



BYU MEN'S BASKETBALL

NOTES AND QUOTES | NO. 20 BYU VS. OKLAHOMA STATE | MARCH 9, 2024

The following notes and quotes are from No. 20 BYU's 85-71 win over Oklahoma State on Saturday evening at The Marriott Center.

Series Results: BYU leads 5-4

Attendance: 17,978

TEAM NOTES

Headed To Kansas

With the win, the Cougars will be the No. 5 seed in the Big 12 Championship held in Kansas City next week. BYU will face the winner of UCF and Oklahoma State on Wednesday, March 13, at 11:30 a.m. CT.

BYU was picked to finish 13th in the Big 12 Preseason Poll.

Cougar Nation Shows Out Again

Saturday was the fifth sellout of the season for the Cougars as they will finish in the Top 10 of average attendance for the first time 2014-15. BYU averaged 15,689 fans per game this season.

Home Cookin'

The win against Oklahoma State marks the sixth home win in a row, which is the longest in conference play since the Cougars went 8-0 at home during league play in 2019-20.

Dialed In From Deep

The Cougars knocked down 12 3-pointers marking the 20th time this season that BYU has hit 10 or more 3-pointers. They entered the game ranking in the Top 3 nationally in 3-point makes and attempts per game.

Winner Winner Chicken Dinner

The Cougars won 16 games at the Marriott Center this season for the sixth time in program history and first since Dave Rose led the Cougars to a 16-2 record in 2015-16.

In Great Company

Head coach Mark Pope is the fourth BYU coach to record four 20-plus win seasons in his first five years at BYU, joining Dave Rose, Roger Reed and G. Ott Romney.

PLAYERS NOTES

Spencer Johnson

On his senior night at BYU, Spencer Johnson tallied his third double-double of the season with 14 points and 10 rebounds. He also had five assists and two steals.

With his two steals, Johnson moved past Anson Winder for 18th on the all-time lists with 108.

Can't Stop, Won't Stop

Jaxson Robinson finished with 17 points marking the 23rd time this season he has finished with 10 or more points. He went 1-of-5 from 3-point range extending his 3-point streak to 18 games which is tied for the seventh-longest streak in a single season in program history.

The senior also became the 11th different Cougar to hit 70 or more 3-pointers in a single season.

The Distribution Center

Aly Khalifia's three assists broke his career high in a season with 108. BYU also improved to 4-0 this season when the junior connects on three or more 3-pointers.

Not Today

With two blocks against the Cowboys, Fousseyni Traore has tallied 81 career blocks, which is 16th most in program history. The junior also finished with a team-high 19 points.

Hall The Way

With his six assists in the win, Dallin Hall brought his season total to 155 which is the 15th most in a single season in program history.



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BYU Head Coach Mark Pope

On securing the fifth seed after being predicted 13th

"As soon as the game was over and we locked up fifth, I was just trying to find some Taylor Swift reference to five. Where are the Pope girls when I need them? This league is all about the chase for us. It actually helps our guys focus in towards each other. I do think we have a bunch of guys who are hungry on the chase right now and I have really enjoyed that so far through the regular season. We're not going to change anything for the postseason. We're still on a heavy chase. We're just desperate to play as many more games as we can because we don't want to end."

On heading into the Big 12 Championship

"We just know that on Wednesday, we're gonna play a great team. And if we can win, then we're playing a great team on Thursday. That's kind of the beauty of this league. It doesn't matter if we've beaten teams or lost to teams or whatever. They're all great teams. You've seen this league, I mean, look at who beat who today. You might as well just go roll the dice and try and figure out who's going to go win a game in this league. It's actually beautiful."

On Spencer Johnson and Jaxson Robinson

"I'll say this about these two guys. When you trace their roads, they've been super crooked paths. They've been moving forward and moving backward. They kept fighting to get here where nobody thought they could be. If these two guys are examples of what our young people are today, we're in great hands because it's incredible. The adversity they fought through to get where they are, and how they're growing. These guys have been incredible teammates, incredible guys to coach, unbelievable ambassadors for BYU, and we're super grateful."

Spencer Johnson

Describing this BYU team this year in one word

"I would say together. I've never been around a team that's been this together, this united, and this involved each other's lives and business. All the jokes and just good moments and memories that we have together."

On the discussion at halftime

"This team does such a good job of just talking to each other. Talking through what we're seeing out there, what we're feeling, any tips and tricks. We do a good job talking and then receiving that as well. Coach came in and talked about how massive our transition defense was and our defensive rebounding. We needed to control the boards and make sure we're getting back in transition."

On being honored with his two-week-old son on senior night

"A lot of hard work paid off right there in that moment. That was really special."

Jaxson Robinson

On what has changed from fifth in the WCC last year to fifth in the Big 12

"Obviously, the competition. I think being in the Big 12 requires you to play that much harder, be that more insistent, and be smarter about the little things that matter. Also I just feel like it came with the experience of us just playing together for a year and getting to know each other. That Europe trip really helped us in the summer and I think it paid huge dividends on the court. Moving the ball and finding the open man is something that we always practice and it's paying off."

Describing this BYU team this year in one word

"I would probably say relentless. Just because I know there have been a lot of ups and downs but something that Coach and Spencer always reiterate with our team is how we always come back regardless of what happened the day before. Obviously, it's paid off huge this season"

Oklahoma State Head Coach Mike Boynton

On the Cougars

"They play really well. Today, they shot the ball the way they're capable of, and obviously, they're capable of even more damage from three than they did tonight."