



AGGIE BASKETBALL FEVER



2011-12
PREVIEW



2010-11 Season Recap: Did not disappoint

Mission Accomplished!

Entering the 2010-11 season, Utah State's men's basketball team had just one mission, to win its fourth-straight Western Athletic Conference regular season championship and advance to its third-straight NCAA Tournament. And with four starters, six seniors and eight lettermen returning for the previous year, anything short of another WAC title and NCAA Tournament appearance would have been considered a disappointment.

By season's end, Utah State did not disappoint as it accomplished everything it set out to do and more, steamrolling its way to a school-record tying 30 wins, including a dominating 15-1 performance in conference play as it won its fourth-straight WAC title and advanced to the Big Dance for the third year in a row.

Along the way, Utah State set a school and WAC record by winning

25 straight conference games over a two-year period and produced the third-longest winning streak in school history with 17 straight victories. Utah State also entered the top 25 during the season and was nationally ranked for nine-straight weeks, ending the year No. 25 in the ESPN/USA Today Coaches' Poll.

Leading the way for Utah State heading into the 2010-11 season was the WAC's Preseason Player of the Year in senior forward Tai Wesley. Along with Wesley, Utah State returned three other proven starters in senior forward Nate Bendall and senior guards Tyler Newbold and Pooh Williams. USU also had an experienced bench returning in senior forward Matt Formisano, senior guard Brian Green, junior forward Brady Jardine and sophomore guard Preston Medlin.

Needless to say, Utah State was everyone's preseason favorite to win the

WAC once again in 2010-11 with all its experience and talent returning, and that's just what they did.

Utah State began the 2010-11 season by winning five of its first seven games, which included in-state victories against Weber State and Utah at home along with a home win against Northeastern, and road wins at Southern Utah and Denver. USU also played two nationally ranked teams on the road during the first month of the season in BYU and Georgetown in the nation's capital.

Following home wins against Long Beach State and Cal State Bakersfield, and a road win at Utah Valley, Utah State won its own World Vision Invitational with victories against Idaho State, Western Michigan and Troy to end its preseason with an 11-2 record.

Utah State began defense of its back-to-back-to-back WAC Championships with home wins against Hawai'i

and San Jose State. USU then began the New Year with road wins at Nevada, Boise State and Fresno State, followed by home wins against Louisiana Tech and New Mexico State, and two more road wins at San Jose State and Hawai'i to push its winning streak to 15 straight games heading into the month of February.

With its winning streak, Utah State entered the national polls in January, coming in at No. 25 in the ESPN/USA Today Coaches' Poll for the week of January 24, marking the third time in the last eight seasons that USU has been nationally ranked.

With plenty of national exposure, Utah State began the month of February just like it ended January as it defeated Nevada and Boise State at home to push its winning streak to 17 straight games, which was tied for the third-longest winning streak in school history. USU also set a school and WAC record in February by winning 25 straight WAC games over a two-year period.

Following its only loss during conference play at Idaho in early February, Utah State responded by winning its final six games of the regular season to run away with the WAC title and became just the seventh team in the 49-year history of the league to lose one or fewer conference games as it finished with a 15-1 league record.

During the final month of the season, Utah State posted home wins against Fresno State, Montana-Western and Idaho on Senior Night, a convincing road win at No. 23 Saint Mary's in the annual ESPNU BracketBusters, and a pair of league road wins at New Mexico State and Louisiana Tech to conclude the regular season with an impressive 28-3 record.

For the fourth year in a row, Utah State entered the WAC Tournament as the top seed, and for the second time in the last three years, Utah State came away as the tournament champion as it defeated San Jose State (58-54) in the semifinals and Boise State (77-69) in the championship game to advance to its 20th NCAA Tournament all-time, including its eighth in the last 12 years under Coach Morrill.

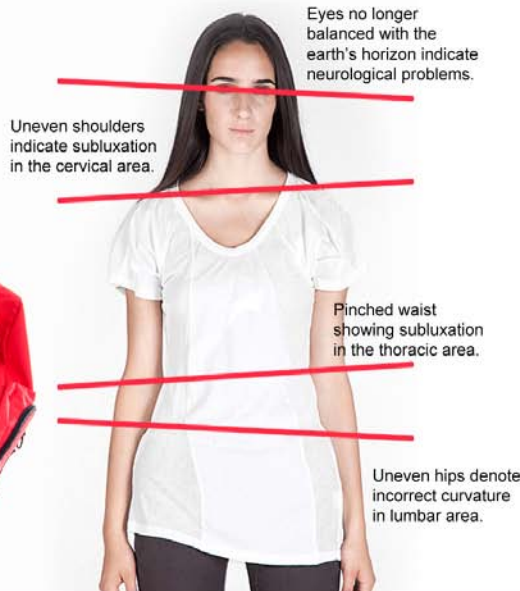
With a 30-3 record and No. 17 national ranking in the ESPN/USA Today Coaches' Poll, Utah State was given a 12-seed in the Southeast Region and sent to Tucson, Ariz., to face fifth-seeded Kansas State in the second round, where it lost to the Wildcats, 73-68.

Despite its heartbreaking loss in the NCAA Tournament, the 2010-11 season was one of the most successful campaigns in school history under Morrill as USU advanced to its 12th straight postseason tournament (8-NCAA, 4-NIT) and posted its 12th straight 23-win season, extending

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RECAP

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WAC CHAMPIONSHIP FOR AN EXCITED TEAM OF AGGIES IN LAS VEGAS LAST MARCH. /Statesman photo

its current school records in each category.

With team success comes individual recognition and Utah State had four players recognized for their accomplishments throughout the course of the season in Wesley, Green and Newbold, along with junior guard Brockeith Pane.

For the 12th straight season, USU had at least one player earn first-team all-conference honors as Wesley and Pane were both named to the WAC's first-team, while Wesley was also named the WAC's Player of the Year marking the sixth time in school history, and the third time in the last four years, that a USU player has received conference player of the year honors. Green was also honored, as he was named second-team all-WAC, while Pane was named to the league's all-newcomer team.

Utah State also had a player named to the WAC's all-defensive team for the second year in a row as Newbold was named to the five-player team.

Wesley finished his senior season ranking first on the team in both scoring (14.8) and rebounding (8.0), and was second in minutes played (29.2). He also ranked second in the conference in field goal shooting (.599), fourth in rebounding, fifth in blocked shots (1.06) and sixth in scoring.

Wesley concluded his career as the only player in school history to record at least 1,000 points, 500 rebounds, 200 assists and 100 blocks. Overall, Wesley ranks eighth all-time at USU in scoring (1,749), tied for first in games played (139), third in games started (128), third in blocked shots (144), third in double-figure scoring games (101), fourth in field goal percentage (.597), fourth in free throw attempts (608), fifth in free throws made (428), fifth in minutes played (3,768), sixth in rebounding (873), sixth in field goals made (657), eighth in assists (356), ninth in steals (112) and 10th in field goal attempts (1,102).

Pane finished the year ranking second on the team in scoring with 11.8 points per game. He also ranked fourth in the conference in free throw shooting (.802), fifth in assists (3.41) and sixth in assist-to-turnover ratio (1.32).

Green was the team's third-leading scorer at 10.5 points per game, and finished the year leading the WAC in three-point shooting at 46.9 percent and ranking 10th in overall shooting at 48.2 percent.

Along with being named the WAC's Player of the Year, Wesley also earned WAC Player of the Week honors three times during the season. He received his first honor on Dec. 13 after leading USU to home wins against

Long Beach State (81-53) and Cal State Bakersfield (77-58), while his second honor was on Jan. 3 after home wins against Hawai'i (74-66) and San Jose State (80-71). His third WAC Player of the Week

award came on Feb. 21 as USU defeated Montana-Western (100-66) at home and No. 23 Saint Mary's (75-65) on the road in its annual ESPNU BracketBuster game.

Two other players received WAC Player of the Week honors during the season as Jardine won the award on Nov. 29 after leading Utah State to home wins against Utah (79-62) and Northeastern (56-54), while Green won his award on Jan. 31 after leading the Aggies to a pair of league road wins at San Jose State (84-65) and at Hawai'i (89-84 2OT).

Utah State also had three players named to the WAC's all-tournament team in Bendall, Pane and Wesley. Pane was named the Most Valuable Player of the tournament as he averaged 17.5 points, while Bendall averaged 10.5 points and 9.0 rebounds, and Wesley averaged 16.5 points and 10.5 rebounds.

For all of his success and accomplishments during the 2010-11 season, Wesley was named an honorable mention All-American by the Associated Press, marking the fourth time in the last five years that USU has had a player garner All-America honors. Wesley also earned

all-district honors from both the United States Basketball Writers Association (UWBWA) and the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC).

Once again, opposing teams found out just how hard it is to play at one of the best basketball venues in the West in the Dee Glen Smith Spectrum. Utah State went 17-0 at home for the third time in the last four years and ended the season with the third-longest home winning streak in the nation with 31 straight wins. The 2010-11 season also marked just the sixth time in the 41-year history of the building that a USU team has gone undefeated at home. That 17-0 record also marked the 15th straight year in which USU teams have lost two or fewer home games. USU also led the WAC in attendance in 2011 averaging 8,732 fans per game, including two sellouts during the season.

As for Coach Morrill, the 2010-11 season marked the sixth time in his 25 years as a collegiate head coach that he was named conference coach of the year, including his fifth time in his 13 years at USU as he has now been

 2010, PG 4

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2011

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named the WAC Coach of the Year in each of the past three seasons. Morrill was also named the NABC District 6 Coach of the Year for the second year in a row and the 2011 Jim Phelan National Coach of the Year by CollegeInsider.com.

With a school-record tying 30 wins in 2011, Morrill has now won at least 20 games 16 times in his career and at least 17 games 22 times. In his 13 years at USU, he has posted an amazing 324-103 (.759) record, including a 167-49 (.773) league mark, and a 25-7 (.781) record in conference tournaments.

Overall, Utah State finished the 2010-11 year ranking among the top 11 in the nation in six different statistical categories as it finished the year ranking third in field goal percentage defense (.383), fourth in winning percentage (.882), fifth in scoring defense (58.7), sixth in scoring margin (+13.4), eighth in rebound margin (+7.6) and 11th in three-point field goal percentage defense (.302). Utah State (30-4, 15-1) finished the 2010-11 season as one of just eight teams nationally to win at least 30 games, and it was one of just four teams to have four or fewer losses during the year.

As for the Western Athletic Conference, Utah State was the top field goal shooting team for the fourth time in as many years, not to mention leading the league in scoring defense for the fourth-straight year allowing 58.7 points per game. USU also ranked



first in the WAC in scoring margin, field goal percentage defense, three-point field goal percentage defense, rebound margin and assists (14.71).

Utah State had several statistical categories that ranked among the top 10 in school history for a single-season including setting a record for winning percentage (.882) and tying the 2008-09 team for the most wins in school history (30). USU also finished the year ranking fourth all-time in three-point attempts (562), fifth in games played (34), tied for fifth in three-pointers made (206), sixth in blocked shots (110), eighth in total points (2,449), ninth in assists (500), ninth in free throws made (563) and ninth in free throw percentage (.737).

The Aggies finished the 2010-11 season with some interesting trends. They were 22-0 when committing fewer fouls than its opponent; 16-0 when it committed fewer turnovers than its opponent; 15-0 when it had more steals than its opponent; 13-2 when it blocked more shots than its opponent; 26-2 when it had more assists than its opponent; 25-1 when it had more defensive rebounds than its opponent; 27-2 when it shot better from the field than its opponent; 18-4 when it shot better from 3-point range than its opponent; 15-0 when its backcourt outscored its opponents backcourt; and 23-2 when its frontline outscored its opponents frontline.

A FAMILIAR SCENE LAST SEASON WAS TAI WESLEY GOING AROUND A DEFENDER. / *Statesman photo*

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2011-12 Outlook: Feels like starting over

"Anytime you start over with a lot of new players, there is the challenge of trying to make a new group mesh with a few veterans to see what you have. I hope I'm as excited in February as I am now about coaching this team. We have taken some things for granted the last few years that will be re-emphasized in terms of what has worked for us at Utah State. Practice habits, character, togetherness, all those things are so important and have been for years around here. Certainly talent level is something we're not quite sure where we're at right now and time will tell, but it should be a challenge and it should be fun and I hope our fans will embrace this team as we go along. We just hope we are a lot better team by the time we get to WAC play than we will be on the first day of practice in October." --- USU head coach Stew Morrill

Starting over. In a sense, that is what Utah State is doing this year under veteran head coach Stew Morrill after losing six seniors that combined to win a school-record four-straight regular season Western Athletic Conference Championships, advance to three-straight NCAA Tournaments, win two WAC Tournament Championships in three years and produce a four-year record of 111-28 (.799).

Despite everything that Utah State lost from last season, expectations surrounding the Aggie program will not change as a culture of winning has been established under Morrill, the reigning three-time WAC Coach of the Year. And that tradition includes an active streak of winning at least 23 games in each of the last 12 seasons and advancing to 12-straight postseason tournaments (8-NCAA, 4-NIT), both of which are school-records. USU also has the fourth-best winning percentage in the nation during the past 12 seasons at 77.4 percent (309-90), and has gone 75-21 (.781) in its six years in the WAC, the best record by any team in the league.

"I want this group to believe they can be successful, I just want them to go about it the right way which is day-by-day," said Morrill. "You can't win a WAC Championship by talking about it, you've got to go to work. We won't be favored to win the WAC and that will be the first time in a while. I don't know if I would call us an underdog, but you have a chance to prove that maybe you're better than where you're picked. I suspect we'll be picked somewhere in the middle of the pack. Whatever motivates you to go to work and do what it takes day-by-day to get better, I'm okay with that. Our goals don't change much. Try and win our next game and stay together, that is what is on our goal sheet every year and that's just kind of how we go about it."

Morrill's old-school style and

philosophy has translated into him becoming the winningest coach in 108 years of Aggie basketball as he owns a gaudy 324-103 (.759) record in 13 years - ranking as the second-longest tenured coach in school history - to go along with a 167-49 (.773) conference record and a 25-7 (.781) mark in conference tournament play. He has also been awarded conference coach of the year honors on five separate occasions during his time at Utah State, including being named the 2009, 2010 and 2011 WAC Coach of the Year.

Leading the way for Utah State heading into the 2011-12 season will be the reigning WAC Tournament Most Valuable Player in senior point guard Brockeith Pane who also earned first-team all-WAC honors and was named to the league's all-newcomer team during his first year in an Aggie uniform. As a junior, Pane ranked fourth in the WAC in free throw shooting (.802), fifth in assists (3.41) and sixth in assist-to-turnover ratio (1.32), while averaging 11.8 points and 3.1 rebounds per game.

"I think Brockeith should be one of the best players in the league this year, he was last year by the second half of league play," Morrill said. "What's important to me is that he gets better. Everybody in the league knows he's a power guard and that he gets to the line and that he gets in the lane and makes plays, and we certainly need that and expect that, but we also need him to be a more consistent shooter and to be a better defender. We can't hide him defensively like we could at times last year, so the parts of his game that weren't as strong, I expect to improve and yet still remember where his strengths are."

Another strength returning for Utah State this year will be senior forward Brady Jardine who has played in 91 games with seven starts during his first three years at USU. Last season, Jardine averaged 7.5 points and 7.0 rebounds, while shooting 54.1 percent from the field and 64.7 percent at the free throw line. He finished the season ranking sixth in the WAC with 1.00 blocks per game and ranks sixth all-time in school history with 69 career blocks.

"Brady's been like a starter the last couple years in a lot of ways, even though he hasn't had the opportunities that a starter gets minute-wise and shots and those kinds of things, so I'm really anxious, and I'm sure Brady is too, to see what he can do as a go-to-guy, and that's what he's got to be for us is a go-to-guy. I have no question of the effort and the confidence he'll put into it. Brady is a very valuable guy in terms of character and effort, so his senior season should be really special. That's what we think and I know that's what he wants too."

Along with Pane and Jardine, Utah State returns two more letterwinners from last season in senior forward

Morgan Grim and junior guard E.J. Farris. Grim appeared in 32 games as a redshirt junior and averaged 2.6 points and 1.6 rebounds in 8.7 minutes per outing, while Farris played in 21 games and averaged 1.9 points in 7.3 minutes per game.

Utah State will also have the services of a trio of red-shirts this year in junior guard Antonio Bumpus, sophomore guard Preston Medlin and freshman forward Ben Clifford. Bumpus earned third-team NJCAA All-America honors both years at Harcum (Pa.) College and averaged 18.3 points and 4.9 rebounds per game during his sophomore season. Medlin played in 22 games as a true freshman for USU during the 2009-10 season and averaged 3.7 points, while shooting 40.9 percent from the field, 37.5 percent from three-point range and 92.9 percent at the free throw line. And Clifford earned first-team all-state honors as a senior at Bingham High School in South Jordan, Utah as he averaged 16.6 points.

"I think we've always depended a great deal on our seniors and our veterans for leadership and production on the court, they kind of go hand-in-hand, but it's been a long time since it's been as important as it probably is this season with this many new players with the experience we lost. The seniors need to feel how imperative it is for them to set the tone on what Aggie basketball is about, why we've won championships, how hard we have to do things to be successful, the respect we have to have for coaches and players alike, all the things that go into our program. There's just a lot of new players that have never experienced it so it's up to all of us, but certainly the seniors play a big part of it to show them the way."

That group of newcomers - which



GAURD BROCKEITH PANE WORKS HIS WAY PAST A NEVADA DEFENDER IN SPECTRUM ACTION LAST SEASON. PANE WILL BE A SENIOR THIS SEASON. /Statesman photo

includes four junior college transfers, five high school players and one four-year transfer - will be expected to make immediate contributions at numerous positions from the opening day of fall camp.

Highlighting this group is a pair of junior college transfers in junior forward Kyisean Reed and sophomore forward Mitch Bruneel. Reed averaged 17.1 points, 6.3 rebounds, 1.5 blocks and 1.5 steals per game this past season at Antelope Valley (Calif.) Junior College, as he shot 62.3 percent from the field and 67.0 percent at the free throw line. Bruneel averaged 10.0 points and 5.2 rebounds as a freshman at the College of Southern Idaho, helping the Golden Eagles to a 33-4 record and a National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) National Championship.

Four other newcomers who are expected to see extensive playing time this year include junior forward Igor Premasunac, sophomore guard/forward Danny Berger, and freshman guards Steven Thornton and Adam Thoseby. Premasunac averaged 9.3

OUTLOOK

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points and 5.3 rebounds as a sophomore at Lon Morris (Texas) Junior College, while Berger averaged 16.1 points and 4.8 rebounds as a freshman at Chemeketa (Ore.) Community College during the 2008-09 season. Thornton averaged approximately 19.0 points and 5.0 boards as a prep senior at Golden Valley (Calif.) High School. And Thoseby averaged 7.3 points and 1.4 rebounds this past season at Maine Central Institute Prep, and scored nearly 27.0 points per game as a high school senior playing for the Under 18 Reading Rockets in Great Britain.

Other additions to the program include freshman forward David Collette, freshman guard Sam Orchard and freshman center Jordan Stone. Collette averaged 22.4 points and 8.8 rebounds this past season for Murray (Utah) High School, while Stone averaged approximately 18.0 points and 11.0 rebounds as a prep senior at Sky View (Utah) High School during the 2007-08 campaign. Orchard, a walk-on from Highland (Utah) High School, averaged 16.2 points and 3.2 rebounds a year ago.

The final addition to the 2011-12 roster is a transfer from Oklahoma State in junior center Jarred Shaw, who must sit out this season. In two years at OSU, Shaw appeared in 44 games averaging 1.2 points and 1.2 rebounds as a sophomore.

As for the WAC, Utah State will be looking to defend both its regular season and tournament championship as USU has won four-straight regular season titles and two WAC Tournaments in the past three years.

"For the first time in several years, we will not be the favorite in the WAC. We hope the challenges of the pre-season will help us improve enough to be a competitive WAC team. Nevada, New Mexico State and Hawai'i appear to be very strong and we look forward to seeing how it all shakes out," Morrill said.

Schedule

Utah State will play a total of 31 games during the regular season, which includes four contests against in-state opponents and a minimum of 11 games against postseason teams from a year ago.

Utah State will also play 17 games in the Dee Glen Smith Spectrum, a venue where it has won 68 of its last 69 contests. Overall, the Aggies have posted an incredible 193-13 (.937) home record under Morrill, which includes a 45-3 (.938) mark in Western Athletic Conference play. USU will enter the 2011-12 season having won 31 straight home games, including 28 straight WAC games, to rank as the third-longest active home winning streak in the nation.

Highlighting Utah State's non-conference schedule will be home games against in-state foe Brigham Young along with Kent State and Saint Peter's, all postseason teams a year ago. Significant road games include trips to Missouri Valley Conference member Wichita State and to Southeastern Conference member Mississippi State, along with a contest at in-state rival Weber State.

Utah State's matchup against Mississippi State will be the first of a three-game series as the Bulldogs will return to Logan during the 2013-14 season, with USU playing its second game in Starkville during the 2014-15 year. Utah State hasn't played an SEC school since losing to Vanderbilt (77-56) at the 2007 South Padre Island (Texas) Invitational, and this year's game will mark its first SEC road

 SEE UPCOMING, PG 8

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trip since losing at LSU (103-71) on Dec. 28, 1984. For Utah State, it will be the second-straight year it has traveled to a BCS school, playing at Georgetown last season.

Overall, Utah State's non-conference schedule consists of five games against postseason teams from a year ago as it will host Brigham Young, Kent State and Saint Peter's, and play at Weber State and Wichita State. Both the Cougars and Saint Peter's played in the NCAA Tournament a year ago, while Kent State and Wichita State both participated in the National Invitational Tournament (NIT) in 2011, with the Shockers winning the championship. Weber State concluded its 2011 season in the College Basketball Invitational.

In all, Utah State's non-conference schedule consists of nine teams with winning records in 2011, including four who won at least 20 games. Other postseason teams from the 2010-11 season on Utah State's schedule include Hawai'i and Idaho who both played in the CollegeInsider.com Tournament, and San Jose State who participated in the College Basketball Invitational.

Utah State will open the season with three straight in-state games including its season opener at home against Brigham Young on Friday, Nov. 11. USU will then play at Weber State on Tuesday, Nov. 15 and host Southern Utah on Saturday, Nov. 19. The Aggies will then play a pair of road games at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi (Nov. 22) and at Idaho State (Nov. 26) before concluding the month of November at home against future WAC member Denver on Wednesday, Nov. 30.

Utah State will begin December with a road game at former Big West Conference foe Pacific on Saturday, Dec. 3, before returning home to host Utah Valley on Tuesday, Dec. 6. USU will then travel to Wichita State on Saturday, Dec. 10 followed by a home game against future WAC member Seattle on Saturday, Dec. 17. Utah State will then host another future WAC member in Texas-Arlington, along with Saint Peter's and Kent State in the 2011 Athletes in Action Classic sponsored by Gossner Foods which runs from Tuesday, Dec. 20 through Thursday, Dec. 22. Following the Christmas Holiday, USU will conclude its preseason with a road game at Mississippi State on Saturday, Dec. 31.

One team not on Utah State's schedule this upcoming season is in-state rival Utah, snapping a streak of 67 straight years that the two schools have met annually. The two teams, who have played each other 223 times overall, will not be facing one another for the first time since the 1943-44 season as USU did not field a team that year due to World War II. In fact, the only other time USU and UU have not played when both schools have had teams was during the 1919-20 campaign.

As the calendar turns to 2012, Utah State will return home and begin its quest for a fifth-straight Western Athletic Conference regular season title on Thursday, Jan. 5 against Fresno State, followed by another home game versus Nevada on Saturday, Jan. 7.

Following a stretch with six of seven games at home, Utah State will end the month of January and begin February by playing six of eight games on the road, including four in a row away from Logan against New Mexico State (Jan. 12), Louisiana Tech (Jan. 14), Seattle (Jan. 19) and Idaho (Jan. 21). After hosting Hawai'i and San Jose State on Thursday, Jan. 26 and Saturday, Jan. 28, USU will return to the road for games at Nevada (Feb. 2) and Fresno State (Feb. 4).

Utah State will then return home for a season-long five-game homestand as it hosts Louisiana Tech on Thursday, Feb. 9 and New Mexico State on Saturday, Feb. 11, before hosting non-conference foe Montana Tech on Tuesday, Feb. 14. USU will then participate in the annual ESPN BracketBusters for the seventh-straight year and host an opponent to be determined on Friday, Feb. 17 or Saturday, Feb. 18.

Utah State will return to WAC play on Friday, Feb. 24 as it hosts Idaho in its final home game of the season and then concludes regular season play the following weekend at San Jose State (Mar. 1) and at Hawai'i (Mar. 3).

The 2012 WAC Tournament will once again be held at the Orleans Arena in Las Vegas, Nev., from Mar. 7-10, with all eight teams qualifying. This year's format will be different than last year's in that all eight teams must win three games to win the tournament title.

POINT GUARDS

Utah State has a wealth of talent and experience at the point guard position, highlighted by the return of senior Brocketh Pane, who will be starting for the second straight season. In his first year at USU as a junior, Pane earned first-team all-WAC honors and was named to the league's all-newcomer team after averaging 11.8 points, 3.4 assists and 3.1 rebounds per game, while shooting 43.6 percent from the field and 80.2 percent at the free throw line. Pane, who scored in double-figures 22 times during his junior year including three 20-point games, finished the year ranking fourth in the league in free throw shooting, fifth in assists and sixth in assist-to-turnover ratio (1.32). Pane, the only first-team all-league player returning in the WAC in 2012, was also named the Most Valuable Player of the 2011 WAC Tournament as he averaged 17.5 points in wins against San Jose State (58-54) and Boise State (77-69). Also returning here is junior E.J. Farris who played in 21 games during his first year at USU and averaged 1.9 points in 7.3 minutes per game. Joining Pane and Farris will be freshman walk-on Sam Orchard who was named the 4A Most Valuable Player as a prep senior at Highland (Utah) High School helping his team to a state championship. During his senior year, he averaged 16.2 points and shot 44.3 percent from the field, 37.8 percent from three-point range and 81.4 percent at the free throw line.

SHOOTING GUARDS

Utah State must replace two proven players at the shooting guard position in four-year starter Tyler Newbold and reserve Brian Green, who earned second-team all-WAC honors a year ago. Newbold, who played in 139 games during his Aggie career including 129 consecutive starts, averaged 6.8 points and 4.4 rebounds as a senior playing a team-best 29.3 minutes per game. Green, who scored in double-figures 16 times during the year, averaged 10.5 points and led the WAC in three-point shooting (.482). Despite the loss of its top two performers here from a year ago, Utah State does return one player here who has spent time in the program in sophomore Preston Medlin who redshirted last season. Medlin played in 22 games as a true freshman for USU during the 2009-10 season and averaged 3.7 points, while shooting 40.9 percent from the field, 37.5 percent from three-point range and 92.9 percent at the free throw line. Joining Medlin at this position will be a pair of newcomers in sophomore Danny Berger and freshman Adam Thoseby. Berger, who is coming off a two-year LDS Church Mission, spent his freshman season at Chemeketa (Ore.) Community College where he earned Southern Region first-team honors from the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges as he averaged 16.1 points and shot 53.2 percent from the field, 46.7 percent from three-point range and 82.5 percent from the free throw line.

Thoseby spent this past season at Maine Central Institute Prep where he averaged 7.3 point and shot 41.9 percent from the field, 36.2 percent from three-point range and 79.5 percent at the free throw line. As a prep senior in Great Britain, he averaged nearly 27.0 points and 7.0 rebounds per game.

SMALL FORWARDS

Utah State will be looking to a newcomer to fill this position after the graduation of three-year starter Pooh Williams and Newbold, who saw extensive time here as well as at shooting guard. Williams, who played in 131 games with 99 starts during his career, averaged 8.6 points as a senior and scored in double-figures 11 times. Three players will be vying for playing time here in junior Antonio Bumpus, sophomore Mitch Bruneel and freshman Steven Thornton. Bumpus, who redshirted last year at USU, earned third-team NJCAA All-America honors both years at Harcum (Pa.) College and averaged 18.3 points and 4.9 rebounds per game during his sophomore season as he was named the Region 19 Player of the Year after scoring in double-figures 27 times, including 13 20-point games. Bruneel averaged 10.0 points and 5.2 rebounds as a freshman at the College of Southern Idaho, helping the Golden Eagles to a 33-4 record and a National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) National Championship. As a freshman at CSI, he scored in double-figures 18 times, including four 20-point games and four double-doubles. He finished the year shooting 46.8 percent from the field, 31.0 percent from three-point range and 69.5 percent at the free throw line. Thornton, who sat out last season finishing some required course work, played two years ago for Stoneridge Prep. As a prep senior during the 2008-09 season, he averaged 19.0 points and 5.0 rebounds at Golden Valley (Calif.) High School earning first-team all-Foothill League honors as Golden Valley won back-to-back league championships.

POWER FORWARDS

Perhaps the biggest unknown heading into the 2011-12 season for Utah State is how it will adjust to the graduation of the reigning WAC Player of the Year in Tai Wesley, who was a four-year starter at power forward and the winningest player in school history with a 111-28 (.799) record. As a senior, Wesley averaged 14.8 points and 8.0 rebounds per game, and scored in double-figures 28 times. The leading candidate to fill this void will be senior Brady Jardine who has played in 91 games, including seven starts, during his first three years at USU. As a junior, Jardine averaged 7.5 points and 7.0 rebounds and shot 54.1 percent from the field and 64.7 percent at the free throw line. Jardine also scored in double-figures nine times during his junior year and had six double-figure rebounding games. Another returner here with experience in the program is freshman Ben Clifford who redshirted a year ago. As a prep senior Bingham (Utah) High School, Clifford earned first-team all-state honors and was named the Most Valuable Player of Region III as he averaged 16.6 points and 8.0 rebounds, while scoring in double-figures 22 times. Joining its two veterans will be two newcomers in junior college transfer Kyisean Reed and freshman David Collette. Reed averaged 17.1 points, 6.3 rebounds, 1.5 blocks and 1.5 steals per game this past season at Antelope Valley (Calif.) Junior College, as he shot 62.3 percent from the field and 67.0 percent at the free throw line. And Collette averaged 22.4 points and 8.8 rebounds as a prep senior at Murray (Utah) High School as he was named the 5A-Region 2 Most Valuable Player.

CENTERS

Utah State will look to replace a two-year starter

THIS SEASON, ON PG 10

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Roster Breakdown

❖Letterwinners Returning (4)			
Player (Pos., Ht., Wt., Cl.)	PPG	RPG	
E.J. Farris (G, 6-2, 185, Jr.)	1.9	0.6^	
Morgan Grim (F, 6-7, 230, Sr.)	2.6	1.6	
Brady Jardine (F, 6-7, 220, Sr.)	7.5	7.0	
Brockeith Pane (G, 6-1, 195, Sr.)	11.8	3.4^	

❖Letterwinners Lost (8)			
Player (Pos., Ht., Wt.)	PPG	RPG	
Nate Bendall (F, 6-9, 250)	6.5	5.8	
Brad Brown (F, 6-6, 190)	0.5	0.1	
Matt Formisano (F, 6-8, 240)	1.4	1.3	
Brian Green, (G, 6-1, 200)	10.5	2.3	
Tyler Newbold (G, 6-5, 210)	6.8	4.4	
James Walker (F, 6-2, 180)	2.1	1.2^	
Tai Wesley (F, 6-7, 240)	14.8	8.0	
Pooh Williams (G/F, 6-4, 190)	8.6	2.2^	

❖Starters Returning (1)			
Player (Pos., Ht., Wt., Cl.)	PPG	RPG	
Brockeith Pane (G, 6-1, 195, Sr.)	11.8	4.4^	

❖Redshirts (3)			
Player (Pos., Ht., Wt., Cl.)	PPG	RPG	
Antonio Bumpus (G, 6-3, 190, Jr.)	18.3!	4.9!	
Ben Clifford (F, 6-7, 225, Fr.)	16.6*	8.0*	
Preston Medlin (G, 6-4, 175, So.)	3.7\$	0.7\$	

❖Newcomers (10)			
Player (Pos., Ht., Wt., Cl.)	PPG	RPG	
Danny Berger (G/F, 6-6, 205, So.)	16.1!	4.8!	
Mitch Bruneel (F, 6-5, 205, So.)	10.0!	5.2!	
David Collette (F, 6-8, 220, Fr.)	22.4*	8.8*	
Sam Orchard (G, 6-1, 175, Fr.)	16.2*	3.2*	
Igor Premasunac (F, 6-8, 245, Jr.)	9.3!	5.3!	
Kyisean Reed (F, 6-6, 215, Jr.)	17.1!	6.3!	
Jarred Shaw (F/C, 6-10, 235, Jr.)	1.2!	1.2!	
Jordan Stone (C, 6-10, 270, Fr.)	18.0*	11.0*	
Steven Thornton (G, 6-3, 175, Fr.)	19.0*	5.0*	
Adam Thoseby (G/F, 6-4, 185, Fr.)	7.3*	1.4*	

^ - Assists per game
 * - High School stats
 ! - Previous college stats
 \$ - Utah State stats

Who's who on this squad?

RETURNING PLAYERS and VETERANS:

Morgann Grimm

This season:

A very physical player who is an excellent post defender... Needs to be productive offensively, but his board work and defense are critical areas for the team.

2011 Season (R-Jr.):

Played in 32 games during his first year at Utah State, averaging 8.7 minutes off the bench... Averaged 2.6 points and 1.6 rebounds, while shooting 47.7 percent from the field (31-65) and 62.9 percent at the free throw line (22-35)... Finished the year with 11 blocks to rank third on the team... Also took 10 charges to rank second on the team to go along with three dunks... Played 20-plus minutes in each of his first two games, filling in for an injured Nate Bendall... Had season-highs with nine points, seven rebounds and two blocked shots in 22 minutes against Weber State (11/13) in the season opener as he was 3-of-7 from the field and 3-for-4 at the free throw line... Played a season-high 24 minutes in his next game at Brigham Young as he had five points and six boards.

2010 Season (Jr.):

Redshirted during his first year at Utah State after transferring from the University of Utah.

Previous school:

Played in 16 games, starting four, as a sophomore at the University of Utah as he averaged 0.7 points and 0.8 rebounds... Had three assists, seven blocks and two steals in limited playing time... Shot 55.6 percent from the field (5-9) and was 1-of-1 from the free throw line... Tied his previous career-high with five points against Colorado State and also had a season-high five rebounds against the Rams... During his freshman year at Utah, he appeared in 26 games and averaged 0.9 points and 1.0 rebounds to go along with seven blocks, four assists and four steals... Shot 60.0 percent from the field (9-15) and recorded a then career-high six rebounds against South Carolina Upstate.

High school:

Was named Utah's Mr. Basketball as a prep senior and Class 5A Most Valuable Player as he averaged

nearly 23.0 points, 10.0 rebound and 6.0 blocks per game... Led Riverton High School to back-to-back state championship game appearances as a junior and senior and was named the Region II Most Outstanding Player both years... Was a two-time first-team all-state selection.

Personal:

Full name is Morgan Scott Grim... Born Nov. 7, 1988 in Salt Lake City, Utah... Parents are Scott and Tracy Grim... Enjoys going to the beach, camping, fishing and hunting... Majoring in public health. Morgan Grim's dad, Scott, played college basketball at Sheridan (Wyo.) College. Honors: Academic All-WAC (2009, 2010, 2011); CoSIDA Academic All-District (2011); WAC Player of the Week (11/29/10). Records list: Ranks sixth all-time at Utah State with 69 career blocked shots... Has 17 career double-figure scoring games, including one 20-point game... Also has three career double-doubles and seven career double-figure rebounding games.

Brady Jardine

This Season:

An outstanding athlete who provides the team with unmatched athleticism... Plays very hard and has extremely high character... Must be a go-to-player on the block during his senior season and must continue to improve on the defensive end of the floor.

2011 Season (JR.):

Played in all 34 games and started the first seven games of the year filling in for an injured Nate Bendall... Averaged 10.4 points and 8.9 rebounds as a starter, while shooting 57.4 percent from the field (27-47) and 67.9 percent at the free throw line (19-28)... Named the WAC Player of the Week on Nov. 29 after leading USU to a pair of home wins against Utah (79-62) and Northeastern (56-54)... Against the Utes, he posted his second-ever double-double with a career-high 20 points to go along with a career-high 13 rebounds in a career-high 31 minutes as he was 6-of-7 from the field and 8-of-10 at the free throw line... Posted another

SEE ROSTER ON PG 11



MORGAN GRIM BATTLES FOR A REBOUND VS. UTAH LAST SEASON. /Statesman photo

THIS SEASON

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

at center after the graduation of Nate Bendall who averaged 6.5 points and 5.8 rebounds as a senior and was named to the league's all-newcomer team as a junior after averaging 10.3 points and 5.5 boards. Senior Morgan Grim is the only player listed among this group with experience in the program after playing in 32 games during his first year at USU and averaging 2.6 points and 1.6 rebounds in 8.7 minutes off the bench. Two other players who should see time at the center position include junior college transfer Igor Premasunac and freshman Jordan Stone. Premasunac earned honorable mention all-conference honors as a sophomore at Lon Morris (Texas) Junior College as he averaged 9.3 points and 5.3 rebounds, while shooting 51.9 percent from the field. Stone last played competitive basketball during the 2007-08 season at Sky View (Utah) High School as he earned first-team all-state honors after averaging approximately 18.0 points, 11.0 rebounds and 3.0 blocks per game, while shooting 58.0 percent from the field and 77.0 percent at the free throw line. The fourth player listed here is junior Jarred Shaw, who must sit out this season per NCAA transfer rules after playing the past two years at Oklahoma State. As a sophomore at OSU, Shaw appeared in 26 games and averaged 1.2 points and 1.2 rebounds per game.

ROSTER

 CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

double-double against the Huskies with 15 points and a career-high tying 13 boards as he was 5-of-10 from the field and 5-of-8 at the free throw line... Also tied his career-high with three blocks and played a career-high 34 minutes against Northeastern... Overall, averaged 7.5 points and 7.0 rebounds in 21.4 minutes per game on the season, while shooting 54.1 percent from the field and 64.7 percent at the free throw line... Ranked second on the team and sixth in the WAC with 1.00 blocks per game... Was also second on the team in rebounding... Scored in double-figures nine times during the year, including three double-doubles and six double-figure rebounding games... Led the team in rebounding nine times and in scoring once... Had a team-leading 25 dunks during the season to go along with four charges taken... Earned academic all-WAC honors and was named to the CoSIDA Academic All-District VIII first-team.

2010 Season (SO):

Played in all 35 games during the season, averaging 15.5 minutes off the bench... Finished the year ranking 15th in the WAC in blocked shots (0.69) and those 24 blocks ranked third on the team... Averaged 6.0 points and 4.6 rebounds, while shooting 57.0 percent from the field and 74.1 percent at the free throw line... In WAC games, he averaged 7.9 points and 5.1 rebounds, and shot 61.7 percent from the field to rank second in the league... Scored in double-figures eight times during the season, including a then career-high 17 points at home against San Jose State (1/30) on 8-of-11 shooting... Scored at least eight points in 12 of his final 17 games of the year... Had a season-high eight rebounds in five different games during the year, and dished out a career-high four assists against Boise State (3/11) in the quarterfinals of the WAC Tournament... Played a then career-high 26 minutes against Nevada (2/6) and played at least 20 minutes 12 times during the season... Led the team in rebounding three times during the year... Finished the year with a team-leading 14 dunks and took nine charges to rank second on the team... An academic all-WAC honoree.

2009 Season (FR):

Sat out the first 11 games of the season as a potential redshirt before seeing his first collegiate action against Houston Baptist (12/30)... Played in 22 games during the season and averaged 7.7 minutes per contest... Finished the year by averaging 1.8 points and 2.9 rebounds per game, while shooting 34.1 percent from the field and 48.0 percent from the free throw line... Had 11 blocks during the season to finish tied for third on the team... Also had 30 offensive rebounds in limited playing time, which was the fifth-most on the team... Averaged 2.0 points and 3.5

rebounds in league games... Had his best game of the season at Hawai'i (1/24) as he scored five points and recorded a season-high 10 rebounds... Also had nine rebounds at home against New Mexico State (2/5)... Scored a season-high seven points against Cal State Bakersfield (2/18) as he was 2-of-3 from the field and 3-of-3 from the free throw line... His season-high in blocks was three at home against Hawai'i (2/26)... Had three dunks and took three charges during the season... An academic all-WAC honoree.

High school:

Named the Idaho Gatorade and 5A Player of the Year as a prep senior at Twin Falls (Idaho) High School as he averaged 17.0 points, 8.5 rebounds, 3.3 assists and 2.8 blocks per game... As a senior he led Twin Falls to a 24-2 record and its first state championship in 32 years... Led the team in scoring 12 times... Earned second-team all-region honors as a junior as he averaged 8.3 points, 8.0 rebounds and 3.0 assists per game... As a junior, Twin Falls High School went 25-1 and finished in third-place at the state tournament... Had a 39" vertical jump as a prep senior.

Personal: Full name is Brady Carl Jardine... Born July 18, 1987 in Phoenix, Ariz. ... One of four children of Jeff and Janelle Jardine... His sister Kelsey will be a junior at USU this fall... Enjoys all outdoor activities including hunting and fishing... Returned from a two-year LDS Church Mission in San Antonio, Texas in August, 2008... Majoring in finance... Married Jenna Oldroyd in October, 2009. Brady Jardine has a standing vertical of 37" and a 43" vertical with one step. Honors: First-Team All-WAC (2011); WAC All-Tournament Team Most Valuable Player (2011); WAC All-Newcomer Team (2011), Preseason WAC Newcomer of the Year (2010-11).

Brockeith Payne

This Season:

A very talented point guard with excellent strength... Continued to improve throughout his junior season... Perimeter game should improve as a senior and will be expected to provide veteran leadership to a large group of newcomers.

2011 Season (JR):

Earned first-team all-WAC honors and was named to the league's all-newcomer team after averaging 11.8 points, 3.4 assists and 3.1 rebounds per game, while shooting 43.6 percent from the field (123-282), 21.1 percent from three-point range (16-76) and 80.2 percent at



A FAMILIAR SCENE IN THE SPECTRUM IS A PACKED STUDENT SECTION CHEERING ON THEIR TEAM. /Statesman photo

the free throw line (138-172)... Started 33 games in his first season at Utah State and played in all 34... Ranked first on the team in assists (116) and steals (31), and was third in minutes played (28.3)... Finished the year ranking fourth in the WAC in free throw shooting, fifth in assists and sixth in assist-to-turnover ratio (1.32)... In WAC games, he averaged 12.5 points and 4.4 assists, and shot 49.6 percent from the field (68-137), 13.2 percent from three-point range (5-38) and 75.6 percent at the free throw line (59-78)... Scored a season-high 23 points in his first-ever Aggie game against Weber State (11/13) as he was 6-of-11 from the field and 11-for-13 at the free throw line... Those 23 points are the most for a player in his Aggie debut since Jay Goodman scored 33 points during the 1990 season... Recorded a season-high nine rebounds at Denver (12/1) and a season-high nine assists against Louisiana Tech (1/20)... Scored in double-figures 22 times during the season, including six times in his last seven games... Also had three 20-point games as he scored 21 points at home against San Jose State (12/31) and had 22 points at 23rd-ranked Saint Mary's (2/19) in the annual ESPNU BracketBusters... Also had a season-high four steals against the Gaels as he was 5-of-7 from the field, 1-of-2 from three-point range and 11-for-14 at the free throw line... Was named the Most Valuable Player of the WAC Tournament as he had 16 points and three rebounds against San Jose State in the semifinals and 19 points, four assists and three rebounds in the championship game against Boise State... For the tournament, he averaged 17.5 points, 3.0 rebounds and 2.5 assists, while shooting 42.9 percent from the field (9-21) and was a perfect 17-for-17 at the free throw line... Scored 17 points against Kansas State in the second round of the NCAA Tournament as he was 4-of-9 from the field, 1-of-3 from three-point range and 8-for-9 at the free throw line... Finished the year by making at least eight free throws in five of his last seven games... Led the team in scoring 10 times and in assists 16 times.

JUNIOR COLLEGE:

Earned first-team all-conference and first-team all-district honors as a sophomore at Midland Junior College in Texas as he helped lead the

Chaparrals to a 30-3 record and a No. 1 national ranking for all but two weeks of the season... As a sophomore, he averaged 12.0 points, 2.9 assists, 2.6 rebounds and 1.3 steals per game, while shooting 47.0 percent from the field (111-236), 37.3 percent from three-point range (31-83) and 83.5 percent at the free throw line (96-115)... Scored in double-figures 18 times and had two 20-point games, including a season-high 22 points against Frank Phillips College.

PREVIOUS SCHOOL:

Spent his freshman season (2007-08) at the University of Houston as he averaged 6.3 points and 2.0 rebounds, while shooting 39.9 percent from the field, 34.8 percent from three-point range and 72.9 percent from the free throw line... Scored in double-figures in seven-straight games to start the season for the Cougars, including a season-high 26 points against Grambling State... Following his performance against GSU, he was named the Conference USA Player of the Week as he averaged 23.0 points, 6.5 rebounds, 2.0 assists and 1.5 steals during a two-game stretch.

HIGH SCHOOL:

Prepped at Carter High School in Dallas where he was the second-leading scorer in school history... During his senior season, he averaged 24.6 points and 7.4 assists while earning first-team all-state honors from the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches... Attended the same high school as current Aggie Jarred Shaw and the duo played together for one season.

PERSONAL: Born September 26, 1988 in Dallas, Texas ... One of two sons of Sandra Combs... Majoring in interdisciplinary studies... Has a son, Trenton.

EJ FARRIS

This Season:

Gained valuable experience last year as a backup at the point... A good shooter from three-point range... Needs to improve on the defensive end of the floor.

2011 Season (SO):

Played in 21 games during his first year of eligibility at Utah State... Finished the year averaging 1.9 points, 0.6 assists and 0.5 rebounds, while shoot-

 SEE VETERANS ON PG 12

VETERANS

 CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

ing 33.3 percent from the field (14-42), 33.3 percent from three-point range (8-24) and 80.0 percent (4-5) at the free throw line in 7.3 minutes per game... Had his best game of the season at No. 14 Georgetown (12/4) as he scored a season-high six points going 2-of-3 from three-point range... Also had a season-high three rebounds against the Hoyas and played a season-high 19 minutes... Also scored six points against Montana Western (2/16) as he was 3-of-3 from the field... Had a season-high three assists against New Mexico State (1/22) and a season-high two steals at Louisiana Tech (3/5)... Scored five points three times during the season against Northeastern (11/27), New Mexico State (1/22) and Boise State (2/5).

2010 Season:

Sat out the 2009-10 season to finish up some re-quired course work.

JUNIOR COLLEGE:

Averaged approximately 12.0 points and 4.0 assists per game as a freshman as he led College of Sequoias to a 15-15 record.

HIGH SCHOOL:

Prepped at Newark Memorial High School in California and averaged 20.5 points, 5.0 assists and 3.0 rebounds per game as a senior and was named the Player of the Year in his conference... Was named one of the top 10 point guards and top 40 players in Northern California following his senior year... Also

named one of the top 20 tournament players following the state playoffs... As a junior, he averaged 13.5 points and 3.0 assists per game. **PERSONAL:** Full name is Elleston James Farris... Born October 6, 1990 in Hayward, Calif... One of seven children of Ward and Lisa Farris... Majoring in interdisciplinary studies. DID YOU KNOW? E.J. Farris is ambidextrous. HONORS: Academic All-WAC (2010).

Preston Medlin

This Season:

Has an excellent feel for the game and his strengths are on the offensive end... Must improve defensively and he must get stronger which go hand-in-hand... Fits Utah State's system and his best days as an Aggie are ahead of him.

2011 Season (So.):

Redshirted during his second season at Utah State.

SUMMER 2010:

Was one of 10 NCAA Division I student-athletes who participated in a week long tour with Athletes in Action in Poland... Averaged 8.0 points in four games, scoring in double-figures twice... Shot 46.2 percent from the field (12-26), 42.9 percent from three-point range (6-14) and was 2-of-2 at the free throw line.

2010 Season (FR.):

Played in 22 games during his first season at Utah State and averaged 10.6 minutes off the bench... Finished the year averaging 3.7 points and 0.7 rebounds, while shooting 40.9 percent from the field (27-66), 37.5 percent from three-point range (15-40) and 92.9 percent at the free throw line (13-14)... Scored a season-high 17 points against Southern Utah (11/28) as he was 5-of-8 from the field and 5-of-6 from

three-point range... Scored eight or more points five times during the season... Had a season-high three rebounds against Brigham Young (12/2) and played a season-high 19 minutes in back-to-back games at Cal State Bakersfield (12/16) and Long Beach State (12/18)... An academic all-WAC honoree.

HIGH SCHOOL:

Ranked as the 43rd-best prep player in Texas by Texas Hoops... Averaged 22.5 points per game as a prep senior and led Hebron High School to a 20-11 record and an appearance in the District 6 Championship game... During his senior season, he shot 53.0 percent from the field, 44.0 percent from three-point range and 76.0 percent from the free throw line... Scored a career-high 34 points in the district championship game against L.D. Bell High School and scored 30-plus points three times during the year... As a prep senior, he led his district with 739 points and was the second-leading scorer in the Dallas-Fort Worth area... Was named the District 6-5A Offensive Most Valuable Player as a senior and was a McDonald's All-American nominee... Also earned all-region honors during his senior season, along with earning all-district honors as both a junior and senior... During his junior campaign, he averaged approximately 11.0 points per game.

PERSONAL:

Full name is Preston Jerome Medlin... Born March 26, 1991 in San Antonio, Texas... Parents are Brenda and Dwayne Medlin... Has one brother... His mother competed in the heptathlon at the University of Oklahoma... Enjoys going to the mall, playing video games and all sports... Majoring in business administration. DID YOU KNOW? Preston Medlin has dyslexia.

A look at newer members of the 2011 men's squad:

Antonio Bumpus

This Season:

Can play either wing... Provides excellent athletic ability and is a skilled ball-handler and passer... Coaches feel he will develop into a consistent Division I scorer... Is the fourth junior college All-American to sign with Utah State in the last five years joining Jared Quayle (Western Wyoming CC), Gary Wilkinson (Salt Lake CC) and Chaz Spicer (Kankakee CC).

2011 Season (Jr.):

Redshirted during his first season at Utah State.

JUNIOR COLLEGE:

Earned third-team National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) All-American honors as a sophomore at Harcum College in Bryn Mawr, Pa., as he averaged 18.3 points and 4.9 rebounds per game, and made a school record 79 three-pointers to help lead the Bears to a 26-3 record and a No. 3 national ranking... Was also named the Region 19 Player of the Year as a sophomore as he scored in double-figures 27 times, including thirteen 20-point games... Had a season-high 30 points twice... Finished the year by shooting 44.7 percent from the field (181-412), 37.1 percent from three-point range (79-213) and 73.0 percent at the

free throw line (89-122)... Also earned third-team NJCAA All-American honors as a freshman at Harcum College as he averaged 15.3 points and made 60 three-pointers... During his freshman year he scored a career-high 31 points against the College of Eastern Utah... Scored 1,021 points during his junior college career, becoming just the second player in Harcum College history to score 1,000 points.

HIGH SCHOOL:

Prepped at Eastmoor Academy in Columbus, Ohio and earned Division II All-Central District and all-state honors during his senior season... Led his team to a district championship as a senior as he averaged 24.0 points, 9.0 rebounds, 3.5 assists and 2.0 steals per game... Was a McDonald's All-America nominee.

PERSONAL: Full name is Antonio Mario Bumpus... Born December 12, 1989 in Toledo, Ohio... One of two children of Antonio and Cynthia Bumpus... His cousin, Nate Miles, is currently in the NBA Developmental League... Majoring in interdisciplinary studies... Enjoys playing video games and spending time with his family.

Ben Clifford

This Season:

Made big strides as a redshirt and has an exciting future at Utah State... Plays hard and has excellent work habits... Fits the mold of a lot of former post players in the Aggie system... Is skilled and understands how to play the game... Must continue to get stronger... His skill-level and attitude makes him an exciting prospect.

2011 Season (Jr.):

Redshirted during his first season at Utah State.

HIGH SCHOOL:

Earned first-team all-state honors from both the Salt Lake Tribune and Deseret News and was the Most Valuable Player of Region III as a prep senior as he averaged 16.6 points and approximately 8.0 rebounds per game at Bingham (Utah) High School... Scored in double-figures 22 times, including a career-high 31 points against Taylorsville... Led the Miners to 21 wins during his senior campaign... Scored in double-figures 22 times as a junior as he earned first-team all-state honors from the Salt Lake Tribune and second-team all-state honors from the Deseret

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All-time winning coach entering his 14th season at USU

**2009, 2010 and
2011 WAC COACH
OF THE YEAR**
Gonzaga '74
14th Season at Utah State
(324-103, .759)
Overall Record (542-241,
.692, 25 seasons)



Entering his 26th season as a collegiate head coach and 14th year at Utah State, Stew Morrill has established himself as one of the most respected coaches in the country. He is also the school's all-time winningest coach as he passed the legendary E. Lowell Romney's 225 career wins on Jan. 17, 2008 with an 82-78 win against Boise State.

In 13 years as Utah State's head coach, Morrill has taken the Aggie Basketball program to unprecedented heights leading USU to an incredible 324-103 (.759) record, including a 167-49 (.773) mark in the Big West and Western Athletic Conferences.

While at Utah State, he has guided the Aggies to 12 straight 23-win seasons and 12 straight postseason appearances (NCAA-8, NIT-4), both of which are school records. Prior to Morrill's current run, USU had never posted more than three straight 20-win seasons and participated in more than three-straight postseason tournaments.

During the last 12 years, Utah State is one of just three teams in the nation to win at least 23 games in each of those seasons, along with Gonzaga and Kansas.

Morrill has also led Utah State to the fourth-best winning percentage in the nation during the last 12 years at 77.4 percent with an overall record of 309-90. Against conference opponents, Utah State has a 192-56 record with seven regular season league championships and six tournament titles during that time, including appearances in its league's tournament championship game 10 times in the last 12 years.

Under Morrill, Utah State has notched 12 of the top 13 seasons in school history as the Aggies set a school record with 28 wins during the 2000 season, tied that record with 28 wins during the 2001 season, set a school record with 30 wins in 2009 and tied that record with 30 wins in 2011.

During the 2010-11 season, Morrill guided Utah State to its fourth-straight regular season WAC Championship, including its third-straight outright title with a 15-1 record. USU also won its second WAC Tournament title in the past three years and advanced to the NCAA Tournament for the 20th time in school history.

Under Morrill, Utah State has appeared in the NCAA Tournament eight times, including each of the last three years marking only the second time in school history that USU has appeared in three-straight NCAA Tournaments joining the 1962, '63 and '64 teams.

Furthermore, the 2010-11 Aggie basketball team was nationally ranked for the last nine weeks of the season and finished the year ranked No. 25 in the country in final ESPN/USA Today Coaches' Poll,

marking the first time since the 1978 season and only the eighth time in school history that an Aggie team was nationally ranked at the end of the year.

For the 12th straight year, Utah State had at least one player earn first-team all-league accolades as senior forward Tai Wesley and junior guard Brocketh Pane were both named first-team all-WAC. Wesley also became the third Aggie in the last four years to be named the WAC's Player of the Year, joining Jaycee Carroll (2008) and Gary Wilkinson (2009), and the third player in the last four years to earn Associated Press honorable mention All-America honors joining Carroll (2007, 2008) and Wilkinson (2009).

Utah State also had two other players honored by the WAC in 2011 as senior guard Brian Green was named to the league's second-team, while senior guard Tyler Newbold was named to the league's all-defensive team. Along with being named first-team all-WAC, Pane was named to the league's all-newcomer team as well.

Pane was also named the Most Valuable Player of the 2011 WAC Tournament, while Wesley and fellow senior forward Nate Bendall were both named to the all-tournament team.

Overall, Morrill has coached 14 first-team all-league players at Utah State who have won the award a total of 20 times.

Morrill was also honored during the 2010-11 season and was named the WAC Coach of the Year for the third time in as many years. He was also named the 2011 Jim Phelan National Coach of the Year by CollegeInsider.com and the National Association of Basketball Coaches District 6 Co-Coach of

the Year for the second-straight season.

All-time, Morrill has been named Coach of the Year (2000 BWC, 2002 BWC, 2009 WAC, 2010 WAC, 2011 WAC) five times in his 13 years at USU, along with winning the Big Sky award while the head coach at Montana in 1991.

Morrill has taken full advantage of the home court at USU, the Dee Glen Smith Spectrum. In Morrill's 13 years, USU is an amazing 193-13 (.937) at home, which includes a 100-8 (.926) record in league play.

As for Morrill, he has won 20 or more games on 16 different occasions during his career and has won at least 17 games 22 times.

Overall, Morrill ranks 18th in the nation among active coaches and 57th all-time with his 542 career wins, while his career winning percentage of 69.2 percent ranks 26th among active coaches and 80th all-time. He is also one of 19 active coaches with 500 career wins at the Division I level and one of just 12 active coaches to notch at least 16 20-win seasons. His current streak of 12 straight 20-win seasons ranks tied for sixth among active coaches and is tied for the 11th-longest streak at the Division I level.

Academics and community service have been of top priority to Morrill and his staff as all of the team members are involved with USU's CHAMPS/Life Skills Program within the community. In his 13 years, Morrill has graduated better than 80 percent of his players, and over the past nine years, Utah State has had 29 academic all-conference honorees.

Morrill, who was born in Provo, Utah and attended Provo High School, owns a career record of 542-241 in 25 years of collegiate coaching, including a 324-103 record at Utah State in 13 years, a 121-86 record in seven years at Colorado State (1992-98) and a 97-52 mark in five campaigns at Montana (1987-91).

"There are several reasons that I was attracted to Utah State," Morrill said when he was hired. "The first was being a Utah native so that it is a homecoming of sorts for me. My brother and sister both live within an hour and a half of Logan.

"I am very familiar with the tradition of Utah State basketball and can name the greats as well as any alumni could," Morrill added. "It is a good basketball situation and the premier job in the Big West Conference. My family will love the quality of the community of Logan. It is a great place to live and that is very important to me and my family. It just made sense to us."

The 59-year old ranks second on the CSU victory list and second in winning percentage. He guided the Rams to back-to-back 20-win seasons the last two years in Fort Collins, with identical 20-9 marks. During the 1997-98 season, CSU made its second trip to the NIT in the last three years.

Morrill guided CSU to two of its six all-time 20-win seasons and won at least 17 games five times in his seven years. In fact, Morrill-led CSU teams own three of the top seven winning seasons in school history.

During his tenure at Colorado State, he coached three first-team all-WAC selections, one second-team pick and six honorable mention choices. Three of his players were named to the WAC all-tournament team.

After his collegiate playing career, which included being named an All-American at nearby Ricks (Idaho) Junior College and a two-time all-Big Sky selection at Gonzaga, Morrill played professionally in Europe.



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NEWEST

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News... Averaged 13.4 points and 7.5 rebounds per game as a junior, while shooting 60.1 percent from the field and 70.0 percent from the free throw line... During his junior season, he helped the Miners to a 17-7 record as they advanced to the semifinals of the state tournament.

PERSONAL: Full name is Benjamin E. Clifford... Born April 10, 1992 in Center Moriches, New York... One of three children of Wayne and Patty Clifford... His brother, John, played college basketball at Southern Utah and is currently playing professionally overseas... Majoring in marketing.

Jarred Shaw

This Season:

Will redshirt during the 2011-12 season after transferring from Oklahoma State University.

LAST SEASON:

Played in 26 games as a sophomore at OSU, averaging 1.2 points and 1.2 rebounds per game, while shooting 50.0 percent from the field (12-24) and 57.1 percent at the free throw line (8-14)... Scored a career-high eight points in 12 minutes at Texas as he was 2-of-3 from the floor and 4-of-4 at the free throw line... Recorded four points and a career-high five rebounds in 11 minutes at Texas Tech... Finished the year with six blocks and two steals while playing an average of 7.3 minutes per game... Appeared in 18 games, starting one, as a freshman at OSU as he scored 11 points and grabbed 17 rebounds to go along with three blocks and three steals.

HIGH SCHOOL:

Was named the District 11-4A Defensive Player of the Year as a prep senior at Carter High School in Dallas, Texas as he led the Cowboys to a 31-4 record and a No. 1 ranking in Class 4A... Scored a career-high 41 points to go along with 15 rebounds and six blocks against North Dallas during his senior season and finished the year averaging 13.5 points and 9.7 rebounds per game... Was ranked as a top 120 player nationally by Rivals.com and the No. 15 center in the country... Earned first-team All-District 11-5A honors as a junior.

PERSONAL: Full name is Jarred Dwayne Shaw... Born Sept. 28, 1990 in Dallas, Texas... One of four children of Johnetta Perry... Enjoys playing video games... Majoring in public relations at Utah State... Attended the same high school as current Aggie Brocketh Pane and the duo played together for one season.

Daniel Berger

This Season:

A big, skilled wing player who will need time to get in shape for Division I basketball after returning from an LDS Church Mission in the late summer.

JUNIOR COLLEGE:

Earned Southern Region first-team honors from the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges as he averaged 16.1 points, 4.8 rebounds, 1.9 assists and 1.1 steals during his freshman season (2008-09) at Chemeketa (Ore.) Community College, and shot 53.2 percent from the field (141-265), 46.7 percent from three-point range (42-90) and 82.5 percent at the free throw line

(80-97)... Scored in double-figures 22 times as a collegiate freshman... Also had six 20-point games during the season including a career-high 32 points against Clark College.

HIGH SCHOOL:

Earned first-team all-league and honorable mention all-state honors as a prep senior at North Medford (Ore.) High School as he set single-season school records for points scored (459) and three-pointers made (53)... As a prep senior, he averaged 17.0 points, 3.0 rebounds and 2.1 assists, while shooting 50.8 percent from the field (135-266), 45.7 percent from three-point range (53-116) and 78.0 percent at the free throw line (96-123).

PERSONAL:

Full name is Daniel Clarence Berger... Born May 12, 1990 in Fort Collins, Colo... One of three children of Brian and Diane Berger... Returned from a two-year LDS Church Mission in Detroit, Mich., in August, 2011... His sister, Lauren, played volleyball at Fresno State and his brother, John, played basketball at Dixie State College... His dad, who played college basketball at Nebraska (1967) and Pepperdine (1969-70), was the head women's coach at Colorado State from 1986-90... Majoring in exercise science.

Sam Orchard

This Season:

A true point guard who looks to make his teammates better... A great competitor who is hard-nosed... Is also a tough defender.

HIGH SCHOOL:

Was named the 4A Most Valuable Player as a prep senior as he led Highland (Utah) High School to the state championship... Earned first-team all-state honors as a prep senior from both the Salt Lake Tribune and Deseret News as he averaged 16.2 points, 3.2 rebounds, 3.2 assists and 1.4 steals per game, while shooting 44.3 percent from the field (109-246), 37.8 percent from three-point range (28-74) and 81.4 percent at the free throw line (158-194)... Scored in double-figures 22 times during the year including five 20-point games and a career-high 30 points against Bountiful... Was named the MVP of the Surf-N-Slam Holiday Tournament in San Diego, Calif... Averaged 16.4 points during his junior year as he scored in double-figures 23 times including six 20-point games.

PERSONAL:

Full name is Samuel Evans Orchard... Born March 18, 1993 in Salt Lake City, Utah... One of five children of David and Katherine Orchard... Older brother, Jake, will be a sophomore on Westminster's basketball team this fall... Step-brother, Nate Fakahatua, will be a freshman on Utah's football team this fall... Enjoys boating and playing the guitar... Majoring in pre-medicine.

Jordan Stone

This Season:

Has the size and strength to be a very productive big man in the WAC... Is left-handed.

HIGH SCHOOL:

Earned first-team all-state honors from the Salt Lake Tribune and second-team all-state honors from the Deseret News as a senior at Sky View (Utah) High School during the 2007-08 season as

SQUAD

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he averaged approximately 18.0 points, 11.0 rebounds and 3.0 blocks per game, while shooting 58.0 percent from the field and 77.0 percent at the free throw line... During his senior year, he scored a career-high 40 points and had a career-high 23 rebounds in the same game against Highland (Idaho) High School... Also earned all-region honors as a prep senior and was his team's Most Valuable Player as both a junior and senior.

PERSONAL: Full name is Jordan Daniel Stone... Born Oct. 13, 1989 in Rexburg, Idaho... One of four children of Dan and Angela Stone... Enjoys spending time outdoors and road trips... Majoring in business administration... Served a two-year LDS Church Mission in New York City, N.Y., and returned in October of 2010.

Mitch Bruneel

This Season:
A big wing that brings both skill and toughness to the court... Is an excellent student with very high character.

JUNIOR COLLEGE:
Earned honorable mention Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) Region 18 honors as a freshman at the College of Southern Idaho as he averaged 10.0 points and 5.2 rebounds, while shooting 46.8 percent from the field (130-278), 31.0 percent from three-point range (13-42) and 69.5 percent at the free throw line (98-141)... During his one year at CSI, Bruneel scored in double-figures 18 times, including four 20-point games and recorded four double-doubles as he helped lead the Golden Eagles to a 33-4 record and a National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) National Championship... Scored in double-figures twice during the national tournament, earning NJCAA all-tournament team honors... Along with winning the NJCAA National Championship, CSI also won the SWAC Championship, Region 18 Championship and District I title during the 2010-11 season.

HIGH SCHOOL:
Prepped at Eagle (Idaho) High School where he was named the 2008 Idaho Gatorade Player of the Year following his senior season when he averaged 23.1 points and 9.0 rebounds per game... He also earned first-team all-state honors in 2008 as he was the top scorer in Idaho... Following high school, Bruneel served a two-year LDS Church Mission in the Philippines... Bruneel will be the third Idaho Gatorade Player of the Year to play for

Morrill at Utah State joining current Aggie forward Brady Jardine (Twin Falls) who won the award in 2006 and former Aggie forward Spencer Nelson (Pocatello) who was named Idaho's Player of the Year in 1997.

PERSONAL: Full name is Mitchell Gerard Bruneel... Born Oct. 6, 1989 in Boise, Idaho... One of five children of Craig and Pam Bruneel... Brother Riley will be a freshman basketball player at Big Bend (Wash.) Community College this fall... Majoring in business... Enjoys camping, boating and wake boarding... His last name is pronounced brew-kneel.

David Collette

This Season:
Is very athletic with good skills... An excellent student and high-character young man who has been taught all the right things.

HIGH SCHOOL:
Earned first-team all-state honors from both the Deseret News and Salt Lake Tribune as a prep senior at Murray (Utah) High School as he averaged 22.4 points, 8.8 rebounds and 3.7 blocks per game, while shooting 60.5 percent from the field (201-332), 64.2 percent from the free throw line (106-165) and 33.3 percent from three-point range (7-21)... Was also named the 5A-Region 2 Most Valuable Player as a senior as voted on by the coaches... As a senior, he helped lead Murray High School to a 20-4 record and a co-Region 2 Championship... Scored in double-figures in all 23 games he played in as a prep senior, including sixteen 20-point games and four 30-point games, to go along with 10 double-doubles... Scored a career-high 33 points twice during his senior year against Cyprus High School during the regular season and Brighton High School in the state tournament... His career-high rebound game was 15 against Spanish Fork High School, while he posted a career-high six blocked shots against Granger High School... Earned third-team all-state honors as a junior at Murray High School as he led his team with nearly 18 points and 6.5 rebounds per game.

PERSONAL: Full name is David Joseph Collette... Born May 21, 1993 in Murray, Utah... One of seven children of Jeff and Diane Collette... Enjoys hanging out with friends and spending time with his family... Majoring in business... Plans on serving a two-year LDS Church Mission after his first year at Utah State.

Igor Premasunac

This Season:
Gives the team a big body inside and a low post scoring presence... Plays hard and wants to continue his growth as a player.

JUNIOR COLLEGE:
Earned honorable mention all-conference honors as a sophomore at Lon Morris Junior College in Jacksonville, Texas as he averaged 9.3 points and 5.3 rebounds per game, while shooting 51.9 percent from the field (107-206) and 51.6 percent from three-point range (16-31)... Prior to Lon Morris JC, he played his freshman season at Santa Fe Community College in Gainesville, Fla., where he averaged 4.9 points and 4.3 rebounds, while shooting 51.9 percent from the field (56-108) and 71.4 percent at the free throw line (15-21).

PERSONAL: Born Oct. 19, 1989 in Mostar, Bosnia... One of two children of Sasa and Sonja Premasunac... His father was a swimmer for the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia... Enjoys playing the guitar... Majoring in exercise science... Last name is pronounced prem-uh-sue-niche.

Kyisean Reed

THIS SEASON:
An explosive athlete who has great potential at the Division I level... A versatile player that can score in a variety of ways... Also has the tools necessary to be a good defender and rebounder.

JUNIOR COLLEGE:
Averaged 17.1 points, 6.3 rebounds, 1.47 blocks and 1.47 steals per game as a sophomore at Antelope Valley Junior College as he shot 62.3 percent from the field (124-199), 17.6 percent from three-point range (3-17) and 67.0 percent at the free throw line (73-109)... Scored in double-figures in all 19 games he played in during the season, including five 20-point games... Also had four double-doubles during the year... Was named the Most Valuable Player of the Ventura Tournament as he scored a career-high 24 points in back-to-back games... Earned first-team all-Foothill Conference honors and honorable mention all-state accolades as a freshman at Antelope Valley as he averaged 11.1 points, 7.2 rebounds and 2.4 blocks per game... Had a career-high 18 rebounds against San Bernardino Valley and set the single-game school record with seven blocked shots against Moorpark... Scored in double-figures 21 times during the season and had four double-doubles... Finished the year with 86 blocks to lead the conference and set a new California Junior College single-season record for blocks by a freshman...

HIGH SCHOOL:

Prepped at Highland High School in Palmdale, Calif., where he was named first-team all-state and the Defensive Player of the Year in the Golden League during his senior season, while averaging approximately 24.0 points, 13.0 rebounds and 6.0 blocks per game.

PERSONAL: Born Aug. 25, 1989 in Los Angeles, Calif... One of six children of Angela Michelle Reed... Enjoys going to the movies and coaching basketball... Majoring in interdisciplinary studies... First name is pronounced Key-Shawn.

Steve Thornton

This Season:
A very good athlete who has the potential to be a tremendous defender.

PREP SCHOOL:
Spent the 2009-10 season at Stoneridge Prep School in Simi Valley, Calif.

HIGH SCHOOL:
Averaged 19.0 points and 5.0 rebounds as a prep senior at Golden Valley (Calif.) High School, earning first-team all-Foothill League honors... Was named a second-team all-CIF-Southern Section Division IIIA member as a prep senior helping Golden Valley win back-to-back Foothill League championships... Also named the Santa Clarita Valley's co-Newcomer of the Year... Scored 41 points against Gahr in the semifinals of the conference tournament and won the Battle of the Valley Skill Competition Dunk Contest.

PERSONAL: Full name is Steven Marlow Thornton... Born Dec. 7, 1990 in Santa Clarita, Calif... One of five children of Mayda and Steven Thornton... Undeclared on a college major... Enjoys playing video games and paint ball.

Adam Thoseby

This Season:

Possesses excellent athletic ability along with solid basketball skills... A hard worker with very good potential and his international experience will certainly help his development as a player.

Summer 2011:
During the summer of 2011, Thoseby played for Great Britain's Under 20 basketball team that participated in the European Championships.

PREP SCHOOL:
Spent the 2010-11 season at Maine Central Institute (MCI) Prep helping the Huskies to a 20-11 record and the New England Preparatory School Athletic Council (NEPSAC) Class AAA title... During his one season at MCI, he averaged 7.3 points, 1.4 rebounds and 1.1 assists per game, while shooting 41.9 percent from the field (83-198), 36.2 percent from three-point range (25-69) and 79.5 percent at the free throw line (35-44)... Scored a season-high 21 points against Winchendon.

HIGH SCHOOL:
Prior to coming to the United States, Thoseby played his senior season of high school with the Under 18 Reading Rockets where he averaged nearly 27.0 points, 7.0 rebounds and 3.0 assists per game... During his final game of the season in a national finals appearance, he scored 34 points hitting 8-of-10 three-pointers.

PERSONAL: Full name is Adam Nathan Campbell Thoseby... Born Nov. 25, 1991 in Melbourne, Australia... Parents are Andrew Thoseby and Sue Baker... Undeclared on a colleg major... Enjoys playing video games, watching movies and hanging out with friends... Last name is pronounced thos-bee.

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MORRILL

 CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

His coaching career began as an assistant at Gonzaga from 1975-78 and then to Montana where he was an assistant from 1979-86 working for Mike Montgomery, who spent 17 years as the head coach at Stanford and is now the head coach at Cal. Montgomery worked under Jim Brandenburg and Jud Heathcote, who retired after a successful career, which included a national championship at Michigan State.

Morrill took over the Montana program in 1987 before moving to Colorado State in

1992. He is known for his deep-rooted values, consistency, hard work, dedication, honesty, integrity and concern for the welfare of his student-athletes.

Morrill earned a bachelor's degree in sociology from Gonzaga in 1974. He was born July 25, 1952 in Provo, Utah.

He and his wife Vicki have four grown children; sons Jesse and Allan, and daughters Nicole and Tiffany, and five grandchildren.

Best year behind, now is time for women to climb

Coming off of one of the most successful seasons in Utah State women's basketball history, the 2011-12 team looks to build off those accomplishments and climb to the next level. Head coach Raegan Pebley's Aggies ended the 2010-11 campaign with an 18-15 overall record which broke the record for wins in a season. The Aggies also finished their sixth season in the Western Athletic Conference with a 10-6 record, their best since joining the league.

Last season, Utah State also made history by earning a bid to the Women's National Invitation Tournament (WNIT). The blue and white dominated Arizona in the first round in Logan, before eventually falling to in-state rival in the second round in Provo. It was USU's first postseason appearance since the 1981-82 season. The last time the Aggies reached postseason play was the Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (AIAW) Region VII Championships. The last time that Utah State hosted postseason game was March 5, 1976 when USU lost to Utah in the AIAW Region VII Championships.

The 2011-12 squad looks to climb to the next level with a team that returns three starters and 10 letter-winners from last season's historic team. The 2011 WAC Newcomer of Year, senior forward Ashlee Brown, returns for the Aggies this season. She is just the fourth Aggie to earn all-WAC honors when she was named to the first team.

Junior center Banna Diop returns in pursuit of Nicole Johnson's career block record. Diop's 99 blocks are just 34 shy from tying Johnson's record of 133 career rejections.

Junior guard Jenna Johnson is the third starter that is back for USU this season. Johnson started all 33 games last season, averaging 6.6 points per game.

Sharp-shooting junior guard Devyn Christensen is among the 10 letterwinners returning for the Aggies this season. Christensen started the final 14 games of the season and was second on the team in scoring, averaging 12.1 ppg. Utah State is extremely deep at the guard position, also returning junior Pua-lei Furtado along with sophomores Jennifer Schlott and Kamie Imai.

Senior forwards Reyneisha Mays and Maddy Plunkett are both back for their final seasons in Aggie blue and white. Junior forward Chelsea Burns was solid off the bench for USU last season, seeing time in 32 of the Aggie's 33 games.

Guards

Despite losing WAC all-defensive team member Alice Coddington along with fellow senior guard LaCale Pringle-Buchanan, the Aggies are still very deep in the guard position. Coddington ended her Utah State career as the all-time leader in steals with 236.

Juniors Johnson and Christensen both earned quality minutes last season, as both played over 750 minutes last year. Johnson, a native of Wasilla, Ala., averaged 6.6 points and 3.1 rebounds per game. Christensen, from Caldwell, Idaho, was one of two Aggies to average in double-digits in scoring (12.1 ppg). Furtado, a native of Kaneohe, Hawaii is the final junior guard back for the Aggies.

Along with sophomores Schlott, from Mesa, Ariz., and Imai, a native

of Pahoa, Hawaii, Utah State welcomes three freshmen guards, Brooke Beckstead, Addison Moore and Elise Nelson. Senior guard Brooke Jackson transfers to Utah State from the University of Arizona.

Forwards

At the forward position, Utah State said goodbye to all-WAC honoree Amber White as well as Stacey Howard. Brown, a native of Chandler, Ariz., will be the leader at the forward position, ending the season with a team-leading 10 double-doubles. Despite battling injury last season, the senior was still first on the team in scoring (15.2 ppg) and rebounding (8.4 rpg). She is the only player from the WAC's top 10 in scoring to return this season.

Burns, from Carlsbad, Calif., returned to form last season after missing a year with an injury. Seniors Plunkett, a native of Albury, New South Wales, and Mays, from Victorville, Calif., also both return to the hardwood this season for USU.

Freshman Xava Grooms, a native of Granada Hills, Calif., is the only newcomer at the forward position. She comes to USU from Granada Hills High School.

Centers

Utah State may only have two centers on the roster but both are very powerful. Dakar, Senegal native Diop's 62 blocks last season were second on the Aggies' single-season leader list. She averaged 9.5 points and 5.9 rebounds per game.

Los Angeles, Calif., native Franny Vaalu is the only other center on the roster. The 6-3 freshman is one of three Aggies standing 6-3 or taller. The Warren High School graduate is one of five freshmen on the roster this year.

The Schedule

This season, Utah State will play 28 regular season games, including 15 home games at the Dee Glen Smith Spectrum. Last year, the Aggies 10-6 at home.

Utah State will face only three teams from the Beehive State versus the six that it faced last season. The Aggies will take on BYU, Weber State and Utah Valley. Last year, the Aggies 3-4 against Utah teams with wins against Southern Utah, Weber State and Utah Valley.

"Starting on the road against Wyoming and South Dakota State is a great opportunity. Both of these teams were in post-season tournaments, are well coached and will have great crowds. We will need to be extremely focused and intense in our fall workouts and conditioning to be prepared for these challenges," Pebley said.

The Aggies will play nine teams that reached either the NCAA Tournament, the Women's National Invitation Tournament (WNIT) or the Women's Basketball Invitational (WBI) in 2010-11, including four teams from the WAC. Both WAC Tournament champion, Fresno State, and WAC regular-season champs, Louisiana Tech, reached the NCAA Tournament, while Nevada advanced to the WNIT and Idaho made an appearance in the WBI. South Dakota State and Montana round out the quartet of teams that advanced to the "Big Dance" last season. In-state rival BYU and Wyoming both advanced to the WNIT along with UC Riverside.

Once again, the WAC will play a double round-robin format. This season, the Aggies will play the bulk of their WAC schedule on Thursdays and Saturdays. All eight teams will advance to the WAC Tournament. For the second-straight season, the tournament will be held at the Orleans Arena in Las Vegas, Nev.



ASHLEE BROWN LOOKS TO PASS IN HEATED SPECTRUM ACTION FROM LAST SEASON. /Statesman photo

PRE-SEASON NOTES:

Raegan Pebley is entering her ninth season as head coach at Utah State, which is the longest tenure in the program's history. Five games into the 2007-08 season, Pebley overtook the lead for the most games coached in Utah State history (116). She has now coached 234 games for the blue and white and has 89 wins as Aggie head coach, which is first ahead of Fern Gardner (55) on the all-time win list.

- Utah State returns 10 players from the 2010-11 roster, including three starters in forward Ashlee Brown (15.2 ppg), center Banna Diop (9.5 ppg) and guard Jenna Johnson (6.6 ppg). USU brings back 75% of its offense, including its top three scorers in Brown, Diop and guard Devyn Christensen. The Aggies also welcome back the block leader in Diop (1.88 bpg), and Brown will also be back in the blue and white as Utah State's leading rebounder, bringing down 251 rebounds in 2010-11 (8.4 rpg).

- Ashlee Brown was the fourth Aggie to earn all-WAC honors and the second to earn first-team accolades. She was also named Newcomer of the Year which is the first time an Aggie has earned that honor. In 2009, current assistant coach Danyelle Snelgro was the first Aggie to be named to the first team. Amber White was named to the all-WAC second-team in 2010, while Ana Pares was earned second-team honors in 2009.

- Last season was the first time in head coach Raegan Pebley's career that she has earned the Coach of the Year accolade. Pebley is also the first female to earn the award since 2004-05 when Rice's Cristy McKinney was named Coach of the Year.

- Guard Devyn Christensen ended the year with the USU record for single-season free throw shooting percentage with 86.1 (105-of-122). She tops the list by almost four percent as Mary Danielson is now in second place with 82.7 percent from the 1981 season. Christensen also nabbed sixth on the single-season record list for three-point field goals percentage at 35.4 behind Amber White's fifth place 2009-10 season shooting 37.5 from behind the arc.

2011-12 Utah State Women's Basketball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Friday, Nov. 4	Western New Mexico#	Logan, Utah	7 p.m.
Friday, Nov. 11	at Wyoming	Laramie, Wyo.	7 p.m.
Sunday, Nov. 13	at South Dakota State	Brookings, S.D.	1 p.m.
Wednesday, Nov. 16	Weber State	Logan, Utah	7
p.m.			
Saturday, Nov. 19	at UC Irvine	Irvine, Calif.	3 p.m.
Tuesday, Nov. 22	Boise State	Logan, Utah	7 p.m.
Friday, Nov. 25	UC Riverside	Logan, Utah	7 p.m.
Wednesday, Nov. 30	at Montana	Missoula, Mont.	7
p.m.			
Friday, Dec. 2	at Montana State	Bozeman, Mont.	7 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 10	at Idaho State	Pocatello, Idaho	2:05 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 17	BYU!	Logan, Utah	2 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 19	Northern Arizona	Logan, Utah	12 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 22	at Boise State	Boise, Idaho	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 3	Asbury	Logan, Utah	7 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 7	Utah Valley!	Logan, Utah	2 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 12	at New Mexico State*	Las Cruces, N.M.	12 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 14	at Louisiana Tech*	Ruston, La.	5 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 19	Fresno State*	Logan, Utah	7 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 21	Nevada*	Logan, Utah	7 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 28	at Idaho*	Moscow, Idaho	2 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 2	at San Jose State*	San Jose, Calif.	8 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 4	at Hawai'i*	Honolulu, Hawaii	8 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 9	Louisiana Tech*!	Logan, Utah	5 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 11	New Mexico State*!	Logan, Utah	2 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 16	at Nevada*	Reno, Nev.	8
p.m.			
Saturday, Feb. 18	at Fresno State*	Fresno, Calif.	7 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 25	Idaho*	Logan, Utah	2 p.m.
Thursday, March 1	Hawai'i*	Logan, Utah	7 p.m.
Saturday, March 3	San Jose State*	Logan, Utah	7 p.m.
Wed.-Sat., March 7-10	WAC Tournament	Las Vegas, Nev.	TBA

Home game in **BOLD**

All Times Mountain

*WAC Game

2011-2012 USU Alphabetical Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.	Exp.	Hometown (High School/Last School)
14	Brooke Beckstead	G	5-10	FR	HS	Preston, Idaho (Preston HS)
22	Ashlee Brown	F	6-0	SR	1L	Chandler, Ariz. (Chandler HS/UC Santa Barbara)
20	Chelsea Burns	G/F	5-10	JR	2L	Carlsbad, Calif. (La Jolla Country Day HS)
4	Devyn Christensen	G	5-6	JR	2L	Caldwell, Idaho (Vallivue HS)
42	Banna Diop	C	6-6	JR	2L	Dakar, Senegal (Kurashiki Suisho)
24	Pualei Furtado	G	5-5	JR	2L	Kaneohe, Hawaii (Kamehameha HS)
50	Xava Grooms	F	6-0	FR	HS	Granada Hill, Calif. (Granada Hills HS)
15	Kamie Imai	G	5-8	SO	1L	Pahoa, Hawaii (Waiakea HS)
12	Brooke Jackson	G	5-8	SR	TR	Mesa, Ariz. (Mountain View HS/Arizona)
11	Jenna Johnson	G	5-10	JR	2L	Wasilla, Alaska (Wasilla HS)
34	Reyneisha Mays	F	6-3	SR	1L	Granada Hills, Calif. (Granada Hills HS/Moorpark College)
23	Addison Moore	G	5-9	FR	HS	Layton, Utah (Layton HS)
2	Elise Nelson	G	5-8	FR	HS	Springfield, Ore. (Thurston HS)
25	Maddy Plunkett	F	6-2	SR	1L	Albury, New South Wales, Australia (Xavier/College of So. Idaho)
3	Jennifer Schlott	G	5-6	SO	1L	Mesa, Ariz. (Mountain View HS)
44	Franny Vaaulu	C	6-3	FR	HS	Los Angeles, Calif. (Warren HS)

**A SPECIAL
THANKS TO
DOUG HOFFMAN
AND KARA
FISHER
OF THE USU
ATHLETIC MEDIA
RELATIONS
OFFICE FOR
THEIR
ASSISTANCE IN
PREPARING THIS
SPECIAL
SUPPLEMENT.**

Pebley enters her ninth season

USU's coach lead team to WNT last season

Utah State's Raegan Pebley (Pee-blee) enters her ninth season as head coach of the Aggie women's basketball program. Pebley was named the head coach at Utah State University on May 1, 2002, becoming the first women's basketball coach at USU in 16 years. She immediately went to work, spending the 2003 season recruiting and rebuilding Utah State's women's basketball program for its inaugural season in 2003-04. The Aggies reinstated women's basketball on March 5, 2002, after the program had been dropped following the 1987 season.

Despite being the third-youngest team in the nation in their inaugural season, Pebley's team soon saw the fruits of their labors, as they went 5-13 in the Big West Conference and earned a spot in the Big West's postseason tournament.

Pebley helped the momentum carry over from USU's freshman campaign into its sophomore season as her team doubled its win total from the previous season with nine games remaining on the schedule.

Most coaches would have been satisfied doubling their win total, but Pebley didn't rest on her laurels, coaching the Aggies within one win of tripling their 2004 total (5-22) and guiding them to their second straight Big West Tournament appearance.

Pebley's 14 wins in 2004-05 tied her with Fern Gardner (1975) and Cindy Perkins (1979) for the second-highest single-season win total in school history. With 33 career wins, Pebley is third on the career coaching wins list.

While the Aggies struggled to a 3-24 overall and 2-14 conference mark in 2006, their first season in the Western Athletic Conference, year two in the WAC saw much improvement as Pebley once again came within one win of tripling their 2006 total, as the team went 11-18 in 2007 and 7-9 in the WAC to finish in seventh-place.

In 2008, the Aggies ended the season with a 9-20 overall record with a 5-11 WAC record to once again finish seventh in the league.

The 2009 season was a historic one for the Aggies. Utah State finished 16-15 overall and 9-7 in the WAC which was good for a tie for fifth place. USU also captured its first postseason win with a 59-58 overtime win over Idaho in the WAC Tournament. The Aggies lost to the eventual tournament champions, Fresno State, 57-54.

In 2010, the Aggies once again had a double-digit win count, ending the season with a 13-17 record. USU started the season with a win against in-state rival, 67-58, in Logan. It was the Aggies' first win over Utah since 1975.

Last season, Pebley and the Aggies reached new territory, advancing to the Women's Invitation Tournament (WNIT) for the first time in school history. Utah State finished the 2010-11 season with a stellar 18-15 overall record and a 10-6 record in WAC action, leading to its best-ever third-place finish. For the second-time in school history, the Aggies reached the semifinals of the WAC Tournament and advanced to the second round of the WNIT. Pebley also captured WAC Coach of the Year honors last season.

Under Pebley's direction 12 players have honored by the conference, including two honorable mention selections in 2004 and three honorable mention honorees in 2005, and consecutive all-freshman team picks in 2005 and 2006. In 2009, the Aggies made history when two players were named all-WAC. Danyelle Snelgro became the first Utah State player to earn first-team all-WAC honors, while Ana Pares was named to the second team. In 2010, Amber White was named to the second team. Alice

Coddington was also named to the WAC's all-defensive team, while Banna Diop earned all-freshman team honors. Last season, Ashlee Brown became the second player to earn first-team all-WAC honors and was the first Aggie named WAC Newcomer of the Year. For the second-straight season, Coddington was named to the WAC all-defensive team.

Student-athletes have also flourished off the court with Pebley at the helm. Last season, seven players earned academic all-WAC honors. In 2010, nine players were honored, which was the most under Pebley. In 2009, four players were honored by the conference. In 2008, eight players earned academic all-WAC honors. Six players earned academic all-conference honors in 2007, while seven earned the honor in 2006. Five players were awarded academic all-conference accolades in 2005, with two earning the award in 2004.

Additionally, individual career and single-season records have fallen in Pebley's system. Alice Coddington broke the career steals record in 2011, breaking Danyelle Snelgro's record with 236. In 2010, forward Nicole Johnson broke the USU record for career blocks with 133. Taylor Richards broke the career assists record in 2007 and finished her career with 371. Brittany Hagen became the USU record holder for career three-pointers in 2005-06 and finished her career with 109 treys. Brittany Phillips ended her career at USU with a 37.9 three-point percentage from 2003-2007 and holds the current career record. Jessica Freeman became the USU career shot block leader in 2004-05 and finished her career with 127 and Ali (Aird) Marchant shot 59.7 percent from the floor in 2003-04 to break the single-season field-goal percentage mark and left USU as the career field-goal percentage record holder, hitting 53.5 percent of her shots.

In the summer of 2010, Pebley was one of several coaches to take part in a mock NCAA selection. The goal of the exercise was to continue educating coaches in the selection, seeding and bracketing.

A former player for the Utah Starzz of the WNBA, Pebley was an assistant coach for four years at George Mason (1997-99) and Colorado State (1999-2001) before coming to Utah State, as she helped guide CSU to a 48-17 record during her two-year stint with the Rams. She was a four-year letterwinner at Colorado before being a third-round draft pick by the Utah Starzz in 1997. She also spent one season with the Eastern Division Champion Cleveland Rockers in 1998.

Pebley, whose maiden name is Scott, grew up in Orem, Utah and graduated from Mountain View High School, where she was part of two 4A Utah State Championship teams from 1992-93. She earned All-American honors and was a two-time state Player of the Year at Mountain View.

Coaching has been in her family for sometime now as her father, Ray Scott, has coached women's basketball for more than 30 years. He got his start in the late 70's and early 80's with the Dallas Diamonds and New Orleans Pride of the old ABL. He has since coached at almost every level of women's basketball and is currently the head coach at Princeton High School in Princeton, Texas.

Pebley is married to Keith, who is a high school history teacher at Fast Forward Charter School and an assistant football coach at Logan High School. They have one son, Joseph, who was born July 9, 2003, and a daughter, Harper, who was born Jan. 30, 2007.



REAGAN PEBLEY WATCHES HER TEAM GET READY FOR ACTION IN THE SPECTRUM. / USU Athletics photo

In-Depth With Pebley

Recent book you have read and give a thumbs up to:
Thousand Splendid Suns By Khaled Hosseini

If you could bottle a scent what would it be: The smell of my kids

Favorite Aggie Ice Cream:
Peanut Butter and Jelly

Favorite Aggie Cheer:
The Scotsman

If you could play another sport what would it be: Crew
- I think it is such a beautiful sport



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AGGIE SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME
Fri., Oct. 28	UC SAN DIEGO (Ex.)	Dee Glen Smith Spectrum	7:05 p.m.
Sat., Nov. 5	ADAMS STATE (Ex.)	Dee Glen Smith Spectrum	4:05 p.m.
Fri., Nov. 11	BRIGHAM YOUNG	Dee Glen Smith Spectrum	7:05 p.m.
Tues., Nov. 15	Weber State	Ogden, Utah	7:05 p.m.
Sat., Nov. 19	SOUTHERN UTAH	Dee Glen Smith Spectrum	7:05 p.m.
Tues., Nov. 22	Texas A&M-Corpus Christi	Corpus Christi, Texas	6:05 p.m.
Sat., Nov. 26	Idaho State	Pocatello, Idaho	7:05 p.m.
Wed., Nov. 30	DENVER	Dee Glen Smith Spectrum	7:05 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 3	Pacific	Stockton, Calif.	8:05 p.m.
Tues., Dec. 6	UTAH VALLEY	Dee Glen Smith Spectrum	7:05 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 10	Wichita State	Wichita, Kan.	6:05 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 17	SEATTLE	Dee Glen Smith Spectrum	7:05 p.m.
Tue.-Thur., Dec. 20-22	WORLD VISION CHALLENGE (Sponsored by Gossner Foods)		
Tues., Dec. 20	Saint Peter's vs. Kent State	Dee Glen Smith Spectrum	5:30 p.m.
	Utah State vs. Texas-Arlington	Dee Glen Smith Spectrum	8:05 p.m.
	Kent State vs. Texas-Arlington	Dee Glen Smith Spectrum	5:30 p.m.
Wed., Dec. 21	Utah State vs. Saint Peter's	Dee Glen Smith Spectrum	8:05 p.m.
	Texas-Arlington vs. Saint Peter's	Dee Glen Smith Spectrum	5:30 p.m.
Thur., Dec. 22	Utah State vs. Kent State	Dee Glen Smith Spectrum	8:05 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 31	Mississippi State	Starkville, Miss.	12:05 p.m.
Thur., Jan. 5	*FRESNO STATE	Dee Glen Smith Spectrum	7:05 p.m.
Sat., Jan. 7	*NEVADA	Dee Glen Smith Spectrum	7:05 p.m.
Thur., Jan. 12	*New Mexico State	Las Cruces, N.M.	7:05 p.m.
Sat., Jan. 14	*Louisiana Tech	Ruston, La.	6:05 p.m.
Thur., Jan. 19	Seattle	Seattle, Wash.	8:05 p.m.
Sat., Jan. 21	*Idaho	Moscow, Idaho	8:05 p.m.
Thur., Jan. 26	*HAWAII	Dee Glen Smith Spectrum	7:05 p.m.
Sat., Jan. 28	*SAN JOSE STATE	Dee Glen Smith Spectrum	7:05 p.m.
Thur., Feb. 2	*Nevada	Reno, Nev.	8:05 p.m.
Sat., Feb. 4	*Fresno State	Fresno, Calif.	8:05 p.m.
Thur., Feb. 9	*LOUISIANA TECH	Dee Glen Smith Spectrum	7:05 p.m.
Sat., Feb. 11	*NEW MEXICO STATE	Dee Glen Smith Spectrum	7:05 p.m.
Tues., Feb. 14	MONTANA TECH	Dee Glen Smith Spectrum	7:05 p.m.
Fri./Sat., Feb. 17/18	ESPN BRACKETBUSTERS	Dee Glen Smith Spectrum	TBA
Fri., Feb. 24	*IDAHO	Dee Glen Smith Spectrum	7:05 p.m.
Thur., Mar. 1	*San Jose State	San Jose, Calif.	8:05 p.m.
Sat., Mar. 3	*Hawai'i	Honolulu, Hawai'i	10:05 p.m.
Wed.-Sat., Mar. 7-10	WAC Tournament	Las Vegas, Nev.	
Tues.-Sun., Mar. 13-18	NCAA First, Second & Third Rounds	TBA	

* Denotes Western Athletic Conference game.

Home Games in **BOLD AND ALL CAPS**.

All times are Mountain time, tentative and subject to change.

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