

1967 REVIEW

It wasn't the kind of ending the Cougars had in mind, but the dramatic, if abrupt, finish of BYU's 1967 basketball season will have to go into the record books as a year that lacked nothing in terms of interest or excitement.

By all standards it was a peculiar season, one in which road trips were beset with bad weather and poor travel conditions, a cancelled game, a playoff, the absence of BYU scorers with 20-point averages, and the unexpected appearance of the control game.

In the final analysis, the Cougars finished higher than most experts figured they would. Moreover, they surprised a number of forecasters by winning a share of the WAC championship.

A pre-season poll of the Conference coaches indicated New Mexico was the number one pick. BYU got only one first place ballot as the team most likely to win the league championship. And Wyoming, the other half of the title tandem, was completely overlooked.

While compiling a 17-10 win-loss record, the Cougars faced a typical schedule of good teams. Eight of the teams they played against wound up in post-season action in either the NCAA or NIT.

Despite the frustration of not reaching the NCAA, the first five seniors on the Cougar squad can look back on some well-earned distinctions for their four years at BYU. As freshmen the five—Craig Raymond, Gary Hill, Neil Roberts, Jim Jimas, and Ken James were undefeated in 14 games. As sophomores they were on the 20-5 team that won the WAC championship in 1965. The following year as juniors they were on the NIT championship team, and this year they were in on a half-share of the conference title.

In addition they did not lose a game to rival Utah in four years at BYU, and their overall record with the varsity was 77 wins against 25 losses.

Stan Watts' 1967 team will probably be remembered as the team that didn't have an individual standout. During the 27-game season no fewer than eight players won team high-point honors and seven others took rebound honors at one time or other during the campaign.

However, in terms of percentage of field goals made, the Cougars were the best shooting team in the school's history. They connected on 49.1% of their shots. Surprisingly, they were 14 points below the offensive average of last year (81.7 to 95.5 in 1966). This was due, in part, to the swing toward the control game by BYU opponents.

For the second straight season BYU remained undefeated on its home floor. As a matter of fact, the Cougars have lost only two games in a string of

46 home games dating back to 1964, and both of these were during the Far West Regionals in Provo in 1965.

A reflection of the team's popularity last year is found in the attendance figures. BYU played before nearly a quarter of a million fans (248,680 to be exact); and this of course, excludes television exposure.

Attendance at home remained at near-capacity level with 124,375 fans witnessing 13 home games for an average of 9,567 fans in the 10,200 George Albert Smith Fieldhouse.

Three other records of note were recorded by the 1967 team and players. Neil Roberts 53% shooting average is a new career record for the school, and Jim Eakin's overall field goal percentage of 55% is the second highest for one season. The only new team mark, other than the 49% field goal average, was the record of 77 rebounds against St. Mary's.

Craig Raymond, the 6-11 center, led the team in scoring and rebounding (14.2 points per game, 183 rebounds in 24 games). Sophomore Kari Liimo was second in scoring and rebounding, just six rebounds behind Raymond. Liimo also led the team in free throw shooting with an even 80%.

As for the future, the Cougars will have to replace the five seniors who have been in on some of the school's greatest basketball moments.

OFFICIAL ALL-WAC

(Selected by vote of WAC players and Sports Information Directors.)

FIRST TEAM	SECOND TEAM
Kari Liimo, BYU	Craig Raymond, BYU
Mervin Jackson, Utah	Jim Jimas, BYU
Mel Daniels, UNM	Harry Hall, Wyoming
Mike Eberle, Wyoming	Tom Asbury, Wyoming
Ben Monroe, UNM	DeWitt Menyard, Utah

HONORABLE MENTION: Neil Roberts, BYU; Bill Davis, Mike Welton, and Brad Greene, Arizona; Roger Detter, Arizona State; Bob Wilson, Wyoming.

WAC ACADEMIC TEAM

Player, Team	Ht.	Yr.	Major Study	GPA
Neil Roberts, BYU	6-5	Sr.	Phys. Therapy	3.09
Gary Hill, BYU	6-4	Sr.	Recreation	3.74
Lyndon McKay, Ut.	6-6	Jr.	Pre-Medicine	3.21
Roger Detter, ASU	6-1	So.	Mathematics	3.53
Mike Aboud, Ariz.	6-5	Sr.	Pre-Law	3.06

HONORABLE MENTION: BYU—Ken James, Pre-Dentistry, 3.29, Marty Lythgoe, Education, 3.12, Randy Schouten, Economics, 3.01 Jon Dresser, Pre-Dentistry, 3.54; UNM—Ed Burwitz, Biology, 3.40; ASU—Jeff Mackey, Mathematics, 3.48, Bob Edwards, Education, 3.08; Wyo.—Kent Johnson, 3.00; Ariz.—Pat McAndrew, Phys. Ed., 3.38.