



# BYU MEN'S BASKETBALL

NOTES AND QUOTES | NO. 21 BYU VS. TEXAS | SATURDAY JANUARY 27, 2024

The following notes and quotes are from No. 21 BYU's 84-72 win over Texas Saturday afternoon at The Marriott Center in Provo, Utah.

**Series Results:** BYU leads 5-2, 3-0 in games played in Provo.

**Attendance:** 17,878

## TEAM NOTES

### Bringin' the Energy

BYU sold out the Marriott Center for a second time this season and first in Big 12 play.

### Flame Throwin' Shootin' First Half

The Cougars shot 65.4 percent from the floor during the first half which is the highest shooting percentage they have clipped in a first half this season.

### Lights Out

BYU shot 64.0 percent from the floor which is the team's highest shooting percentage in a game this year. The last time the Cougars shot 60 percent from the field was at Portland on Feb. 24, 2021, when the team shot .627 percent.

### Finding Other Ways To Score

BYU's 17 3-point attempts in the afternoon are the lowest by the Cougars in any game this season.

### Lone Star State Success

With the Cougars victory over the Longhorns, BYU improved to 91-48 all-time against schools from Texas.

### Cougs Revival

The Cougars improved to 3-2 this season and 29-13 when coming off a loss under head coach Mark Pope.

### Attack The Rim

BYU outscored the Longhorns in the paint 40-26, and recorded 40-plus points down low for the eighth time this season.

### Own The Glass

The Cougars outrebounded Texas 32-24, improving to 14-3 on the year when outrebounding the opponent.

### Moving Up The Ranks

With its seven 3-pointers against Texas, this season's squad now has the ninth-most 3-pointers (242) in a single season in program history.

## PLAYERS NOTES

### The Rain Man

The Cougars improved to 11-1 this season when Noah Waterman scores in double figures as the senior finished with 17 points, going 7-of-11 from the floor and 3-of-6 from 3-point range. He has now scored in double figures in three straight games, his second-longest streak of the season.

### Fouss Is Loose

Fousseyni Traore scored in double figures for the fourth time this season and first since his 16-point performance in a win over Morgan State on Nov. 18. He went 6-of-7 from the floor and 4-of-4 from the charity stripe.

### Steady As He Goes

BYU is now 10-2 this season when Spencer Johnson scores in double figures as the senior finished with 11 points, eight rebounds and two assists.

## SEASON HIGHS

**Field Goals:** Fousseyni Traore (6)

**3-Pointers:** Richie Saunders (2)

**Free Throws:** Dallin Hall (4), Fousseyni Traore (4)

**Assists:** Aly Khalifa (8)

**Blocks:** Fousseyni Traore (2), Aly Khalifa (2), Jaxson Robinson (3)

**Minutes:** Jaxson Robinson (36)

## CAREER HIGHS

**Blocks:** Jaxson Robinson (3)



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## Head Coach Mark Pope

### Opening Statement

"Credit to Texas. They had a game plan they were committed to and they said we're not going to let you beat us the way that you want to beat us, and they really did an incredible job better than anybody else that we've faced so far. In terms of being committed to that. I was really proud of the way our guys responded."

### On the new defensive structure

"I wish it was more scientific than this sometimes you take the data and then you're like, hey, we're gonna throw it out there and see what happens. They kind of hurt us in the high post a little bit. But, I thought it had some good function for us and sometimes you're just trying to change this game. I mean, they came out and they blitzed us to start this game. It felt like they were never going to miss a shot and our guys did a great job adjusting their rotations in man, and then our guys did a nice job with change ups including the tandem zone."

### On Fousseyni Traore's performance

"Yeah, I thought he was good, wasn't he? I thought he was super deliberate. I thought he brought a real physicality to the game. Credit a lot of that to Jackson (Robinson) Dallin (Hall) and also the whole team but especially Jackson down working ball screens most often. Both those guys kind of gave him some functionality out of the short roll. I thought probably two of Fouss's best plays the whole game we're actually just assists out of the short roll. I thought it was brilliant. It's kind of the way we try and attack to the ball defense which Texas is so good at. I thought he had a huge impact on the game. I thought it was really good. We'd come to timeout and Jaxson is advocating on his behalf he's like, forget that play for me. We need to get the ball to Fouss. So you know when guys are coming to the huddle saying hey, you know we need to go that direction that he's having a huge impact on the game."

### Jaxson Robinson

#### On the team effort

"It was a great team win with a big team effort. Defensively, we did a great job and definitely on the defensive glass after last game wasn't the greatest for us. It was a big emphasis for us."

#### On the sense of urgency looking ahead

"It was huge. We've got to on the road, and it's not easy to win on the road, especially in this league. We've got to make sure we come in ready to fight wherever we're at. I'm really confident that this group is gonna do it."

### Noah Waterman

#### On the win overall

"Today was a good team win. We went out there played our hearts out for our fans in front of our fans and really emphasized the defensive end. They had a couple of really good shooters, really great players and pregame we really just focused on them. I think we executed really well on the offensive end and the defensive end. So overall, it was a great team win."

## Texas Head Coach Rodney Terry

### Opening Statement

"Great environment today. Great atmosphere. BYU fans came in and really supported a team really well, and got behind their guys. We knew today we were going to get a team that was going to be ready to play, coming off a tough loss against Houston. Mark (Pope) had his group ready to play. They're a good team. They really challenged us from a defensive standpoint in terms of how they play. I thought we did a really good job neutralizing their made threes, but they did a great job of attacking the paint. We needed to try to put together some consecutive stops and we weren't able to do that today. So we give them a lot of credit for what they were able to do today."

### On BYU's nine consecutive baskets in the second half

"We were playing pretty good defense. They were playing better offense. We guarded as well as we could guard on a couple really good possessions, and you've got to tip your hat to them. They made a couple of tough shots and the ball bounced their way."

### On BYU's low 3-point shooting

"I think we were a part of that. I think we went into the game knowing that we had to really try to protect from the perimeter... They make 12 threes a game, and shoot 35 plus a game. Our goal was to try to make tough twos and take their threes away. I thought we did a pretty good job of that. At times, we got spread out a little bit and they hurt us in the paint with their cuts and their passing ability."