

# 1982-83 Season Summary

For the first time in the last five years, Brigham Young University wasn't involved in a post-season basketball tournament.

Picked as an also-ran at the start of the season, the Cougars finished the regular season in a three-way tie for the Western Athletic Conference championship. The other two schools to share the WAC title, Utah and UTEP, headed for post-season play, but the season came to an abrupt end for the Cougars.

But BYU's 54-41 win over Wyoming in the season finale pushed the Cougars into the win column where they finished the year with a 15-14 overall record.

Considering the Cougars slow start (0-5), they made an amazing comeback, at one point winning seven-of-nine. In league play the Cougars came on strong to finish with an 11-5 WAC record.

Five of the Cougar losses came against instate rivals; one a double-overtime defeat to Weber, another a triple-overtime to Utah. In two games with Utah, the total point differential with the Utes was five points.

Starting the season with only two seniors aboard, the Cougars experimented with the lineup. All of the candidates on the guard line were either sophomores or freshmen, and that may account for the struggle in the early going.

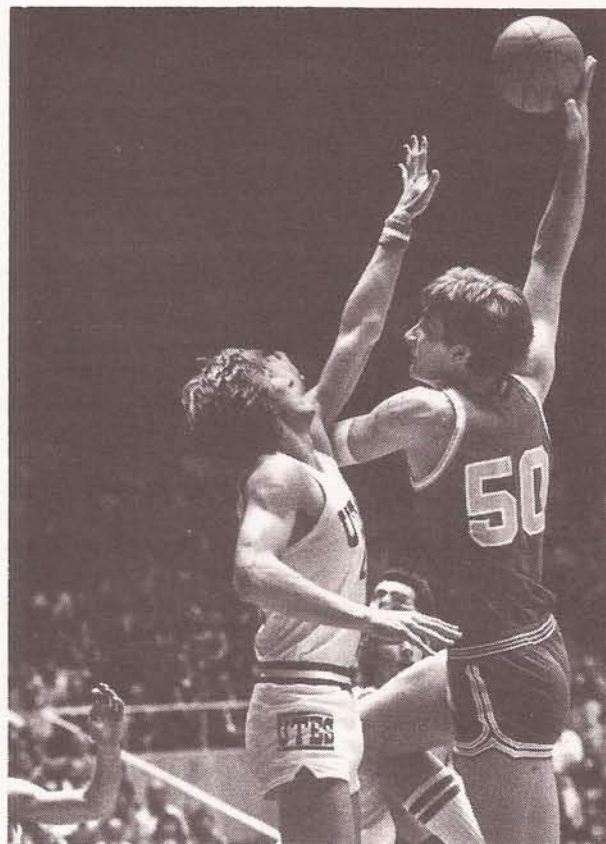
Alo, there is little doubt the Cougars might have fared better with an easier schedule. BYU opened with back-to-back games with UCLA and Iowa, followed later by a number of games against nationally ranked teams. Seven of BYU's opponents were included among the teams invited to the NCAA playoffs; UCLA, Iowa, Utah State, St. John's, Weber State, Princeton and Utah. Another tri-champion, UTEP, was invited to the NIT.

In terms of drawing power, the 1982-83 season was indeed a success. The overall attendance figure, for both home and away, was 437,372, an average of 15,082 fans per game. At home the Cougars fared even better with 303,957 attending 15 home games. BYU's average crowd at home was 20,264 in an arena with a seating capacity of 22,700 seats.

Top draw of the '83 season was the crowd of 23,023 who witnessed the season opener with UCLA.

Individually, junior forward Devin Durrant was clearly the dominant offensive star on the floor and clearly an All-America candidate. Besides leading the WAC in scoring, Durrant shared WAC player-of-the-year honors. In 26 of the Cougars' games, Durrant won or shared highpoint honors for the team. Devin led all vote-getters in the official all-WAC selections, and also received honorable mention All-America. His top effort was 33 points and nine rebounds in the first game with Hawaii.

Senior center Greg Kite was second only to San Diego State's Michael Cage in WAC re-



*Greg Kite now plays with the Boston Celtics.*

bounding, but will probably be remembered most by the local fans for his blocked shots. The extended arms of Kite blocked a total of 81 shots by opponents this season, giving him a career high of 208 blocks. His high this past season was eight blocks in one game against New Mexico.

In WAC statistics, junior forward Brett Applegate was third in league scoring (WAC games) with a 15.1 average, and he was .549 from the field. He also averaged 11 rebounds per game in conference play.

Forward Devin Durrant took over the school's free throw records (season), and moved himself up among the school's top career scorers. Devin's 261 free throw attempts and 200 free throws made are both new (season) school records. In addition, his 662 points this past season jumped him into fourth place among career scoring leaders. Devin, who now has 1,419 points, ranks behind Danny Ainge (2,467), Fred Roberts (1,841) and Kresimir Cosic (1,512).

Kite completed his four-year career at BYU with 847 career rebounds, a figure topped by only two players; Alan Taylor and Kresimir Cosic, both of whom hauled down 919 career rebounds. Kite was a first-round draft by the Boston Celtics.

Kite and forward Gary Furniss were the only seniors on the '83 squad. Guard Bob Capener and center Von Alleman accepted church mission calls.