



BYU MEN'S BASKETBALL

NOTES AND QUOTES | BYU VS. HOUSTON CHRISTIAN | MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2023

The following notes and quotes are from BYU's 110-63 victory in the season opener against Houston Christian on Monday, November 6, 2023, at the Marriott Center in Provo.

All-time series: BYU leads 1-0.

Attendance: 13,130

TEAM NOTES

Staying Perfect in Season Openers

The Cougars are 5-0 on season openers under head Coach Mark Pope. The fifth-year head coach is now 88-41 overall and 51-10 at the Marriott Center.

Protecting the Boards

BYU outrebounded Houston Christian 32-14 in the first half not allowing the Huskies to garner an offensive rebound.

Defense Bringin' It

BYU limited Houston Christian to 18 first half points, marking the first time since January 7, 2023 (at San Diego) that the Cougars held a team under 20 points in the opening 20 minutes.

Fantastic First Half

BYU scored 56 points in the opening half giving the Cougars their first 50-plus first half against a Division I opponent since the 2021 West Coast Conference Championship against Gonzaga.

Tripling Down

BYU attempted a program record 43 3-pointers, making 15 which is tied for the first-most in a single game in program history.

Hitting the Century Mark

The Cougars reached the century mark the fifth time under Pope and first since a 108-59 victory over Westminster on November 29, 2022. The 110 most points scored under Pope.

PLAYERS NOTES

First Career Start for Stewart

Trey Stewart made his first career start on Monday, making him the 35th different player to have started a game under fifth-year head coach Mark Pope. The junior rewarded the gauffer for his confidence, finishing with a career-high 10 points and four assist.

Been A Bit

With his 24th career start on Monday, Trevin Knell made his first appearance for the Cougars in 593 days. The redshirt junior scored 14 of his 19 points in the first half, the second-most he has scored in an opening 20 minutes during his career.

Old Man's Game

Spencer Johnson became the 10th different Cougar since 2010-11 to score 20 or more in a season opener as the senior poured in a career-high 20 points.

It's Gonna Rain

Noah Waterman scored in double figures for the 27th time in his collegiate career as the senior finished with a BYU-high 16 points. The Cougars also improved to 12-3 when the New York native is in the Starting 5.

Collegiate Debut

First appearance in a game for Tanner Hayhurst and Townsend Tripple.

CAREER HIGHS

Points: Spencer Johnson (20), Trey Stewart (10), Townsend Tripple (2)

Field Goals: Trey Stewart (4), Spencer Johnson (8)

3-pointers: Trevin Knell (5)

Free throws: Trey Stewart (2)

Rebounds: Noah Waterman (8), Trevin Knell (5) Townsend Tripple (2), Tanner Hayhurst (1)

Assists: Richie Saunders (3), Spencer Johnson (7)

Minutes Played: Townsend Tripple (5), Tanner Hayhurst (3)



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Head Coach Mark Pope

On Trey Stewart's performance...

"I'm really proud of Trey. He's had a ton of pressure put on his shoulders. He's been every single rep, every single practice, every single day in training camp and he has been unbelievable at that. He was incredible tonight. It's so fun to watch his confidence. Trey would be one of those guys that tells you that he's gained he's become more confident by simplifying his game a little bit. And he's got things on the court that he's like, Yep, I can do this. He's done an unbelievable job. I'm really happy for him and he's gonna help us this year."

On Jaxson Robinson coming off the bench...

"It was just a little bit organic. This starting lineup will change throughout the year but I'm really proud of Jax. Tonight was a really high energy game for him. I thought his decision making was really good. If he's going to come off the bench or start the game, it doesn't matter. He's going to make a huge difference for us."

On 3-pointers made...

"It's really important for us this year that we make teams guard us 50 by 27, not 50 by 22. It's really, really important. That extra 250 feet on the court is going to make the difference, whether we can be really functional and really effective offensively, or we can't. We're not gonna be able to get 43 threes up in a lot of games, but we're gonna fight to get them up. I'm really proud of the 43 threes and I'm really proud of the 21 offensive rebounds. Sometimes you can't get them and you're going to have to win in a different way, but this is a staple of who we want to be."

On playing No. 17 San Diego State on Friday...

"San Diego State is incredible. And he's got a you know, a Top 20 team again this year and every year this turns into an epic battle. It turns into a test of your manhood and I love it. Our guys love it. We know they will face the most physical and it will be a street fight from the tip. It will turn into a great basketball and it's been a fun series and I can't wait to get to it like I do."

Trevin Knell

On tonight's game...

"We were mentally there today. I feel like we started the game really hot on both the offense and defensive end. I feel like we're in a position right now where we share the ball really well and we're unselfish as a team."

On being back on the court...

"It feels great to be back. My teammates are great. Coach talked to me about two things that have been helping me with my mental game as well as my physical game. He talked about having urgency and having faith. So for the past 500 days, I've been urgent with getting my body back to where it needs to be, and working hard on my feet and defense. All of those days added up so now it's trusting the process. The coaching staff has a lot of trust in me. My team has a lot of faith in me. Now it's on me, relying on God and letting him guide my path."

On team continuity...

"This team is super special. Everybody on the team can shoot. We shot a lot of threes in the first half, and a lot of threes in the second half. I feel like everybody shoots the ball at a high level, even when things don't go the way we want on an offensive end."