

Season Outlook

Ladell Andersen's smile is a little bigger this year than it has been the last two basketball seasons.

That's because, unlike the two previous campaigns, Ladell has a group of veterans returning from last year's 18-14 team that contended for the Western Athletic Conference championship and reached the quarterfinals of the National Invitational Tournament. Plus, he will be on the receiving end of the LDS missionary program instead of being a major contributor, as he has been the two previous years.

Returning this year are four starters from the 1985-86 squad, in addition to three other players who started at one time or another before serving two-year LDS missions. In all, 10 lettermen will be suiting up with the Cougars.

A pair of second team All-WAC selections, forward Jeff Chatman and guard Bob Capener, head the list of returnees. Chatman, a 6-6 junior, averaged 17.5 points and 5.2 rebounds per game last year. His .545 field goal percentage was best on the team.

Capener was close behind Chatman, averaging 14.9 points per game and handing out an average of 3.25 assists per game. Although normally a shooting guard, Capener was moved to point guard last year. This year, he likely will return to his normal position and should benefit from the new three-point rule because of his excellent outside shooting.

Another key figure on last year's team, which at one point won 12 consecutive games, was center Tom Gneiting. The 6-10 postman was a dominating force during the second half of the season and finished the year earning honorable mention All-WAC honors. He averaged 8.6 points and 7.4 rebounds per game.

The only player to start all 32 games last year was 6-9 forward Brent Stephenson. The junior college transfer provided quickness to the front line. He averaged 6.5 points and 4.1 rebounds while averaging slightly more than 22 minutes of playing time per game.

Other key reserves who are returning this year include forward Greg Humphreys (4.3 points and 3.4 rebounds per game) and guard Brent Wade (1.9 points per game).

Returned missionaries who will be rejoining the team this year include 6-9 center Jim Usevitch, 6-9½ forward Mike Smith, 6-5 guard Brian Taylor, 6-6 forward Alan Astle and 6-2 guard Marty Haws.

Of the returned missionaries, Usevitch, Smith and Taylor have starting experience at BYU. Usevitch, a junior, was BYU's starting center when the Cougars advanced to the second round of the NCAA tournament in 1984. He was called "the best center in the WAC" by Andersen after he scored 25 points, blocked five shots and had 11 rebounds against UTEP that year.

Smith, a former national high school athlete-of-the-year, grew an inch on his mission. He started at forward for BYU during much of his freshman year, averaging 8.0 points and 5.3 rebounds per game. He is an excellent passer and outside shooter.

Taylor will give BYU additional strength at the big guard position. The junior also has excellent passing and shooting skills. He averaged 2.7 points per game his sophomore season.

Marty Haws redshirted before leaving on a mission to Florida. Although only a freshman, he likely will figure heavily into BYU's plans this year. The former Utah state sprint and long



Jeff Chatman, a first team All-District 7 selection last year, returns for his junior year. He averaged 17.5 points per game last season.

jump champion will add needed quickness to BYU's guard line. Haws played for the gold-medal-winning West squad at the U.S. Olympic Festival this summer, despite having returned from a mission only weeks earlier.

Ladell obviously looked for help at the guard line while recruiting last year. All three new recruits are backcourt players. Nathan Call, a 6-0 point guard out of Mission Viejo, Calif., is the most heralded of the recruits. One organization chose him as the outstanding high school athlete in Southern California last year. Also signed were two local athletes—Todd Gentry, a 6-5 guard from Orem, Utah, and David Reeves, a 6-3 Provo native.

This will be the tallest team Andersen has had in his 13 years of coaching on the collegiate level. Also, it could be one of the deepest. While he has had to plug holes in the lineup the last few years, Ladell will have talented players coming off the bench this season.

With Andersen's philosophy, a starting assignment is not as important as the number of minutes an athlete plays during the game. Occasionally, a backup player will see more action than the player who "starts." How well the players accept their roles this year could be a key to the success of this year's team.

Even with experienced players returning, BYU could have difficulty early in the year because of a tough schedule. After an exhibition game with the Yugoslavian National team, BYU plays in the preseason National Invitational Tournament against Oklahoma at Norman. If they win that game, the Cougars will advance through the nine-day tournament until they lose or reach the championship game in Madison Square Garden.

Following the NIT, BYU hosts Utah State before going on the road to face tough Notre Dame and Iowa teams. Other non-conference teams on BYU's schedule include Weber State, Oral Roberts, Pittsburgh and Southwest Missouri State. BYU will play in three tournaments this year. In addition to the NIT, BYU will host the 13th Cougar Classic, which features Arizona State, Texas Christian and Cal-Fullerton. Plus, BYU will join Michigan State, Wake Forest and Santa Clara in the 20th Cable Car Classic.

Personnel Picture

	Cl.	Ht.	Scoring Average	Rebounding Average	Scoring Position
LETTERMEN LOST (4)					
Robert Cochran**	Gr.	6-5	1.3	0.8	10th
Brian Fink**	Gr.	6-8	0.5	0.5	13th
Alan Pollard**	Jr.	6-9	6.6	6.3	6th
Richie Webb****	Gr.	6-5	7.7	1.6	5th
LETTERMEN RETURNING FROM LAST SEASON (6)					
Bob Capener***	Sr.	6-4	14.9	2.8	2nd
Jeff Chatman**	Jr.	6-6	17.5	5.2	1st
Tom Gneiting**	Sr.	6-10	8.6	7.4	4th
Greg Humphreys*	Sr.	6-7	4.3	3.4	8th
Brent Stephenson*	Sr.	6-9	6.5	4.1	7th
Brent Wade*	Sr.	6-1	1.9	0.8	9th
MISSION RETURNEES (5)					
Alan Astle*	So.	6-6	1.3	1.0	#11th
Michael Smith*	So.	6-9 ^{1/2}	8.0	5.3	#3rd
Brian Taylor**	Jr.	6-5	2.7	0.5	#8th
Jim Usevitch**	Jr.	6-9	7.8	5.0	#4th
Marty Haws	Fr.	6-2	18.0	—	
FRESHMEN (4)					
Nathan Call	Fr.	6-0	13.8	5.1	Hometown Mission Viejo, CA
Todd Gentry	Fr.	6-5	19.0	6.0	Orem, UT
David Reeves	Fr.	6-3	22.3	11.5	Provo, UT
PLAYERS SERVING LDS MISSIONS (3)					
Andy Toolson	So.	6-6	8.5	2.7	Twin Falls, ID
Mark Heslop	Fr.	6-5	—	—	Ogden, UT
Chris Rasmussen	So.	6-7	1.3	0.3	Butte, MT

*Letters Earned

#1983-84 Statistics



BYU's coaching staff includes (from left) John Hansen, jayvee coach; Carl Ingersoll, assistant; Ladell Andersen, head coach; Roger Reid, assistant head coach; and Mike Maxwell, graduate assistant.



Jim Usevitch, BYU's leading shot blocker three years ago, returns after an LDS mission.