

BYU FOOTBALL

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SEPT. 14, 2024
WAR MEMORIAL STADIUM

TEAM NOTES

3-0

- > BYU completed its non-conference schedule with a perfect 3-0 record to match the 2023 season's start before heading into Big 12 play.
- > The Cougars also start the season 3-0 for the fourth time under head coach Kalani Sitake and 18th time in program history.

YARDAGE

- > BYU outgained Wyoming 458 to 217 in total yards. The Cougars held the Cowboys to just 77 rushing yards, the fewest they have allowed in 2024. BYU has outgained each of its opponents in the first three games in 2024.
- The Cougars also added 116 kick return yards, including a 100-yard kickoff return for a touchdown.

CHUNK PLAYS

> BYU had nine plays of 20 yards or more, including 8 through the air and 1 run. The Cougars had four more runs of 10 yards or more in the game.

PASS EFFICIENCY DEFENSE

BYU's defense held Wyoming to just 14 of 32 passing for 140 yards, no touchdowns and one interception for an efficiency rating of 74.3. The Cougar defense entered the game No. 7 nationally in pass efficiency defense.

SPREADING IT AROUND

> There were 12 different pass catchers for the Cougars in the game, the most in a game this year.

PLAYER NOTES

CHASE ROBERTS

- > Roberts finished with 6 receptions for 129 yards. He was two yards shy of his career high of 131 yards (Cincinnati, 2023) and two receptions shy of his career-best in receptions (8, Baylor 2022).
- > Roberts had five receptions of 20 yards or more in the game.

KEELAN MARION

> Marion returned the opening kickoff of the second half 100 yards for a touchdown, BYU's first kick returned for a touchdown since 2014 (Adam Hine, 99 yards vs. Virginia). It was the first returned on the road for a touchdown since 1998 (at Hawaii). It was also the first 100-yard return for the Cougars since James Dye took one to the house in 1996 against UTEP.

WILL FERRIN

> Ferrin connected on both field goal attempts, from 49 yards and 37 yards in the game. His 49-yarder was one yard short of a career-long he in the opener against Southern Illinois.

JAKOB ROBINSON

> Robinson had three pass breakups, all in the first half to tie a career high (Oklahoma, 2023). Robinson now has 19 in his career, tied for No. 5 at BYU since 2000.

NOTABLE FIRSTS/CAREER HIGHS

SIONE MOA

> First career rush (11 yards)

EVAN JOHNSON

> Interception

POKAI HAUNGA

- > First career rush (4 yards)
- > First career reception (9 yards)

THERRIAN ALEXANDER III

> First pass breakup

CAREER HIGHS

- > Jakob Robinson (pass breakups 3/tied)
- Therrian Alexander III (pass breakups 2)
- > Pokai Haunga (carries 5/yards 35)
- Sione Moa (carries 6/yards 17)

GAME INFO

Weather: 68°F, clear **Attendance:** 24,513

Series Results: BYU leads 47-30-3 Captains: DE Tyler Batty, CB Jakob Robinson, WR Chase Roberts, DL John

Nelsor

Coin Toss: BYU won the toss and deferred to the second half.

Uniforms: Royal helmet, white jersey,

white pants, royal trim

BYU Flag Bearers

Alumni: Danny Hansen (OL, 1976-79) Robert Davis (OL, 1994, 97-98) Brandon Despain (BYU Athletics Sr. Director of Video Services & Technology

and Wyoming native)

USA: RB Jovesa Damuni (RB) **Wyoming:** Charles Miska (RB) **Big 12:** McCae Hillstead (QB)



For a live feed of in-game notes follow **@BYUGameNotes** on X (Twitter) throughout gameday. Track milestones, news, notes and more.



Find more game materials including box scores, postgame audio/video files and more at **byucougars.com/pressbox**





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POSTGAME QUOTES BYU

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KALANI SITAKE, BYU HEAD COACH

"Happy we are 3-0 and proud of the team. I thought the energy and effort was all the stuff we want from our guys showed up and didn't go perfectly, but some really good things to work on and get better at. We got better from last week to this week and look forward to getting better from this week to next. Proud of the way the guys played. We got to play some complementary football which was really nice and good to get a special team kick return for a touchdown and guys have worked really hard and I'm very excited at where we are at right now. We are not satisfied and we have to keep working, but we are going to celebrate and appreciate the win. It was a hard game and a tough week of prep."

On the Kickoff Return

"It takes all 11 guys on the field to do what we want and when we do that good things happen. The returner needs to trust the guys in front of him. I'm glad he had the effort to get it in the end zone."

On The Chunk Plays

I'm really happy what we have done in the offense. You have to be really happy with the way the guys played. We did not Jake (Retzlaff) to be shy about playing quarterback. Interceptions happened and we wanted to be aggressive. He made some really good throws after and was in rhythm."



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POSTGAME QUOTES WYOMING

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WYOMING HEAD COACH JAY SAWVEL

"There are a couple of different ways to look at this. First of all, for us to win that game tonight, we were going to have to have a really, really high level of execution all the way around. To win that game, we didn't have margin for error. We made too many errors that strung the game out in a way that we weren't able to win that game.

Credit to (BYU). They have a really solid defense. They're big and they're physical at all levels. I think that's an issue there. As a team, we have to go back and keep working and getting better. Right now, we've lost to teams that are a combined 8-1. We've got to go back to work. This is what it is. It's not like we are coming apart or pointing fingers or anything. We all know that there are things we have to get better at, and we also know there are things we are not doing well enough. We have to raise our level, and it's frustrating.

I wanted to win this game more than anybody. I wanted to win this game for the fans. I wanted to win this game for the state of Wyoming. We were going to have to play great football in order to win this game.

You have to stick with (Svoboda) because he gives us a good chance to be successful and a good chance to win. He's got to improve, there's no doubt about it. We see this from a day-to-day practice scenario, I think he gives us the best chance to win right now.

Offensively, there's some things we can build on. We have to take the little steps. When you are standing on the sideline, and you look out there and see that defense, there's some ass out there. You're looking at that front, when you're looking at the way the secondary looks and the linebackers look, it's not a bad looking club.

The danger of (BYU)offensively, and it was a concern, is they have a pretty solid quarterback that has a good arm and can get the ball a lot of places. They have several good receivers. And that's a challenge.

We have to get something going. The optics looked pretty good when we went down the field and scored a touchdown and got a three and out and all of sudden everything looks different. You feel a difference. You give up a kickoff return for a touchdown, and the optics.

Energy and the enthusiasm of everything isn't fake. If you're executing and playing well, you're going to have that. If you're just rolling a rock uphill, then it starts to wear on you a little bit. We have to make our own plays to then build that energy."

Offensive Lineman Jack Walsh

He's my quarterback through and through. He's a constant competitor and he's probably being really hard on himself. A lot has to do with the o line. We have to play better.

We have to get more movement up front and it starts with me. It starts with me getting that push up front. We are going to challenge ourselves this week to get better.

It's not the start that anybody thought for us, and it's not the start we thought we were going to have. I have full faith in our team.

Defensive End Sabastian Harsh

It's our responsibility as the defense to not let them score. The goal is always three and outs. We are responsible for our part of the game. As a defense, we just have to be accountable, disciplined and keep practicing harder until we get it right.

It's just high hopes (in the locker room). Everybody is still good with everybody. (BYU) was a good team. When you play a good team on Saturday night, you have to play your best, and we didn't do that.

It's one love (in the locker room). We are all a family. We can't be pointing fingers at anybody. It's not anybody's fault. We are 0-3 right now, and that's not how we wanted to start the season. But we win together and we lose together.

The team was really looking forward to (the BYU game) all week, so it hurts a little bit. Coach pointed it out to us on how important it was to the fan base and people around the state. So not being able to come away with it, we feel it.

Wide Receiver Will Pelisier

I feel like we just need to find our rhythm. I know the talent we have in the tight end room, the wide receiver room, the quarterback room. We have the skill guys out there and I have confidence we will fix it moving forward. We just have to watch the tape.

I have full confidence in Evan. I know he will do whatever he needs to do. One thing Evan doesn't lack is work ethic. He'll be ready to go against North Texas.