

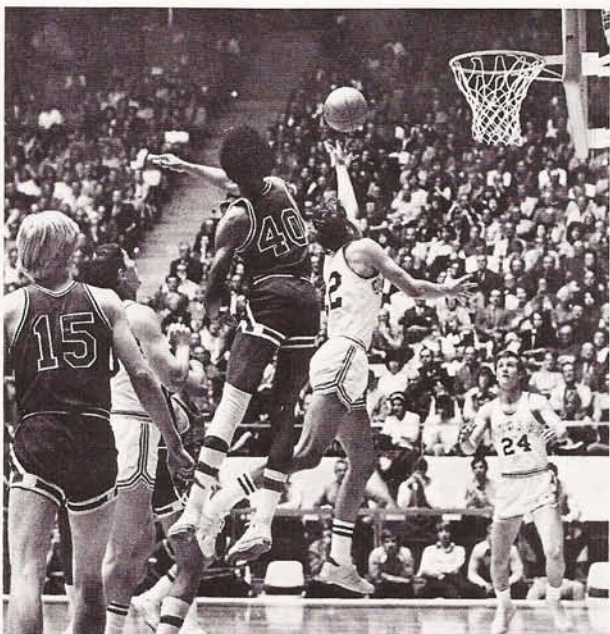
1971-72 review

The '72 season at Brigham Young University seemed to have everything.

From the tipoff of the first game in the new Marriott Activities Center until the final buzzer in the overtime game at Pocatello, the season was packed with all the interest and excitement one could ask for.

The season had to stop somewhere, but the Cougar fans were hoping it wouldn't have to be at Pocatello. The game with Long Beach State may be the most re-lived, re-created sporting event in recent years, which just adds needless futility and frustration to the emotional stockpile.

Even after the playoff in the Minidome, basketball interest remained high for an additional week as BYU and Provo hosted the NCAA Far West Regionals.



BYU vs. Arizona

And it didn't end there, as head coach Stan Watts announced his retirement after 23 years, and the reins were passed to assistant Glenn Potter.

That's the kind of season it was, and it deserves some recounting.

Judged from the point of victories against losses, the season was the winningest on record at BYU—a 21-5 record for a per cent of .808. And the Cougars' 12-2 record in the WAC was the best win-loss percentage in the league's 10-year history.

At one juncture in the campaign the Cougars had a 17-2 record, and the team spent most of the sea-

son moving up and down the scale among the nation's top twenty in the weekly pools. BYU was ranked in ninth place on the final ballot.

BYU opened the season with a 78-72 victory over Kansas State (Big Eight champions) in the New Marriott Center. The Cougars remained undefeated in 12 games on the home floor, and finished with a 9-5 road record.

The most impressive testament of BYU's basketball popularity, however, is found in the attendance figures for the season.

BYU completely shattered former NCAA home attendance records, breaking the old national mark (16,128 by Illinois in 1971) by more than 5,000 per game. During the course of the 12 home games played in the 22,700-seat arena, home crowds averaged 21,818. Fans were turned away at all but four games, and some games were televised closed-circuit to other buildings on campus.

"Looks like we didn't build it big enough," noted Stan Watts at the finale, which drew 22,985 for the game with Colorado State.

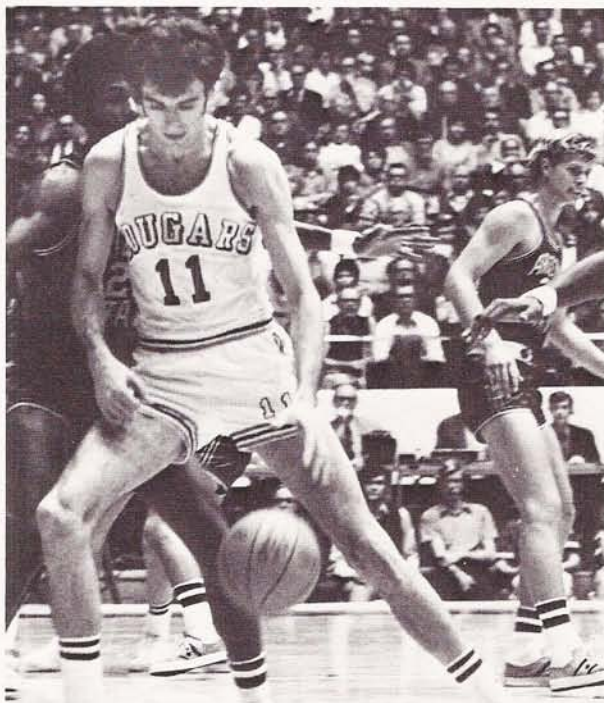
Individually, the Cougars were led by 6-11 center Kresimir Cosic who was tops in scoring and rebounding for the year. Cosic finished with a 22.3 scoring average (second highest in the school's history for one season) and 332 rebounds (12.8 per game).

Senior guard Bernie Fryer, the floor general for the Cougars, ended his final year at BYU with an average of 18.2 points. In two seasons with BYU, both of them title-winning years, Fryer scored a total of more than 1,000 points.

Both Cosic and Fryer were named to the official all-Western Athletic Conference team.

Statistically, however, it was a pair of sophomores who came up with the best shooting percentages from the floor. Forward-guard Belmont Anderson and guard Doug Richards shot 54% and 53% respectively from the field, which places both of them among the top five in the school's long history in that department.

All-in-all, looking back it was a very good year.



Cosic drives against ASU