



BYU FOOTBALL

PORTLAND STATE	0	0	0	0	0
BYU	14	35	6	14	69

AUG. 30, 2025
LAVELL EDWARDS STADIUM

TEAM NOTES

SEASON OPENERS UNDER SITAKE

- > BYU is now 9-1 in season openers under head coach Kalani Sitake. The Cougars have opened the season at home five times under Sitake and hold a 4-1 record in such games.

BYU AGAINST FCS OPPONENTS

- > BYU moves 20-0 against opponents from the FCS in program history. The Cougars have outscored FCS teams by an average of 47.4 to 9.9. FCS teams have scored more than 14 points just three times against BYU.

SPECIAL TEAMS TOUCHDOWN...I'LL TAKE '01

- > With 3:58 remaining in the opening quarter, defensive tackle John Taumoepeau blocked Portland State's 57-yard field goal attempt, which was recovered by linebacker Jack Kelly, who took it 54 yards to the house. With it, BYU recorded its first blocked field goal returned for a touchdown since 2001 when current linebacker coach Justin Ena blocked a San Diego State attempt with Ryan Denney taking it 82 yards for the touchdown.

DOMINANT FROM START TO FINISH

- > The Cougars led 49-0 at the intermission, the seventh time BYU has posted 49 or more points in the first half of a game. It is also the most points scored in a first half since holding a 49-0 lead over Wagner on Oct. 24, 2015.
- > BYU shut out its opponent for the second-consecutive game. The Cougars held the Colorado Buffaloes scoreless in the first half of the 2024 Alamo Bowl en route to a 36-14 victory.
- > The Cougars recorded 606 total yards, the most since the 2020 Boca Raton Bowl against UCF (655).
- > BYU scored the sixth-most points in program history and the most in the Kalani era, besting the previous high of 66 against Virginia in 2021. It is also the largest shutout in program history, besting the 65-0 win over UNM in 1988.

GROUND AND POUND

- > The Cougars recorded the second-most rushing yards in program history with 468 on the night.
- > BYU had 14 different players carry the ball, with seven recording 30 or more yards on the ground.

PLAYER NOTES

BEAR WITNESS TO HISTORY

- > Quarterback Bear Bachmeier becomes the eighth true freshman to start a game at BYU and the first to start the season opener.
- > Bachmeier notched his first career touchdown pass with a 4-yard completion to Chase Roberts as the first quarter expired.
- > With a 5-yard touchdown pass to Noah Moeaki, Bachmeier joins Taysom Hill (2), Tanner Mangum (2) and Zach Wilson (3) as true freshmen at BYU to throw multiple TD passes in their first-career start. Bachmeier also joined Hill, Mangum and Wilson by adding a 4-yard rushing touchdown to two with 6:15 left in the second quarter.
- > With his third touchdown pass, a 22-yard completion to Carsen Ryan, Bachmeier joins Zach Wilson as the only other true freshman to throw three touchdown passes in his first career start at BYU.
- > Bachmeier is the only true freshman QB to account for five touchdowns in a game (3 passing, 2 rushing).

THE RUNNING MAN

- > LJ Martin rushed for a career-high 131 yards, topping his previous best of 120 against Oklahoma State last season. All of his carries came in the first half.

FERRIN FROM DEEP

- > With a 56-yard field goal in the third quarter, Will Ferrin tied the school record for longest made field goal held by Owen Pochman, who made a 56-yarder in 2000 against New Mexico.

NOTABLE FIRSTS/CAREER HIGHS

LB JACK KELLY

- > Returned blocked field goal for first-career touchdown.

WR CODY HAGEN

- > Hagen's first-career rush goes for his first-career touchdown, a 57-yard scamper.

DT ANISI PURCELL

- > Recorded first career sack for a 6-yard loss.

WR DOMINIQUE MCKENZIE

- > Scored first career rushing TD on a 41-yard carry.

TE NOAH MOEAKI

- > Recorded first-career touchdown on 5-yard reception.

TE CARSEN RYAN

- > Reeled in the first catch at BYU for 25 yards, the longest pass play of the day for the Cougars. Also scored first touchdown as a Cougar on a 22-yard reception.

RB CHARLES MISKA

- > Scored first career rushing touchdown on 5-yard carry with 1:55 left in the fourth quarter.

CAREER HIGHS

- > LJ Martin: 131 rushing Yards (Prev. 120 vs. Oklahoma State)

GAME INFO

Weather: 83 degrees, sunny

Attendance: 64,494

Series Results: 1-0

Captains: S Tanner Wall, LB Jack Kelly, WR Chase Roberts, OL Bruce Mitchell

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

Uniforms: Navy helmet, navy jersey, white pants

BYU Flag Bearers

Alumni: Alumni Flag bearers

Mike Epperson (DB, 1972)

Travis Epperson (Kicker, 2004-05)

Steven Richards (TE, 2014-15)

USA: RB Lucky Finau

Utah: DE Kinilau Fonohema

Big 12: QB Emerson Geilman



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

"Happy we got the win—proud of a lot of things I saw in the game. Obviously I'm gonna be a coach and say it wasn't perfect. There are a lot of places I think we can improve on, but I was really proud of the entire team from beginning to end."

On the defense's performance

"They're in the system now. There's a lot of guys who have been here for a while and who have spent a lot of time with Jay Hill and the entire defensive staff. Having the whole defensive staff intact and returning was huge for us... I'm really thankful we were able to hang on to our coaches... Jay Hill's done a great job with the defense. Really, really happy with what he's done, and looking forward to what they can accomplish even more this year, and especially week two against Stanford."

On the offense's performance

"Offensively, I thought we did enough of what we needed to do. I think ARod (Aaron Roderick) felt like he knew we could run the ball. I think at the end we just wanted to see Bear (Bachmeier) in that two-minute situation, and I thought he did a great job. After that, we just shut them down. LJ (Martin) and Sione (Moa) and the rest of the guys. We had a lot of threes playing in the game too, so it was a lot of fun."

On Bear Bachmier's first performance

"I think he did a great job...once he started getting hit a little bit he started to settle down. I think it's hard when you get into this environment. I don't know if they were ready for the stands to be that packed. So I think that can get you a little bit nervous, but I think he was able to settle down. I think some of those throws he wishes he could get back. But overall, I thought he had a good demeanor about him. I thought he had a great presence. The guys felt really good about him leading the offense. I felt good about how he finished the first half."

On the Lavell Edwards Stadium environment

"There's a huge credit to our fans. They were awesome. We're not in school yet, and it was a packed house, and they are excited to watch BYU football."

On the decision to put in the backups

"I think at the end of the first half it was kind of like that was enough... I'm not trying to pad stats. I'm trying to keep guys healthy. And at the same time, you can keep guys healthy and work on depth and get some valuable reps. I think it's going to pay off in the long run. They were very valuable reps for those kids and they were able to have some success. We went down the line on our players, and it was a great time for guys to be in that situation... when the team's rolling and guys are doing what they're supposed to, success will be there."

On areas the team can improve on

"It's the penalties... We had a couple holding penalties and one that took away a great return from Cannon Devries and then a 15-yard targeting. The guys are just really excited and amped up to play, but we have to have a better mindset and be more disciplined. We've been really focused on that."

On the maturity of the quarterbacks

"I've mentioned it before: I felt really comfortable with all our quarterbacks. We saw McCae (Hillstead) and Treyson (Bourget) come into the game. They had a very similar demeanor about them and a good presence. And that's a good sign. They're making plays and the commander of the offense. Even Cole Hagan came in the game and got some reps too."

On kicker Will Ferrin's performance

"He was getting after the ball. We had one (kickoff) that we wanted to kind of pop up a little bit, and it was spot on. He's a next-level kicker... We just want to see him kick the ball."

On running back LJ Martin's performance

"I was really excited that he was able to break tackles. That's what we've been able to see from him throughout the last couple years. He started really coming into his own as a leader. He's a team captain. He understands the offense. I remember when he was a true freshman, we were trying to get him lined up correctly, and now he's directing everyone else. I've been really, really impressed with his leadership."

On the defensive line's performance

"We feel really good about the entire group. I'm glad that they were able to get a lot of reps. It was nice to see JT and Keanu get after it and be physical on the line of scrimmage."

WILL FERRIN, BYU KICKER

On his record-tying kick...

"I think it's funny. Every time there's a big kick, everyone's like: 'What happened here? What happened here?' And I'm like, 'It's always the same process for me.' Or if it's one of the PATs we hit today, or a game winner, or a long kick, I go through the same process. I approach it the same way. I even hit the ball the same way. If I hit the ball pure and straight every time, then good things happen. So it didn't feel much different than a lot of the other balls I've hit. Besides, on the day, I think I can make it from wherever coaches put me out. I feel confident right now, and I trust they'll put me in good spots."



On making 18 straight field goals

"I follow the slogan, I guess, of being one-for-one every time. So it's not that I'm technical to be this percentage this year or to do this. It's that this kick, I'm one-for-one. And in that situation with the long kick, it's like, it's great, and then we move on, and you might have to go hit another one. So I think as a kicker, it's hard to live in that world of streaks. I don't think about it a lot. Just wipe it and move on with the next one.

On executing different kickoffs

"Yeah, that's Coach Poppinga. He thrives off that kind of stuff. He's very creative with special teams. He's very effective the way he goes about things. So that's a kick that we've had installed for a while now, and he's very particular about how he wants it. Given the game situation or the scheme that the other team has for kickoff return, he has a ball that he wants hit in a very specific way. So I just do my best in practice to figure out exactly how he wants it, so I can go do it in the game. Coach Kalani is also kind of a one-for-one head coach, where he puts in the time to get to know us. He's not bigger than anyone else. He's going to put me in good situations, and as he does that, I'll go execute to the best of my ability.

On the program's investment in special teams

"It's big. I think it speaks to a couple things. I think it speaks to the depth that we have. Today we were rolling through guys. Lots of guys were getting their first plays on kickoff return, punt return. And it also speaks to the unity of our team. Special teams is cool because you have the offense, you have the defense and special teams is where everybody plays together. So being a united team, and having a lot of depth makes it so people are ready to go and perform, and people are excited to go and make plays on special teams."



POSTGAME QUOTES PORTLAND STATE

AUG. 30, 2025
LAVELL EDWARDS STADIUM

PORTLAND STATE HEAD COACH BRUCE BARNHAM

Opening statement

"That's a heck of a football team. You knew it coming in. I watched them last year. I watched what they replaced them with. I respect Coach Sitake. I know his staff. They wore us out. I need the guys to slow the game down a lot. That's a long day in Mudville, boys and girls. It is what it is. I told Sitake he has a good football team and to go win them all."

On Bachmeier's performance

"I watched him during pregame 'cause I was hoping his height and weight wasn't right. I looked at his butt and his legs, and he looked durable, fast and smart. I liked his release. He's taller than I thought he was. He's a good football player, so how do we stop him? His brother's tough, which will make him durable for them."

On the atmosphere at LaVell Edwards Stadium

"They told me in the pregame the lower ring was already filled up with students. I actually listened to the announcer and heard they sold it out, so good for them. It's a great place. I don't know how they make the lights turn off and on like that. Great experience for college football Saturday."

On trying to counter against BYU's defense

"They did a good job against a scheme we did last week. We added a little bit more this week, and it worked until I lost a tight end. I went back to the basics and they were on it to the end."

On QB adjustments made this week from last week

"I tried to go deep this week. I wanted to throw deep, run the ball and throw screens."

On his message to the team after back-to-back tough losses . . .

"I just gave it to them. They've got a choice. I told them they got two ways to go: they can either start complaining . . . or come back and stick together. On to North Dakota next week."