



BYU MEN'S BASKETBALL

BYU VS. TEXAS TECH | JANUARY 7, 2025 | PROVO, UTAH | MARRIOTT CENTER

The following notes and quotes are from BYU's 67-72 loss to Texas Tech on Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2025, at the Marriott Center in Provo, Utah.

ALL-TIME SERIES: Texas Tech leads 4-3

H/A/N: 2-1/1-2/0-1

ATTENDANCE: 17,307

TEAM NOTES

This Ain't Texas

The Cougars out-blocked (2-1), out-assisted (13-1212) and recorded more in the paint points (40-30) in comparison to the Red Raiders.

Bench-Marked

BYU's second unit finished with 35 points, tied for their second-highest total of the season. They entered today's game averaging 30.77 points per game, good enough for fourth in the Big 12.

PLAYER NOTES

Buried Trey-sure

With seconds to go in the first half, senior Trey Stewart sank a 3-point jumper, giving the Cougars a 34-32 lead to start the second half.

Furious Fous

Fousseyni Traore moved up to 37th on the all-time scoring list passing Kari Liimo (1966-69) as the senior finished with a team-high 14 points. He now has 1,168 points in his BYU career.

The native of Bamako, Mali also pulled down a pair of offensive rebounds giving him 269 for his career which are the third-most in program history.

Mag-nificent

Mawot Mag scored in double figures for the third time as a Cougar finishing with 11 points to go along with a season-high five rebounds, three of those coming on the offensive glass.

Denim Dimes

Egor Demin led the team in assists for the 10th time this season as the freshman finished with 12 points, six assists, four rebounds and two steals.

Hall the Way

Dallin Hall moved into 16th on the all-time assist tonight breaking a tie with Michael Smith (1983-84, 86-89).

SEASON HIGHS

Points: Mawot Mag (11), Trey Stewart (3)
Field Goals: Mawot Mag (5), Trey Stewart (1)
3-Pointers: Trey Stewart (1)
Rebounds: Mawot Mag (5)
Assists: Mawot Mag (1), Richie Saunders (3)
Blocks: Trevin Knell (1)
Steals: Keba Keita (1), Mawot Mag (1)

CAREER HIGHS

3-Pointers: Trey Stewart (1)



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BYU HEAD COACH KEVIN YOUNG

Opening statement

"I'm disappointed. Offensively, I liked how we played. The ball didn't go in the basket for us from three. We have to make free throws to win close games, and have to rebound the ball to win close games. The second chance points didn't really hurt us, but I'm disappointed in giving them 14 offensive rebounds. That was kind of the genesis of it. Late-game defensive execution was bad. We want to get the ball out of Williams' hands. We let him play one on one too much. They make it hard because they have shooting around him and he's a heck of a ball player, but we did not execute our scheme to get the ball out of his hands, and he made us pay with that."

On why BYU couldn't defend Darren Williams

"I'm not sure. We're going to find out tomorrow when we get in the film room. We have not been in a lot of close games, so we have to be able to learn from this quickly and fix things that we didn't do to close it out. Every team is going to have a good player that you have to get the ball out of their hands in some form or fashion. This happened early in league play, where we get a close one like this. My hope is that our guys, young guys and veterans alike, can come together and fix it moving forward."

On his confidence level that 3-point field goal shooting will improve

"It's extremely high. We have a team full of really good shooters. I think we started out one of ten. In the first half, we got wide open looks that just didn't go in. In the second half, I thought [the Raiders] turned their defense up. They did a good job on Trev and Richie, crowding those guys. Especially at home, to start one for ten from three, that was disappointing. I thought we could've really opened it up a lot more in the first half, but more than the three-point shooting is the free-throw shooting. You've got to be able to knock free throws down in close games."

On how to improve the team's free-throw shooting

"I think we can try to give the guys confidence to step up and knock it down. I think it's more of a mental than it is a physical thing, so we'll spend some time with our mental coach there with some of our guys. There's no magic trick to it. Step up, knock them down and move on."

On how Mawot Mag changed the game defensively in the first half

"He came in and played really hard, and it's not just one-on-one defense. He's really good off the ball, too, in terms of knowing the schemes. That's why I felt comfortable having him out there. That's a tough team to defend because they have a lot of good players and shooting, so he helped us quite a bit."

On potential candidates for a "go-to guy" on the team

"Fouss, he's a guy we played through late. Even though Dawson [Baker] wasn't out there, I went with [Trevin Knell] a little bit more and Mag. That's why Dawson kind of got a little bit of a hit. But [Fouss is] a guy that possesses the skills you can play through, which we do when he's out there. Egor is still trying to figure out where his spots are to best score the basketball, and that is one thing that's tough with the group we have. We don't have a ton of just break-you-off-the-dribble guys, and to close games out, you need that. So we have to be a bit more creative offensively, where I can put these guys in better positions."

On how the team battled on the glass after losing to Houston

"It was disappointing. That's something we'll have to review on the tape and show our guys, but I think the effort was there for sure. I thought we were more mindful of it. Sometimes the ball doesn't bounce your way to get rebounds, but you have to see exactly on the film if that was the case. I think more than the rebounds, it was the loose balls and the 50-50 balls. Sometimes the ball bounces your way, and sometimes it doesn't, but figure out a way to go get the ball."

On the key to a victory on the road against TCU

"We have to make shots, number one. That's a huge part of any team, but with us, we're a pace and ball movement type of team. With that, you've got to be able to make shots. On the road, you've got to dig into the details much more, which we have not done. This will be a really good opportunity to lick our wounds and have to go out and do it the hard way on the road. I've got a locker room full of great guys that want to do the right thing, and I look forward to their response as we try to go get the first one on the road."

MAWOT MAG

On confidence level despite losing at home

"I feel like we were strong, but towards the end of the game, there just wasn't really discipline in regards to the game plan. I feel like it's a good learning experience. You can't change the past, so you got to just learn from it and bounce back, and try to use that as motivation for the next game."

On matching Darrion Williams defensively

"He's a great player. He really started going in the second half. He competes and makes it as hot as possible. I felt like we started off great with him, but I feel like he got going towards the end, which helped him a lot. We play them again, though. We will make adjustments."

On confidence level going into TCU

"It's still hot. We have all the players we need. I feel the coaches do a great job of staying to the game plan. It's not really about how you start, it's about how you finish. I feel like we still have enough time to play good ball and win. If you go out there without confidence, things might not go well."



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DALLIN HALL

On what the game was like for them

"This game was super physical. They're well-coached. They play a good brand of basketball and I think you saw that by the lead changes. We were tested a lot with our physicality. I thought we responded well for the most part, especially after that Houston game, but we just got to stay poised to the finish line. I think there's a couple of things that we got to clean up and control. The things that we can control."

On what went sideways defensively at the end of the second half

"We were a little disorganized. We turned the ball over a little bit. They got out in transition and we didn't get matched up, so credit to them. They hit a lot of shots. We got to take care of the ball, get back in transition, get matched up and execute the defensive game plan. I thought for 70 percent of the game, we did a good job, and then we were a little disorganized towards the end."

On what was most disappointing about tonight's loss

"I think the fact that there are things we can control. Obviously, we didn't have a great shooting night, that is outside of our control, but second chance points, I thought our bigs did an incredible job keeping their bigs off the glass, but us guards, we got to be better at helping them out. I also think executing the defensive game plan was rough, like we had a plan for Williams and we didn't execute that down the stretch. I mean, it's disheartening, right? But it's also good, because there are things that we can control and fix and see improvements on the next game. That's what we are about is, not shaking our confidence. We know we are a really good team and we have our best basketball ahead of us, but we have a few things we need to sharpen up ASAP."

On how to improve free-throw shooting

"We hit reps in practice, but it's just about settling down. The last few games we have been doing really well as a team, and we had a hiccup today. So yeah, just settling in, shooting it with confidence. That's mostly what free throws are about."

TEXAS TECH HEAD COACH GRANT MCCASLAND

Opening statement

"Yeah, what a remarkable environment this is to play a college basketball game. I thought the student section and the energy in the building was tremendous from tip to finish, and that's why we have a lot of respect for what they're doing and how they're doing it. I thought they were really physical with us for a majority of the game and it caused us problems. Tremendous college basketball game and a remarkable environment."

On BYU's defense maintaining control

"I think they did a great job changing defenses from different ball screen coverages to different looks in the zone. They have a great size and length on the perimeter, which makes it difficult with passing angles. It seems like there's some holes, but they do a good job covering them up."