



Utah State

AGGIE BASKETBALL

14 NCAA Tournament Appearances: 1939, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1970, 1971, 1975, 1979, 1980, 1983, 1988, 1998, 2000, 2001

Utah State Athletic Media Relations • 7400 Old Main Hill • Logan, Utah 84322-7400 • Fax (435) 797-2615
Doug Hoffman, Associate Director (Basketball Contact) • (435) 797-3714 • Email: Doug.Hoffman@usu.edu

Utah State Schedule/Results

November

2	EA SPORTS ALL-STARS (Ex.)	W 106-97
15	GLOBAL SPORTS (Ex.)	W 83-68
23	at Illinois State	6:05 p.m.
26	WHITMAN COLLEGE	7:05 p.m.
<i>at Hilo Shootout, Hilo, Hawai'i</i>		
29	vs. Vermont	8:35 p.m.
30	vs. Drake	8:35 p.m.

December

1	at Hawai'i-Hilo	6:05 p.m.
7	at Jackson State	6:05 p.m.
14	at BYU (SportsWest)	7:05 p.m.
17	UTAH (KJZZ)	7:05 p.m.
21	WEBER STATE (KJZZ)	7:05 p.m.
<i>Gossner Foods Classic, Logan, Utah</i>		
27	ARKANSAS STATE	8:05 p.m.
28	UMKC/IDAHO STATE	TBA

January

2	*at CS Northridge	8:05 p.m.
4	*at Pacific	8:05 p.m.
9	*CAL POLY	7:05 p.m.
11	*UC SANTA BARBARA (ESPN)	8:05 p.m.
15	*at UC Irvine (KDOC-TV)	8:05 p.m.
18	*at Long Beach State	8:35 p.m.
23	*UC RIVERSIDE	7:05 p.m.
25	*CS FULLERTON	7:05 p.m.

February

1	*at Idaho	8:05 p.m.
6	*at UC Santa Barbara	8:05 p.m.
8	*at Cal Poly	8:05 p.m.
13	*UC IRVINE (Fox Sports)	6:35 p.m.
15	*LONG BEACH STATE	7:05 p.m.
20	*at CS Fullerton	8:05 p.m.
22	*at UC Riverside	8:05 p.m.

March

1	*IDAHO	7:05 p.m.
6	*CS NORTHRIDGE (Fox Sports)	6:35 p.m.
8	*PACIFIC	7:05 p.m.
<i>Big West Tournament, Anaheim, Calif.</i>		
13-15		TBA
<i>NCAA Tournament First & Second Rounds</i>		
20-23		TBA

All times are mountain.

Home games in **BOLD CAPS**.

Game #1

November 19, 2002

Utah State (0-0) at Illinois State (0-0)

Redbird Arena (10,200) • Normal, Ill.

Nov. 23, 2002 • 6:05 p.m. (MST) • Aggie Radio Network

Utah State Aggies (0-0)

Probable Starters	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	PPG	RPG	Notes
F # 2 Desmond Penigar	6-7	245	Sr.	16.9	6.8	Nine career 20-point games
F # 5 Toraino Johnson	6-4	215	Sr.	4.4	3.6	Averages 5.9 points as a starter
C #11 Mike Puzey	6-9	240	Sr.	---	---	Transferred from Utah
G # 1 Ronnie Ross	6-1	190	Sr.	7.1	3.1^	10 double-figure scoring games
G #20 Mark Brown	5-10	150	Jr.	---	---	Led JC team to 66-7 record

^denotes assists per game

This Week

Utah State will open the 2002-03 season this Saturday, Nov. 23 on the road against Illinois State at 6:05 p.m. (MST). It is the second straight year that USU has opened the season on the road as the Aggies began the 2001-02 season with a 66-51 win at Montana State. It is also the third straight season that USU has played its first game of the year away from the Dee Glen Smith Spectrum as the 2000-01 team's first game was a 76-67 win over Santa Clara in the opening round of the 2000 Top of the World Classic in Fairbanks, Alaska.

About Illinois State

Illinois State will also be opening the 2002-03 season this Saturday against Utah State. The Redbirds return two starters and six lettermen from last year's team that went 17-14 on the season and finished in third-place in the Missouri Valley Conference with a 12-6 league record. Illinois State's 2001-02 season ended in the semifinals of its conference tournament with a 63-90 loss to Creighton. In its two exhibition games this year, the Redbirds defeated SIU-Edwardsville, 89-70, and lost to EA Sports, 66-65. Illinois State is picked to finish fourth in the Missouri Valley Conference this season, while senior forward Baboucarr Bojang was named to the conference's preseason team.



Next Week

Utah State will host Whitman College on Tues., Nov. 26 at the Dee Glen Smith Spectrum at 7:05 p.m. in its home opener. USU has won its last eight home openers and is 36-9 all-time in home openers dating back to the 1957-58 season. Utah State will then hit the road to compete in the 2002 Hilo Shootout in Hilo, Hawai'i over the Thanksgiving weekend. USU will open the tournament against Vermont on Fri., Nov. 29 at 8:35 p.m. (MST). The Aggies will then play Drake on Sat., Nov. 30 at 8:35 p.m. (MST), and conclude the tournament against host Hawai'i-Hilo on Sun., Dec. 1 at 6:05 p.m. (MST).

www.UtahStateAggies.com



Big West Standings

	Big West		Overall	
	W-L	Pct	W-L	Pct
Cal Poly	0-0	.000	0-0	.000
CS Fullerton	0-0	.000	0-0	.000
CS Northridge	0-0	.000	0-0	.000
Idaho	0-0	.000	0-0	.000
Long Beach St.	0-0	.000	0-0	.000
Pacific	0-0	.000	0-0	.000
UC Irvine	0-0	.000	0-0	.000
UCSB	0-0	.000	0-0	.000
UC Riverside	0-0	.000	0-0	.000
UTAH STATE	0-0	.000	0-0	.000

Latest Results

Wednesday, November 13

LA All-Stars 86, CS Fullerton 80
Global Sports 77, Long Beach State 78

Friday, November 15

Global Sports 68, Utah State 83
Team Ezybonds 67, UC Irvine 77

Saturday, November 16

Delta Jammers 79, UC Riverside 94
LA All-Stars 60, CS Northridge 89
Chico State 75, Pacific 87

Sunday, November 17

Delta Jammers 76, Cal Poly 97

Monday, November 18

NW All-Stars 77, Idaho 84

Upcoming Schedule

Friday, November 22

Long Beach St. at Charlotte 4:35 p.m.
#UC Irvine at Oklahoma 5 p.m.
Cal Poly at Colorado 6 p.m.
@CS Fullerton vs. Texas A&M-CC 7 p.m.
CS Northridge at Portland State 7 p.m.
UC Riverside at USC 7 p.m.
Santa Clara at Pacific 7:30 p.m.
\$UC Santa Barbara vs. Weber State 8 p.m.

Saturday, November 23

#UC Irvine vs. Princeton/W.Mich. TBA
\$UCSB at Top of the World Classic TBA
Idaho at Oregon State 5 p.m.
Utah State at Illinois State 6 p.m.

Sunday, November 24

@CS Fullerton at Hawai'i/Ark.-LR TBA
\$UCSB at Top of the World Classic TBA
Lamar at Pacific 2 p.m.
CS Northridge vs. Jacksonville 3 p.m.
- at Sooner Invitational (Norman, Okla.)
@ - at Hawai'i Tournament (Honolulu, Hawai'i)
\$ - at Top of the World Classic (Fairbanks, Alaska)

Utah State-Illinois State Series

Utah State and Illinois State will be meeting for the third time ever with the Redbirds holding a 2-0 advantage. Illinois State won the first game played between the two teams on Dec. 16, 1983 in the Indiana Classic by a final score of 80-74. The last time the two teams met was on Mar. 16, 1995 in the first round of the National Invitation Tournament in Logan, Utah. The Redbirds won that game by a final score of 93-87 in overtime. Obviously, this will be the first-ever meeting between the two teams in Normal. Here is a look at the all-time series:

Dec. 16, 1983 Illinois State 80, Utah State 74 (N)
Mar. 16, 1995 Illinois State 93, Utah State 87 (ot) (H)

Utah State Versus The Missouri Valley Conference

Utah State is 11-13 all-time against current members of the Missouri Valley Conference and will be facing a MVC team for the first time since Jan. 4, 1997 when the Aggies lost at Southern Illinois 64-67. The following is USU's record versus each current member of the Missouri Valley Conference:

Bradley	USU trails 1-2	Indiana State	USU leads 1-0
Creighton	Series tied 2-2	Northern Iowa	Never met
Drake	USU trails 0-1	Southern Illinois	USU trails 0-2
Evansville	USU leads 2-0	SW Missouri St.	Never met
Illinois State	USU trails 0-2	Wichita State	USU leads 5-4

Coach Morrill Versus The Missouri Valley Conference

Stew Morrill is 2-2 all-time versus current members of the Missouri Valley Conference with all four of those meetings occurring while he was the head coach at Colorado State. During his time at CSU, Morrill was 1-1 against both Drake and Creighton. The meeting against Illinois State will be his first ever. The last time Morrill coached against a MVC team was during the 1992-93 season when his CSU team defeated Creighton (77-59) and Drake (96-86) at home. During the 1991-92 season, Morrill lost at Creighton (56-62) and at Drake (40-58).

Aggies In Season Openers

Utah State is 69-28 all-time in season openers and has won eight straight dating back to the 1992-93 season. Since the 1957-58 season, USU is 6-11 in season openers on the road. The last time Utah State lost its first game of the year was on Dec. 3, 1993 when Coach Morrill's Colorado State Rams defeated USU in Ft. Collins, Colo., by a final score of 78-65.

Aggies On The Road

Over the past three years, Utah State has gone 23-12 (.657) on the road and is 25-21 on the road all-time under coach Morrill. In non-conference games, USU is 5-7 on the road under Morrill.

Aggies In Illinois

Utah State's game at Illinois State will mark the fourth time ever that a USU team has played in the state of Illinois, and USU has never won a game in the Land of Lincoln. In Utah State's three previous trips to Illinois, the Aggies have lost at Bradley (69-75), at Illinois (64-115), and at Southern Illinois (64-67).

Fast Starts

In Stew Morrill's first four years at USU, his teams have traditionally gotten off to fast starts as they are 17-3 in the first five games of each season. The 1998-99 and 2001-02 teams opened the season with five straight wins, while the 2000-01 team began the year 4-1. The 1999-2000 team was 3-2 to begin the season.



2002-03 Utah State Numerical Roster

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Exp.	Hometown (High School/Last School)
1	Ronnie Ross	G	6-1	190	Sr.	1L	Jeanerette, La. (Jeanerette HS/John Wood JC)
2	Desmond Penigar	F	6-7	245	Sr.	1L	Upland, Calif. (Upland HS/Ventura JC)
4	Nate Harris	F	6-7	230	Fr.	RS	Smithfield, Utah (Sky View HS)
5	Toraino Johnson	F	6-4	215	Sr.	2L	El Paso, Texas (Andress HS/Garden City JC)
11	Mike Puzey	F/C	6-9	240	Sr.	TR	Roy, Utah (Roy HS/Utah)
13	Michael Stowell	G	6-3	210	So.	1L	San Juan Capistrano, Calif. (Capistrano Valley HS)
15	Cardell Butler	F	6-4	200	Jr.	JC	San Francisco, Calif. (San Mateo HS/College of Southern Idaho)
20	Mark Brown	G	5-10	150	Jr.	JC	Tucson, Ariz. (Santa Rita HS/Saddleback JC)
21	Calvin Brown	G	5-10	160	So.	1L	East Palo Alto, Calif. (Eastside Prep)
22	K.C. Comadena	G	5-11	165	Fr.	HS	Logan, Utah (Logan HS)
24	Greg Patton	G	6-1	175	Jr.	JC	Minneapolis, Minn. (Patrick Henry HS/Northeastern JC)
25	John Neil	F	6-5	210	Jr.	JC	Los Altos, Calif. (Pinewood HS/Canada JC)
31	Ian McVey	F/C	6-9	210	Jr.	JC	Princeton, Minn. (Princeton HS/Fergus Falls JC)
32	Spencer Nelson	F	6-8	225	R-So.	1L	Pocatello, Idaho (Pocatello HS)
42	Mike Ahmad	C	6-9	240	Sr.	1L	Glendora, Calif. (Glendora HS/Irvine Valley JC)
44	Chad Evans	F	6-7	210	Jr.	2L	Ogden, Utah (Weber HS)

Head Coach: Stew Morrill (Gonzaga, 1974)

Assistants: Randy Rahe (Buena Vista, 1982), Don Verlin (Cal State Stanislaus, 1989), Tim Duryea (North Texas, 1988)

Trainer: Mike Williams (Utah State, 1996)

Three Starters And Eight Lettermen Return

After posting its third straight 20-win season, winning its second Big West Conference regular season championship in three seasons, and advancing to its third straight postseason tournament with an appearance in the 2002 National Invitation Tournament, Utah State will be looking to make yet another run at a conference title during the 2002-03 season. Leading the way for USU will be senior forward Desmond Penigar who was named a first-team all-Big West selection as a junior as he led the Aggies in scoring (17.2) and rebounding (6.9). Other starters returning for Utah State include senior guard Ronnie Ross who averaged 7.1 points and 3.1 assists per game at the point, and senior forward Toraino Johnson who missed 10 games early in the season with a foot injury but rebounded late in the year to average 4.3 points and 3.6 rebounds per game. Along with the three returning starters, USU welcomes back five other lettermen including senior Mike Ahmad, junior Chad Evans, and sophomores Calvin Brown, Spencer Nelson and Michael Stowell. Ahmad played in all 31 games for USU as a junior and averaged 3.6 points and 2.5 rebounds. Evans, who started the first 17 games of the year, averaged 4.4 points and 3.4 rebounds. Brown appeared in 19 games and finished the year averaging 1.1 points and 1.7 assists. Stowell played in 28 games on the year and averaged 0.9 points and 0.8 rebounds per contest. Nelson, who redshirted last season after suffering a knee injury in late October, played in all 28 games for Coach Morrill during the 1998-99 season and averaged 4.5 points and 3.3 rebounds per game. Utah State also returns redshirt freshman Nate Harris and senior Mike Puzey who both sat out the 2001-02 season but participated in practice. Harris was the Player of the Year in the state of Utah as a prep senior averaging 23 points and 13 rebounds a game, while Puzey averaged 2.0 points and 2.1 rebounds per game during the 2000-01 season at the University of Utah.

Utah State Welcomes Five Newcomers

Stew Morrill welcomes five new players to this year's team adding a lot of athleticism and depth to one of the best programs in the Big West Conference. All five newcomers are junior college transfers and several players will be looked upon to make immediate contributions. Highlighting this group should be junior guard Mark Brown who was named the Southern California Junior College Player of the Year as a sophomore after averaging 15.0 points, 4.8 assists and 3.4 rebounds per game at Saddleback Junior College. Junior Cardell Butler will also see plenty of time after sitting out during the 2001-02 season after transferring from the College of Southern Idaho where he averaged 10.6 points and 2.7 rebounds per game. Junior Greg Patton will be another player looked upon to make an immediate impact after averaging 10.3 points, 4.2 assists and 3.0 rebounds per game at Northeastern JC. USU also welcomes juniors Ian McVey and John Neil who may both redshirt this season. McVey averaged 17.0 points, 11.5 rebounds and 2.5 blocks per game at Fergus Falls JC as a sophomore, while Neil averaged 12.0 points and 6.0 rebounds per game at Canada JC as a sophomore during the 1999-2000 season. Neil has spent the past two years on an LDS Church Mission in Venezuela.

What Returns vs. What's Lost

Category	01-02 total	Return	Lost	% Return
Points	2076	1137	939	54.7
FG Made	751	425	326	56.6
FG Att	1596	948	648	59.4
3FG Made	144	56	88	38.9
3FG Att	415	198	217	47.7
FT Made	430	231	199	53.7
FT Att	599	333	266	55.6
Rebounds	1116	573	543	51.3
Assists	443	226	217	51.0
Blocks	93	41	52	44.1
Steals	155	55	100	35.5
Minutes	6225	3537	2688	56.8



**College Hoops Insider
Mid-Major Top 25
Preseason Poll**

<u>Team</u>	<u>2001-02 Record</u>
1. Western Kentucky	28-4
2. Gonzaga	29-4
3. Pepperdine	22-9
4. Southern Illinois	28-8
5. Creighton	23-9
6. Pennsylvania	25-7
7. Ball State	23-12
8. UL-Lafayette	20-11
9. Ohio	17-11
10. UC Irvine	21-11
11. Tennessee Tech	27-7
12. UC Santa Barbara	20-11
13. UTAH STATE	23-8
14. East Tennessee State	18-10
15. Niagara	18-14
16. UNC-Wilmington	23-10
17. Arkansas-Little Rock	18-11
18. Wisconsin-Milwaukee	16-10
19. Yale	21-11
20. Butler	26-6
21. Manhattan	20-9
22. Eastern Washington	17-13
23. Weber State	18-11
24. Kent State	30-6
25. Oral Roberts	17-14

**ESPN/USA Today Top 25
Preseason Poll**

<u>Rank</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>'02-'03</u>	<u>Pts.</u>
1.	Arizona (27)	0-0	770
2.	Kansas (3)	0-0	740
3.	Oklahoma (1)	0-0	680
4.	Pittsburgh	0-0	613
5.	Texas	0-0	583
6.	Duke	0-0	574
7.	Florida	0-0	554
8.	Alabama	0-0	494
9.	Oregon	0-0	475
10.	Michigan State	0-0	439
11.	Xavier	0-0	386
12.	UCLA	0-0	322
13.	Mississippi State	0-0	321
14.	Connecticut	0-0	314
15.	Maryland	0-0	285
16.	Georgia	0-0	269
17.	Kentucky	0-0	262
18.	Missouri	0-0	221
19.	Marquette	0-0	215
20.	Cincinnati	0-0	168
21.	Indiana	0-0	167
22.	Gonzaga	0-0	163
23.	Western Kentucky	0-0	151
24.	Minnesota	0-0	86
25.	Illinois	0-0	83
T58.	UTAH STATE	0-0	1

Utah State Records 20-Wins For Third Straight Year

With its 23-8 record during the 2001-02 season, Utah State notched its third straight 20-win season, marking only the second time in school history that feat has been accomplished. USU won 28 games during the 2000 and 2001 seasons. The only other time USU won 20-plus games in three straight seasons was from 1962-64 when those teams won 22, 20, and 21 games.

Aggies Advance To Third Straight Postseason

Utah State made its third straight postseason appearance during the 2001-02 season going to the NIT (NCAA in 2000 and 2001) as well as its fourth postseason appearance in the last five years (three NCAA and one NIT), and its fifth appearance in the last eight seasons (three NCAA and two NITs). It is the second time Utah State has appeared in three straight postseason tournaments with the other time occurring from 1962-64 when that team appeared in three straight NCAA Tournaments. USU is the first team from the Big West Conference to make three straight postseason appearances since New Mexico State went to six straight postseason tournaments from 1989-94.

Utah State Wins Sixth Regular Season Title

Utah State won its sixth regular season Big West championship during the 2001-02 season with its 13-5 league mark. It is the fourth time that USU has won the regular season championship in the last six years.

USU Records Fifth-Most Wins In School History

Utah State's 23 wins during the 2001-02 season are the fifth-most in school history trailing the 2000-01 and 1999-2000 teams that won 28 games each, the 1997-98 team that won 25 games, and the 1959-60 team that won 24 games.

Aggies Fourth In The Country In Scoring Defense

Utah State finished the '01-02 season fourth in the country in scoring defense at 58.1 points allowed per game. USU was also 11th in field-goal percentage defense (39.3), 12th in rebound margin (+6.5), 25th in scoring margin (+8.9), 29th in field-goal percentage offense (47.1), and 29th in winning percentage at 74.2 percent.

USU Wins Old Oquirrh Bucket For First Time In 17 Years

Utah State won the Old Oquirrh Bucket for the first time in 17 years during the 2001-02 season, as the Aggies had the best winning percentage versus in-state opponents among the five division one schools in the state. USU went 2-1 on the season with wins over BYU and Utah. The Old Oquirrh Bucket (named after the Oquirrh Mountains to the west of Salt Lake City) is the symbol of in-state basketball supremacy in Utah. The trophy is awarded every year to the in-state college team (BYU, Southern Utah, Utah, Utah State and Weber State) which has the best won-loss record against in-state competition. The last time Utah State won the Old Oquirrh Bucket was during the 1984-85 season when the Aggies went 5-1 against in-state competition. All-time, USU has now won the award on six different occasions.

Evans Named Academic All-Big West

Chad Evans was one of six student-athletes in the Big West Conference to be named academic all-Big West during the 2001-02 season. Evans, a junior forward from Ogden, Utah, played in all 31 games for Utah State last year, starting 17. He averaged 4.4 points and 3.4 rebounds per game and played 21.4 minutes per contest.



Penigar Named To All-Tournament Team

Senior forward Desmond Penigar was named to the 2002 Big West Conference all-tournament team after leading the Aggies to a runner-up finish. Penigar scored 20 points versus Pacific and averaged 14.7 points and 4.7 rebounds per game.

Penigar Named To NABC All-District Team

Senior forward Desmond Penigar was named to the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC)/Pontiac Division I All-District Team in 2002 recognizing the best men's collegiate basketball student-athletes in the country. Penigar was named to the second team in District 14.

Penigar Named Big West Conference Player Of The Week Three Times During 2001-02 Season

Desmond Penigar was selected as the Big West Conference Player of the Week three times during the 2001-02 season after leading Utah State to its first conference road sweep of the season at Long Beach State and UC Irvine. Against the 49ers, Penigar recorded his fourth double-double of the season with 15 points and 11 rebounds to go along with a career-high three steals. Against UC Irvine, Penigar just missed another double-double with 18 points and nine rebounds to go along with a career-high three blocks, two of which came in the final 1:06 of play to preserve the Aggie win. Penigar received his first player of the week selection on Nov. 26 after leading the Aggies to a road win at Utah with 22 points. He followed that performance up with a 34 point, nine rebound effort against BYU the following weekend to win the award in back-to-back weeks. Penigar is the second Aggie ever to win the award three times during a season, joining Eric Franson, and the only player in the Big West Conference to receive the award three times.

Penigar Becomes 38th Aggie Ever To Score 500 Points During A Season

Desmond Penigar became the 38th player in Utah State history to score 500 points in a single-season with his 12 points against UC Santa Barbara in the championship game of the 2002 Big West Tournament. Penigar finished the 2001-02 season with 532 points which ranks as the 30th most points scored at USU in a single-season.

Aggies Go 14-2 At Home On The Season

Utah State went 14-2 at home during the 2001-02 season marking the sixth time in school history that USU has won 14 home games during a season. The 14 home wins are the third most all-time in a single year.

Aggies Continue Winning Ways At Home In League Play

Despite having its 31-game home court winning streak snapped during the 2001-02 season, USU has still had tremendous success against the Big West at home. Over the past six years, Utah State has gone 49-2 (.961) at home against league opponents. Those two losses came against UC Santa Barbara and UC Irvine by one point each and both baskets to beat the Aggies came at the buzzer.

Home Sweet Home

Utah State has had tremendous success at the Dee Glen Smith Spectrum since the building was opened for the 1970-71 season. In its first 31 years, USU has had only one losing season at home, with a 3-8 record during the 1981-82 year. All-time, USU is 351-98 (.782) at home. Over the past five-plus seasons, USU has compiled an incredible 82-5 (.943) record at home.

Utah State Quick Facts

Location	Logan, Utah
Founded	1888
Enrollment	21,490
President	Kermit L. Hall
Athletics Dir	Rance Pugmire
Nickname	Aggies
Colors	Navy Blue & White
Affiliation	Division I
Conference	Big West
Arena	Dee Glen Smith Spectrum
Capacity	10,270

Basketball Staff

Head Coach	Stew Morrill
.....	Gonzaga, 1974
Career Record	312-171 (16 yrs.)
Record at USU	94-33 (4 yrs.)
Assistant Coaches	Randy Rahe,
.....	Don Verlin and Tim Duryea
Office Phone	(435) 797-2060

Media Relations

Associate SID (MBB)	Doug Hoffman
Office	(435) 797-3714
Fax	(435) 797-2615
Cell	(435) 770-0604
Email	Doug.Hoffman@usu.edu
Press Row	(435) 797-1686

Affiliates for 2002-03 Aggie Radio Network

Logan	KVNU (610 AM)
Logan	KVFX (94.5 FM)
Salt Lake City	98.3 FM
Ogden	106.3 FM
Bear Lake	102.3 FM
Randolph	105.5 FM
Utah County	104.7 FM

Aggie Basketball On The Air

Every Utah State basketball game can be heard live on the Aggie Radio Network. Al Lewis serves as the play-by-play announcer, while Rod Tueller (former Aggie head coach and Athletics Director) will provide color analysis at home. Games can also be heard on the internet at www.UtahStateAggies.com.

Media Information

All Utah State practices are closed to the media. For interviews with Aggie players or head coach Stew Morrill please contact Doug Hoffman at (435) 797-3714. No interviews will be granted on game days.



Penigar Named To Preseason All-Conference Team

Senior forward Desmond Penigar was named to the 2002-03 Big West Conference preseason all-conference team as voted on by media members at the annual basketball media day on Nov. 6. Penigar was named a first-team all-league selection as a junior after leading Utah State in scoring (17.2) and rebounding (6.9). Other players selected to the preseason all-conference team include Varnie Dennis (Cal Poly), Branduinn Fullove (UC Santa Barbara), Mark Hull (UC Santa Barbara), Adam Parada (UC Irvine), and Pape Sow (Cal State Fullerton).

Preseason Predictions

Despite losing two starters from the 2001-02 team, including All-American Tony Brown, Utah State is once again getting a lot of recognition in several preseason publications. The following is a list of publications and where USU ranks:

Basketball News ...

- ✓ Picks Aggies to finish in first-place in the Big West Conference.
- ✓ Desmond Penigar named a first-team all-league selection and preseason favorite for Player of the Year in the Big West.
- ✓ Ranks USU 60th nationally.
- ✓ Mark Brown tabbed as the best Newcomer of the Year.

Lindy's...

- ✓ Picks Aggies to finish in second-place in the Big West Conference.
- ✓ Desmond Penigar named a first-team all-league selection and preseason favorite for Player of the Year in the Big West.
- ✓ Mark Brown named the best "Playmaker" in the conference and was also ranked as the 10th-best point guard signed during 2002.

Street & Smith's...

- ✓ Picks Aggies to finish in second-place in the Big West Conference.
- ✓ Desmond Penigar named a first-team all-league selection and Top Player in the Big West.

Athlon...

- ✓ Picks Aggies to finish in second-place in the Big West Conference.
- ✓ Desmond Penigar named a first-team all-league selection and preseason favorite for Player of the Year in the Big West.

The Sporting News...

- ✓ Picks Aggies to finish in third-place in the Big West Conference.
- ✓ Desmond Penigar named a first-team all-league selection.
- ✓ Toraino Johnson tabbed as the best "Dunker" in the conference.
- ✓ Head Coach Stew Morrill tabbed as the best "Game Coach" in the league.

Aggies In The Big West

Utah State has dominated the Big West Conference over the past three years recording an amazing 50-9 (.847) record which includes an 8-1 record in the conference tournament. USU went 19-0 in league during the 1999-2000 season, 16-3 during the 2000-01 season, and 15-6 during the 2001-02 season, which includes a 2-1 record in the conference tournament.

Preseason Big West Polls

The Big West Conference held its annual basketball media day on Nov. 6, and Utah State was picked to finish second by both the league's coaches and the media.

Preseason Coaches Poll

1. UC Santa Barbara (6) 77
2. **UTAH STATE (3)..... 73**
3. UC Irvine (1) 69
4. Cal State Northridge 47
5. Pacific 40
6. Long Beach State 39
- Cal State Fullerton 39
8. Cal Poly 36
9. Idaho 21
10. UC Riverside 9

Preseason Media Poll

1. UC Santa Barbara (14) .. 246
2. **UTAH STATE (9)..... 231**
3. UC Irvine (3) 217
4. Cal State Northridge 157
5. Pacific 144
6. Cal Poly 134
7. Long Beach State 114
8. Cal State Fullerton 94
9. Idaho 54
10. UC Riverside 39

In The Big West

Since the 1994 season, Utah State has dominated the Big West Conference as the Aggies have the most conference and overall wins by any team in the league.

Conference Record

1. **UTAH STATE 110-42**
2. Long Beach State 92-60
3. Pacific 89-61
4. UC Santa Barbara 78-74
5. UC Irvine 65-87
6. CS Fullerton..... 42-110

Overall Wins

1. **UTAH STATE 182**
2. Pacific 158
3. Long Beach State 144
4. UC Santa Barbara 117
5. UC Irvine 113
6. CS Fullerton..... 69



Statistical Comparison ('01-02)



W-L Record	17-14	23-8
Points Scored	67.1	67.0
Points Allowed	67.9	58.1
Scoring Margin	-0.8	+8.9
FG %	44.2	47.1
Def. FG %	47.1	39.3
3-Pt. %	37.1	34.7
Def. 3-Pt. %	34.4	28.6
FT %	77.5	71.8
Off. Rebounds	9.9	11.5
Total Rebounds	31.3	36.0
Rebounding Margin	-1.5	+6.5
Assists	14.1	14.3
Turnovers	14.4	13.7
Steals	6.7	5.0
Blocks	2.2	3.0
Fouls	17.9	15.5

**Top-10 JUCO
Recruiting Classes (2002)
Street & Smith's Magazine**

1. Iowa State
2. USC
3. Oklahoma State
4. Kentucky
5. LSU
6. UNLV
7. Alabama
8. Western Michigan
- 9. UTAH STATE**
10. Kansas State

**Top-10 Benches (2002)
Basketball News**

1. Florida
2. UCLA
3. Arizona
4. Kentucky
5. Mississippi
6. Duke
7. Villanova
8. Syracuse
9. Hawai'i
- 10. UTAH STATE**

Three Aggies Named All-Conference In 2002

For the third straight year, Utah State had two players earn first-team all-league honors in 2002 as Tony Brown and Desmond Penigar were named by the league's coaches, while Jeremy Vague earned honorable mention all-conference honors. The duo of Brown and Penigar joined USU's other pair of first-team selections in Shawn Daniels and Troy Rolle in 2000 and Daniels and Bernard Rock in 2001. The honor for Brown marked the fourth straight year he has received a postseason honor by the Big West Conference. In 1999 he was named to the league's all-freshman team, while earning honorable mention all-conference honors in 2000 and second-team accolades as a junior in 2001. Brown ranked in the top five in the conference in eight different statistical categories during the 2001-02 season. He led the conference in free throw percentage (85.7), three-point percentage (43.6), and assist-to-turnover ratio (2.29), while ranking second in assists (4.81) and three-pointers made per game (2.42), fifth in field goal percentage (48.9) and sixth in scoring (14.9) and fourth in steals (1.65). Penigar finished the season second in the league in scoring at 17.2 points per game, while also ranking sixth in rebounding at 6.9 and ninth in blocks with 0.68 per game. He also ranked seventh in field goal percentage (48.7) and seventh in free throw percentage (79.1). Vague was selected to the honorable mention all-conference team while averaging 8.6 points and 5.6 rebounds on the season. He led the team in field-goal percentage at 57.8 percent and ranked ninth in the conference in rebounding.

Morrill Comfortable At Home

Utah State head coach Stew Morrill is very comfortable at the Dee Glen Smith Spectrum, and his record would confirm that fact. Since becoming USU's head coach prior to the 1998-99 season, he is 57-5 (.919) at home.

Among the Best In The Country

Utah State basketball has been among the best in the country since the 1999-2000 season as USU has posted an amazing 79-20 (.798) record. USU went 28-6 during the 1999-2000 and 2000-01 seasons, and 23-8 during the 2001-02 season. That 79.8 winning percentage ranks as the seventh-best in the country over the past three years, while the 79 wins are the eighth-most in the country. The following is a look at the top-10 teams in the country based on winning percentage.

Winningest Teams During the 2000s

Team	Won	Lost	Pct.
1. Duke	95	13	.880
2. Cincinnati	85	18	.825
3. Stanford	78	17	.821
4. Oklahoma	84	19	.816
5. Gonzaga	81	20	.802
6. Kansas	83	21	.798
7. UTAH STATE	79	20	.798
8. Tulsa	85	23	.787
9. Butler	73	22	.768
10. Michigan State	79	24	.767



Head Coach Stew Morrill

Stew Morrill (Gonzaga, 1974) is entering his fifth season at the helm of the Utah State men's basketball program after posting three straight 20-win seasons and guiding the Aggies to three straight postseason appearances. In his four years at USU, he has an incredible 94-33 record, which is the best record by any coach at Utah State during that time span. Over the past three years, Morrill has coached five first-team all-league players in Shawn Daniels (twice), Troy Rolle,

Bernard Rock, Tony Brown and Desmond Penigar. In his four years at USU, he has had over an 80 percent graduation rate. He has been involved in postseason action six times in his career, including the NCAA Tournament at Utah State in 2000 and 2001, and the National Invitation Tournament in 2002. He has been named Coach of the Year three times, winning the award in 1991 at Montana, and in 2000 and 2002 at Utah State. He is only the third coach in the history of the Big West Conference to go undefeated in the league, as he led the 1999-2000 squad to a perfect 19-0 league record, joining Lou Henson and Jerry Tarkanian. Prior to coming to Utah State, Morrill had been the head coach at Colorado State University for seven seasons, recording a 121-86 record (1992-98). Prior to his stint at CSU, Morrill spent five seasons as the head coach at the University of Montana (1987-91), where he went 97-52. During his 16 years as a head coach, Morrill's teams have won at least 20 games seven times and have won at least 17 games in 13 of his 16 seasons as a head coach. He was the second winningest coach at Colorado State behind only Boyd Grant.

Morrill Year-by-Year Coaching Record

<u>Year</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Overall</u>	<u>Pct.</u>	<u>Conf.</u>	<u>Place</u>
1987	Montana	18-11	.621	8-6	3rd
1988	Montana	18-11	.621	7-9	t6th
1989	Montana	20-11	.645	11-5	3rd
1990	Montana	18-11	.621	10-6	3rd
1991	Montana	23-8	.742	13-3	1st
1992	Colorado State	14-17	.451	8-8	6th
1993	Colorado State	17-12	.586	9-9	5th
1994	Colorado State	15-13	.536	8-10	5th
1995	Colorado State	17-14	.548	7-11	t7th
1996	Colorado State	18-12	.600	11-7	4th
1997	Colorado State	20-9	.689	10-6	4th
1998	Colorado State	20-9	.689	8-6	4th
1999	Utah State	15-13	.536	8-8	4th
2000	Utah State	28-6	.824	16-0	1st
2001	Utah State	28-6	.824	13-3	2nd
<u>2002</u>	<u>Utah State</u>	<u>23-8</u>	<u>.742</u>	<u>13-5</u>	<u>1st</u>
Totals	16 Years	312-171	.646	160-102	.611

<u>Years</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Overall</u>	<u>Pct.</u>	<u>Conf.</u>	<u>Pct.</u>
87-91	Montana	97-52	.651	49-29	.628
92-98	Colorado State	121-86	.585	61-57	.517
<u>99-</u>	<u>Utah State</u>	<u>94-33</u>	<u>.740</u>	<u>50-16</u>	<u>.758</u>
Totals	16 Years	312-171	.646	160-102	.611

Did You Know?

✓ Stew Morrill is the third-winningest coach in the history of the Big West Conference with a .740 winning percentage in all games and a .758 winning percentage in conference games. Morrill trails Lute Olsen (Long Beach State, 1974) who went 24-2 (.923) overall and 12-0 (1.000) in league play, and Jerry Tarkanian (LBSU, 1970-73 & UNLV (1983-92) who went 405-58 (.875) overall and 205-17 (.923) in league play.

✓ Stew Morrill's 312 career wins ranks third among active Big West coaches, trailing Pat Douglass of UC Irvine (451) and John Masi of UC Riverside (436).

✓ Stew Morrill is the 34th winningest active coach in the country with his 64.6 winning percentage and his 312 wins are 43rd most among active coaches.

✓ Stew Morrill's eight wins in the Big West Conference tournament is the most in Utah State history and the sixth-most in Big West history.

✓ Stew Morrill has recorded at least 20 wins in a season seven times in his 16 year career and three years in a row at Utah State. He has won at least 17 games in 13 of his 16 seasons.

✓ Stew Morrill has been named coach of the year three times during his career, winning the award in 1991 while at Montana, and in 2000 and 2002 while at Utah State.

✓ Stew Morrill's 94 wins in his first four years at Utah State are the most ever by an Aggie coach in his first four seasons, and is the seventh-most in Utah State history.

Luncheon Schedule

Utah State will host a media luncheon each week during the season beginning at 11:45 a.m. at the Juniper Inn. The following is the weekly schedule:

- Tuesday, December 3
- Tuesday, December 10
- Monday, December 16
- Friday, December 27
- Tuesday, January 7
- Tuesday, January 14
- Tuesday, January 21
- Tuesday, January 28
- Tuesday, February 4
- Tuesday, February 11
- Tuesday, February 18
- Tuesday, February 25
- Tuesday, March 4



Senior Ronnie Ross...

Scored 11 points to go along with six assists and four rebounds in 22 minutes of action against EA Sports in USU's first exhibition game... Scored six points against Global Sports in the team's second exhibition game in 21 minutes... Also had four assists and three steals against Global Sports.

Career Highs

Points 20 UC Irvine (1/10/02)
 Rebounds 5 (2) UC Irvine (1/10/02)
 Assists 10 Idaho State (12/29/01)
 Steals 3 CS Fullerton (2/14/02)
 Minutes 36 (2) Long Beach State (1/12/02)



Senior Desmond Penigar...

Had 25 points and 13 rebounds in the first exhibition game against EA Sports in 29 minutes... Shot 11-of-21 from the field... Scored 20 points and grabbed six rebounds in 22 minutes against Global Sports... Shot 8-of-14 from the field and had two assists against Global Sports.

Career Highs

Points 34 BYU (12/1/01)
 Rebounds 13 at Cal Poly (1/3/02)
 Assists 2 (6) vs. Idaho (3/7/02)
 Steals 3 at Long Beach State (2/7/02)
 Minutes 37 BYU (12/1/01)

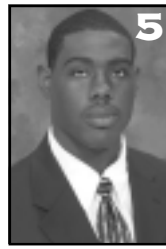


R-Freshman Nate Harris...

Played 19 minutes against EA Sports in his first collegiate action and scored six points to go along with four rebounds... Played 11 minutes against Global Sports and scored two points to go along with one rebound in the team's final exhibition game.

Career Highs

Points
 Rebounds
 Assists
 Steals
 Minutes



Senior Toraino Johnson...

Scored 11 points and grabbed four rebounds in 17 minutes of action against EA Sports in the first exhibition game of the season... Against Global Sports, he scored six points and had three rebounds and two assists in 17 minutes.

Career Highs

Points 15 Albany (12/29/00)
 Rebounds 8 (2) at CS Northridge (3/2/02)
 Assists 4 (3) Montana State (3/12/02)
 Steals 2 Cal Poly (2/2/02)
 Minutes 34 (2) vs. UC Santa Barbara (3/10/02)



Senior Mike Puzey...

Scored 15 points and grabbed eight rebounds against EA Sports in 25 minutes... Was 5-of-8 from the field and 5-of-7 from the free throw line... Scored 10 points to go along with two rebounds in 17 minutes against Global Sports in the final exhibition game of the season... Shot 4-of-5 from the field

and 2-of-2 from the line.

Career Highs

Points 10 Brigham Young (2/12/00)
 Rebounds 9 Sioux Falls (12/17/99)
 Assists 2 Brigham Young (2/12/00)
 Steals 2 (2) San Diego State (2/10/00)
 Minutes 21 Brigham Young (2/12/00)



Sophomore Michael Stowell...

Played 10 minutes against EA Sports, recording two points, two assists and one steal... Played seven minutes against Global Sports and recorded one assist.

Career Highs

Points 4 (2) Cal Poly (2/2/02)
 Rebounds 3 Centenary (12/28/01)
 Assists 1 (9) vs. UC Santa Barbara (3/10/02)
 Steals 1 (6) vs. Pacific (3/9/02)
 Minutes 13 (2) Cal Poly (2/2/02)



15

Junior Cardell Butler...

Had 21 points and six rebounds in 25 minutes of action off the bench against EA Sports... Shot 9-of-13 from the field... Had six points and five rebounds in 20 minutes of action against Global Sports... Shot 3-of-7 from the field in the contest.

Career Highs

- Points
- Rebounds
- Assists
- Steals
- Minutes



20

Junior Mark Brown...

Had two points, seven assists, two steals and one rebound in 24 minutes against EA Sports... Went 0-of-7 from the field... Scored nine points to go along with five assists and three steals in 22 minutes against Global Sports... Was just 2-of-9 from the field, but was a perfect 4-of-4 from the free throw line.

Career Highs

- Points
- Rebounds
- Assists
- Steals
- Minutes



21

Sophomore Calvin Brown...

Scored two points to go along with four assists and two rebounds in 12 minutes of action against EA Sports... Had three points and one assist in 14 minutes of action against Global Sports.

Career Highs

- Points 4 (2) vs. Pacific (3/9/02)
- Rebounds 2 (6) vs. UC Santa Barbara (3/10/02)
- Assists 4 UC Riverside (2/16/02)
- Steals 2 at CS Northridge (3/2/02)
- Minutes 16 (2) vs. Montana State (3/12/02)



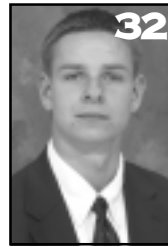
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Junior Greg Patton...

Had four points and two assists in 21 minutes against EA Sports and followed that up with seven points, three assists and one rebound in 16 minutes against Global Sports.

Career Highs

- Points
- Rebounds
- Assists
- Steals
- Minutes



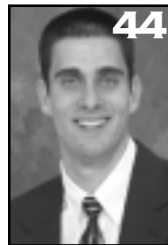
32

R-Sophomore Spencer Nelson...

Scored three points to go along with eight rebounds and two assists in just 13 minutes against EA Sports... Had 14 points and nine rebounds in 22 minutes against Global Sports as he was 4-of-4 from the field and 6-of-7 from the free throw line.

Career Highs

- Points 11 (2) Cal Poly (1/14/99)
- Rebounds 12 Lafayette (12/30/98)
- Assists 3 North Texas (1/28/99)
- Steals 2 at San Diego State (11/24/98)
- Minutes 24 Cal Poly (1/14/99)



44

Junior Chad Evans...

Had four points and three rebounds in just eight minutes off the bench against EA Sports... In 11 minutes against Global Sports he recorded one rebound and did not score.

Career Highs

- Points 13 at Utah (11/23/01)
- Rebounds 11 at Weber State (12/8/01)
- Assists 5 CS Northridge (12/20/01)
- Steals 2 Western State (12/15/01)
- Minutes 38 BYU (12/1/01)