



# 1983-84 Season Summary



*Devin Durrant is BYU's second-leading all-time scorer.*

Despite playing one of the toughest basketball schedules in the country, the Cougars managed to put together a 20-win season and win a trip to the NCAA post-season tournament under first-year head coach Ladell Andersen.

Teams like Kentucky, Georgetown, UCLA, Notre Dame, Virginia Commonwealth, Alabama-Birmingham, Utah State, Weber State and Oregon highlighted the non-WAC schedule, while the WAC slate included powerful teams like UTEP and New Mexico.

The Cougars held their own against the tough competition, winning games against Virginia Commonwealth, Oregon, Weber State, UTEP, Notre Dame and New Mexico. In the first round of the NCAA tournament, BYU upset Alabama-Birmingham at Birmingham. However, the Cougars were knocked out of the tournament by eventual final-four participant Kentucky.

In the WAC, the Cougars compiled a 12-4 record and finished second behind UTEP. Only a last-second loss at Wyoming kept BYU from staying in the WAC race. BYU's luck faltered in the WAC's first post-season tournament, and the Cougars lost to New Mexico in the semi-final round.

Individually, the Cougars were led again by All-American Devin Durrant. Durrant finished the season among the nation's scoring leaders averaging 27.9 points per game. He also averaged an incredible 39.5 minutes of playing time per game.

The first-team Academic All-American broke his own school record for the number of free throws attempted (307) and made (242) in a season. He also broke records for the most points made in a season (866), most points

per game (27.9) and most field goals made in a season (312). He also set a bundle of career school records.

Teammate Brett Applegate was among the nation's leaders in rebounding, finishing the season with an average of 11.4 caroms per game. His 14.5 points per game was the second-best total on the team. He joined Durrant on the All-WAC first team.

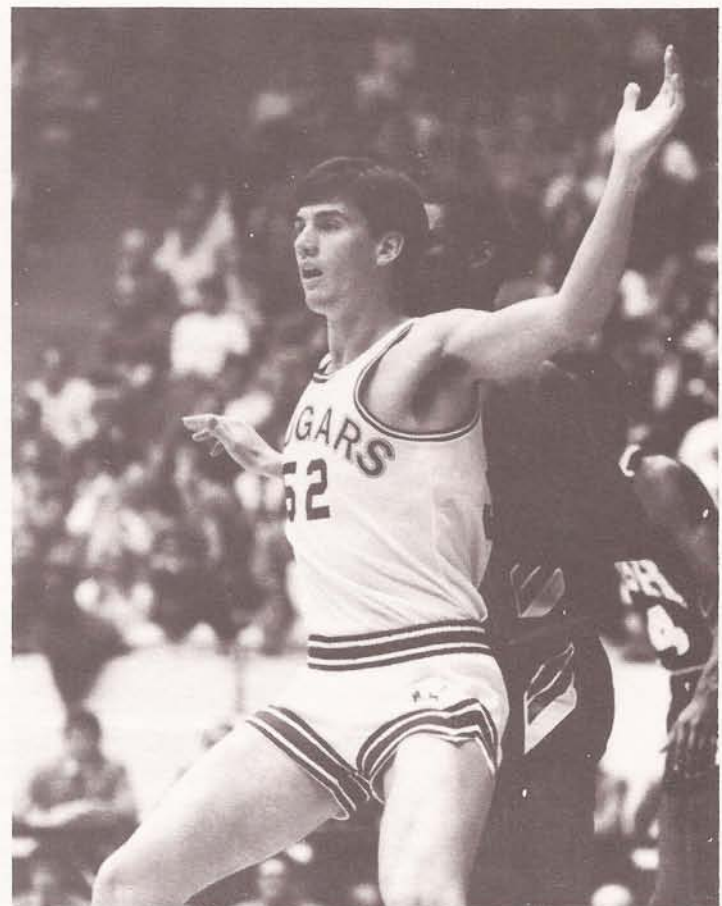
A big surprise for BYU was the play of center Jim Usevitch toward the latter part of the season. The 6-9 sophomore became a dominating force in the final games. His best game was a 25-point, 11-rebound performance against UTEP.

It seemed as if much of the team's success fluctuated with the performance of the guards. Scott Sinek and Chris Nikchevich averaged 7.5 and 6.8 points respectively. Marty Perry and Brian Taylor also saw frequent action and sparked the team on several occasions.

Mike Smith started much of the season in the high post and finished with an average of 8.0 points per game.

Once again, the Cougars were a big draw at home. Nearly 322,000 fans watched the games in the Marriott Center for an average of 21,448 per game—the fourth best in school history. Overall, BYU played before more than 500,000 spectators during the year.

Players opting to serve church missions at the conclusion of the season were Jim Usevitch, Mike Smith, Brian Taylor and Alan Astle.



*Jim Usevitch left after last season to serve an LDS mission.*