



BYU MEN'S BASKETBALL

NOTES AND QUOTES | BYU VS. TCU | SATURDAY MARCH 2, 2024

The following notes and quotes are from BYU's 87-75 win over TCU on Saturday evening at the Marriott Center in Provo, Utah.

Series Results: BYU leads 20-3 including 10-1 in Provo

Attendance: 17,978

TEAM NOTES

Comeback Kids

The Cougars improved to 3-4 when trailing at the half this season, overcoming a 17-point deficit in their win over the Horned Frogs. The last time BYU overcame a deficit of more than 17 points was against Dayton in 2022 when BYU was down 25 points and came back to win 79-75 in overtime.

Former Foes

The Cougars win over TCU was their 17th straight victory over the Horned Frogs and first since reuniting as conference members in the Big 12.

Marriott Center Magic

BYU trailed for just over 27 minutes of the game and found themselves down 17 points at halftime. With 7:47 left in the second half, the Cougars tied the game and with 7:32 left on the clock, Saunders buried a triple. BYU never looked back, ultimately winning the contest by 12 at 87-75.

Home Cookin'

BYU has extended their home winning streak to five games with their victory over TCU. The Cougars last five game win streak at home in conference play was during head coach Mark Pope's first season in Provo, 2019-20.

Multiple Players In Double Figures

Traore and Knell led the Cougars offensively scoring 21 and 20 points, respectively. Other Cougars in double figures included Hall with 12, Richie Saunders with 11 and Spencer Johnson with 10.

Lid On The Rim

The Cougars shot their lowest 3-point percentage in a first half all season making just one-of-13 from beyond the arc for a 7.7 percent success rate. In the second half, BYU responded by knocking down eight triples and improving its 3-point percentage to 32.1 percent on the evening.

Trailing At The Half

The Cougars entered the halftime break trailing for just the seventh time this season down 46-29.

PLAYERS NOTES

Trevin Knell For Three

With his first two attempts from beyond the arc, Knell becomes the 11th player in program history with 400 or more career 3-point attempts. Knell went 4-of-10 from beyond the arc giving him 160 for his career which is the 11th most in program history. Along with his 20 points, Knell also recorded two rebounds and had an assist. The last time the junior scored 20 points was when he knocked down 27 vs. Cincinnati to open Big 12 play.

Spark Plug Saunders

Coming off the bench, Richie Saunders sparked the Cougars offense recording 11 points on 4-of-5 shooting and 1-of-1 from beyond the arc. The sophomore also grabbed seven rebounds and dished out two assists. BYU was a +21 with Saunders on the court.

Traore Takeover

Traore went 7-of-10 from the floor en route to 21 points on the game and his 10th time in double digits this season. The junior also grabbed seven rebounds, had a block and recorded a steal.

Savvy Vet Johnson

To go along with his 10 points, Johnson shot an efficient 4-of-8 from the floor, grabbed four rebounds and dished out three assists. The senior was also a team best +23 on the floor for BYU tonight.

From Downtown

Jaxson Robinson extended his 3-point streak to 16 games with his only triple of the game in the second half. That is tied for the 10th longest streak in a single season in program history. He also has a team-high 68 3-pointers, tied for the most in a single season in program history.

SEASON HIGHS

Free Throws: Fousseyni Traore (5)

Rebounds: Richie Saunders (7)



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BYU Head Coach Mark Pope

On mental toughness

"Sometimes we mistake toughness for yelling, screaming, fouling, grabbing and punching, but real toughness is the ability to focus when everything around you is going sideways and you don't even feel right yourself. These guys were brilliant with their toughness. We are learning, they are getting more confident and this is the time in the season when toughness matters."

On Trevin Knell's 3-point shooting

"He is dangerous, and he knows it too. He can go out there and go 0-4 in the first half and he's like, 'I'm going to go fire up some more'. He was tremendous for us today."

Previewing Iowa State

"They're incredible. They are an incredible team. It's an incredible venue and I am excited for the guys to go experience it. It's like everywhere we go is so good isn't it? Like every single gym. I've been there a couple times and they are an incredible team. They have great leadership, they are really athletic, really skilled, and they play incredible basketball everywhere, especially at home. It's going to be a massive challenge for our guys."

Sophomore Forward Richie Saunders

Opening Statement

"That was a really hard fought win. Going into halftime we were down 17 points and we really just talked about fight and how we need to be the aggressor and be the one to hit first. We came out and did just that. There were some really big plays all over the board and it was a really fun team win and really fun to be apart of to come out with the victory."

On teammate Trevin Knell's 3-point shooting

"That's what he does. He hits shots. It's fun to watch and to be on the court with him."

On second-half defense

"On the defensive end, there's so many opportunities to hit. Say somebody's coming down the lane, you can get them out of their rhythm. That was one of our focuses and with that focus, was the execution in the second half. "

Junior Forward Fousseyni Traore

On halftime locker room conversation

"That was actually crazy. We've never done anything like that before. After the first half, we put all the chairs away and started hitting each other. After we did that, everybody could feel that it was time for business and it was time to go and get it done. I feel like that was super good."

TCU Head Coach Jamie Dixon

Opening Statement

"Obviously we are disappointed by the second half. We tried to get the message across in the first half and got away with some things: missed threes and missed free throws. We knew they weren't going to shoot that percentage in the second half and I think our shot selection in the second half really fueled their offense. Give them credit for responding. They came back from a big deficit and they responded, we didn't."