

YEAR IN REVIEW

On the ROAD BACK

COUGARS MAKE GREAT STRIDES IN REBUILDING PROCESS

Upsetting 15th-ranked New Mexico in "The Pit," winning the Cougar Classic, and achieving a goal of making the WAC post-season tournament in Las Vegas are some of the accomplishments of the 1997-98 BYU men's basketball team.

Under first-year coach Steve Cleveland, the Cougars posted a record of 9-21 overall and 4-10 in the WAC, good for sixth place in the Mountain Division.

"It was a great year in many respects and disappointing in other ways," said Cleveland. "We were on an emotional roller coaster the last week of the season. We played our best basketball of the season in the last three weeks."

The Cougars swept the New Mexico-UTEP road trip for the first time since 1990-91 and won three of the final five games of the season.

Leading the way for the Cougars were lone senior Justin Weidauer, junior Ron Selleaze and freshman Mekeli Wesley. Weidauer's career-high 22 points keyed the 83-62 upset at New Mexico, which ended the nation's second-longest home winning streak at 41. During Weidauer's career, from 1991-1998, he scored 687 points and had 550 rebounds in 109 games.

Selleaze, who joined the team in mid-December, was selected second team All-WAC (coaches) and Mountain Division Newcomer of the Year (media). He was also named to the All-Newcomer teams by both the WAC media and coaches. Selleaze ended up leading BYU with 16.8 points per game to go along with 7 rebounds. He scored a career-high 31 points against UNLV in BYU's final home game to earn WAC Player of the Week honors.

Teammate Wesley scored 31 points in the Cougars' triple-overtime victory at UTEP to earn WAC Player of the Week honors in the final week of regular season. At UTEP Wesley broke a BYU record by making 16 of

18 free throws, including the game-winner.

Wesley was also named to the All-Mountain Newcomer Team (WAC media) and was voted MVP of the Cougar Classic, where he joined Weidauer on the all-tournament team. Wesley's 406 points led the team and was the third-best season output ever by a BYU freshman behind Danny Ainge and Shawn Bradley.

The Cougars set a new school record for three point attempts at 638, shattering the old mark of 497 set in 1992.

Junior Danny Bower shot 187 of the trey attempts and twice tied school records. His seven three-pointers against Ohio State and his five-for-five performance against Wyoming tied BYU records in three-pointers in a game and three-point percentage, respectively.

Selleaze tied another school record, making all 11 free throws for a perfect percentage against Utah in Provo. A few weeks later, Wesley tied the same mark making all 11 free throws at Utah.

BYU started off the season christening the new on-campus arena at San Diego State with a victory in the inaugural game.

The Cougars won back-to-back games in its own Cougar Classic over instate rival Weber State and Pepperdine. BYU won the finale in the Rainbow Classic over Ohio State. BYU won a non-conference game at Tulsa, then ended the season with a 59-56 loss to the same team at the WAC Tournament.

"There was not a game all year where we weren't significant underdogs, but never, ever was there a time that we gave up," said Cleveland.



'97-98 STATS

1997-98 GAME-BY GAME RESULTS

Date	Opponent	W/L	Score	Site	Attd.	Scorer	Rebounder	Assists
11/14	@ San Diego St.	Won	73-59	Away	5932	Ahlbom, 18	Ahlbom, 11	Dignan, 8
11/19	WASHINGTON ST.	Lost	49-78	Home	9279	Jepsen, Bret 12	Wesley, 10	Dignan, 6
11/21	OREGON	Lost	67-74	Home	8350	Hamilton, 24	Weidauer, 13	Bower, 3
11/29	@ Utah St.	Lost	69-72	Away	8734	Wesley, 27	Weidauer, 7	Wesley, 4
12/02	PENN ST.	Lost	50-80	Home	5932	Bower, 11	Jepsen, Bret 7	Hamilton, 4
12/06	@ Boise St.	Lost	67-83	Away	8304	Bower, 23	Wesley, 6	Handy, 2
12/09	WASHINGTON	Lost	68-83	Home	4479	Wesley, 31	Jepsen, Bart 9	Hamilton, 5
12/12	WEBER ST. #	Won	83-70	Home	5618	Wesley, 21	Hamilton, 9	Dignan, 10
12/13	PEPPERDINE #	Won	53-52	Home	6223	Bower, 12	Weidauer, 12	Dignan, 9
12/22	@ California \$	Lost	64-68	Away	12227	Selleaze, 16	Wesley, 5	Hamilton, 5
12/27	@ Hawai'i %	Lost	53-73	Away	10300	Selleaze, 16	Hamilton, 7	Dignan, 8
12/29	Virginia %	Lost	54-72	Neutral	1532	Selleaze, 20	Wesley, 6	Selleaze, 2
12/30	Ohio St. %	Won	72-65	Neutral	425	Bower, 23	Selleaze, 12	Selleaze, 4
01/05	@ Tulsa	Won	57-53	Away	7054	Selleaze, 22	Selleaze, 9	Dignan, 7
01/10	UTAH *	Lost	61-71	Home	22242	Selleaze, 26	Wesley, 6	Hamilton, 2
01/15	WYOMING *	Won	60-41	Home	7986	Selleaze, 16	Weidauer, 8	Dignan, 7
01/17	COLORADO ST. *	Lost	44-55	Home	9602	Selleaze, 15	Selleaze, 8	Dignan, 5
01/22	@ UNLV *	Lost	63-76	Away	13461	Bower, 20	Selleaze, 12	Hamilton, 5
01/24	@ Air Force *	Lost	61-80	Away	2018	Bower, 16	Selleaze, 10	Dignan, 4
01/29	NEW MEXICO *	Lost	54-72	Home	9264	Weidauer, 13	Selleaze, 8	Selleaze, 3
01/31	UTEP *	Lost	59-68	Home	6845	Wesley, 18	Selleaze, 9	Dignan, 3
02/05	@ Utah *	Lost	68-83	Away	14605	Wesley, 28	Hamilton, 3	Dignan, 4
02/07	TULSA	Lost	59-65	Home	6236	Selleaze, 21	Weidauer, 12	Selleaze, 4
02/12	@ Colorado St. *	Lost	74-83	Away	5558	Selleaze, 20	Selleaze, 13	Dignan, 4
02/14	@ Wyoming *	Lost	54-77	Away	12201	Selleaze, 22	Selleaze, 7	Dignan, 5
02/19	AIR FORCE *	Won	79-60	Home	6554	Selleaze, 25	Wesley, 10	Dignan, 9
02/21	UNLV *	Lost	76-84	Home	9404	Selleaze, 31	Selleaze, 7	Selleaze, 4
02/26	@ New Mexico *	Won	83-62	Away	18018	Weidauer, 22	Wesley, 6	Hamilton, 9
02/28	@ UTEP *	Won	76-75 3ot	Away	8764	Wesley, 31	Weidauer, 11	Selleaze, 4
03/03	Tulsa +	Lost	56-59	Neutral	3291	Selleaze, 17	Selleaze, 9	Dignan, 5

Cougar Classic; % Hawaii Rainbow Classic; * Western Athletic Conference

1997-98 FINAL WAC STANDINGS

MOUNTAIN DIVISION	WAC					OVERALL					
	W	L	Pct.	H	A	W	L	Pct.	H	A	N
Utah	12	2	.857	7-0	5-2	30	4	.882	13-0	13-3	7-1
New Mexico	11	3	.786	6-1	5-2	24	8	.750	15-1	6-6	3-1
Wyoming	9	5	.643	6-1	3-4	19	9	.679	13-2	4-6	2-1
Colorado St.	8	6	.571	4-3	4-3	20	9	.690	12-3	8-5	0-1
UNLV	7	7	.500	5-2	2-5	20	13	.606	16-4	4-8	0-1
Brigham Young	4	10	.286	2-5	2-5	9	21	.300	4-10	4-9	1-2
UTEP	3	11	.214	2-5	1-6	12	14	.462	10-7	2-7	0-0
Air Force	2	12	.143	2-5	0-7	10	16	.385	7-6	3-10	0-0

PACIFIC DIVISION	WAC					OVERALL					
	W	L	Pct.	H	A	W	L	Pct.	H	A	N
TCU	14	0	1.000	7-0	7-0	27	6	.818	16-1	9-2	2-3
Fresno State	10	4	.714	5-2	5-2	21	13	.618	13-4	6-6	1-3
Tulsa	9	5	.643	6-1	3-4	19	12	.613	11-4	6-6	2-2
Hawaii	8	6	.571	4-3	4-3	21	9	.700	17-4	4-4	0-0
SMU	6	8	.429	3-4	3-4	18	10	.643	13-4	4-5	1-1
San Diego State	5	9	.357	3-4	2-5	13	15	.464	7-7	5-6	1-2
Rice	3	11	.214	2-5	1-6	6	22	.214	4-9	1-10	1-3
San Jose State	1	13	.071	1-6	0-7	3	23	.115	3-10	0-13	0-0