



# BYU MEN'S BASKETBALL

NOTES AND QUOTES | BYU VS. EVANSVILLE | TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2023

The following notes and quotes are from BYU's 96-55 victory over Evansville on Tuesday night at the Marriott Center.

**Series Results:** BYU leads 1-0.

## TEAM RESULTS

### *Game of runs*

BYU had a 17-0 run midway through the first half after falling behind 10-9. It was the seventh game this season that the Cougars had a run of 10 or more including a season-high 21 straight in their win over Southeastern Louisiana.

### *Goin' streakin'*

The Cougars current eight-game win streak is the second-longest under fifth year head coach Mark Pope. It's the best start to their season since 2010-11 when BYU went to the Sweet 16 with National Player of the Year Jimmer Fredette.

### *Halftime leads*

The Cougars led Evansville 47-25 at the break and improved to 7-0 when leading at the half this season. BYU's 47 points at the half were the second most points scored in a half this year. The Cougars scored 56 points in their season opening victory against Houston Christian in the first half.

### *Marriott Center magic*

With the victory tonight, BYU improved to 55-10 all-time at the Marriott Center under head coach Mark Pope. The Cougars currently hold a six-game winning streak at home.

### *Forecast: Raining 3s*

BYU extended its program record streak to eight games with 10+ made 3-pointers as the Cougars shot 14-32 from beyond the arc.

### *Shooting the lights outs*

BYU improved to 4-0 on the season and 46-5 under Pope when shooting over 50 percent as the Cougars shot 52.9 percent in the win over the Purple Aces.

## PLAYERS NOTES

### *Aquaman*

Noah Waterman scored the opening basket of the game for the Cougars for the fourth time this season with a 3-pointer. The senior was one of five players to score in double figures finishing with 12 points and a career-high eight rebounds.

### *Jaxson Splash Robinson*

Jaxson Robinson scored 14 of his 19 points in the first half, the second-most the senior has scored in the opening 20 minutes of his career. He has now lead the team in scoring four times this season, two more than he had all of last season.

### *The Hall Pass*

Cougar Nation was on triple-double watch as Dallin Hall finished with 10 points, seven assists and six rebounds. The sophomore was 4-of-6 from the floor and 2-of-3 from 3-point range.

### *Knell'd it*

Trevin Knell was 3-of-5 from 3-point range deep, marking the fifth time this season and 16th time he has connected on three or more triples which is tied for the 15th most in program history.

### *All good things come to an end*

Spencer Johnson saw his 14-game 3-point streak come to an end as the senior was 0-of-2 from beyond the arc but still finished with eight points, three rebounds and two assists.

## CAREER HIGHS

**Rebounds:** Dallin Hall (6), Trevin Knell (7), Noah Waterman (8), Tanner Hayhurst (2)

**Assists:** Trevin Knell (5), Tanner Hayhurst (1)

**Blocks:** Tanner Hayhurst (1), Trevin Knell (1)

**Field Goals:** Atiki Ally Atiki (5)

## SEASON HIGHS

**Points:** Aly Khalifa (7), Atiki Ally Atiki (11), Jared McGregor (3)

**Rebounds:** Dallin Hall (6), Trevin Knell (7), Noah Waterman (8), Richie Saunders (7), Tanner Hayhurst (2)

**Assists:** Dallin Hall (7), Trevin Knell (5), Trey Stewart (4), Tanner Hayhurst (1)

**Blocks:** Atiki Ally Atiki (2), Aly Khalifa (1), Spencer Johnson (1), Richie Saunders (1), Tanner Hayhurst (1), Trevin Knell (1)

**Field Goals:** Aly Khalifa (3), Atiki Ally Atiki (5), Jared McGregor (1)

**3-Point Field Goals:** Aly Khalifa (1), Jared McGregor (1)

**Free Throws:** Spencer Johnson (4)



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## Head coach Mark Pope

### *On the 8-0 start*

"What's special about this group and the reason why they're putting a good product on the floor every day is because they're not spending a lot of time evaluating that. We're just trying to focus on getting over 83% of our guys wedging every time. Our guys are kind of lost in the details right now and that's what makes this super fun. I've never coached a team that has gone on a run like this where they just have been totally focused on the objective on the court. They haven't been distracted by the game. They haven't been distracted by the opponent. They haven't been distracted by rankings or media or wins. Sometimes wins can be so distracting and so I think this is super fun. Let's take it for a ride and see where we get."

### *On the upcoming Utah game*

"In-state games are super fun. In-state games are special. They have a life completely of their own. This Utah team is a great team. They have Branden Carlson who is a All-PAC 12 vet, like he's just not becoming one. He's been one for a long time. They've got incredible size, they can really shoot the ball. Craig [Smith] does an unbelievable job coaching them in a great arena. In-state games man, they're magic. You look forward to them because you know it's going to be super competitive. It's going to be super competitive like it should be. It's an in-state game. That's why in-state games are special. I think they are fun for the fans and every game for us is so huge right now and we love it. We can't wait to get to it. We have a lot of confidence in our guys and we have a lot of confidence in our approach so let's go."

## Trevin Knell

### *On the victory tonight*

"This game was super fun. Coach always talks about keeping the standard. No matter who we play, no matter what gym we're in, no matter if the arena is sold out or not, we're going to keep the standard the standard. He also talked about having us come in waves. I feel like that's the difference maker on this team. We don't have just one guy, but we have 17 guys on the team that make a huge difference. We all fight until the end of the whistle and we're playing really good basketball because we're trusting each other and trusting what Coach Pope has in store for us."

### *On the offense clicking*

"I think it has to do with how much we trust each other and the offense is fun. There's mutual trust and after every dead ball, we bring everybody together to talk about what we need to do. We're doing all those little things that really helped catapult our offense forward."

### *On the defensive success*

"One thing is our high level of communication on the floor. We are so mature this year that we are able to do three things at once, and then trust our guy on the backend. We have a thing called the combat zone, and I feel like every single time we go out there we're winning that combat zone. We're trusting the scheme that we have and everybody is bought in."

### *On the upcoming game against Utah*

"Like Coach said, it's super fun to play in-state rivals. It's fun to play against guys you know and kind of grew up with. With a lot of stuff that's been going on, this game is going to be personal. It's going to be a fun game and I feel like we're going to be ready for the competition."