



BYU MEN'S BASKETBALL

NOTES AND QUOTES | NO. 25 BYU VS. NO. 11 BAYLOR | TUESDAY FEBRUARY 20, 2024

The following notes and quotes are from No. 25 BYU's 78-71 win against No. 11 Baylor on Tuesday, Feb. 20, at the Marriott Center in Provo, Utah.

Series Results: Series tied 6-6

Attendance: 17,978

TEAM NOTES

Resilient Rebounds

BYU took control of the boards, combining for 39 rebounds, 16 of which were offensive. The Cougars outscored the Bears off second-chance points 20-4, with the help of the offensive rebounds. This is the Bear's largest deficit on the season in second-chance points.

Beating the Polls

Tuesday's win against Baylor marks BYU's third win against teams ranked in the top 25 during the regular season (No. 17 SDSU 74-65 on Nov. 10, 2023, and No. 24 Iowa State 87-72 on Jan. 16, 2024). This marks the most ranked opponents the Cougars have beaten during the regular season. The win also marks the first victory against a top-15 opponent since the Coug's 91-78 win on February 22, 2020, against No. 2 Gonzaga.

Party Downtown

With 14 total on the night, BYU has hit ten or more 3-pointers for the 18th time this season and first since its win over West Virginia. Six Cougars drained three-pointers in the first half, with 24 of their 42 first-half points coming from downtown.

Been a Long Time Coming

This is BYU's first win against Baylor since Dec 1, 1979, with a score of 100-58 at the Marriott Center.

Breaking The Streak

This was Baylor's first loss in 92 games when outshooting their opponent as the Bears shot 49.0 percent compared to 43.9 percent from the Cougars.

Cougs Win, Everybody Wins

The Cougars are now 2-for-2 this season when someone has won a car from Ken Garff's Threes For Keys contest during a commercial break.

No Place In The Inn

The Cougars sold out the Marriott Center for a third time this season.

PLAYERS NOTES

The Egyptian Magician

Aly Khalifa drained a season-high four 3-pointers, helping the junior tally up 14 points, 11 of which came in the first half. The Alexandria, Egypt native also finished with seven rebounds, seven assists and zero turnovers making the 19th player NCAA DI hoops this season with a 14/7/7/0 scoreline.

Jax Attack

Jaxson Robinson went 4-of-9 from 3-point range extending his 3-point streak to 13 games. He also moved into sole possession of 13th on the all-time three 3-point game list as he led the team in scoring a ninth time this season with 16 points.

Nothing But Knell

Trevin Knell knocked three 3-pointers, marking the 23rd time in his career he has had three or more triples which is the 10th most in program history. He also moved up to 12th on the all-time 3-point list having made 155 3-pointers passing Lee Cummard.

Steady Spence

Spencer Johnson led BYU's rebounding efforts with 9 and added six points. BYU is now 14-2 when Johnson has at least five rebounds.

SEASON HIGHS

3-Pointers: Aly Khalifa (4)

Blocks: Richie Saunders (1)



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BYU Head Coach Mark Pope

Opening Statement

"I felt really good about the game early on. We were down 0-8, and I felt we were okay because we got second-chance opportunities every time we got up shots that we liked. Even though the board score wasn't exactly how we wanted to start the game, our energy was really good. The building was incredible. Our guys' energy and focus on wedging was really good. We believe that on make-or-miss shots, we are going to be fine as long as we're really crushing the offensive glass. These guys were incredible that way tonight."

On changes that were made from the past two games

"A couple of really special things contributed to the changes. Coach Kahil Fennell did an unbelievable job preparing the guys for this game, and also the leadership from inside the team that responded to this. It's what's inside these players that is really cool to witness and watch as a coach."

On Jaxson Robinson's performance

"Jaxson had a lot on his shoulders today. I thought everybody on the perimeter was really excellent. I thought Jax was absolutely terrific using his length. He's taken a massive jump, and it's super exciting."

Aly Khalifa

On overall feelings about the win

"Our emphasis on defense was great heading into this game. The energy in practice yesterday was really good, especially on the defensive side. Our focus was to get back to being 'us' on defense and we showed it tonight. It's a great team win."

Jaxson Robinson

Opening Statement

"It was a good team win. I feel like we really stepped up, especially from our last game where we didn't get the results we wanted. I think we did an amazing job tonight on the defensive side of the ball. We held them to 37 in the first half and 34 in the second. I think we did a really good job on the defense."

On changes with the defensive effort from the last two games

"Honestly, I don't think it took much from the coaches. It was a whole team thing. We came together, and we knew it was unacceptable in the way we had shown up on the defensive end the last two games. We put a big emphasis on that. We came into practice a day before the game and had a tremendous practice. It showed tonight. Everybody was well prepared. We reviewed the scouting report well, and I think we did a great job in every scheme."

On beating a high-ranked opponent

"We can compete with anybody, but at the same time, our locker room knows that this is only one win, and we have a whole bunch more left in us this season. We are moving on to the next game and are happy for this one."

Baylor Head Coach Scott Drew

Opening Statement

"First, I want to thank BYU for their kindness and hospitality. We came straight here from West Virginia. They did an unbelievable job making us feel welcome and allowing us access to their facilities, so thanks for that. Second of all, it was a typical Big 12 game. It was close, and I thought the crowd really gave BYU a great lift. They went to the glass and got 20 second chance points. They deserved the win. We didn't deserve it. We are all disappointed by our rebounding performance. God's given us a great platform. It's great for people to see Big 12 basketball. We're a tougher team than we showed tonight. We are all disappointed by that. Offensively, their defense did a good job, and it's evident we didn't since we only had eight assists. When we are at our best, we are close to twenty, so credit them for that."

Baylor Forward Jalen Bridges

On playing in the Marriott Center

"It was rocking in here. I'm not even going to lie. It's right up there with Texas Tech and Kansas, honestly."