

# Y. volleyball team gets back on track with sweep

By Scott Taylor  
Deseret Morning News

PROVO — After a recent four-loss spiral sent the once-No. 1 BYU men's volleyball team



down several notches in the national rankings and just as far in self-esteem,

the No. 4 Cougars regained confidence and control by completing a two-match weekend sweep of No. 12 Hawaii with Saturday night's 35-33, 30-22, 30-27 victory at

the Smith Fieldhouse. And just in time, as BYU spends three of the next four weeks away from Provo — a two-match series each at No. 14 Southern California, No. 3 UC Santa Barbara and No. 10 Cal State Northridge, with a welcome off weekend.

Instead, the Cougars have corrected their course, improving to 11-4 overall and 7-3 in Mountain Pacific Sports Federation play. Saturday's three-game sweep of

the Warriors (3-11, 3-9 MPSF) seemed reminiscent to BYU's season-starting 10-0 run. The Cougars' Ivan Perez, Yosleyder Cala and Robby Stowell logged double-digit kills and decent percentages — Perez at 15 kills and .400, Cala at 12 and .391 and Stowell at 13 and .364 — as BYU outthit UH 315 to 134.

Just as important were efforts showing the Cougars with the heart and desire obviously lacking in last week's sweep by Pepperdine. Players were diving for and chasing loose balls, with Cala climbing several rows for one save.

## Briefs CAMPUS NOTES

### BYU

**VOLLEYBALL:** Two members of the BYU women's volleyball team are in Colorado Springs, Colo., trying out for the U.S. Women's National Team. Outside hitter Chelsea Goodman and rightside hitter Erica Lott, both of whom just completed their junior seasons with the Cougars, will join 108 other athletes looking to join the National Team.

**BASEBALL:** Heavy thunderstorms forced the cancellation of BYU's baseball game Saturday against the University of Akron in Millington, Tenn. The Cougars, now 4-3 overall and 1-1 in the Service Academies Classic, return home to ready for the home season opener this week.

**SWIMMING:** After a two-year hiatus the BYU women's swim team won the Mountain West Conference Championships, scoring a total of 747 points. The BYU men's team finished 15 points behind UNLV. The Cougars will find out next week which swimmers and relay squads qualified for the NCAA Championships in Minneapolis which will be held March 8-10.

**TENNIS:** The BYU women's tennis team topped the Red Raiders of Texas Tech University 5-2 on Saturday. BYU swept the doubles match to earn that point. Individuals winners were Anastasia Surkova, Kristina Doerr, Chie Hayasaka and Dolly Chang.

**Utah**

**SKIING:** The University of

Utah finished the NCAA Regional Saturday, placing third with 391 points. Denver University was crowned RMISA champion with 426 points. The University of Colorado finished second. In Saturday's mass-start 15K the Utes were paced by freshman Snori Einarsson's fourth-place time of 42:45.0. Sophomore Fabian Figi took 11th place. Sara Schweiger led the women's team in the mass-start 10K with a time of 33:15.6. Teammate Sarah MacCarthy placed sixth with a time of 33:53.2.

**BASEBALL:** The University of Utah baseball team dropped another close one Saturday at Anteater Ballpark, falling 5-3 to UC Irvine. With the game tied 3-3, the Utes allowed two runs in the bottom of the eighth, giving the Anteaters the victory. Utah will try to salvage the third and final game of the series this afternoon.

### Utah State

**GYMNASTICS:** Utah State gymnastics scored a season-high 195.675 to beat Southern Utah's season high score of 194.700 on Friday. In the all-around, Southern Utah's Elise Wheeler placed first with a 39.300, while USU's Megan Lewis and Jessica Parent-Otte followed with identical scores of 39.275. Overall the Aggies had a total of eight individual season highs, five career highs and three season high team scores. USU will return to action when it hosts Alaska Anchorage on Friday at 6:30 p.m. in the Dee Glen Smith Spectrum.

**TENNIS:** Utah State women's tennis suffered a loss as the Aggies were swept, 7-0, by Utah Saturday afternoon at the Sports Academy and Racquet Club. With the loss, the Aggies now post a 4-5 record for the spring season.

### Weber State

**TRACK & FIELD:** One point made all the difference as the Weber State women's track and field team captured the title at the 2007 Big Sky Indoor Track and Field Championships Saturday in Bozeman, Montana. The Wildcats totaled 108.5 points, one point ahead of Idaho State. It is the eighth Big Sky Indoor Championship for the Wildcats.

On the men's side the 'Cats totaled 105.5 points to finish in second place. Sacramento State won its first ever Big Sky Track Championship by totaling 107.5 points. Northern Arizona finished third at 101 points.

### SUU/UVSC

**BASEBALL:** Southern Utah University baseball found its hitting stroke in an 8-2 win in the final game of a three-game series with Utah Valley State College on Saturday afternoon. The Thunderbirds came up short against the Wolverines earlier in the day in the conclusion of game two with a 5-3 defeat.

### SLCC

**SOFTBALL:** The 26th-ranked Salt Lake Bruins softball team battled the weather and the North Idaho Cardinals but came up one run short in a seven-inning showdown on Bruin Field.

"at Pepperdine, we didn't see it at all, and that was disappointing." More evidence Saturday included libero Joel Silva's career-high 14 digs and middle blocker Russell Holmes' career-best four block solos and seven block assists — all impressive given the match only went the three-game minimum.

"I wasn't getting it done offensively, so I tried to make up for it that way," said Holmes. In the opening game, BYU outthit UH .481 to .286, but the

Warriors' frequent three-point lead ballooned to six as late as 24-18. The Cougars rallied and staved off five game points, then gaining advantage on a Perez kill and the game on a UH hitting error. While he appreciated the winning rally, Millar said he'd rather his players in control from the start, rather than waiting for something to jumpstart them.

"It's important for us to not need something in order to make us flip our switch," he said. BYU enjoyed six-point

leads in the second game as it reached the 20s, with the Cougars' hitting at .300 to the Warriors' .028. Silva picked up six of BYU's 15 digs, while BYU enjoyed a 5-1 margin in blocks for the game (14-10 for the match). In the third, the Cougars again led for most of the game, as much as four at 22-18. Despite .089 hitting, Hawaii rallied for ties at 24-, 25- and 27- all before a pair of Warrior miscues and a Holmes-Stowell-Perez combo block gave BYU the match.

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