
1988 SUMMARY

In the 70-year history of basketball at Brigham Young University, there has been only one team more successful than the 1987–88 squad. The Cougars came within two wins of matching the 28-win record posted by the 1950–51 team. In terms of winning percentage, the '88 team had a .813 record, best ever in the school's history.

BYU's one-point win over the defending champions of the Big Sky began a string of victories unparalleled in BYU history—a total of 17 consecutive wins through the months of December and January. It was Feb. 6 before the string came to an end against UAB in Birmingham, Alabama.

Prior to that point (the loss in Birmingham) the Cougars had advanced in the wire service polls to second- and third-place rankings. A win against the Sun Belt team might have put the Cougars in the number one spot, since BYU was the only remaining undefeated major team in the nation. Even though they were soundly beaten by UAB, the Cougars managed a 20-1 record before they came back to reality.

Playing their first two WAC games at home, the Cougars got off to a blazing start with wins over Hawaii (+31) and San Diego State (+27). But BYU's greatest feat of the season may have come the following week when the team posted road wins over Wyoming (nationally ranked), UTEP, and New Mexico (a team that had upset #1 ranked Arizona earlier in the season at The Pit).

The wins at Laramie (+16), El Paso (+10), and Albuquerque (+7) gave the Cougars a grip on the WAC championship they never relinquished. Although they would lose a total of three WAC games on the schedule that followed, the margin of loss was only a combined seven points: two in overtime at San Diego State, two points at Utah, and three points to UTEP in the Marriott Center.

At one stretch in the second half of the season, the Cougars were on the road for 10 days; a swing from Provo to San Diego to Honolulu to Fort Collins to Colorado Springs to Salt Lake City. The Cougars finished the regular season with a 13-3 WAC record to win their ninth Western Athletic Conference championship.

As hosts of the fifth annual WAC basketball tournament, the Cougars beat Hawaii in the first round, but were upset by the Texas-El Paso Miners for the second time in less than a week. The tournament was won by Wyoming, one of three league schools to be among the 64 teams to be invited to the NCAA playoffs.

The Cougars were seeded fourth in the Southeast Regionals in Atlanta. In the first round, BYU was pressed into overtime before beating North Carolina-Charlotte, 98-92. They were then paired with Louisville in Saturday's next round. BYU suffered its widest margin of defeat of the season, a 97-76 loss to the Cardinals, thus becoming one of the 63 teams that would lose in the playoffs before a champion was crowned.

The '88 season provided more national exposure than the Cougars generally receive. Five games were carried nationally on television, either by cable or network television, and KBYU-TV, KSL-TV, and KUTV supplied live coverage of many road games during the season.

Attendance at home games in the Marriott Center, where the Cougars were 16-2 for the year, also took a significant jump. BYU drew an average of 20,200 fans per game. Overall the Marriott attendance was 363,602, the highest ever for one season (that figure, however, includes two home appearances during the WAC tournament). Counting the 151,037 who watched the Cougars on the road, this boosts BYU's overall attendance to over half a million—514,639, to be exact. Attendance since the opening of the Marriott Center (1971–72) will pass the 4.5-million mark midway through the 1988–89 season.

Final individual and team statistics for the season underscore the Cougars' success. For example, the offensive-defensive spread of 9.3 points per game is the highest since the 1980 team (11.0) and the second best in the past 20 years. BYU not only held a comfortable edge in all shooting categories, but out-boarded opponents by six rebounds per game as well.

1988 HONORS

Michael Smith led the team in scoring and rebounding (21.2 and 7.8 per game), and was also .434 effective from three-point range. Jeff Chatman had the best field goal percentage (.595) for the year. In the three-point column, Nate Call had the best percentage of the season, .532 percent, barely nosing out another sophomore guard, Marty Haws (.500).

Senior Brian Taylor was the most accurate player on the free throw line, dropping in .874 of his attempts. A great passer, Taylor also had the most assists (151), 20 more than Haws. Marty led the team in steals (45), and center Jim Usevitch had the most blocked shots (41).

BYU's front line combination—Usevitch, Smith, and Chatman—scored a combined total of 1,777 points. In the first half of the season when the Cougars were leading the nation in field goal shooting percentage, the threesome was averaging a combined average of nearly 60 points per game. Guards Taylor, Haws, and Call had a combined 378 assists over the 32-game stretch.

Individually, each player seemed to have some outstanding games. Michael Smith had the season's only triple-double when he accounted for 20 points, 12 rebounds, and 10 assists in BYU's first game with Colorado State. Smith also had back-to-back 39-point games against Utah State and La Salle.

Sophomore swingman Andy Toolson worked his way into the record book with 4-for-5 shooting from three-point range against Air Force. Smith's 11-for-11 free throw shooting against Weber State is also a new school record.

There were several times when the Cougars shot .600 or better from the field during a game: UCLA (.621), Weber State (.603), La Salle (.643), Utah (.667) and Colorado State

(.635). Only twice during the year did BYU shooting drop below the '40s, both against UTEP (.397 and .389). Also, the 17-game win streak ties a WAC record for most consecutive wins originally set by New Mexico 10 years ago.

Jeff Chatman, a favorite among Cougar fans for the past four years, has joined a select group of former players in the BYU record book. The Talladega, Alabama, senior finished his playing career at BYU with 1,824 points, fourth best in the school's history.

Chatman was only 18 point shy of overtaking Fred Roberts in third place. Chatman is behind Danny Ainge, Devin Durrant, and Roberts. As for his career shooting field goal percentage, Jeff is second only to Alan Taylor (1977–80) who had a 57% career mark, compared to Chatman's 55%.

Brian Taylor, another senior, finished four seasons with the Cougars tied for first place in career free throw shooting (83%). Taylor's shooting this season puts him among the top five or six free throw shooters in BYU history.

Team records set by the '88 team include: (all season marks) most consecutive wins—17 (old record was 13); best field goal percentage—.531 (old record was .528 in 1979); best free throw percentage—.763 (old record was .755 set in 1974); best three-point percentage—.452 (old mark was .399 set in 1987).

In the season opener, Montana State's Tom Domako set two new Marriot Center records with 8-for-16 shooting of three-pointers. Andy Toolson added his name to the record book with 4-for-5 three pointers against Air Force.

As a team, the Cougars set a new scoring record when they rolled up 121 points against Utah State back in December. The combined score of that game (233 points) was also a Marriott Center record.

Michael Smith

All-Cougar Classic
WAC Player of the Week
Deseret News Athlete of December
All-District 13 (NABC)
Academic All-WAC
GTE Academic All-America, 1st team (CoSida)
Player of the Year, District 7 (USBWA)
All-WAC, first-team
All-America, 2nd team (USBWA)
All-America, 3rd team Associated Press
All-America, 2nd team UPI
WAC Player of the Year
HM All-America, *The Sporting News*

Jeff Chatman

WAC Player of the Week
MVP Cougar Classic
ESPN-Windex Player of the Week
Deseret News Athlete of January
Academic All-WAC
All-District 13 (NABC)
All-District 7 (USBWA)
All-WAC, first-team
HM All-America, *The Sporting News*

Jim Usevitch

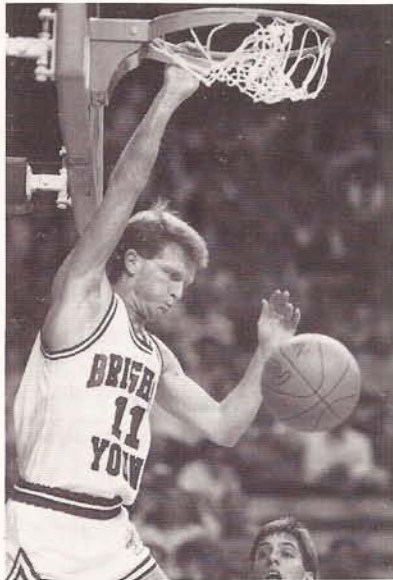
All-Cougar Classic
Honorable mention All-WAC

Brian Taylor

WAC Player of the Week
Academic All-WAC



Jeff Chatman: Most BYU games ever



Marty Haws: Top scorer in Europe



Sightseeing in Brussels



**Nathan Call:
School record
in three-pointers**

Ladell Andersen: W

UPI College B
The United Press Internat
20 college basketball ratin
parentheses, records th
based on 15-14-13-etc. a

- School**
1. Arizona (31)
 2. Brigham Young (4)
 3. Nev.-Las Vegas (1)
 4. Temple
 5. Duke
 6. Purdue
 7. North Carolina
 8. Oklahoma
 9. Pittsburgh
 10. Kentucky
 11. Michigan
 12. Syracuse
 13. Georgetown
 14. Iowa
 15. Vanderbilt
 16. Bradley
 17. Illinois
 18. St. John's
 19. Texas-El Paso
 20. Florida

Others receiving votes: A
rado State, Georgia Tech
sas State, Missouri, Ne
State, Rhode Island, Sou
ssissippi, Southern Metho
Note: By agreement with
Basketball Coaches of th
probation by the NCAA
Tournament are ineligib
championship considera
Coaches. The only such t
land State, Marist, South



London's Buck

HIGHLIGHTS

ACC Coach of the Year

Basketball Top 20

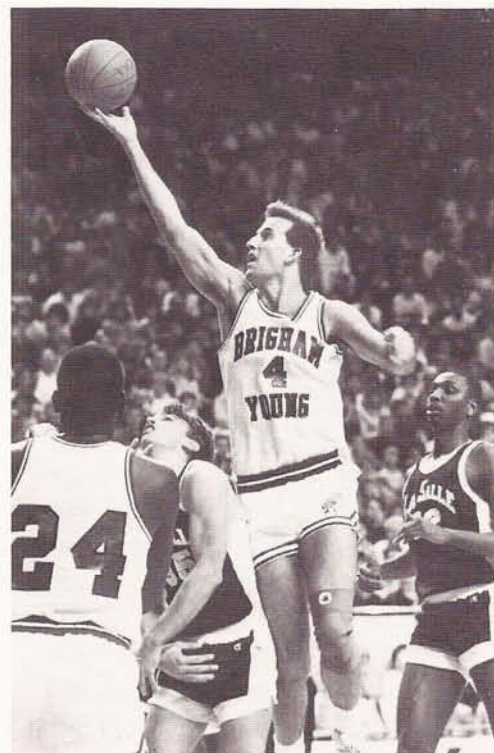
National Board of Coaches' Top 20 teams, with first-place votes in poll through Sunday, total points and last week's ranking:

Record	Pts	LW
20-1	540	1
15-0	435	7
19-1	427	5
16-1	409	6
13-2	397	4
17-2	356	2
15-3	333	3
18-2	259	10
15-2	255	11
14-3	203	9
17-3	164	8
15-5	152	13
14-4	68	15
15-5	58	18
13-4	51	NR
13-2	36	NR
14-6	23	14
14-3	19	NR
17-4	18	16
15-5	14	12

Kansas, Boise State, Colorado State, Indiana, Iowa State, Kansas, North Carolina, North Carolina, Southern Methodist, Villanova, Wyoming. The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, United States, teams on ineligible for the NCAA for Top 20 and national championship by the UPI Board of Coaches this season are Cleveland State and Virginia Tech.



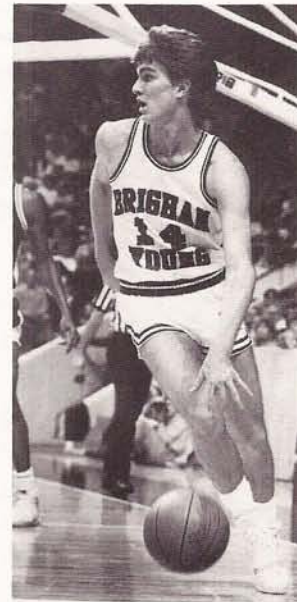
The Eiffel Tower



All-America Michael Smith



Jim Usevitch:
Among school's best
in FG shooting



Brian Taylor: BYU's best
free throw shooter



Brigham Palace



Andy Toolson: Eyes
move to forward