



1984-85 Season Summary



WAC player-of-the-year Timo Saarelainen led the Cougars in scoring with a 22.0 point-per-game average.

If the Cougars could have thrown out the first five and last four games of the 1984-85 season, everyone would have considered it a year to remember. As it was, the Cougars' slow start and slow finish produced a decent-but-mediocre 15-14 season that was full of highs and lows.

Perhaps the first game of the season set the tone for the remainder of the year. The Cougars were leading LaSalle 73-71 with only eight seconds remaining in the game. A LaSalle player was fouled and hit the first of two free throws. The second attempt missed, however, and another LaSalle player tipped in the winning basket.

In all, BYU played in four overtime contests and lost three of them. Two of those "extra inning" affairs went three overtimes, and the Cougars came out on the short end both times.

On the bright side, however, BYU defeated eventual NIT champion UCLA 89-81 and knocked off then-unbeaten Washington 84-75. The Cougars also topped WAC champion UTEP 62-60 and took the Miners into three overtimes before losing 97-86 in El Paso.

Individually, senior Timo Saarenainen had an outstanding year. The 6-6 forward averaged 22.0 points per game and was named the WAC player-of-the-year. He was slowed all year, however, by a knee problem and defenses that double and sometimes triple-teamed him. He scored a season-high 41 points against New Mexico in Albuquerque and led the team in scoring 21 of the 29 games.

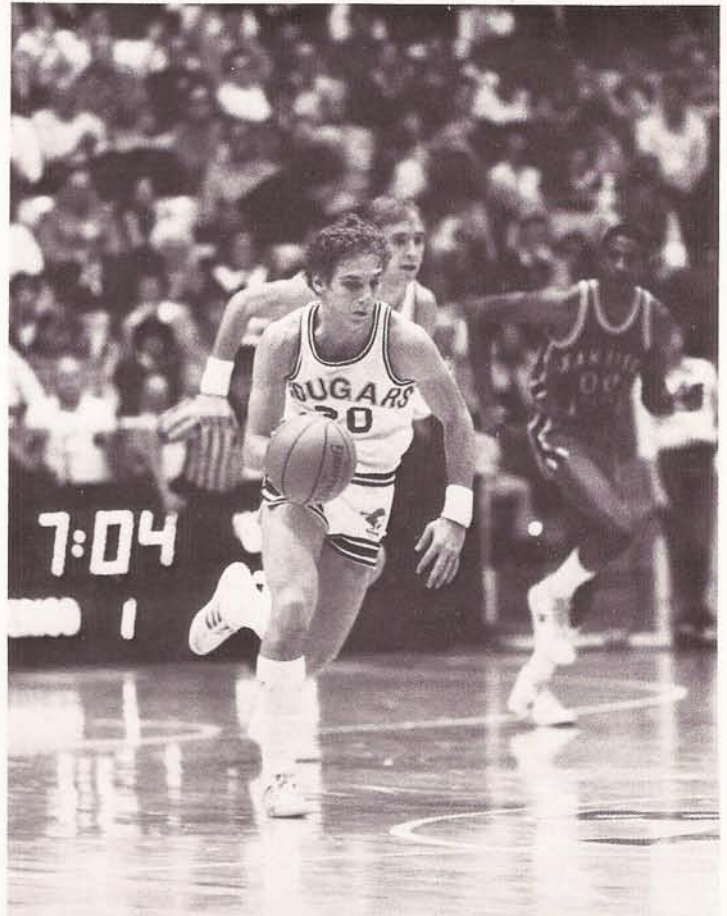
Senior guard Scott Sinek shook off an early-season injury and ended the year as the second-leading scorer on the squad with a 10.1 point-per-game average. He also often drew the tough defensive assignments.

A big surprise for the Cougars was the play of freshman Andy Toolson. The 6-6 guard/forward showed great shooting touch while averaging 8.5 points and 18 minutes of play per game. He hit a key jumper against Utah State that sent the game into overtime. At the end of the season, Toolson announced plans to serve a two-year church mission.

Jeff Chatman was another freshman who saw a lot of playing time. The 6-6 forward sprained an ankle on picture day and missed most of the pre-season workouts. When he finally worked his way into the lineup, he contributed with his great leaping ability and soft jump shot.

Still another freshman, Alan Pollard, contributed in a big way. A starter in all but one game, Pollard averaged 7.7 points and 7.8 rebounds per game. He pumped in 16 points in the win over UCLA and pulled down 13 rebounds at New Mexico.

In WAC play, BYU finished in a tie for third place with Colorado State and New Mexico with 9-7 records. UTEP was the eventual winner, and San Diego State was runnerup. BYU was in contention for the championship after the first half of the season but two close losses at New Mexico (76-74) and UTEP (97-86 in 3 overtimes) seemed to take the wind out of the Cougars' sails. After those games, BYU won only two of its next six games.



Scott Sinek was a four-year starter at BYU.