

# 1973-74 review

The 1973-74 basketball season at BYU was . . .  
. . . the year BYU won its opening game and final game on a last-second pressure shot by Doug Richards.  
. . . the year half of the varsity squad members were freshmen.

. . . the year senior guards Doug Richards and Belmont Anderson scored over 900 points between them.

. . . the year the Cats won nearly as many games on the road (five) as they did at home (six), and in one stretch played 12 of 13 games on the road.

Of course, the season will probably be remembered for more, but these items are among the first to come to mind in summary of Coach Glenn Potter's second season as head coach of the Cougars.

In retrospect, the Cougars' 11-15 record and sixth-place finish in the WAC was just about where the experts figured BYU would finish this season.

Last-second shots by Doug Richards got the Cougars over the hump in one-point wins over Weber State and Idaho State in the season openers. But the youthful team then dropped six of its next seven games after the opening victories at home.

The low point in the season had to be the Cats' 96-52 loss to nationally-ranked Indiana in the opening round of the Far West Classic. And the high point came shortly after in El Paso, where the Cougars upset Texas-El Paso, 62-58, in the WAC opener.

Offensively, the Cougars' 97 points against Denver was the top scoring effort of the season. Defensively, three teams scored 100 or more points against the Cougars, including a 118 by Arizona in the game at Tucson. And the offensive-defensive spread for the season was a minus 6.4 points.

Individually, veterans Doug Richards and Bill Anderson carried the attack with scoring averages of 20.3 and 14.4 for the season. They were the only players to sport averages in double figures. Richards was high point for BYU in all but ten games.

Freshman Mark Handy (6-9) was the leading rebounder on the team with 8.7 per game. Handy was also third in scoring with 9.8 points per game.

Sophomore Troy Jones had the best field goal average of the regulars (56%), while Richards' free throw percentage (81%) was the best of the year.

Richards' efforts over the past three years boosted him in the record books. His career total of 1,218 points places him among the top five scorers in BYU basketball history, and his scoring average this past season (20.3) places him fourth among top Cougar scorers for one season.

As for attendance, the Cougars played before 272,855 this season. At ten home games, BYU drew 162,510, or an average of 16,251 fans per game; the highest in the conference, and among the highest in the country. BYU also drew record crowds to the games played in the facilities at Logan and Salt Lake City.

