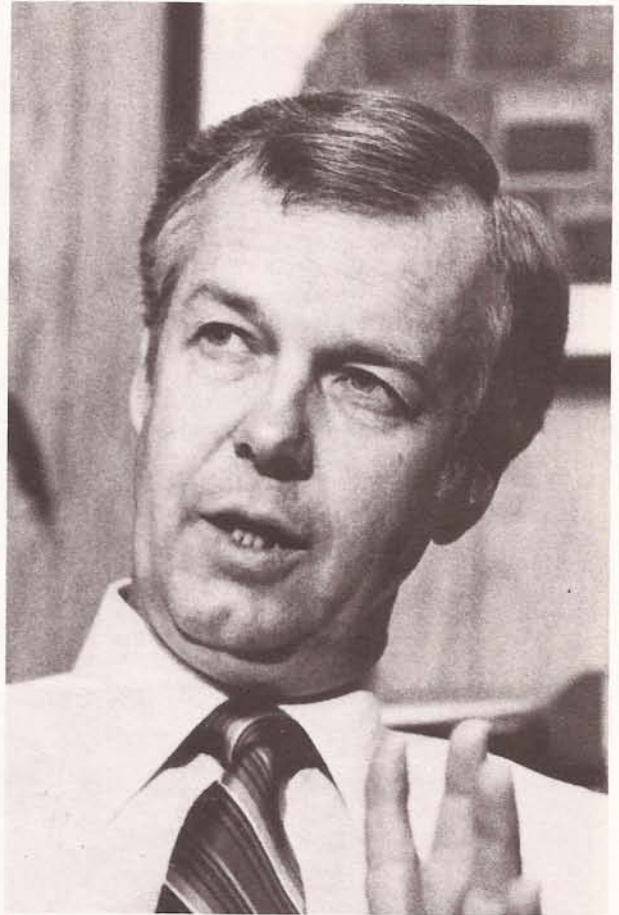


# **Arnold Answers**

## **Questions on 1981-82 Team**



1. What will the loss of Danny Ainge mean to the BYU program?

Very obviously the loss of such a great athlete would be a negative factor for any athletic team. I have always felt, however, that once a fine athlete has an opportunity to play a significant amount of time, he will contribute to the program. That, of course, is the opportunity our young players now have with the graduation of both Danny Ainge and Steve Craig.

2. Will the experience of all of the forecourt starters returning offset the graduation of the backcourt starters?

The experience of our forecourt starters is a plus for our program. I feel we will have one of the biggest, and one of the finest frontcourts in America this year. The question is how quickly the young, inexperienced guards will develop. I expect that we may take some lumps during the December part of our schedule, but by the time the WAC season rolls around, we should be a very solid basketball team.

3. How does Fred Roberts compare with the forwards you have coached?

I have said for the last three years that Fred Roberts will be one of the very finest college forwards in America by the time he is a senior. I feel that even more strongly today. I have compared, and continue to compare him, with UCLA's former All-American, Dave Meyers. They are the same kind of player, but Fred is a little bit bigger and I feel a little better shooter. It is my candid opinion that Fred Roberts is a legitimate All-American and will be a first-round draft choice if he continues to dedicate himself to the game and work hard to improve.

4. Will BYU continue its fast moving offensive attack?

Our style of play will change very little. We will employ as best as we possibly can the fastbreak and the quick strike offensive attack. It's very probable that we will spend a little bit more time with the inside game but the guards we have this year are probably better outside shooters with better range than we had last year.

5. How do you expect the new recruits to help this year's team?

I am very pleased with our new recruits. We are sorry, of course, that Paul Drecksel had to have surgery on his back and will be out for the season. But Von Alleman, Scott Sinek and Bob Capener are all three fine prospects and we expect in time for each of them to have a very fine career at BYU.

6. Can last year's NCAA post-season experience help BYU this season?

The post-season experience should obviously help those returning players, but I cannot see where it will be of any value to our new players. Fine athletic performance, however, I feel is contagious and the confidence that our veterans obtained from the post-season play hopefully will rub off to our youngsters.

7. What are BYU's chances to regain the WAC championship, and which teams will be the contenders?

Last year the WAC conference had probably more outstanding basketball players than any other conference in America. We have lost Ainge, Vranes, Chambers, Bradley and Page who are all, in their own right, superstars. As I indicated, very few conferences had that kind of ability. I think the conference might be down a little bit as far as individual players are concerned. Overall, our conference will be much closer as far as team ability levels are concerned. I expect it to be a tighter race than ever before. Our chances are as good as anyone. I would imagine that Wyoming, New Mexico, San Diego, Hawaii and Colorado State have all made vast improvements. UTEP, Utah and BYU have probably lost the most with Air Force being a question mark to me at this particular time.

8. Which players have progressed the most in the off-season?

I would expect that our fans would see Greg Kite and Fred Roberts making the greatest improvement from the past season. They will also be quite impressed, I am sure, with Greg Ballif's playing.

9. Who do you anticipate will take over Danny Ainge's leadership role?

We have asked Fred Roberts to be our team captain this year. He is not only an outstanding basketball player, but an outstanding young man. Each player leads in a different way and Fred has always been one of our most fierce competitors. Our other players admire and respect him, and I'm sure that this competitive attitude will be contagious.

10. What effect will the off-season tournaments have on the four players who participated in them?

I would imagine that the experience Fred Roberts had in Yugoslavia and Romania will be of significant value to him. The fact that Scott Sinek spent a couple of weeks at the National Sports Festival in Syracuse certainly has to help his confidence in playing major college basketball. The experience that Greg Kite and Steve Trumbo had in Mexico City will probably not be too significant. Steve played in only one game before becoming ill. Greg, on the other hand, played about twenty-minutes a game (sharing time with USF's 7' center, Wallace Bryant). Any experience against that kind of competition has got to be considered a plus.

11. Evaluate BYU's early, strong schedule (i.e., Virginia, UCLA, Oregon St.) in relationship to the strength of the Cougars.

The early season schedule this year is probably the toughest that BYU has ever had. Our first five games are all against outstanding basketball teams who have been traditional powers. Virginia and Oregon State, of course, were both ranked number one on occasion last year. UCLA's basketball reputation needs no elaboration. Fans will remember Cal-State Fullerton's great showing in the NCAA tournament a couple of years ago. This year they have four redshirts ready to play which will make them a truly outstanding team. Las Vegas has far more talent than last year.

## Personnel Picture

PLAYERS NOT RETURNING (4)	Ht.	Scoring Average	Rebounding Average	Scoring Position
****Danny Ainge, G	6-5	24.4	4.8	1st
****Steve Craig, G	6-3	7.7	2.7	5th
*Richie Webb, G	6-5	.8	.3	10th
**Dave McGuire, C	7-0	.8	.9	9th
<b>PLAYERS RETURNING (9)</b>				
***Fred Roberts, F	6-10	18.8	8.0	2nd
**Steve Trumbo, F	6-8	10.1	10.7	3rd
**Greg Kite, C	6-11	8.3	8.5	4th
**Greg Ballif, G	6-3	4.7	1.1	6th
*Timo Saarelainen, F/G	6-6	3.4	1.4	7th
*Gary Furniss, F	6-8	1.4	1.9	8th
*Craig Christensen, G	6-3	.5	.2	11th
*Kevin Nielsen, F	6-7	—	—	—
*Mike Maxwell, G	6-1	—	—	—
<b>FRESHMAN NEWCOMERS</b>				
Von Alleman, F	6-9	18.0	15.0	Las Vegas, Nevada
Bob Capener, G	6-4	25.0	10.5	Del Mar, Calif.
Scott Sinek, G	6-2	23.8	4.5	Fullerton, Calif.

# 1981-82 Outlook

Making a fitting stand against a formidable schedule of opponents is the challenge of seventh-year BYU Coach Frank Arnold and his 1981-82 cage crew.

To tangle with the likes of Virginia, UCLA, Oregon State, Princeton, and a rigorous instate and conference schedule, Arnold has engaged the services of nine returning lettermen and three newcomers. Despite losing one of the best backcourts in collegiate basketball last year led by All-American Danny Ainge, BYU returns other proven warriors.

The starting front court from last season's 25-7 team is back for another sojourn. Senior forwards Fred Roberts, Steve Trumbo and junior center Greg Kite were tabbed as one of the biggest among collegiate ranks at 6-10, 6-8, and 6-11, respectively.

Roberts has been a three-year starter and is the only first-team All-Western Athletic Conference returnee in the league. The Utah product has traveled extensively internationally and could assume the scoring and leadership roles left open by Ainge.

Trumbo was a reserve his first two years when the Cougars failed to advance past the first round of NCAA post-season play. However, last year Trumbo was the leading rebounder for the Cougars as they advanced through the "sweet sixteen" to the "elite eight."

Kite had several games with a handful of blocked shots in each contest that testify he will again be an intimidating force. Personnel to spell Kite for rests may be a problem this year.

Four previous redshirts figure in the plans of this

year's squad, too. Greg Ballif, Mike Maxwell, Craig Christensen and Kevin Nielsen all have redshirted at one time or other, with Christensen and Nielsen also having served missions.

Ballif will have a strong opportunity to claim one of the open guard spots. The 6-3 senior has come through in the clutch in several BYU games with his long-range bombing. Ballif's running mate in the backcourt could be one of several.

If Maxwell does not respond after last year's knee surgery, then another knee patient, Craig Christensen, could step in. Both Maxwell and Christensen have not seen too much playing time in their varsity careers at BYU.

Freshmen Scott Sinek and Bob Capener are also candidates at guard.

If sophomore Timo Saarelainen is ready at the conclusion of his probation period, he could figure in the guard spot.

Saarelainen and junior Gary Furniss likely will provide the best backup help in the forward slots, both having done so in an adequate role last season. Freshman Von Alleman and Nielsen also provide added depth in the front court.

The Cougars will not be participating in any holiday tournaments other than their own Cougar Classic. BYU has won five of the seven Cougar Classics.

With the BYU Marriott Center approaching another sellout season, plus three consecutive 20-win seasons, anticipation is high again.

