

1998-99 SEASON

Season OUTLOOK

ELEVATING THEIR GAME

Entering the second year under Head Coach Steve Cleveland, BYU's men's basketball team consists of a talented mix of returners and newcomers. Each shares a strong passion to improve as the Cougars seek to significantly elevate their game in 1998-99 while continuing to build a solid BYU basketball program for the future.

"We are confident about this team's potential," said second-year Coach Steve Cleveland. "We will be much more competitive and have more depth. We made positive strides last

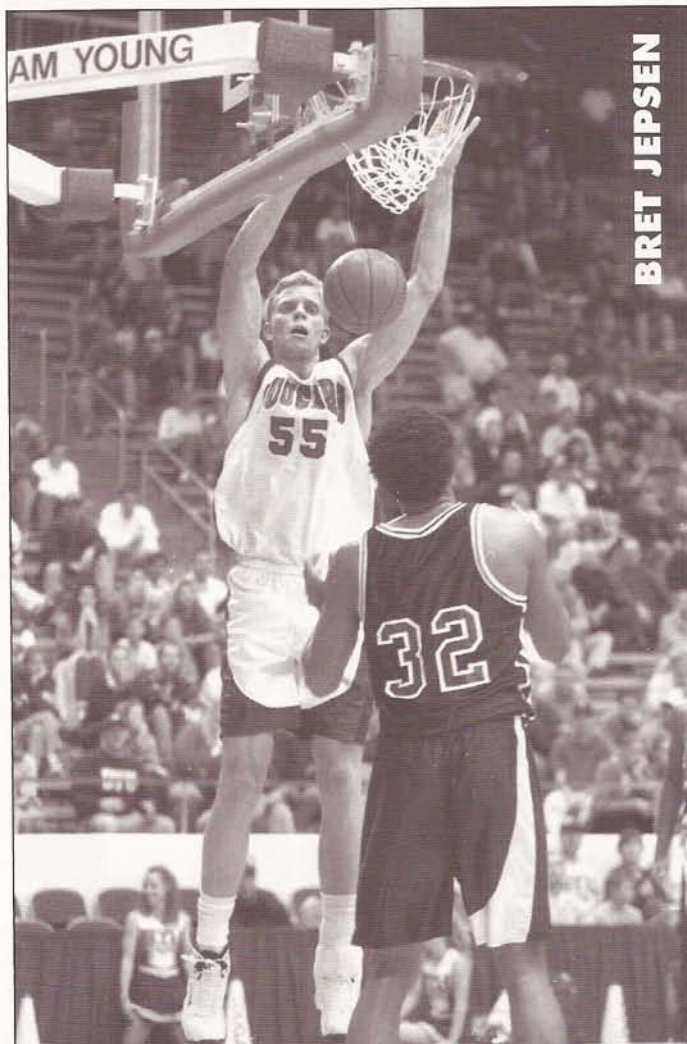
season and continue forward in our rebuilding efforts. We have nine new players this year, with six of them being returned missionaries."

In addition to the new players on the Cougar roster, a core group of veteran players return from last year's 9-21 team (4-10 WAC) that came on strong late in the year and earned a WAC tournament birth with road victories at No. 15 New Mexico and against UTEP.

Pivot man Bret Jepsen, a 6-11 junior, will likely be the center of attention. Jepsen came on strong in the final games of last season with some breath-taking plays in BYU's stunning upset at New Mexico's Pit and against Tulsa in the WAC Tournament. With a season under his belt after returning from a mission, Jepsen is ready to build upon the momentum he started at the end of last year. Other returning players include senior guards Danny Bower, a 6-4 zone-buster, Brian Dignan, a 6-3 defensive specialist, and Brian Hamilton, a 6-0 playmaker.

Bower, who can shoot the lights-out from three-point range when given time, averaged 11.3 points last year. Scouting reports remind opponents not to give him a window. Those same reports warn of Dignan's defensive prowess, which stymied leading scorers throughout last season. Hamilton averaged 6.7 points and 3.1 rebounds and came on strong at the end of the season.

The Cougars also expect power forward Mekeli Wesley, a 6-9 sophomore currently attending Salt Lake Community College, to return to BYU for Winter Semester and rejoin the team in mid-December. Averaging 13.5 points and five rebounds, Wesley was named to the All-Mountain Newcomer Team by the WAC media, was voted Cougar Classic MVP, and was named WAC Player of the Week during the final week of the regular season at New Mexico and UTEP. Wesley scored a career-high 31 points against Washington, the third-highest freshman total at BYU; totaled 28 points at Utah, including 11-11 from the free throw line to tie a school record for percentage; and again scored 31 at UTEP in triple overtime when he hit 16 free throws, a BYU single game record. Wesley led the WAC in free throw shooting in conference games, making 77 of 85 attempts for a percentage of .906, and was selected as the



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team's outstanding offensive player.

The Cougar coaching staff plans to take advantage of the talent and depth on this year's squad by utilizing a solid man-to-man defense and pushing the ball up the floor more on offense. "We spent a lot of time in the summer as a staff on motion offense to take advantage of our players," Cleveland said.

Among the players Cleveland hopes to use to his advantage are newcomers Silester Rivers, Mark Bigelow and Mark Michaelis. Rivers, a 6-7 honorable-mention All-America from Utah Valley State College, averaged 17.1 points and 8.0 rebounds last year at the junior college level and is expected to be a significant contributor for the Cougars as a junior forward. Bigelow, a 6-6 freshman guard, was all-state in Washington while Michaelis, a 6-10 sophomore center, is returning from a two-year mission after playing his freshman year at UVSC.

Two other experienced newly returned missionaries join Michaelis in sophomore guards Nathan Cooper and Todd Christensen. Cooper, 6-5, and Christensen, 6-1, had a lot of playing time as freshmen before leaving on LDS Church missions. Cooper averaged 6.7 points and 4.4 rebounds while Christensen averaged 4.7 points, including a team-high 20 points against Weber State. Another returned missionary, freshman guard Michael Vranes, a 6-3 high school teammate of Michaelis at Taylorsville, obtained a medical redshirt because his freshman year was cut short by a foot injury — which later also forced him to return early from his mission. All three guards have the ability to play a significant role for the Cougars.

Another newly returned missionary is David Nielsen, 6-4, who was the Utah 5-A leading scorer (18.8 average), all-state and a prep All-America at Brighton High School in Salt Lake City. Nielsen, who signed with BYU in 1995, will be a true freshman. Making up the balance of the 1998-99 squad are 6-3 senior guard Lance Archibald, 6-5 junior guard Tim Cannon, 6-8 junior forward Jacob Hawkins and 6-1 junior guard Nate Chappell. Chappell is a 6-1 walk-on who played at UVSC last year with Rivers and was coached by BYU

Assistant Coach Dave Rose at Dixie College prior to serving a mission to Korea.

A trio of veterans depart with Ron Selleaze and Jarkko Ahlbom, who both had a year of eligibility left, and Justin Weidauer, who graduated. Selleaze was the team's leading scorer at 16.8 points per game, the WAC Newcomer of the Year in the Mountain Division and a second-team All-WAC. Robbie Yates, a two-year-letterman, also will not be playing this season. After competing their freshman years last season, Chris Handy, Bart Jepsen, and Talmadge Eyre are now serving LDS Church missions.

The Cougars will test their talents against a good schedule in 1998-99. Among the teams BYU is scheduled to play outside the WAC Pacific Division are Arizona and California in Provo and road trips to Auburn, Oregon and Washington State.

1998-99 SEASON SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Nov. 7	California All-Stars	Provo, Utah	7 p.m. MST
Nov. 10	Foreign Team	Provo, Utah	7 p.m. MST
Nov. 13	Wofford College	Provo, Utah	7 p.m. MST
Nov. 19	at Weber State	Ogden, Utah	7 p.m. MST
Nov. 23	at Auburn	Auburn, Ala.	6 p.m. MST
Nov. 28	Arizona	Provo, Utah	7 p.m. MST
Dec. 1	Denver Univ.	Provo, Utah	7 p.m. MST
Dec. 5	at Oregon	Eugene, Ore.	8 p.m. MST
Dec. 8	at Washington State	Pullman, Wash.	9 p.m. MST
Dec. 11	Cougar Classic	Provo, Utah	
	Cal-Northridge vs. Southern	Utah	5:30 p.m. MST
	BYU vs. Louisiana Tech		7:30 p.m. MST
Dec. 12	Cougar Classic	Provo, Utah	5:30, 7:30 MST
Dec. 19	Cal-Berkeley	Provo, Utah	7 p.m. MST
Dec. 22	at Cal-Irvine	Irvine, Calif.	8 p.m. MST
Jan. 2	Utah State	Provo, Utah	3 p.m. MST
Jan. 9	at Utah	Salt Lake City, Utah	7:30 p.m. MST
Jan. 14	at San Diego St.	San Diego, Calif.	8 p.m. MST
Jan. 16	at Hawai'i	Honolulu	10 p.m. MST
Jan. 21	San Jose St.	Provo, Utah	7 p.m. MST
Jan. 23	Fresno St.	Provo, Utah	7 p.m. MST
Jan. 28	at UTEP	El Paso	7 p.m. MST
Jan. 30	at New Mexico	Albuquerque, N.M.	7 p.m. MST
Feb. 6	Utah	Provo, Utah	10 p.m. MST
Feb. 11	Hawai'i	Provo, Utah	7 p.m. MST
Feb. 13	San Diego St.	Provo, Utah	7 p.m. MST
Feb. 18	at Fresno St.	Fresno, Calif.	8 p.m. MST
Feb. 20	at San Jose St.	San Jose, Calif.	3 p.m. MST
Feb. 25	New Mexico	Provo, Utah	7 p.m. MST
Feb. 27	UTEP	Provo, Utah	7 p.m. MST
Mar.2-6	WAC Tournament	Las Vegas	

COUGAR ROSTER

1998-99 NUMERICAL ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown (High School/Other)
3	Mark Bigelow	Guard	6-6	190	Fr.	Olympia, Wash. (Olympia)
4	Todd Christensen *	Guard	6-1	175	So.	Salt Lake City, Utah (Highland)
5	Lance Archibald ***	Guard	6-3	180	Sr.	Potomac, Md. (Landon)
12	Brian Dignan *	Guard	6-3	200	Sr.	San Luis Obispo, Calif. (Cuesta JC)
13	Michael Vranes	Guard	6-3	190	Fr.	Taylorville, Utah (Taylorville)
14	Danny Bower *	Guard	6-4	180	Sr.	Nampa, Idaho (Ricks JC)
15	Mekeli Wesley *	Forward	6-9	240	So.	Provo, Utah (Provo)
21	Tim Cannon	Guard	6-5	195	Jr.	East Brunswick, N.J. (East Brunswick)
23	Brian Hamilton *	Guard	6-0	180	Sr.	Sacramento, Calif. (Columbia CC)
24	David Nielsen	Guard	6-4	205	Fr.	Salt Lake City, Utah (Brighton)
32	Nate Chappell #	Guard	6-1	195	Jr.	Orem, Utah (Utah Valley State)
33	Jacob Hawkins #	Forward	6-8	200	Jr.	Orem, Utah (Utah Valley State)
35	Silester Rivers #	Forward	6-7	230	Jr.	Mesa, Ariz. (Utah Valley State)
42	Nathan Cooper *	Guard/Forward	6-5	205	So.	Provo, Utah (Timpview)
50	Mark Michaelis #	Center	6-10	215	So.	Salt Lake City, Utah (Utah Valley State)
55	Bret Jepsen **	Center	6-11	250	Jr.	Roswell, N.M. (Roswell)

Head Coach: Steve Cleveland (Cal-Irvine '76); second season at BYU; 9-21 in first season

Assistant Coach: David Rose (Houston '83)

Assistant Coach: Nate Call (BYU '93)

Assistant Coach: Heath Schroyer (Armstrong State '94)

Administrative Assistant: Brian Santiago (Fresno State '95)

Team Manager: Teddy Holloway

Team Manager: Robbie Yates

1998-99 ALPHABETICAL ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown
5	Lance Archibald ***	G	6-3	180	Sr.	Potomac, Md.
3	Mark Bigelow	G	6-6	190	Fr.	Olympia, Wash.
14	Danny Bower *	G	6-4	180	Sr.	Nampa, Idaho
21	Tim Cannon	G	6-5	195	Jr.	East Brunswick, N.J.
32	Nate Chappell #	G	6-1	195	Jr.	Orem, Utah
4	Todd Christensen *	G	6-1	175	So.	Salt Lake City, Utah
42	Nathan Cooper *	G/F	6-5	205	So.	Provo, Utah
12	Brian Dignan *	G	6-3	200	Sr.	San Luis Obispo, Calif.
23	Brian Hamilton *	G	6-0	180	Sr.	Sacramento, Calif.
33	Jacob Hawkins #	F	6-8	200	Jr.	Orem, Utah
55	Bret Jepsen **	C	6-11	250	Jr.	Roswell, N.M.
50	Mark Michaelis #	C	6-10	215	So.	Salt Lake City, Utah
24	David Nielsen	G	6-4	205	Fr.	Salt Lake City, Utah
35	Silester Rivers #	F	6-7	230	Jr.	Mesa, Ariz.
13	Michael Vranes	G	6-3	190	Fr.	Taylorville, Utah
15	Mekeli Wesley *	F	6-9	240	So.	Provo, Utah

* Varsity Letter # Transfer

WAC MEDIA POLL

Mountain Division

No. Team	1st	Pts.
1. Utah	(23)	228
2. New Mexico	(5)	208
3. Fresno St.		174
4. Hawaii		140
5. BYU		98
6. UTEP		97
7. San Diego St.		92
8. San Jose St.		43

Pacific Division

1. TCU	(14)	211
2. UNLV	(13)	209
3. Tulsa	(1)	170
4. SMU		137
5. Wyoming		130
6. Colorado St.		107
7. Rice		76
8. Air Force		40

SQUAD BREAKDOWN

SQUAD BREAKDOWN

Players Lost: (8)

Jarkko Ahlbom***	C	6-10	230
Talmadge Eyre*	F	6-8	205
Chris Handy*	F	6-8	215
Bart Jepsen*	F	6-8	215
Jared Peterson*	F/G	6-6	195
^Ron Selleaze*	G	6-6	210
^Justin Weidauer****	F	6-7	230
Robbie Yates**	G	6-1	180

Players Returning: (9)

Lance Archibald***	G	6-3	Sr.
^Danny Bower*	G	6-4	Sr.
Tim Cannon	G	6-5	Jr.
Todd Christensen*	G	6-1	So.
Nathan Cooper*	G/F	6-5	So.
^Brian Dignan*	G	6-3	Sr.
^Brian Hamilton*	G	6-0	Sr.
Bret Jepsen**	C	6-11	Jr.
^Mekeli Wesley*	F	6-9	So.

Newcomers: (5)

Mark Bigelow+	G	6-6	Fr.
Daniel Bobik+	G	6-6	Fr.
Nate Chappell#	G	6-1	Jr.
Jacob Hawkins#	F	6-8	Jr.
Mark Michaelis#	C	6-10	So.
Silester Rivers#	F	6-7	Jr.

Returning from Missions: (5)

Todd Christensen*	G	6-1	So.
Nathan Cooper*	G/F	6-5	So.
Mark Michaelis#	C	6-10	So.
David Nielsen	G	6-4	Fr.
Michael Vranes	G	6-3	Fr.

On LDS Missions: (11)

David Anderson*	San Diego
Daniel Bobik	Dom. Republic
Talmadge Eyre*	Brazil
Chris Handy*	
Dan Howard	Toronto, Can.
Bart Jepsen*	New York
Matt Montague*	London
Eric Nielsen*	Russia
Morgan Smith	Oregon

Scott Sonnenberg* Las Vegas, Nev.
Michael Tompson* South Carolina

BY CLASS:

Seniors: (4)

Lance Archibald***	G	6-3	180
Danny Bower*	G	6-4	180
Brian Dignan*	G	6-3	200
Brian Hamilton*	G	6-0	180

Juniors: (5)

Tim Cannon	G	6-5	195
Nate Chappell#	G	6-1	195
Jacob Hawkins#	F	6-8	200
Bret Jepsen**	C	6-11	250
Silester Rivers#	F	6-7	230

Sophomores: (4)

Todd Christensen*	G	6-1	175
Nathan Cooper*	G/F	6-5	205
Mark Michaelis#	C	6-10	215
Mekeli Wesley*	F	6-9	240

Freshmen: (3)

Mark Bigelow+	G	6-6	190
David Nielsen	G	6-4	205
Michael Vranes	G	6-3	190

* Letters

Transfer

^ Starters

+ Signed in November

STATE BREAKDOWN

Utah: (8)

Nate Chappell (Orem)
Todd Christensen (Salt Lake City)
Nathan Cooper (Provo)
Jacob Hawkins (Orem)
Mark Michaelis (Salt Lake City)
David Nielsen (Salt Lake City)
Michael Vranes (Taylorsville)
Mekeli Wesley (Provo)

California: (2)

Brian Dignan (San Luis Obispo)
Brian Hamilton (Sacramento)

Arizona: (1)

Silester Rivers (Mesa)

Idaho: (1)

Danny Bower (Nampa)

Maryland: (1)

Lance Archibald (Potomac)

New Jersey: (1)

Tim Cannon (East Brunswick)

New Mexico: (1)

Bret Jepsen (Roswell)

Washington: (1)

Mark Bigelow (Olympia)

