



BYU MEN'S BASKETBALL

NOTES AND QUOTES | BYU VS. ARIZONA STATE | FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2023

The following notes and quotes are from BYU's 77-49 victory over Arizona State at the Vegas Showdown at Michelob ULTRA Arena in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Series Results: BYU leads 28-22

TEAM RESULTS

Starting off hot

Noah Waterman hit a 3-pointer in BYU's second possession of the game, marking the third time this season BYU has started the game with a triple.

Lockdown D

BYU held Arizona State to 17 first half points marking the third time in just five games that the Cougars have held the opposition to under 20 points in the opening half. The Cougars outrebounded the Sun Devils 11-2 on the offensive glass.

No easy baskets

The nation's best 3-point defense was on full display on Thursday as the Cougars held ASU to 10 percent from 3-point range.

First Half Havoc

BYU has led at half in all five games this season as the Cougars are outsourcing opponents 215-109 (+106) in the opening 20 minutes.

Dialed in

BYU went 14-of-33 from 3-point range in the win over Arizona State, giving the Cougars double digit 3-pointers in five straight games for the first time since 2019-20.

PLAYERS NOTES

Moving up the record book

With his first basket of the second half, Fousseyni Traore eclipsed the 800-point plateau for his career. He finished the game with six points, giving the junior 801 points in 71 career games.

He also had a season-high four offensive rebounds, giving him 197 for his career which is tied for the 11th most in program history with Eric Mika.

Raining in the desert

Noah Waterman scored 13 of his career-high 24 points in the first half, marking the third time this season that he has scored in double figures. It was also the first time since December 22, 2022 (vs. Weber State) that he scored 10-plus in the first half.

The rain man

Speaking of Waterman, the senior made a career-high six 3-pointers after previously hitting five in four different games.

Knell'd it

With his three 3-pointers in the win, Trevin Knell now ranks 20th in program history in 3-point field goals made with 111 passing Nathan Call and Elijah Bryant.

CAREER HIGHS

Points: Noah Waterman (24)

Field Goals: Townsend Tripple (1), Noah Waterman (9)

3-Point Field Goals: Trey Stewart (1), Noah Waterman (6)

Free Throws: Trey Stewart (2)

Offensive Rebounds: Dallin Hall (3)

Assists: Fousseyni Traore (5), Townsend Tripple (1)

Steals: Townsend Tripple (1)



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Head Coach Mark Pope

Noah's performance

"I'm super proud of the guys for punishing the press. Our ball security was good enough. Arizona State is super aggressive in the high press and so if you can get to the second line it gives you a chance for open shots and for our guys to step up and makes shots, especially Noah is huge. He is an elite level shooter and has been playing so hard. He has had huge impacts before he starting making shots and that is what great players do. Tonight he made a bunch of them and also played really hard."

What did the team do so well on the defensive glass

"I'm thought we did a much better job of getting a hit and Morgan State we missed some assignments on the defensive glass. It was the first time we showed a little bit of a crack. I thought we did a good job of correcting that as a team where everybody was really diligent. I thought our guys did a much better job tonight than we did a few nights ago, actually aggressively going on to find bodies even out of rotation."

What has caused the improvement in Noah Waterman's performance

"He made some life decisions in the spring that were just remarkable. When we got into the fall academic quarter, he made it a point of his that he was going to stay five days ahead in every single class. He's made a lot of commitments in his life that are new, that are incredibly exciting and we are seeing the fruits of it. His urgency, intensity and everything else has been special."

Trevin Knell

What makes this team special

"I think just sticking with it as that first half was kind of mucky. We weren't playing ourselves in a way but we stayed with it. This dynamic on the team is special. I wish people could see how special this team is on the inside because this locker room is a different dynamic than the previous years I've been here. Everybody trusts everybody. When we wear down a team, we are going to keep punching. That first half might not be great but then you look at the second half and we were getting what we wanted because we've worked so hard on wearing teams out."

How quickly did you know it was going to be a special night for Noah

"I love Noah. I am glad I'm his roommate because I can go back and give him a little hype and crap for everything. Noah deserves it, he has worked so hard. He's a great person on-and-off the floor. I'm just super happy for him. I was talking to their guys and kept telling him that you are going to let him go for a career night if you leave him open. He did go for a career night. He deserves everything."