



# BYU MEN'S BASKETBALL

NOTES AND QUOTES | NO. 20 BYU AT NO. 6 IOWA STATE | MARCH 6, 2024

*The following notes and quotes are from No. 20 BYU's 686-3 loss to No. 6 Iowa State on Wednesday evening at Hilton Coliseum.*

**Series Results:** Iowa State leads 7-1

**Attendance:** 14,267

## TEAM NOTES

### Record Breakers

With its eight 3-pointers on Wednesday, BYU broke the program record for 3-pointers in a season as they currently have 337, five more than the previous record set in 2019-20.

### Deja Vu

Basketball giveth and basketball taketh away. Four days after overcoming a 17-point halftime deficit, BYU gave up a double digit halftime lead for the second time this season on Wednesday.

### Closing Soon

The Cougars fell to 1-9 this season when trailing or tied with five minutes remaining in regulation.

### Blocked

BYU recorded a season-high eight blocks in the setback, three of those coming from Noah Waterman.

### Round Mound of Basketball

Fousseyni Traore and Spencer Johnson had 11 rebounds apiece marking the first time BYU had two players with 10 or more rebounds in the same game since February 4, 2023 against Pacific.

### Offensive Glass

BYU had 10 or more offensive rebounds in five of its last six games.

## PLAYERS NOTES

### Can't Stop, Won't Stop

Jaxson Robinson extends his 3-point streak to 17 games with his only make from beyond the arc in the first half. That is tied for the ninth-longest streak in a single season in program history.

### Sizzlin' Saunders

Richie Saunders scored 15 of his 20 points in the first half marking the fourth time the sophomore has scored in double figures in the first half this season.

### Big Body

Noah Waterman tied a season and career-high with three blocks.

### On A Roll

Aly Khalifa had six assists and one turnover giving the junior a 105 assists on the season, two shy of his career-high set during his freshman season at Charlotte. He has 24 assists and one turnover over BYU's last five games.

## SEASON HIGHS

**Points:** Richie Saunders (20)

**Offensive Rebounds:** Fousseyni Traore (6)

**Total Rebounds:** Fousseyni Traore (11), Spencer Johnson (11)

**Blocks:** Aly Khalifa (2), Noah Waterman (3)

## CAREER HIGHS

**Points:** Richie Saunders (20)

**Total Rebounds:** Spencer Johnson (11)

**Blocks:** Noah Waterman (3)



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BYU Head Coach Mark Pope

## *Opening Statement*

"Congratulations to Iowa State. They played great. They were really tough, which is their DNA. They're putting together a great season. Their pursuit of the ball was tremendous tonight. It was a gutsy win for them. We're so incredibly disappointed. We're excited about just continuing to get better. I'm proud of my guys for the way they competed and it was a great environment. This gym is a special place as is the fan base."

## *What changes did Iowa State make in the second half?*

"A combination of things. We will go back and review a bunch of our decision making in live play. Most of the credit goes to them. We haven't tuned the ball over 17 times in a long time. A ton of credit to them and their aggressiveness. I thought their rim protection was elite and we were stubborn about getting to the rim which is not normally us. Their closing speed to the ball is as good as we've seen all year."

## *Difference of 3-point percentage from first to second half*

"I liked the looks we got a lot. Our goal is 14 offensive rebounds a game and we got them. It's the nature of shooting the ball a little bit. I don't think it was the makes and misses, we will live with 29 but I'd like to be over 30 which is really important for us. It's the 17 turnovers that got us down the stretch. We come down three out of five possessions and turn the ball over in the last two minutes of the game. Credit to Iowa State for exerting the pressure. This is the way we shoot and approach the game. We win a lot of games doing exactly that but don't turn it over 17 times."