



BYU MEN'S BASKETBALL

NOTES AND QUOTES | NO. 20 BYU VS. NO. 24 IOWA STATE | TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2024

The following notes and quotes are from No. 20 BYU's 87-72 win against No. 24 Iowa State Tuesday night at the Marriott Center in Provo, Utah.

Series Results: Iowa State leads 6-1

Attendance: 15,491

TEAM NOTES

Depth Chart

BYU used its fourth different starting lineup of the season, with Jaxson Robinson earning his first start of the season replacing Trevin Knell.

No "I" in Team

Five Cougars scored in double figures against the Cyclones with 21 team assists on 27 made shots. Spencer Johnson (28), Noah Waterman (18), Jaxson Robinson (15), Richie Saunders (12) and Dallin Hall (11).

On the up and up

After losing the first two conference games, the Cougars have won the last two contests to get back to .500.

Protecting home court

BYU improved to 2-0 at home this season against ranked teams following its win on Tuesday. They defeated No. 17 San Diego State 74-65 in the second game of the season.

Feels familiar

Tuesday was the Cougars first win at home in a Top 25 matchup since their 91-78 victory over No. 2 Gonzaga on February 22, 2020.

That's a 10

Fifth year head coach Mark Pope has now won 10 or home games in each of his five seasons at BYU. He improved to 60-11 at the Marriott Center.

PLAYERS NOTES

Super Spence

Spencer Johnson went 6-of-12 from the floor for a new single-half career high of 19 points in the first half, with three from downtown. With a corner three in the second half, Johnson set a new career-high points, finishing the game with 28. This marks the second time this season that a Cougar has scored 28 points, the last time being Jaxson Robinson against Denver on Dec. 13, 2023.

100% Hall

Dallin Hall didn't miss a single shot, going 4-of-4 from the floor, three of those coming from downtown. With a season-high of eight assists, Hall was a massive influence all over the court.

BYU also improved to 8-0 this season and 13-1 during his career when he has five or more assists.

Undefeated

The Cougars improved to 10-0 this season when Noah Waterman scores in double figures as the senior finished with 18 points going 4-of-12 from the floor, 3-of-8 from three and 7-of-8 from the charity stripe.

SEASON HIGHS

Points: Spencer Johnson (28)

Field Goals: Spencer Johnson (10)

3-Pointers: Spencer Johnson (4)

Free Throws: Noah Waterman (7)

Rebounds: Aly Khalifa (9)

Assists: Dallin Hall (8), Noah Waterman (3)

Steals: Dallin Hall (2), Atiki Ally Atiki (1)

Minutes: Noah Waterman (34), Spencer Johnson (35), Dallin Hall (35), Aly Khalifa (28), Richie Saunders (24)

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Head Coach Mark Pope

On playing at the Marriott Center

"It sure is nice to be at home, it's really nice. The crowd gave us a ton of energy and it was super fun. These moments are really special for us."

On watching the team grow

"For me, it's really fun to watch this group grow. It's really satisfying to watch these guys grow and you look at two individuals who have taken every opportunity to just grow. They probably wouldn't actually recognize themselves from a year ago or two years ago and that's really fun. I think it makes us feel like we can compete. We know we can and we're trying to prove that we can compete."

On the key to the win

"Our ability to deal with their pressure was massively important. I think it is every time you play this team because they play hard, and they're really talented and taking your ball."

On importance of getting out in transition

"Transition is really massively important for us. It's interesting because, in a game where we have a really limited rotation, our guys managed to find the energy to really keep pushing the ball. I thought we were great in terms of our pass sets and then immediately making the next decision. I thought I guys were really good that way."

On Dallin Hall

"Dallin Hall's numbers might not leap out at you on the page. But that dude took a massive step forward as a point guard tonight. For the first time, I thought there were a lot of possessions where he knew exactly the pieces he had to work with, and he was manipulating them exactly the right way. He was spectacular."

Spencer Johnson

On the career-high 28 points

"It felt really good, especially to get it on a win against a team like that in Big 12 Conference play. Credit to our schemes, the team, and Coach. It just felt really good to do that and get a big win like that."

On playing without Trevin Knell

"I feel like with the way our team is built, we're missing a really key guy, a really really good shooter. But the answer is not to be like, 'Hey, I'm going to get more shots.' The answer is to let the ball find the guy who's open. I feel like we did a really, really good job of that. Aly (Khalifa) is so good at finding people. The ball just found the right guy, and it just happened to be me tonight."

Noah Waterman

On the team play

"I think today we played really well as a team. We passed the ball; we played really unselfishly."

Coach really emphasized the scout in pregame and practice, and we executed that really well. Spence was a killer. He had 28; he should have had 30, but that's the next game. Overall, it was a great team win."

On the physicality

"The Big 12 is going to be a dogfight every game. It comes down to being really physical. There are always big guys that are all about rebounding. We just got to hit them before and get these rebounds. Sometimes we're smaller than these teams, but it's our effort, wedging and hitting the glass every time. That kind of makes us different because we do it every time. These other teams will take a couple of plays off, and then that's when we get an offensive rebound or defensive rebound, and it helps us just be the tougher team."

Iowa State Head Coach T. J. Otzelberger

On the playing environment

"Impressive home environment here. There are fans with a lot of passion, enthusiasm, and energy. We haven't seen an environment quite like that. Tough place to play."

On Spencer Johnson

"A guy like that, you know that he is capable of nights like that. They did a great job of finding him. We didn't disrupt or do the things we needed. Obviously, a heck of a night so hats off to him."