



KANSAS	7	3	0	7	17
BYU	0	10	3	0	13

NOVEMBER 16, 2024
LAVELL EDWARDS STADIUM

TEAM NOTES

RUSHING DEFENSE

- > Kansas entered the day ranked 14th nationally in total rushing yards (1,922), yards per game (213.6) and yards per carry (5.67). BYU held the Jayhawks to 73 yards on 2.2 per carry.

INTERCEPTIONS

- > With Marque Collins' interception in the fourth quarter, BYU tallied its 17th forced interception of the season. The Cougars are now tied for the national lead in forced interceptions with Cal.
- > Dating back to the 2023 season finale at Oklahoma State, BYU has recorded an interception in each of its last 11 games.

HAVOC PLAYS

- > With a sack, six tackles-for-loss, an interception, two quarterback hurries and four pass breakups versus Kansas, BYU has now totaled 14 sacks, 44.5 tackles-for-loss, 17 interceptions, 40 quarterback hurries and 39 pass breakups on the season.

LONG DRIVE

- > BYU ran its longest scoring drive of the season (10:26) with a 17-play, 66-yard field goal scoring drive in the third quarter.

SPREADING THE BALL AROUND

- > Eleven different BYU players have caught a TD reception in 2024. BYU and UTSA lead the FBS with 11 different TD pass catchers.

PLAYER NOTES

LJ MARTIN (RB)

- > With 76 rushing yards, Martin surpassed 1,000 for his career (1,076) in 17 games played.

HINCKLEY ROPATI (RB)

- > Ropati recorded his second career receiving touchdown (Boise State, 2022) and became BYU's 11th different pass catcher with a touchdown reception in 2024.

KEELAN MARION (WR)

- > With 42 receiving yards, Marion surpassed 1,000 for his career (1,041).

CHASE ROBERTS (WR)

- > Roberts notched his 10th career game with 70+ receiving yards. In 2024, he has a career-best five games with 70+.

JOHN NELSON (DT)

- > Nelson recorded his third pass breakup of the season, making him third on the team in the statistical category (Collins 6, Glasker 4).

TYLER BATTY (DE)

- > Batty tallied a season-highs in tackles (8) and tackles-for-loss (1.5) with 0.5 a sack, a pass breakup and quarterback hurry. The senior captain now has 107 career quarterback hurries.

MARQUE COLLINS (CB)

- > Collins' fourth-quarter interception was his second of the season and seventh of his career (5 at Weber State)

WILL FERRIN (K)

- > Ferrin posted his 18th and 19th field goal makes of the season, tying him with Owen Pochman (2000) for fourth all-time at BYU in single-season field goals made.

NOTABLE FIRSTS/CAREER HIGHS

CAREER FIRSTS

- > OL Isaiah Jatta (start at BYU, RT)
- > S Raider Damuni (TFL)

CAREER HIGH

- > DE Logan Lutui (TFL, 1 - tied)
- > CB Mory Bamba (PBU, 1 - tied)
- > Safety Raider Damuni (TFLs, 1.5)

GAME INFO

Weather: 32°F, clear

Attendance: 62,704 (sellout)

Series Results: 3-0 (BYU leads)

Captains: Connor Pay (OL), Chase Roberts (WR), Jakob Robinson (CB), Will Ferrin (K)

Coin Toss: BYU wins, defers

Uniforms: Royal helmet, White face-mask, royal jersey, white pants

BYU Flag Bearers

Alumni: Jason Buck (DE, 1985-86), Dennis Pitta (TE, 2004, 07-09)

USA: Jacob Watkins (BYU ROTC)

Utah: Luke Woods (BYU ROTC)

Big 12: Sam Dawe (OL)

ROC: Jake Eichorn (OL)

Y Lighter/100th Season: BYU continued the celebration of its 100th football season with former All-Americans Gifford Nielsen (QB, 1973-77), Marc Wilson (QB, 1975-79), Robbie Bosco (QB, 1981-85), Luke Staley (RB, 1999-01) and Dennis Pitta (TE, 2004, 07-09) lighting the Y Lighter 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:

"It was obviously a disappointing result, but you have to give a lot of credit to Kansas. They had a really good game plan. Looking at the stats, we just didn't make enough plays, and way too many mistakes for us to come out with a victory. I think we played with fire in some ways. In terms of the mistakes that we made, we couldn't come back from them. I'm frustrated, but we have to get over it. We have to learn from this and move on. We have a tough game coming up next week. I think the goal from the beginning was to play our best every week. Obviously the statement 10 was not the one that we wanted. This happens sometimes . . . We have to go back and get to work, stay humble, stay hungry, all that stuff, and then get ready to go. I told the players that I love them. The effort was there.

We obviously have to make more plays in all three phases, but the mistakes were way too many for us to overcome. This is a difficult feeling. We just have to find a way to learn from it, get over it, move on to the next and find ways to keep improving. That's what we're going to do before we head out to Tempe next week. I thought Kansas played a great game. Looking at the stats, we had 10 more first downs than them. The glaring mistake was the muffed punt that was a QB kick from them. It hit our player in the head, and I thought we had a chance to recover it, and then that didn't work out.

We gave them the ball on the 3-yard line, which was a gimme. When we had the 13-10 lead, that was a problem. I didn't like the way we ended the first half. I didn't like the way we ended the game too. There's a lot of room for improvement in all three phases, and we'll get to work on that, but we have a good team. We're still in a good spot. I believe we control our own destiny still, but we've got to be ready to roll because it's a tough opponent coming up next week against ASU.

They've done a great job getting their team ready. There's a lot of parity in this conference, and this one got us. You have to give a lot of credit to Kansas. They did some really good things, but we'll just keep plugging away. We're in a spot now, 9-1. If you would've told me before the season, 'Would you take it?' Of course. We still have an opportunity to play for something with the conference championship, so that's what we need to focus on. This is a good example to get better and get to next week's game, and then away we go."

On offensive struggles:

"It just didn't seem like it was clicking. We had a lot of mistakes. We got a lot of yards, and the running game was working pretty nicely. The turnover at the end of the half cost us. Settling for field goals isn't going to work either. The way we ended the half and ended the game was not good enough, so we've got to fix it. Defense didn't start the game out right. A lot of it was just mistakes that we made. I think Kansas did some things with their technique. They were trying to scheme a lot of the stuff we were doing defensively with the personnel. They did a couple of odd looks, with the duck formation and stuff like that. You have to give them credit. They did whatever they could to try to take care of the ball as much as they could. We didn't create enough havoc. They ran for 73 yards, but we just need to find more ways to make plays. Offense has to score more points. We made some good field goals. We weren't able to take advantage of the return game. We have to score more points to win games."

On the offense's last 3rd down of the game:

"You've just got to get the ball in the end zone. You can't have it come down to the wire on fourth down. Then we had a false start. I thought we had a really good play on that one, and then it became 4th-and-10. Now we were too far. I think Chase was a couple of yards short of a first down. Just get it in the end zone. I don't really care how much time is left on the clock. Obviously they were taking timeouts to preserve some time for when they got the ball back, but we have to get the lead before we can even worry about that stuff. We weren't worried about the clock. We just need to get the ball in the end zone."

On the muffed punt:

"It was a couple of unlucky bounces. I think Evan Johnson was in coverage, and it hit him in the head. Jakob Robinson was right there, and I thought he had a clear path to recover it. For some reason, it popped out of his hands, and they got the ball to the 3-yard line. It sucks, but I think that's why the ball is shaped like that, to make things interesting. It just bit us in the butt this time. I hate that, that happened because defensively, I thought we kept them out of the end zone, except for that one time. This game



was 10-10 at halftime, and we lost the second half 7-3. If you look at the stats, we had some long drives where we got some first downs, but the red zone offense did not work for us. We just have to be better. We're going to look at it and try to figure it out. You'd think that from what our defense did, it should be enough to get points on the board. I know Jay Hill is not happy with how we played because we felt like we could have done better.

All three phases we can improve on. The guys are hurting right now. They're supposed to, but we've got to get over it, just like we have to get over the wins. We have to find ways to be humble and not get down on ourselves too much because we're in a really good spot still. I think with what we've done throughout the year, we've earned the right to feel better now, and we just have to play better next week. We won't get this one back, so we have to find a way to play better next week. Whatever it takes, we have to get it done."

On the second-half strategy:

"I think we were just trying to score no matter what. I think we wanted to establish the run game and just play some physical football. They did that to us last year, just ran the ball, and we felt really good about the running. Then we were stalled and stuck at 4th-and-three or so. We wanted to go for it, but we felt like we should just take the points because it was a low-scoring game. We have a really good kicker, so we just took the points, and unfortunately those were the only points we scored in the half."

On Daniels' pooch kick:

"We thought they were just going to go for it because that's what they've done in the past. We've never seen that QB kick, and then he just kicked it. We have an awesome kicker who can actually kick it to someone like that. I don't know if [Daniels] is going to punt more now, but maybe they should. It just caught us by surprise. Even after the punt, we just had a chance at recovery. Sometimes things like that happen. You just have to get a stop. When they get the ball on the 3-yard line, I don't like that we just played average defense and gave up an easy touchdown. When things go bad, you have to respond better than that. I thought that we were in a good spot, even to win the game at the end, and we didn't do enough. You have to give Kansas a lot of credit for that. They came motivated to win this game. Their backs were against the wall, and we knew they were going to give it their best shot. I'm not sure if we gave them ours, but that's too late now. I wish them luck next week. I think they play Colorado, so we'll be cheering for them. We have to worry about ourselves and get ready to play this game against Arizona State."

On moving past the loss to Kansas:

"We obviously need to refocus and learn from the game, but you're going to have to overcome the feelings of regret and just have to get over it. We are going to choose to do it with our head held high and know that we have a lot more to play for. I don't think I can sugarcoat it for these guys. It is supposed to hurt, especially when you know you could do better. We will fight back and we still control our destiny, and we've just got to get back to work and win next week's superbowl."

CHASE ROBERTS, WR

On the offenses's red zone struggles:

"I feel like we struggled a little bit in practice this week in the red zone, and it carried over. You've got to lock in. You have got to be prepared when you come out and play a good team like Kansas, and we knew we had to put points on the board. If we didn't score in the red zone, then we'd have a tough time winning, because Kansas has a great offense. I think just some mental errors, some mistakes, especially when we got down to the red zone — we had too many of those, and when you make mistakes, it's hard to win. We need to minimize those, lock in this week and practice better, with more urgency, and get in the film room, learn from our mistake, and then move on and grow."

On moving forward:

"I feel like we love each other. The speech after the game was positive. We're moving on, and we're not going to come back and bring negative energy to our families. We're going to be happy and we're going to come back Monday with some fire. We still got our goals to win a Big 12 championship, so that's not over. We're not Independent anymore. We're in a conference, and we're beating good teams, and we're going to come back and beat Arizona State, which is a great team. That's what was the talk in the locker room, and that's what we're going to do, and that's what I trust our team will do. We're mature, and you've seen it this whole season, that we're a mature team. We bounce back from adversity and we win games. That's what we do. We couldn't do it tonight, but we'll move on."



On confidence in close games:

“Yeah, of course, but we need to stop that. We need to start beating teams by 20 points, 30 points, because that’s the kind of offense we have. That’s the kind of team we have, and we should have this game. It was frustrating that we couldn’t convert, we couldn’t get points on the board in the red zone. We have got to learn from our mistakes, learn what we can do better as an offense, and make better decisions as well, as we’re in the red zone, make better reads, run better routes as receivers, make sure we get our depth and stuff like that. We’ll go back, watch the film, learn and grow. I think this is honestly good for our team. We’ve still got all of our goals in mind, and we’re going to bounce back and go beat Arizona State.”

On inability to score on the final drive:

“He was inside leverage. I’m the first read, and I needed to do a better job getting to the sticks, and he was inside leverage, and I could have wrapped him. I need to go back and look at the film and see if I wrapped them if I could have got to the sticks. I need to do a better job at making sure I get the first down and getting us in a place where we can score and win the game. We’re going to go back and look at the film and learn from all of our mistakes.

On opposing defenses:

“I think that we’re just not executing. I think that we have a great game plan. We knew what Kansas was going to do, and they did what we thought they were going to do. We just need to execute our plays, block, be physical and make the right reads. We were not able to do that tonight. We weren’t able to score in the red zone. We saw big bursts, our offense was rolling, especially at the end of the second half, we had some drives that were awesome, and if we can just put those together, we’re going to win by a lot of points.”

JACK KELLY, LINEBACKER

On the defense’s performance versus Kansas:

“I thought we played really well. Obviously, there’s going to be some mistakes that we can correct, but overall, I felt like we really rallied around each other. We are trying to play for the brother next to us, and I think we can still definitely correct some things. I think we played our butts off and gave our full effort.”

On his optimism moving forward:

“Obviously we wanted to win this one, but at the end of the day, it is going to open our eyes to the little things that we need to correct. It will make us double down on everything that we need: our team culture, discipline and assignments. This is going to make us double down on all of that. So, I think it’s going to be a good thing, and as long as the whole team looks at it optimistically, I think it’s going to be a huge positive for us.”

On dealing with the loss in the locker room:

“It was really tough. Obviously no one wants to lose, but at the end of the day, Kalani talks about being a tough guy. and that’s going out and seeing your family, loving up on them, making sure they see you happy and making sure that they know their support means a lot to us. So at the end of the day, we have to be positive and move on to the next thing because we can’t change the outcome now.”



POSTGAME QUOTES KANSAS

NOVEMBER 16, 2024
LAVELL EDWARDS STADIUM

KANSAS HEAD COACH LANCE LEIPOLD

Opening statement:

"We found a way this time ... even from the punt recovery. It was the same crew we had at Illinois when we had the chance for the recovery. That was a muff, and they got the ball back and ended up being a big play. This one went our way ... able to punch it in. We found some ways to get some stops defensively. At times when we had trouble slowing them down, we tightened up a couple different times for some key plays, able to get the fourth down stop there at the end and found a way to run the clock out."

On playing at LaVell Edwards Stadium:

"Jeff Grimes, after working here a couple times and talking to a couple other conference coaches, talked about that this is one of the more difficult environments in our conference. I think it truly played out to be that way. It's a great environment. I tip my hat to the fan base and the atmosphere that they create and the energy that they bring, and it makes it a very difficult place to communicate and operate at times. And it was truly a factor, and again that's something that makes it even more pleasing that we're able to overcome it."

On BYU's playmaking abilities:

"Those of you that hear me on a regular basis talk about three-to-five plays that determine a game, and we could all probably name the three-to-five in this one that were huge, that probably could have swung the game either direction. That's why I have such great, great respect for the BYU program and Kalani Sitake and the job that he's done. They're still right in the thick of playing for a conference championship, and I could see why they've had the year that they've had compared to where they were last year, just the improvements that they've made, holistically. I think he's got this program in a great spot."

JALON DANIELS, QB

On Kansas' defense holding BYU to a field goal in the second half:

"That's a big shoutout to our defense, being able to make big plays when we needed them, and I feel like our defense being able to make those plays definitely gave our offense the confidence to be able to go out there and be able to waste as much clock as BYU was."

On moving on after fourth-quarter interception:

"It's part of the game. You're going to make mistakes, and the more you harp on those mistakes, the more you're probably guaranteed to be able to make more. At the end of the day, mistakes are going to happen. It's about how you bounce back from the mistakes."

LUKE GRIMM, WR

On proving Kansas' toughness:

"For how that game went, where we're just sitting on the sideline the whole time, and a 17-play drive takes up the whole third quarter, it was awesome to finish it out like that."

On the mood in the postgame locker room:

"I think the biggest thing was that it was a relief. We know the kind of team that we are, and we know how good we can be. Coming in here, people might label it as an upset, but I don't think anybody on this team thinks of it as an upset based off of how we know our team can play."

O.J. BURROUGHS, SAFETY

On stopping BYU's final drive:

"When he got down to 1st-and-goal, and it was a timeout, I started to spread the word around, I was like, 'we need four stops.' I was big when I kept saying after every timeout, let's get this stopped. Once I knew we had them to a 4th-and-long, I knew we had a chance."

