



# BYU MEN'S BASKETBALL

NOTES AND QUOTES | NO. 18 BYU VS. DENVER | WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2023

The following notes and quotes are from BYU's 90-74 win against the University of Denver at the Marriott Center on Wednesday.

**Series Results:** BYU leads all-time series 53-15.

**Attendance:** 13,349

## TEAM NOTES

### Bench bringin' it

BYU's bench scored over 40 points for the sixth time this season as they finished with 45 in the win over the Pioneers. Jaxson Robinson led the charge with a career-high 28 points, with Richie Saunders chipping in eight points.

### Halfway there

The Cougars led by double digits for the seventh time this season at halftime as they have now outscored opponents by 144 points in the opening 20 minutes.

### Don't slide into our DM's

The Cougars had a season-high seven blocks, six of those coming in the first half.

### Back on track

BYU went 12-of-37 from 3-point range in the win, marking the ninth time this season they have connected on 10 or more 3-pointers in a game.

### Keep the streak alive

With the win on Wednesday, BYU extended its home win streak to 10 games.

### Sweet No. 18

The Cougars are now 22-4 when ranked No. 18 in the AP Poll including 10 straight wins that date back to 1981.

### Off to a strong start

The Cougars are now 9-1, their best start since starting 10-0 during the 2010-11 season.

### Double trouble

BYU had two players record a double-double in the same game for the first time since February 4, 2023 when Fousseyni Traore and Gideon George did it against Pacific.

### Oh darn

Tonight was the first time this season that BYU has been outscored in the second half, 49-45, as the Pioneers made their final three attempts of the game.

## PLAYER NOTES

### How about them apples

Noah Waterman recorded the first double-double of his career... in the first half with 10 points and 11 rebounds. He became the first Cougar to record double-digit rebounds in the first half since Gideon George, who pulled down 11 boards against Texas Southern on November 24, 2021. He finished with 20 points, 14 rebounds and three blocks going 9-of-12 from the floor.

### Action Jaxson

Robinson had a historic night for the Cougars as he finished with a career-high 28 points, the third time in the past five games he has scored 20-plus. That is the fifth-most by a bench player in program history.

His eight 3-point makes are tied for the most in program history off the bench joining Mike Rose (2x) and Matt Carlino. His 16 attempts are the most ever by a bench player.

### Spence fillin' the stat sheet

Wednesday was the fourth time this season that Spencer Johnson had 10/5/5 as the senior finished with 11 points, 10 rebounds, and six assists. He has now recorded back-to-back double-doubles after going his first 94 appearances as a Cougar without one.

## CAREER HIGHS

**Points:** Jaxson Robinson (28)

**Rebounds:** Noah Waterman (14)

**Blocks:** Noah Waterman (3), Jaxson Robinson (2), Trevin Knell (1)

**Field Goals:** Jaxson Robinson (10), Noah Waterman (9)

**Three Pointers:** Jaxson Robinson (8)

## SEASON HIGHS

**Points:** Jaxson Robinson (28)

**Rebounds:** Noah Waterman (14)

**Steals:** Trey Stewart (3)

**Blocks:** Noah Waterman (3), Jaxson Robinson (2), Trevin Knell (1), Spencer Johnson (1)

**Field Goals:** Jaxson Robinson (10), Noah Waterman (9)

**3-Pointers:** Jaxson Robinson (8)

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



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## Head coach Mark Pope

### Opening statement

"I don't have to do anything with these guys, we have great leadership on this team. They know what they want to be as a team. There comes a point when you're in a precarious moment and you can either double down on who you are as a team or you could do something different. For us, we're going to face a lot of crucial moments because we're going to play against really good teams. In those moments, when things feel like they're sliding a little bit, we can return to the things we do, which is unbelievable transition defense, communicating in a half-court defensively, sharing the ball, really cutting hard, and finishing cuts. In the moments that are tenuous in a game where everyone's got a little doubt, and nothing's working right, that's when we get pretty special. It wasn't that we weren't us in that Utah game, it was that we had little stretches where we felt like we had to do something more than us. We can trust us, because us is pretty good."

### On tonight's game plan

"We didn't give Spencer (Johnson) or Jaxson (Robinson) a lot of help, we just said, 'You've got to go guard them.' I thought those guys did a great job. It was a good clinic defensively, and it's going to bode well for us. We're going to have two or three of those guys, just bigger and longer on the court when we get into league play. Our ability to guard and take assignments like this is really important so this was a great matchup for us."

## Jaxson Robinson

### On bouncing back after the loss against Utah

"Everybody was super hungry to get back on the court. We know we have a lot to prove, especially after the loss that we had last weekend. There were times in our last game that we didn't feel like us. I think everybody saw that we started to figure things out in the second half of our last game, and we tried to carry it over into this game. I think we did a great job executing it."

### On being the eighth player in BYU history to make eight 3-pointers in a single game

"I'm just trusting in the work that I put in over the summer and up to now. I have great teammates and coaches who have my back, whether the shots are falling or not. I am really blessed to be able to say that I have these guys as teammates and coaches. All I can do is thank them. The shots were falling tonight, but there's going to be nights that they don't fall, but they have confidence in me to shoot them."

### On having the green light on offense

"Everybody on the team has confidence in each other. It doesn't matter who is shooting it, we all know that we have each other's back, specifically with our wedging on the offensive glass."

## Noah Waterman

### On tonight's game

"I think today was a good game. We got back to who we are in transition and rebounding. That's what we needed against Utah, which was a tough loss, but we're getting back to who we are."

### On Jaxson Robinson's career night

"Jax is a dangerous man. This dude is one of the best shooters in the country, so it didn't surprise me. He does this all the time in practice."

### On defensive performance

"I think it all started with our communication. You can only prepare so much in practice, so I think we did a really good job with our communication live on the court."