

How would you describe your coaching philosophy?

I have always given a great deal of importance to the teaching of fundamentals, to the point I think practice and preparation are our most important products. Then, adding to that, motivating my players or team towards a winning attitude. I believe in a fundamentally sound team. So a great deal of emphasis will be placed on teaching fundamentals, as we build our attack both defensively and offensively. I believe in the attack type of an offense where we are putting offensive and defensive pressure on our opponents, where we stress changing ends of the court. One of our goals will be to improve steadily. We will motivate ourselves daily towards a success pattern and a commitment to winning. Any success I have had over the years has come about as a direct result of teamwork. Teamwork fosters unselfishness.

What are some of the attractions that brought you back into college coaching?

I've always enjoyed coaching and have had a certain degree of success. And, frankly, I have missed it for some time. The opportunity to coach at Brigham Young University gives me the chance to do what I've been trained to do, along with being surrounded by outstanding young men with which to work. Given my background and desire, it would have been foolish to turn this opportunity down.

What is your general evaluation of the Cougar talent for 1983-84?

We have a team that has good shooting talent, led by one of the best basketball players in the country in Devin Durrant. We are only average in overall size, and we need to improve our defense.

What are the strengths and weaknesses for this year's club?

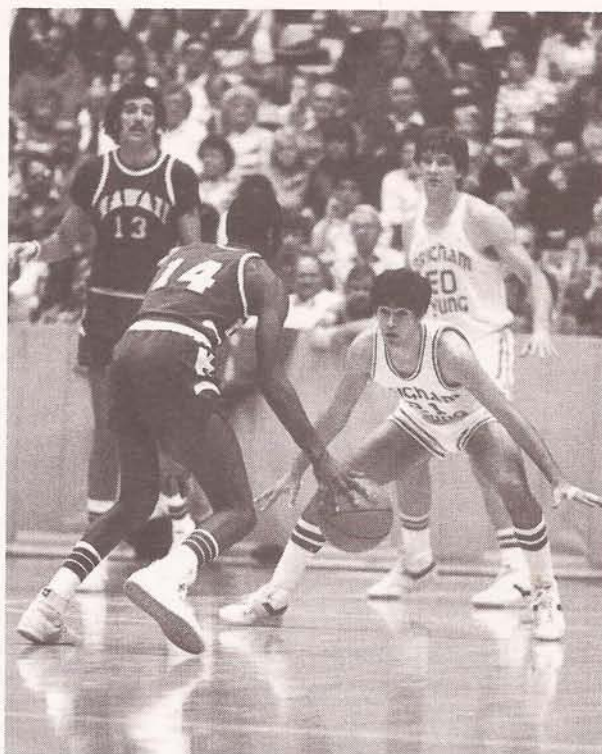
The strengths are our shooting abilities. Our weaknesses would be defense and, in some areas, we lack quickness and speed, as well as experience at the center position.

What is your evaluation of the recruits, and will they figure in this year's overall picture?

Our recruits are outstanding young men. Mike Smith is one of the most touted young players to enter college this year. We are looking forward to working with him to continue his progress. Carl Pollard will be the tallest man I've ever coached, and I'm looking forward to that challenge. Alan Astle and Mike Girardi also have outstanding potential.

Looking at the team by position, what are your greatest concerns?

Our biggest concerns at this point are: from the offensive standpoint, replacing Greg Kite



Ladell plans to stress defense heavily this year.

and Gary Furniss in the power, middle position with a couple of inexperienced players; solidifying our guard situation; sustaining the outstanding play of Devin Durrant and Brett Applegate; and having our entire team adjust to a new coach.

What adjustments will be made at center to compensate for the loss of Greg Kite?

We hope that Jim Usevitch and Carl Pollard will come along quickly so that they can be used effectively to take up the loss of Greg Kite in the center position. There also is a possibility of using more of a three-forward attack offensively. But I'm basically more concerned about the defensive aspect, when it comes to our center position.

How would you compare Devin Durrant with other All-America calibre players you have coached?

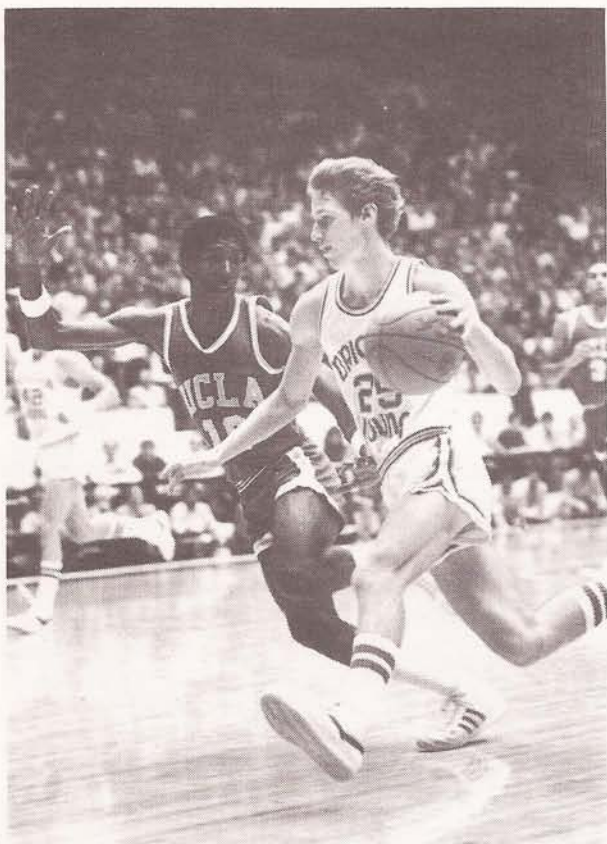
Devin Durrant will be one of the great players I will ever have the opportunity to coach.

What will the Cougars have to do for a successful season?

The Cougars will have to be a well-conditioned team, will have to be fundamentally sound, will have to play great defense, and will have to have a winning attitude.

Looking at the schedule, what is the biggest challenge?

Our schedule is definitely one of the outstanding schedules in the country. We play



Marty Perry will join several guards battling for a possible starting job.

many NCAA Tournament teams of last year, starting with Utah State at Logan for our opener on the road. In addition to our WAC schedule, we play several outstanding teams in UCLA, Notre Dame, and Georgetown.

Which teams do you see as the main contenders for the WAC championship?

Based on my limited knowledge of the league at this point, the contenders are UTEP and San Diego State, with most of their outstanding players back. I would also like to think that we will be one of the contenders before the season is over.

What is your assessment of the WAC Post-Season Tournament?

The WAC Post-Season Tournament is a very exciting event and a step forward in creating interest for our league. Most leagues in the country have a post-season tournament, and that tournament leading up to the NCAA national event will put a spotlight on the WAC. And I doubt it will detract in any significant way from the league games; in fact, it may prove to attract late-season interest in those teams which have gotten off to a slow start, knowing that they still have the post-season tournament to look towards. I think it will keep the interest high in all of the communities in our league, and we certainly are looking forward to it.

Personnel Picture

	Ht.	Scoring Average	Rebounding Average	Scoring Position
LETTERMEN LOST (4)				
***Greg Kite	6-11	7.7	8.8	3rd
**Gary Furniss	6-8	5.4	5.1	5th
**Bob Capener	6-4	1.0	0.6	10th
*Von Alleman	6-9	—	—	13th
LETTERMEN RETURNING (10)				
***Devin Durrant	6-7	22.8	5.8	1st
*Brett Applegate	6-8	12.3	7.4	2nd
**Scott Sinek	6-2	6.8	2.0	4th
*Chris Nikchevich	6-2	4.3	1.3	6th
***Timo Saarelainen	6-6	4.3	1.6	6th
*Brian Taylor	6-5	4.0	1.0	7th
*Marty Perry	6-1	2.6	1.3	8th
*Jim Usevitch	6-9	1.2	1.2	9th
***Kevin Nielsen	6-7	0.5	0.9	11th
*Richie Webb	6-4	0.8	0.3	9th (1981)
FRESHMEN (4)				
Alan Astle	6-6	24.3	10.0	High School La Sierra
Mike Girardi	6-4	19.5	10.0	Merced
Carl Pollard	7-2	19.8	14.0	Mountain View
Mike Smith	6-8½	30.1	15.9	Los Altos

New BYU head coach Ladell Andersen approaches this basketball season the same as any other in his veteran career.

And if Andersen's record is any testament, the Cougars should have another productive year. Andersen says he has never promised any player a starting job, but his work will be cut out quickly because of "the toughest schedule I have ever faced in college or pro basketball," according to the 54-year-old mentor who posted a 176-95 record in 10 seasons at Utah State.

The former USU and Utah Stars coach will have some excellent players from last year's 15-14 Western Athletic Conference tri-championship squad as a nucleus. Seniors Devin Durrant, the WAC player-of-the-year, and Brett Applegate, second-team All-WAC, lead the pack and can fill the hoop in a hurry.

Durrant, the 12th leading returning scorer in the NCAA, played on the U.S. bronze medal team at the World University games in Canada and has drawn accolades from several coaches around the nation for his offensive baseline fitness. He led the WAC in scoring last season even though he had been away from basketball the previous two years while serving an LDS church mission.

Applegate, a former junior college All-American, gained increased confidence as the '82-'83 season progressed. He led the Cougars in WAC rebounding and had several double-figure scoring performances as well.

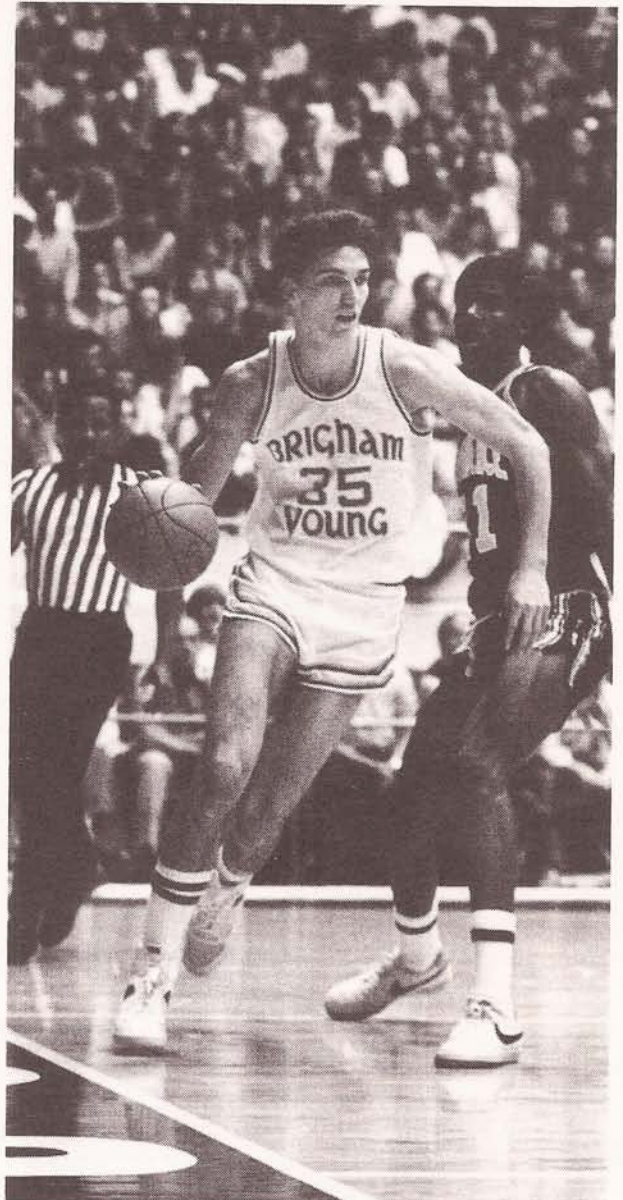
Durrant and Applegate appear to be solid again, so the Cougars will have less worry in the forward slots with backup help from seniors Timo Saarelainen and Kevin Nielsen. Highly-touted freshman Mike Smith, 6-8½ also figures in the picture. Smith was one of the top front court recruits in the country and elected to play basketball rather than quarterback football.

"We are as good a shooting team as I have coached in college," says Andersen. "But this is the toughest schedule I've ever coached against."

In addition to strong conference and instate opponents, BYU will play Georgetown, UCLA, Notre Dame, and Virginia Commonwealth, all among the top-rated teams in the country. If the December tournament pairings sway a certain way, the Cougars could also play nationally-ranked Kentucky or Lamar.

Kentucky and Georgetown are the top two teams in the NCAA according to *The Sporting News'* pre-season poll. BYU could meet the Wildcats in the Kentucky Invitational and the Cougars will meet Georgetown in a nationally-televised game on CBS in February. Also in February BYU will host Notre Dame for the first time ever in Provo.

Andersen inherits a talent-laden backcourt with underclassmen Scott Sinek, Marty Perry, Chris Nikchevich, and Brian Taylor each of whom had starting time last season. Other



All-American candidate Devin Durrant will be one of the keys to this year's team.

guards vying for time will be sophomores Richie Webb and Paul Drecksel, along with freshmen Allen Astle and Mike Girardi.

The Cougars will be hoping for development in the center position where sophomore Jim Usevitch, 6-9, or Carl Pollard, at 7-2 the tallest Cougar ever, will be competing.

"While we have lots of experience at guard, we have no experience at center," says Andersen. "Our pivot depends on Pollard and Usevitch. If they don't come along, then we will have to develop a forward-type attack."

Andersen told reporters when he was hired last April that he plays an attack-type offense and hard-nosed defense. Among the departed lettermen are center Greg Kite, the top draft of the Boston Celtics; power forward Gary Furniss; and juniors Bob Capener (6-4) and Von Alleman (6-9) who both opted for LDS church missions.