

1997-98 SEASON

Season

OUTLOOK

SHOOTIN' THE THREE AND PLAYIN' "D"

With a BYU victory this fall, the Cougars will accomplish several firsts.

The win would be the first for the season, the first for new head coach Steve Cleveland in a four-year program, and it will be the first victory of the calendar year 1997.

The Cougars are oh-for 1997, with last season's lone victory coming in December, 1996 against Utah State in Provo.

Recovering from the plummet of last season won't be easy, but with Cleveland at the helm, BYU's men's basketball fortunes should rise again.

Cleveland, 45, was hired just before the NCAA post-season tournament began last season when the Cougars were reeling from a 1-25 record (0-16 in the Western Athletic Conference), the worst in school history. Since last March, Cleveland has added three assistant coaches and eight new players to the program for the 1997-98 season.

"Initially, we will select eight players and try to develop them," says Cleveland, who is the 16th person to be the head coach at BYU. "The door is wide open for players to make a statement."

Five lettermen return from previous seasons, headed by lone senior 6-7 forward Justin Weidauer and 6-11 sophomore center Bret Jepsen, who returned from his mission last June.

"We have a very inexperienced upper class and it will be very challenging during this transition," says Cleveland, who compiled a 157-77 (.671) record the past seven years at Fresno City College. "Our emphasis has to be on defense, rebounding and three-point shooting. We are concerned about our lack of experience."

Weidauer and Jepsen should figure in the starting lineup. Weidauer, the team's leading rebounder the past two seasons, hopes to have healed from season-ending foot surgery last February.

"Justin will have to show his versatility," says Cleveland. "His leadership and experience are vital to our success. Especially early on, his work ethic is critical. But no one player is going to carry this team, it will be a collective effort."



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Jepsen, who grew an inch and gained 20 pounds since last competing for the Cougars in 1994, needs to get in playing shape from his two-year mission absence to Tennessee. He also needs to rebound from an ankle injury that happened hours before practices began this season. That injury kept him out of action for several weeks.

Among the others who could press for playing time are 6-9 freshman forward Mekeli Wesley and junior college transfers Danny Bower, 6-4, Jared Peterson, 6-6, and Brian Dignan, 6-3.

Bower and Peterson, both from Ricks College, are candidates for off guard. Dignan, from Cuesta College, is the only true point guard currently in the program, as last year's point Matt

Montague was one of six freshman who left for missions after last season.

Also gone from last year's team are graduated senior Jeff Campbell and part-time starter Grant Berges, a Phi Kappa Phi member who elected to graduate early.

Two players will be following in their father's footsteps at BYU in freshmen Chris Handy, a 6-8 forward, and Sean Kelly, a 6-5 swingman who returns from a mission.

The schedule features a new-look quadrant in the Mountain Division of the Western Athletic Conference, non-conference games against WAC foes, and four Pac-10 opponents. Utah, UTEP, New Mexico and BYU join UNLV, Air Force, Wyoming, and Colorado State in the WAC Mountain division. Tulsa is BYU's cross-over opponent, but will not be considered a WAC game in the standings. The Cougars open San Diego State's

new arena on Nov. 14 in another non-conference game against a league foe.

"Considering the challenges of our program, this schedule reflects the direction we need to re-establish for a nationally-recognized program. In the long run it will have a positive impact and gives us a chance to see where we need to be," Cleveland said.

California, Utah, New Mexico, and Tulsa are BYU opponents who participated in last season's NCAA post-season tournament, as did Vanderbilt and Kansas. Washington, UNLV, Hawai'i, and Nebraska participated in last season's NIT.

1997-98 SEASON SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Tues. 11/4	Varsity Preview	Provo, Utah	7:05 p.m.
Fri. 11/7	Worldwide	Provo, Utah	7:05 p.m.
Wed. 11/12	Calif All-Stars	Provo, Utah	7:05 p.m.
Sat. 11/14	San Diego State	San Diego, Calif.	8:00 p.m.
Wed. 11/19	Washington State	Provo, Utah	7:05 p.m.
Fri. 11/21	Oregon	Provo, Utah	7:05 p.m.
Sat. 11/29	Utah State	Logan, Utah	7:05 p.m.
Tues. 12/2	Penn State	Provo, Utah	7:05 p.m.
Sat. 12/6	Boise State	Boise, Idaho	7:35 p.m.
Tues. 12/9	Washington	Provo, Utah	7:05 p.m.
Fri.-Sat. 12/12-13	Cougar Classic Pepperdine vs. Auburn & BYU vs. Weber State	Provo, Utah	5:35 p.m. 7:35 p.m.
Mon. 12/22	Pete Newell Challenge Indiana vs. USF & California vs. BYU	Oakland, Calif.	9:35 p.m.
Sat.-Tues. 12/27-30	Rainbow Classic	Honolulu, Hawai'i	9:30 p.m.
Sat. 1/5	Tulsa	Tulsa, Okla.	6:05 p.m.
Sat. 1/10	Utah	Provo, Utah	7:05 p.m.
Thurs. 1/15	Wyoming	Provo, Utah	7:05 p.m.
Sat. 1/17	Colorado State	Provo, Utah	7:05 p.m.
Thurs. 1/22	UNLV	Las Vegas, Nev.	8:35 p.m.
Sat. 1/24	Air Force	Colorado Springs, Colo.	7:35 p.m.
Thurs. 1/29	New Mexico	Provo, Utah	7:05 p.m.
Sat. 1/31	UTEP	Provo, Utah	7:05 p.m.
Thurs. 2/5	Utah	Salt Lake City, Utah	7:30 p.m.
Sat. 2/7	Tulsa	Provo, Utah	7:05 p.m.
Thurs. 2/12	Colorado State	Ft. Collins, Colo.	7:00 p.m.
Sat. 2/14	Wyoming	Laramie, Wyo.	7:30 p.m.
Thurs. 2/19	Air Force	Provo, Utah	7:05 p.m.
Sat. 2/21	UNLV	Provo, Utah	7:05 p.m.
Thurs. 2/26	New Mexico	Albuquerque, N.M.	7:05 p.m.
Sat. 2/28	UTEP	El Paso, Texas	7:05 p.m.
Mar 3-7	WAC Tournament	Las Vegas, Nev.	TBA

All Times Mountain Standard

COLGAR ROSTER

1997-98 NUMERICAL ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown (High School or Other)
3	David Castleton	G	6-0	180	Fr.	Irvine, Calif. (Mater Dei)
4	Chris Handy	F	6-8	215	Fr.	Salt Lake City, Utah (Alta)
5	Lance Archibald**	G	6-3	170	Jr.	Potomac, Md. (Landon)
12	Brian Dignan #	G	6-3	185	Jr.	San Luis Obispo, Calif. (Cuesta JC)
14	Danny Bower #	G	6-4	180	Jr.	Nampa, Idaho (Ricks JC)
15	Mekeli Wesley	F	6-9	243	Fr.	Orem, Utah (Provo)
20	Robbie Yates*	G	6-1	180	So.	Salt Lake City, Utah (Brighton)
21	Tim Cannon	G	6-5	195	So.	East Brunswick, N.J. (East Brunswick)
22	Jared Peterson #	F/G	6-6	195	Jr.	Bountiful, Utah (Ricks JC)
23	Brian Hamilton #	G	6-0	181	Jr.	Sacramento, Calif. (Columbia CC)
24	Sean Kelly	G/F	6-5	200	Fr.	Grand Junction, Colo. (Grand Junction)
33	Bart Jepsen	F	6-8	215	Fr.	Roswell, N.M. (Roswell)
40	Aaron Bond	G	6-6	185	Fr.	Eules, Texas (Trinity)
41	Jarkko Ahlbom **	C	6-10	245	Jr.	Rauma, Finland (Raumanmeren Lukio)
42	Talmadge Eyre	F	6-8	205	Fr.	Salt Lake City, Utah (East)
50	Justin Weidauer***	F	6-7	230	Sr.	Taylorville, Utah (Taylorville)
55	Bret Jepsen *	C	6-11	245	So.	Roswell, N.M. (Roswell)

Head Coach: Steve Cleveland (Cal-Irvine '76)

Assistant Coach: David Rose (Houston '83)

Assistant Coach: Nate Call (BYU '93)

Assistant Coach: Heath Schroyer (Armstrong State '94)

WAC MEDIA POLL

Mountain Division

No. Team	1st	Pts.
1. New Mexico	(21)	294
2. Utah	(14)	289
3. UNLV	(4)	251
4. Colorado State	(1)	202
5. Wyoming		136
6. UTEP		128
7. BYU		190
8. Air Force		56

Pacific Division

1. Fresno State	(31)	305
2. TCU	(1)	246
3. Tulsa	(5)	238
4. Hawai'i (3)	(3)	226
5. SMU		150
6. Rice		119
7. San Diego State		99
8. San Jose State		57

1997-98 ALPHABETICAL ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown
41	Jarkko Ahlbom **	C	6-10	245	Jr.	Rauma, Finland
5	Lance Archibald**	G	6-3	170	Jr.	Potomac, Md.
40	Aaron Bond	G	6-6	185	Fr.	Eules, Texas
14	Danny Bower #	G	6-4	180	Jr.	Nampa, Idaho
21	Tim Cannon	G	6-5	195	So.	East Brunswick, N.J.
3	David Castleton	G	6-0	180	Fr.	Irvine, Calif.
12	Brian Dignan #	G	6-3	185	Jr.	San Luis Obispo, Calif.
42	Talmadge Eyre	F	6-8	205	Fr.	Salt Lake City, Utah
23	Brian Hamilton #	G	6-0	180	Jr.	Sacramento, Calif.
4	Chris Handy	F	6-8	215	Fr.	Salt Lake City, Utah
33	Bart Jepsen	F	6-8	215	Fr.	Roswell, N.M.
55	Bret Jepsen *	C	6-11	245	So.	Roswell, N.M.
24	Sean Kelly	G/F	6-5	200	Fr.	Grand Junction, Colo.
22	Jared Peterson #	F/G	6-6	195	Jr.	Bountiful, Utah
50	Justin Weidauer***	F	6-7	230	Sr.	Taylorville, Utah
15	Mekeli Wesley	F	6-9	243	Fr.	Orem, Utah
20	Robbie Yates*	G	6-1	180	So.	Salt Lake City, Utah

* Letters

SQUAD BREAKDOWN

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Returning Letterwinners: (5)

^Justin Weidauer***	F	6-7	Sr.
Jarkko Ahlbom*	C	6-10	Jr.
Lance Archibald**	G	6-3	Jr.
Bret Jepsen*	C	6-11	So.
Robbie Yates*	G	6-1	So.

Letterwinners Lost: (8)

David Anderson*	C	7-0	So.
Grant Berges***	F	6-8	Sr.
Jeff Campbell****	C	6-9	Gr.
Matt Montague*	G	6-1	So.
Eric Nielsen*	F	6-8	So.
Scott Sonnenberg*	G	5-11	So.
Nick Taggart*	F	6-8	So.
Michael Tompson*	F	6-8	So.

Newcomers: (12)

Aaron Bond	G	6-6	Fr.
Danny Bower	G	6-4	Jr.
Tim Cannon	G	6-5	Fr.
David Castleton	G	6-0	Fr.
Brian Dignan	G	6-3	Jr.
Talmadge Eyre	F	6-8	Fr.
Chris Handy	F	6-8	Fr.
Dan Howard+	C	7-0	Fr.
Bart Jepsen	F	6-8	Fr.
Jared Peterson	F/G	6-6	Jr.
Morgan Smith+	G	6-5	Fr.
Mekeli Wesley+	F	6-9	Fr.

Returning from Missions: (2)

Sean Kelly	G/F	6-5	Fr.
Bret Jepsen*	C	6-11	So.

On LDS Missions: (11)

David Anderson*	San Diego
Todd Christensen*	Chile
Nathan Cooper*	Portugal
Dan Howard	Toronto
Matt Montague*	London
David Nielsen	Santiago, Chile
Eric Nielsen	St. Petersburg, Russia
Morgan Smith	Oregon
Scott Sonnenberg*	Las Vegas

Michael Tompson* South Carolina
Michael Vranes Oakland, Calif.
(Spanish)

BY CLASS:

Seniors: (1)

Justin Weidauer F 6-7 Sr.

Juniors: (5)

Jarkko Ahlbom C 6-10 Jr.

Lance Archibald G 6-3 Jr.

Danny Bower G 6-4 Jr.

Brian Dignan G 6-3 Jr.

Jared Peterson F/G 6-6 Jr.

Sophomores: (2)

Bret Jepsen* C 6-11 So.

Robbie Yates* G 6-1 So.

Freshmen: (9)

Aaron Bond G 6-6 Fr.

Tim Cannon G 6-5 Fr.

David Castleton G 6-1 Fr.

Talmadge Eyre F 6-8 Fr.

Chris Handy F 6-8 Fr.

Dan Howard C 7-0 Fr.

Bart Jepsen F 6-8 Fr.

Morgan Smith G 6-5 Fr.

Mekeli Wesley F 6-9 Fr.

* Letters

^Starters

+Signed in November

GEOGRAPHIC DATA

BY STATE OR COUNTRY:

Utah: (6)

Chris Handy (Salt Lake City)
Mekeli Wesley (Orem, Utah)
Robbie Yates (Salt Lake City)
Jared Peterson (Bountiful, Utah)
Talmadge Eyre (Salt Lake City)
Justin Weidauer (Taylorsville)

California: (3)

David Castleton (Irvine)
Brian Dignan (San Luis Obispo)
Brian Hamilton (Sacramento)

New Mexico: (2)

Bart Jepsen (Roswell, N.M.)
Bret Jepsen (Roswell, N.M.)

Colorado: (1)

Sean Kelly (Grand Junction)

Idaho: (1)

Danny Bower (Nampa)

Texas: (1)

Aaron Bond (Eules)

Maryland: (1)

Lance Archibald (Potomac)

New Jersey: (1)

Tim Cannon (East Brunswick)

Finland: (1)

Jarkko Ahlbom (Rauma)

