



HOUSTON
BYU

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NOVEMBER 30, 2024
LAVELL EDWARDS STADIUM

TEAM NOTES

10 WINS

- > With a 10-2 finish to the regular season, BYU has its 19th all-time 10-win season and third in the last five years. 2020-24 marks the 4th time in program history with three 10-win seasons in a five-year span.

SITAKE 2020-

- > Over the last five seasons, Kalani Sitake has a record of 44-18 (.710). Since 2020, Sitake is 9th among active FBS coaches in winning percentage and one of eight FBS coaches with three seasons of 10+ wins. Sitake is one of just five head coaches to accomplish three seasons of 10+ wins since 2020 at the same school.

INTERCEPTIONS

- > With its 20th interception of the season, BYU tied San Jose State for the national lead in forced picks.
- > The Cougars 20 INTs is tied for 10th all-time at BYU or second (2001) since 2000. Twelve different BYU players have intercepted a pass in 2024, second-most all-time at BYU behind only 13 in 1987.

HURRY UP & SCORE

- > BYU's 6-play, 80-yard TD drive to end the first half took just 50 seconds. It was BYU's 15th scoring drive of 2 minutes or less this season and 8th in less than one minute.

KICKOFF RETURNS

- > With Talan Alfreys 58-yard outside kick returned for a TD, BYU tied its all-time high with 3 kickoff returns for a TD (3 in 1961). BYU has only had multiple kickoff returns for a touchdown in three seasons: 1961 (3), 1988 (2) and 2024. Kelly Poppinga's special teams unit has tallied four kickoff/punt returns for a TD this season, tying BYU's record of 4 in 1971 (4 PR TDs by Golden Richards).

SENIOR NIGHT

- > Twenty seniors were honored on Saturday: Isaiah Bagnah (DE), Mory Bamba (CB), Tyler Batty (DE), Gerry Bohanon (QB), Marque Collins (CB), Sam Dawe (OL), Caleb Etienne (OL), Mason Fakahua (TE), Cade Fennegan (QB), Keanu Hill (TE), Brayden Keim (OL), Darius Lassiter (WR), Logan Lutui (DE), Blake Mangelson (DT), John Nelson (DT), Ray Paulo (TE), Connor Pay (OL), Jakob Robinson (CB), Hinckley Ropati (RB) & Mata'ava Ta'ase (TE).
- > Chase Roberts (WR) and Ethan Slade (S), have eligibility remaining but elected to be honored as well.

PLAYER NOTES

JAKE RETZLAFF (QB)

- > With his 5th & 6th rushing TDs of the season, Retzlaff becomes the ninth BYU quarterback all-time and first since Zach Wilson (2020) to record 20+ passing TDs and 5+ rushing TDs in a season.

LJ MARTIN (RB)

- > Martin recorded a season-high 22 carries.

TYLER BATTY (DE)

- > Batty recorded his second-career interception along with a career-high 9 tackles (5 solo), 2.5 tackles-for-loss and 2 QBH.

JACK KELLY (LB)

- > Kelly forced his 2nd fumble of the season and 8th of his career (6 at Weber State). Kelly posted a season-high 7 tackles (4 solo).

WILL FERRIN (K)

- > With his 21st FG make of the season, Ferrin tied Justin Sorensen (2013) for most single-season FG makes at BYU. Ferrin's 24 FG attempts this season ties Jake Oldroyd (2019) and Owen Pochman (2000) 8th-most all-time at BYU. With 32 FG makes in two seasons at BYU, Ferrin ranks 8th at BYU in career FGs made.
- > Ferrin's 101 points kicking is tied with Owen Pochman (1998) for 4th all-time at BYU in a single season.

NOTABLE FIRSTS/CAREER HIGHS

CAREER FIRSTS

- > S Talan Alfreys (KR TD)
- > DT Blake Mangelson (FR)
- > DT John Nelson (FF)
- > DE Logan Lutui (FR)

CAREER HIGH

- > QB Jake Retzlaff (rushing TDs, 2 - tied - Oklahoma State, 2023)
- > S Tanner Wall (tackles, 13; solo, 6)
- > DE Tyler Batty (tackles, 9; solo; 5)

GAME INFO

Weather: 29°F, clear

Attendance: 59,213

Series Results: 4-0 (BYU leads)

Captains: Connor Pay (OL), Chase Roberts (WR), Tyler Batty (DE), Jakob Robinson (CB)

Coin Toss: Houston wins, defers

Uniforms: Navy helmet, navy face-mask, navy jersey, white pants

BYU Flag Bearers

Alumni: Kellen Fowler (DB, 02-03, 06-08), Bruce Jenne (DS, 88-92), Scott Johnson (DB, 06-09)

USA: Avery Frankel (BYU ROTC)

Utah: Grace Kinghorn (BYU ROTC)

Big 12: Viliami Po'uha (DE)

ROC: Bennett Miller (BYU ROTC)

Y Lighter/100th Season: BYU continued the celebration of its 100th football season with Academic All-Americans Andy Boyce ('90), Ben Cahoon ('97), Chuck Cutler ('87, '88), Kellen Fowler ('08), Bruce Jenne ('92), Scott Johnson ('09), Chad Lewis ('96) and Ty Mattingly ('86) lighting the Y 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:

“Glad we got the win tonight. It was a really interesting game, not the way I saw it happening, but I’m just really proud of the boys. We did enough to get the win, and we probably could have put it away a little earlier, but I love the guys’ belief in each other and building on this, because we know we have another game after this. The bowl game is something to aim for. I thought Houston had a great game plan, and those guys didn’t quit. I think the mentality of our guys went up-and-down tonight, especially in the second half, but we will just keep working with it.”

On learning of Iowa State’s win over Kansas State:

“I found out at halftime, and I think probably a lot of our players did, too, but you just have to keep playing. I didn’t think there was a lack of effort, but maybe a lack of concentration tonight. We made a ton of mistakes tonight, putting our defense in difficult situations with fumbling the ball, but I think the defense responded well. I saw a lot of good things, but we can play better.”

On a 10-win season:

“It’s really good. I mean there are a lot of teams that don’t have that many wins. The problem is, we thought we were going to get two more, but because we didn’t take care of business, we had to rely on the tiebreaker. That was a great lesson for us to learn, that we can’t keep making mistakes and try to find ways out of it. Although we can be grateful for making plays and squeaking one by, you can’t make that an every-week thing. We need to do our jobs, play like we know we can and minimize mistakes, and we will be in a good spot.”

“Our senior class has three 10-win seasons, which is something to be really proud of. This is BYU’s 19th 10-win regular season, and those guys get to leave knowing they got three of those.”

On November play:

“We went 2-2 this November, and I would like to see us be better, so we need to find a way to get better in the offseason, so we have more success in November. That’s hard to do when you look at the conference and the difficult matchups, so it’s not an easy task, but you don’t really win those games week-to-week, you win them in the offseason.”

On defensive end Tyler Batty:

“He’s huge. He’s been such a big-time leader for us. He’s done it by example, his leadership and his voice. He has so much passion for the sport, but he also has so much passion for the school and for our fans, and I hope people can appreciate him. He has a definite future in the NFL. I’m glad he decided to come back and play with us this year and help set our team up for the success we had this year.”

On the benefit of extra practices prior to the bowl game:

“The biggest value of these extra practices, getting ready for a bowl game, is that we get to spend more time together and try to find more of a rhythm on offense, defense and special teams. There’s a lot for us to still learn defensively. We made a lot of mistakes. Obviously on offense we got chunk yardage, and we need to just create more momentum. So now we can get on the field, practice, see the film and actually go out and execute some plays.”

LJ MARTIN, RUNNING BACK

On learning of Iowa State’s win over Kansas State:

“I think it happened at halftime when we found out. But it didn’t really matter. We just wanted to send these guys out on a win. That’s what we did.”

On going bowling:

“This is my first bowl game, so I’m just really excited for it. It just feels good to win. You never want to be on the losing side. Just



being out there, being able to win with my guys. It's been real fun this season."

LOGAN LUTUI, DEFENSIVE END

On his fumble recovery:

"It was very big for the defense. Whenever we're up, we say that we're the ones to finish the game. We should just be able to go on the field and finish that game off. I think everybody gets pretty fired up when a team wants to go for it on fourth down. If we stop it right there, that's a turnover, so everybody's licking their chops and ready to go. It was a big play. Everybody was excited. We wish that we could've turned that into six points, but we're glad that we ended up falling on that ball."

On containing Houston's offense:

"I just feel like some guys were just leaving their feet a little early and just fundamentals. I think that is what was lacking a little bit in this game with our defense, but we were able to tighten up on that in the second half, and I think that's what showed."

JACK KELLY, LINEBACKER

On playing in a bowl game:

"It's going to be awesome. We get another game with those seniors. We're going to be able to build our brotherhood even more and spend lots of time together preparing for the bowl game."

On finishing the regular season at 10-2 :

"In a power conference like we are in, that's a huge thing and not very likely to come by. So being able to do that really shows everyone on this team was bought in. All of the coaches helped us, coached us the right way and everyone was ready to execute every game."

On his future:

"I'm just focusing on my role here at BYU. That time will come. I'm not sure when that will be, but as of right now, I am focused on BYU and this bowl game that is coming up."



TALON ALFREY, SAFETY

On returning the onside kick for a touchdown :

“It was super memorable. Especially after last week, the ball didn’t bounce my way, and this week it did. I am thankful for the opportunity to help out and help these seniors win tonight.”

On the 2024 senior class :

“It means a lot to see their journey here at BYU. Luckily, this is my fourth year with most of them, and they have laid a foundation for who we are as a culture and a team. I see the sacrifices they put in, and there's even more that we don't see. It's fun to see them get their spotlight tonight. We were able to win for them and send them out on a good note.”



HOUSTON HEAD COACH WILLIE FRITZ

Opening statement:

"I'm really proud of the guys and the effort they put forth this evening. They played extremely hard against the No. 19 ranked team in the country. We didn't play smart the whole game, coaching or executing. We have to be able to do both."

On playing at LaVell Edwards Stadium:

"It was really loud, and they got us early in the game jumping. It was a great atmosphere and a beautiful stadium."

On finishing 4-8:

"I think one of the things you saw is that we played hard. We are finishing here 4-8, and a lot of teams would have given up a long time ago. Our guys never did, and I am proud of that. I think it is a reflection of the program. You want to make sure the guys have that fight all of the time."

STEPHON JOHNSON, WIDE RECEIVER

On sticking with the losing season:

"I definitely didn't see anybody give up. We fought hard all year. We had a lot of things go wrong, but we always bounce back and try to do everything we can to continue to push forward."

On the environment at BYU:

"It was crazy. One of the craziest things you'll ever feel. As a middle school or elementary school kid playing football in the front yard, this is what you dream about. I was just grateful and blessed to be able to play in an environment like this."

BRANDON MACK, DEFENSIVE LINEMAN

On defending BYU:

"They wanted to get a run game going, but I feel like it was kind of balanced [between the run and pass plays]. I feel like we did a good job trying to make them balance out and have to go to the air."

On the environment at BYU:

"The atmosphere felt like the SEC. Even though we were away, I feel like it gives us energy. Our backs were against the wall, and they weren't cheering for us, but the energy just makes us want to play."

On Big 12 competition:

"Every week, you don't know who is going to come out and win. I feel like it's [competitive] in all of the Big 12. I think it was just more chippy, because we know it was the last game, so you want to go out and give everything you've got in the finale of the season."

