



KANSAS STATE	3	3	3	0	9
BYU	0	17	14	7	38

SEPTEMBER 21, 2024
LAVELL EDWARDS STADIUM

TEAM NOTES

HONORING 1996 TEAM

- > On the night in which BYU honored its 1996 Cotton Bowl Championship team, the Cougars scored a touchdown in each of the three phases of the game for the first time since 1996. In a 45-17 win at Utah State in 1996, BYU's offensive TDs were supplemented by a 45-yd fumble recovery for a TD by Shay Muirbrook and a 79-yd punt return for a TD by James Dye.

4-0 STARTS

- > 2024 marks Kalani Sitake's third 4-0 start as BYU head coach (2020, 2021) and the 11th such start in BYU history.

WINS OVER RANKED OPPONENTS

- > This marks Sitake's eighth win over a ranked opponent, BYU's largest margin of victory over a ranked team since a 51-17 win at No. 21 Boise State in 2020 and largest margin of victory over a top-15 team since beating No. 14 Arizona State 26-6 in 1998. BYU is 2-0 vs. top-15 ranked Kansas State teams (No. 14, 1997 Cotton Bowl).

31 UNANSWERED

- > BYU's 31 unanswered points are its most since leading Idaho State 35-0 to open the game in 2021 and most unanswered vs. an FBS team since 31 straight at No. 21 Boise State in 2020.

SPECIAL TEAMS SCORES

- > 2024 marks BYU's first season with a kickoff return for a TD and punt return for a TD since 2011 Cody Hoffman (kickoff return, vs. UCF) and JD Falslev (punt return vs. TCU)

DEFENSIVE SUPERLATIVES

- > BYU has not allowed an opponent to score more than 15 points in each of its first four games since 1984.
- > Per available statistical records, 2024 marks BYU's first time to deny a passing TD in each of its first four games of a season.
- > 2024 marks BYU's first season to hold two opponents out of the end zone since 2012 (Wazzu, Utah State, Hawaii)
- > BYU held Kansas State out of the end zone for the first time since a 45-0 loss to Iowa State in 2020.
- > BYU has held opponents without a TD in eight of 16 quarters played in 2024.

PLAYER NOTES

JACK KELLY (LB)

- > Kelly recorded his sixth career forced fumble and with a sack vs. Kansas State, now has 19.5 career sacks.

TOMMY PRASSAS (S)

- > Prassas, a true freshman from Chandler, AZ, recorded his first career fumble recovery and return for a TD, BYU's first fumble recovery for a TD since Eddie Heckard recovered a fumble in the end zone for a TD vs. Texas Tech in 2023.

TYLER BATTY (DE)

- > Batty recorded his first career interception along with his 102nd and 103rd career quarterback hurries.

PARKER KINGSTON (WR)

- > Kingston recorded BYU's first punt return for a touchdown since JD Falslev went 71 yards for the score in a 37-10 win versus Middle Tennessee in 2013.

NOTABLE FIRSTS/CAREER HIGHS

CAREER FIRSTS

- > S Tommy Prassas (Fumble recovery, TD return)
- > DE Tyler Batty (INT)
- > WR Parker Kingston (punt return for TD)
- > LB Aisea Moa (QBH, FF)
- > OL Bruce Mitchell (start)
- > RB Sione I Moa (start, rushing TD)
- > CB Jonathan Kabeya (PBU)
- > LB Harrison Taggart (INT)
- > DT John Taumoepeau (tackles, 3)

CAREER HIGH

- > RB Sione I Moa - carries (15), rush yards (76), long run (24 yds)
- > RB Pokai Haunga - tied - rec., rec. yds (1, 11)
- > RB Enoch Nawahine - carries (5), rush yards (25), long run (10 yds)
- > TE Ryner Swanson - receptions (2)
- > LB Harrison Taggart - tackles (10, tied)
- > LB Aisea Moa - tackles (4)
- > S Tommy Prassas - tackles (2, tied)

GAME INFO

Weather: 67°F, clear

Attendance: 64,201 (sellout)

Series Results: 5-4, BYU leads

Captains: Tyler Batty (DE), Weylin Lapuaho (OL), Connor Pay (OL), Jakob Robinson (CB)

Coin Toss: Kansas State wins toss, defers to second half.

Uniforms: White helmet, royal face-mask, white jersey, white pants, royal names, numerals, black trim (1996 throwback)

BYU Flag Bearers

Alumni: Aaron Hutchins (DE, 1995-96), Ronney Jenkins (RB, 1996-98), Brian McKenzie (RB, 1996-97)

USA: Marcus McKenzie (CB)

Utah: Dominique McKenzie (WR)

Big 12: Cannon Skidmore (LS)

Y Lighter/100th Season: As part of its 100th season celebrations, BYU honored its 1996 Cotton Bowl Championship team prior to kickoff.



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





KALANI SITAKE, BYU HEAD COACH

Opening Statement:

“Great game. . . I’m proud of our guys. Not error free, but the energy and the effort was there, and if we play like that, with that type of effort, I think good things can happen for us. Still some really good moments for us to learn from, but right now I’m just going to focus on the positives of our guys, the way they played and the way they took the field. They keep believing in each other and nobody’s pointing fingers. It was a fun game . . . still work to do, but like I told them, we are going to have fun and enjoy it and be excited about the win, but we need to get ready to make our next statement, which is statement five next week, stay humble and keep working. The work’s not done yet, we didn’t come this far to do it just this one game, so we’ve got to keep working. I think the guys understand where we are going. I think we had a lot of things go our way . . . I’m glad the crowd was able to help us and create some momentum for us. Thank you to all the fans, making all the noise. It was a lot of fun. We can tell it is motivating for our players, and they all showed up. Looking forward to the next step, getting better, and I feel we have played better each week.”

On the statement BYU made tonight:

“I think we showed that we can play. The question was, ‘what kind of team is this?’ I think there are a lot of unknowns. Maybe people know a little bit more now. We aren’t going to surprise anyone anymore, so we need to get ready for this next game, keep working and being humble. That’s going to be our key.”

On Kansas State’s long drives to start the game that ended in field goals

“The guys kept playing. It’s a long game, and you have to make them earn it all, and eventually we were able to crack the code a little bit, create some momentum and you saw the result. It was a little too big of a deficit for Kansas State to come back from.”

On Parker Kingston’s punt return for a touchdown

“I saw a mistake, and I saw a mistake made right. We can block for him without the drama . . . Another fantastic play tonight. Kelly Popinga has done a great job with the special teams and having them believe that they can make big plays and make an impact in the game.”

On scoring 24-unanswered points to take a 24-6 lead

“That’s kind of what we planed on happening. This defense with Jay Hill and the defensive staff, they can create some chaos and I’m glad that it showed up tonight against a ranked team that was heavenly favored against us, even though we were at home, so we can keep pushing along, grinding it out. We have great leadership on this team and I’ve been really happy about how it worked out.”

On Sione I. Moa

“We have been telling you guys that we have good running back and I wanted to show it off to you guys. Harvey [Unga] has done a good job with that entire room, and they are all capable. . . It’s a deep and talented group. . . we want the other guys back [healthy] but we are going to be fine at the running back position.”

On the defense not allowing a touchdown against both power-5 opponents

“I’m proud of the defense and what they have been able to do, the belief that they have in the system, the belief they have in each other. When all 11 guys are doing their job, good things happen. We still need to improve and get better, and I say that when they’ve played their butts off and made some big plays, but we can play better and I’d like to see us play better as a team in all three phases.”

ISAIAH GLASKER, LB

On the outcome:

“Honestly, going into this game, we knew what type of kids they had on the team. We knew they had some speed on the outside,



and it was just mostly filling the gaps and containing the quarterback that we were focusing on. The boys executed well. That was the outcome.”

On his role on the punt return

“It was supposed to be a safe punt. I was thinking that he was going to fair catch it, but I turned around, and it hit the ground. I was trying to find the first guy that I could block, and then a lane opened up on the sideline.”

On holding Kansas State to field goals after two long opening drives

“Well usually, it just takes a couple of plays to get used to the game. We tried to settle down a little bit, but being able to get that third down stop was huge. After that, I think we dialed in. So from there, our execution was really good.”

On being powerful in the Big 12

“It’s really just showing other people what we can do. In summer workouts, we were such a close team, and we know from now on that we can dominate the Big 12.”

On each unit scoring a touchdown

“It’s really special. I feel the trust that we have in each other. Everyone trusts the special teams to go out there and play. Everyone trusts the offense to make plays. Everyone relies on our defense. I’m really excited for what we can show people this year.”

SIONE I. MOA, RB

On getting a touchdown

“Yeah, I had a run earlier in the game where I got down to the two or three yard line, and I was kind of mad at myself, because I felt like I could have been in the end zone. I got another opportunity to score again, so I just gave everything I had to get that touchdown.”

On getting a lot of reps this game

“I didn’t know I would get this many reps. We have a lot of great running backs. Even with LJ out this game, Miles, Enoch and Pokaiaua have been running like crazy. I was pretty surprised that I got a lot of these reps.”

On making “Statement Four”

“A lot of people were surprised by this outcome. They didn’t think that we could do this. But, as all our coaches say, especially Kalani, this wasn’t a surprise to us. We know the work that we put in to get to this point, and so we just take it week by week and make a statement every single week. We’ve always had that belief and trust in each other in the locker room, so on Saturday nights, we get to showcase it.”

On the crowd forcing turnovers

“I love playing in front of our home crowd, because it’s that 12th man. It’s always fun to be in front of them.”

On the running back room

“Our running back depth is deep, and I don’t think a lot of people realize that. I have mentors like LJ, Miles and Enoch, and they helped me to be prepared for this stage and moment. If I were to go down, anyone could pick me up.”



HARRISON TAGGART, LB

On BYU's defense

"I'm a little bit speechless, honestly. The brotherhood we have on defense this year and the chemistry on the team this year is insane, and I love it."

On BYU coming back from a 6-0 deficit

"It's crazy. I mean, when Tommy Prassas scooped up that ball for a touchdown, I was running down the field right next to him and couldn't even hear the guys next to me. Momentum is a huge part of the game, and the ROC kept that momentum in the game going for us. It was awesome."

On the game plan against Kansas State

"Our coaches wanted us to just do our job. When the play was presented, we wanted to just make the plays and hit it hard."

On defense, offense and special teams each scoring touchdowns

"It's so fun when all three phases of the game come together like that and score. Parker Kingston's punt return was electric and had me on the edge of my seat."

TYLER BATTY, DE

On BYU's defense

"We have the guys, we have the scheme, we have the culture, we have guys who love to ball and most importantly, we have guys who love the guys next to them. I think that was on full display tonight, offensively, defensively and special teams. There was nothing left in the tank tonight. Our guys were giving it their all."

On his interception

"We were bringing a little bit of pressure, and I was dropping to a shallow third on the field, kind of dropping off that running back, so that's who I was really watching. I saw the running back step up and step out, and then I saw the offensive linemen move forward and realized it was a screen. The pressure got to the quarterback, and he didn't throw a very accurate pass, and the ball ended up right in my lap."

On defensive game plan against Kansas State

"The biggest thing for us was shutting down their run game, especially their QB run game. Kansas State's quarterback is an excellent athlete, so our game plan really was just to control him. Even with the massive emphasis we had on that, he still put up some good running yards."

On what statement BYU made tonight

"We just want to let people know who we are. This is who BYU is, and this is how BYU football plays. We are really grateful and excited for more opportunities to showcase that."

On coming back from the 6-0 deficit

"It was a whirlwind, and it was a ton of fun. Just building off each other's momentum and guys not getting down on themselves when we were down 6-0 was a huge deal. It was guys making sure to not give up and waiting for those opportunities where we could capitalize, and that's exactly what happened. It was just opportunities that guys were grabbing and running with. I think our guys played their butts off tonight and rallied around each other."



KANSAS STATE HEAD COACH CHRIS KLIEMAN

Opening statement:

“Congratulations to BYU and Kalani. There may not be a better man in the business than Kalani. I love the guy. As crushed as I am on how we played, I told him I was happy for him, because he’s one of the good ones in the profession. Everything was probably in good shape with two minutes left in the half, and then it snowballed, and we couldn’t stop it. Credit goes to BYU. We told our team that [BYU] wasn’t going to beat themselves, so we had to beat them. And instead, we beat ourselves.”

On turnovers

“One key thing we talked about before the game was that we had to keep them to field goals, and we had to score touchdowns. If you’re going to beat [BYU] in this environment, you have to score touchdowns. We had chances and got knocked back. You’re not going to win on the road when you have that happen.”

On vertical passing game

“[BYU] played a ton more cover than we were anticipating, which took some of that away. We should have been able to rush the ball a bit better against it, but we give them credit. I thought they played well up front.”

On the hardest thing about playing in Provo

“The altitude didn’t affect us, really. The crowd was great. But, we’re going to play in a lot of good crowds. They did what they were supposed to, the same way that our crowd does. We just have to be able to overcome it. When you turn the football over, give up a punt return and give up a couple explosive plays, that’s what happens. They played well. It’s too bad we couldn’t get every phase to play like that. We weren’t very good tonight, so it’s my job and our job as coaches to fix it.”

AVERY JOHNSON, QB

On passing struggles

“We just weren’t in sync. We weren’t on the same page all the time. I have to be better — give them a chance with the football, cut down on the overthrows and do a better job of giving those guys a chance to make those catches.”

On being in sync

“We have shown little flashes of being able to be on time and push the ball down the field. We just haven’t been able to do it consistently. We need to get back to the drawing board so that we can put out a better performance when it comes to game day.”

On not being able to finish

“You have to score touchdowns and take care of the ball on the road. Credit to their crowd, they got loud and most of our penalties came as a result. Being able to give them the momentum back over and over again definitely hurt us tonight.”

On momentum swings

“We have to do a good job of giving our team the momentum. Obviously threw an interception that didn’t help the momentum at all and then giving our defense a short field. We hurt our defense tonight.”



AUSTIN MOORE, LB

On tough situations the defense was put in

“We have to be able to respond. Things aren’t always ideal for us. We need to be able to force turnovers for our offense, and we have to give them the short fields. There’s no excuse for wherever we start on the field. We take pride in red-zone percentage, and we did not execute tonight.”

On the message in the locker room

“We are going to find out who we are. We believe in this team. I know what we are capable of, and we didn’t play like ourselves tonight. Everything’s in front of us that we want to get. We can still reach that Big12 championship. So that’s the message, and we have to respond Monday.”

On the main takeaway from the game

“We have got to know teams aren’t just going to give up, especially a good team like BYU that’s disciplined and doesn’t turn the ball over a bunch.”