



# BYU MEN'S BASKETBALL

NOTES AND QUOTES | NO. 21 BYU VS. KANSAS STATE | SATURDAY FEBRUARY 10, 2024

The following notes and quotes are from No. 21 BYU's 72-66 win over Kansas State Saturday evening at the Marriott Center in Provo, Utah.

**Series Results:** The series is tied 4-4 including 3-0 in Provo.

**Attendance:** 17,446

## TEAM NOTES

### ***Lost The Tip? No Worries***

The Cougars are 9-4 when losing the tip-off this season.

### ***First Half Trouble With The Three***

The Cougars shot just 15% from behind the arc in the first half, going 2-13 for a season low. Both made threes came from Aly Khalifa who went 2-2 before heading into the break.

### ***Up High At The Half***

BYU led going into halftime for the 18th time this season. The Cougars are 16 -3 when having the upper hand after the first 20 minutes of play.

### ***Not From There You Won't***

The Cougars locked down on defense around the arc, only allowing six 3-point makes through the game. BYU held Kansas State's leading shooter, Tyler Perry, to only one bucket from beyond the arc. Perry headed into the contest ranked No. 51 nationally in total 3-pointers (63).

### ***I See It, I Like It, I Want It, I Got It***

BYU forced 16 turnovers from Kansas State, capitalizing with 14 points from stolen possessions. The Wildcats forced seven turnovers from the Cougars, scoring only five points after taking the ball.

### ***Total Team Effort***

BYU improved to 7-1 this season and 19-3 under head coach Mark Pope when five players score in double figures.

### ***Six It Is***

Both of BYU's victories over K-State at the Marriott Center have been by six points (78-72, 1971/ 72-66, 2024)

## PLAYERS NOTES

### ***Khalifa: The Marksman***

Aly Khalifa scored eight points, with two rebounds and six assists. The transfer 2-2 from behind the arc and scored the only two three-pointers of the first half for the Cougars, the first coming nearly 11 minutes into the contest.

### ***Fouss, Why Don't You Have Yourself A Night***

Fousseyni Traore recorded three offensive rebounds through the contest, to move to eighth on the all-time list with 213. With his 14 points on the night, Traore surpassed 900 career points. His two blocks moved him to 18th on the all-time list, with 75 in his career ahead of Eric Nielsen (1996-97, 99-02).

### ***Johnson Moves On Up***

Spencer Johnson recorded 12 points through the contest for a new collegiate career grand total of 1,302, which includes his one season at Salt Lake Community College.

## SEASON HIGHS

**Free Throws:** Fousseyni Traore (4)

**Blocks:** Fousseyni Traore (2)



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## Head Coach Mark Pope

### *Opening Statement*

"I liked everything we got. I thought the guys did an unbelievable job getting to the free throw line. I thought we had at least three really beautifully earned wide open looks from the three-point line. We got to the rim we wanted to. We got shots we wanted. I liked us offensively. Win, lose or draw, we are trying to keep going straight forward. Certainly the flow of the game affected us down the stretch, but the guys fought hard enough to just keep going."

### *On having depth in the roster*

"The way this team has operated all season is stepping in to support. If Aly is down, Fouss has got to be a monster and Atiki has got to be incredible. Jaxon had that little spell when he was hurt, so other guys had to step up. I think that the identity of this team is so together and collected. This was not an easy game for Dallin tonight, so Trey needed to step in and be great and he did. I'm really blessed as a coach to be able to coach this group."

### *On shooting under 50 percent from the free throw line*

"It's not my favorite thing to be clearly honest. I would like to make some more of those."

## Jaxson Robinson

### *On tonight's win*

"It was a good win. It was a gritty win. We obviously didn't get the result we wanted near the end of the stretch in the second half, but we pulled through and got the win."

### *On his final 3-point shot late in the game*

"It was kind of a staggered screen. I came off, was aggressively looking for my shot, and let it go and it went in."

### *On what led to victory*

"It all came down to the defensive end. That's all the coaches have been preaching and we really want to focus on that defensive side. We forced 16 turnovers and only turned the ball over seven times so I can't complain about that."

## Ali Khalifa

### *Opening Statement*

"It's good to be back. Obviously I haven't played basketball in two weeks so it's been good to be back competing with the guys and just have fun out there at home. The guys played great. We played hard. Great defense. On both sides we played great so I'm very happy with the win tonight."

### *On returning to the court*

"I was a little tired today. I haven't played in a while since I've been sick for a long time. But it was good to be out there and have fun. Coach was always checking on me and making sure I was good."

## Kansas State Head Coach Jerome Tang

### *On the playing BYU in the Marriott Center*

"This is my second time here. The last time I was here, it came down to a block at the buzzer that we had on Brandon Davies. It is an incredible environment here. It was a great game and once again the environment didn't fail to live up to the great reputation. There are good folk here that do a great job with these guys. At the end of the day, they made two more plays than we did."

### *On the 3-point game*

"I think we just missed some shots. They did a good job of running us off the line. Our game plan was to get to the paint more. We didn't want to just settle for threes. Late in the game, we had to make some. BYU is the number one three point shooting team. Maybe we need to get to the paint more in this league."

## Kansas State Forward Arthur Kaluma

### *On Kansas State's late game surge against BYU*

"We just started pressuring the ball a lot more. We picked up a lot higher. I feel like we just had more energy. It allowed me to take quick shots and for us to get boards."