

Coventry City Controls Cougars

By Ashley Myers

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Despite overall solid play and a blank slate at the break, the BYU Cougars saw two late goals from Coventry City, one of England's professional teams, hit the back of the net Tuesday evening, losing 3-0. A season high 2,187 fans were on hand to watch the game.

"I thought our starters did a real nice job," head coach Chris Watkins said. "We're not as good as them yet, but we went toe to toe for awhile. One of the things we've had to learn in our league is to believe in ourselves and go out there and compete for every ball. I felt we did that tonight."

The Sky Blues gave BYU a scare in the 43rd minute when keeper Mike Lacey fumbled a wet ball. Justin Norton cleared the ball just before it passed the goal line.

Coventry City didn't take long to get going in the second period, scoring goals in the 58th, 88th and 90th minutes, respectively. Gary McSmeffrey, the Sky Blues top player, scored the first goal off a cross from captain Stephen Hughes.

Kevin Thornton scored the evening's second goal off a beautiful pass from Claus Jorgensen. Two minutes later, Andy Morrell headed in a goal off a corner kick by Stuart Giddings.

BYU's Brady Marshall added a great spark off the bench in the second off, leading the Cougars with two shots. Morgan Gilliam also took two shots on the evening. Coventry City was lead by Don Hutchison, Isaac Osborne and Thornton with three shots apiece.

Despite the loss, the game was an excellent opportunity for BYU players to see how they match up against some of the best talent in the world.

"[BYU] is quick and athletic," Coventry City head coach Mickey Adams said. "They need to improve their technique a bit, but with the right amount of practice they have the potential to become a professional team."

Watkins believes the difference in the game was not necessarily talent but practice.

"When you literally live the game, you're going to be able to do a lot more things with the ball than you can when you just play for a couple hours a day."

The Cougars face Ogden on July 22 at South Stadium in the last regular-season game. Game time is slated for 7:30 p.m.