

most playing time of any front line player last season. All four big men are great on the boards at both ends, with the average between them being a ten percent offensive rebounding percentage and a 21 percent defensive rate. Senior **Clint Steindl** (42 percent from three) and sophomore **Stephen Holt** (34 percent) provide the perimeter outlets for Dellavedova, and Holt also contributes a WCC-best five percent steal rate on defense. Most seasons, the Gaels' biggest strength on that less-heralded end of the court is their perimeter

pressure. For eight years running, Randy Bennett's SMC teams have ranked in the top ten nationally in fewest assists per opponent field goal and fewest three-point attempts per field goal attempt. Last year they allowed foes to shoot an uncharacteristically high 37 percent on those attempts from deep, a far cry from the 30 percent of 2010. If that number drops back to normal Saint Mary's levels, expect the team's defense to improve enough to make up for any offensive decline that McConnell's absence may cause.

BYU

2011: 32-5 (14-2 Mountain West), Lost to Florida 83-74 (OT), Sweet 16

In-conference offense: 1.15 points per possession (1st in Mountain West)

In-conference defense: 0.97 points allowed per possession (3rd in Mountain West)

Replacing a star offensive player is seldom easy, but the task becomes considerably more difficult when that player's contributions are extreme in both quality and quantity. While on the floor, Jimmer Fredette took 38 percent of BYU's shots, the highest such ratio in the country. Over the past seven seasons, nine other players have commandeered a similar fraction of their team's shots in their final college year, while simultaneously maintaining an Offensive Rating above 110. The following season, sans-shot-machines, the adjusted offensive efficiency of those teams fell an average of 0.07 points per possession. Besides the loss of Fredette, this spring also saw the departure of senior guard Jackson Emery (to graduation) and freshman guard Kyle Collinsworth (to Russia for a two year LDS mission). Emery was a floor leader and three-point threat (36 percent), as well as the Mountain West Defensive Player of the Year, and Collinsworth was fourth on the squad in minutes. Trying to pick up the slack will be 6-6 junior **Brock Zyistra**, 6-0 junior **Nick Martineau**, 6-5 freshman **Damarcus Harrison**, and 6-2 freshman guard **Matt Carlino** (a UCLA transfer). Zyistra and Martineau played only five minutes per game last season, but

many expect Carlino to step into the point guard role once he becomes eligible mid-season. While the backcourt returns very little experience, the frontcourt returns nearly intact. **Brandon Davies** is back from his honor-code-related suspension; the 6-9 junior is the team's best rebounder (10 and 17 percent offensive and defensive rebound rates) and the highest usage player after Fredette, and should expect a more prominent role this season. Alongside Davies will be 6-8 senior **Noah Hartsock** (led the team in block rate; second highest offensive rating), 6-5 senior **Charles Abouo** (highest defensive rebound rate at 18 percent; may earn minutes at shooting guard when the Cougs go big), 6-8 junior **Stephen Rogers** (34 percent from long range, and a good rebounder), and 6-9 junior **Chris Collinsworth** (a medical red-shirt last year). Rose has demonstrated he knows how to coach an offense where the focus is on the frontcourt. Before Fredette's arrival he helmed a BYU team whose highest-usage offensive players were forwards Keena Young and Trent Plaisted. That team was rated No. 20 in the nation in adjusted offensive efficiency, only a few spots behind the No. 11 recorded in Provo last season.