



# BYU FOOTBALL



BYU	0	0	0	7	7
WVU	14	13	10	0	37

November 4, 2023

Milan Puskar Stadium, Morgantown, WV

## TEAM NOTES

### BIG 12 ROAD

- > The Cougars are still looking for their first road conference victory after dropping to 0-4 against Big 12 opponents on the road (Kansas, TCU, Texas, West Virginia).

### NOVEMBER STREAK SNAPPED

- > BYU lost its first game in the month of November for the first time since Nov. 30, 2019 against San Diego State (L 13-3), a stretch of 8 consecutive wins.
- > BYU dropped to 18-6 in the month of November under head coach Kalani Sitake.

### MISSING TURNOVERS

- > BYU entered the game No. 3 nationally with 18 turnovers gained but tonight was just the second game this season (Kansas) without a takeaway.

## PLAYER NOTES

### JAKE RETZLAFF

- > The quarterback started his first career game
- > He was the first junior college quarterback to start a game for BYU since Christan Stewart in 2014 out of Snow College.
- > Retzlaff finished 24 of 42 for 210 yards. He added 26 yards on the ground.

### AIDAN ROBBINS

- > The running back scored his first touchdown as a Cougar on a 10-yard run in the 4th quarter
- > He finished the game with 37 rushing yards and a season-high 3 receptions for 31 yards.

### KEELAN MARION

- > Marion had a career-high 6 receptions for 53 yards (season high). Marion also had a 91-yard kickoff return for a touchdown but it was nullified on a holding call.

## GAME INFO

**Weather:** clear, 59 degrees

**Attendance:** 50,266

**Series Results:** 0-1

**Captains:** OL Kingsley Suamataia, LB AJ Vongphachanh, OL Connor Pay, DE Tyler Batty

**Coin Toss:** West Virginia won the toss and elected to receive

**Uniforms:** white helmet, royal face-mask, white jersey, white pants, royal trim

### BYU Flag Bearers

**Alumni:** Chris Hoke (DL 1997-2000)

Charlie Petersen (QB 1995, 99-01)

Ryan Hancock (QB 1992)

USA: Jake Eichorn

West Virginia: Ray Paulo

Sione Veikoso: Weylin Lapuaho

Big 12: Bruce Mitchell



For a live feed of in-game notes follow **@BYUGameNotes** on X (Twitter) throughout gameday. Track milestones, news, notes and more.



Find more game materials including box scores, postgame audio/video files and more at [byucougars.com/pressbox](https://byucougars.com/pressbox)

## NOTABLE FIRSTS/CAREER HIGHS

### CAREER HIGHS

- > CB Eddie Heckard (10 total tackles, 5 solo tackles)
- > S Ethan Slade (Tied 8 total tackles)
- > LB Max Tooley (Tied 9 solo tackles)
- > RB Aidan Robbins (31 receiving yards)
- > WR Parker Kingston (6 receptions, 57 yards)
- > WR Keelan Marion (6 receptions)

### CAREER FIRST

- > QB Jake Retzlaff (start, career FBS game)



## POSTGAME QUOTES BYU

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### KALANI SITAKE, BYU HEAD COACH

#### Opening Statement:

(It was a) tough game. Congratulations to West Virginia. (I) thought they had a great game. They got a lot of yards on us. I felt like they could just do whatever they wanted, and we couldn't create any momentum or get things going and we've got to do better. I think this shows you that this conference isn't easy. We can't just show up and think that because you have a great fan base that's going to be there cheering for you it's going to be easy. (It was) proved with what West Virginia did to us. We lost the game in all three phases. (It's) time to regroup, time to get back, get home and play this next game. But it's going to be tough film to watch. We have to watch it and learn from it and do it with a positive attitude. There's still a lot to play for. We have to go find a way to get that bowl-eligible win so we can take advantage of the extra game and spend more time together, extend the season and extend our opportunity to develop our guys still.

We have a lot of things to work on, but there's some good things that we saw from our team and we'll keep highlighting that to gain momentum as a team in all three phases. It seemed that every time that something was going well, that we found a way to not keep it going. But you have to give credit to West Virginia for how they played. I thought they played hard and tough. We couldn't match their intensity and that's not a good sign. We've got to find a way to regroup, and learn from this. (It was) an uncharacteristic loss for us, but I felt like the guys thought we just needed all 11 guys on the field. It's so late in the season, and we're still making the mistakes. We're not playing well with fundamentals, we're not blocking right, we're whiffing our blocks, we're not tackling well, we're not using the proper techniques, we're playing missed-assignment football. I think that we can bounce back from this next week and it's good that we're going to be home. Going on the road and getting a win is not easy, we're going to go home and fix what we can.

#### On the offense's performance

I thought that there were just too many whiffs and unblocked guys. Whether that was the run game or pass. It wasn't good enough. (Junior quarterback) Jake (Retzlaff) battled. I don't know if you guys agree with that or not, but he battled. He played hard, he threw the ball with great velocity and accuracy. It was his first game starting. I thought he made a couple mistakes but the effort and energy were there. He never quit, I like what he did in the game but we just couldn't piece momentum together. (We were) not converting fourth downs, guys were hurt and not making plays, turnovers and penalties. I don't know what the penalties were. Ten penalties. That's not our football, that's not us. That's disappointing, so the fact we had 10 penalties, that upsets me. It means that we played undisciplined football and that usually happens when you're not executing in the right way with techniques.

#### On next week's quarterback starter

(Redshirt senior quarterback) Kedon (Slovic) has been playing banged up for a little bit now. The Texas game kind of put him in some danger. In competition between him and Jake, Jake was 100% and he was healthy and good to go, and we saved his red-shirt year. With Kedon, it's day-to-day, but we'll play with the best guy. If someone is injured, and can still play at the higher level, then that's what we'll go with. If not, we'll play with the healthy guy. We have a number of players, not just at quarterback, but other positions that could contribute and help us win if they have to.