Southwest Maui Invitational

Monday, November 23, 2026

Lahaina, Hawaii, USA

Lahaina Civic Center

Clemson Tigers

Coach Brad Brownell

Dylan Faulkner

Postgame Press Conference

Ole Miss - 82, Clemson - 62

Q. Coach, what did you see from your team this morning?

BRAD BROWNELL: Not enough. Credit to Ole Miss. I thought their kids played extremely hard, very well, shared the ball. I felt like we were on our heels most of the first half.

A lot of it was because of them. They were so aggressive. They sped us up. I thought we would handle it a little bit better, but we did not.

Played some zone. That was not a good decision in hindsight, and they made some shots. And then our kids weren't as aggressive as we needed to be against a team of this athleticism and competitive spirit. And their fight was just much better than ours for most of the day.

Q. Dylan, building on what coach talked about, on the floor, what were you seeing? What were they doing that kind of disrupted you early on?

DYLAN FAULKNER: Their pressure obviously bothered us in the first half. I think we took too long to get accustomed to it, and we kept letting it pressure us and get us out of our system.

And, again, Coach said credit to them. They did a good job. But obviously disappointed, and we gotta play better.

Q. As you look at this, thinking about turning on to the next day, what are some of the things you're that hoping that when you talk to your teammates that you feel like you want to get right? You got less than 24 hours to turn it around, what are some things that you are hoping you can get your teammates together to think about doing better next time?

DYLAN FAULKNER: Obviously it's a very quick turnaround. But I think the second half, the energy and the fight that we showed, should build confidence. And we just can't keep getting hit in the mouth first. We've got to be the aggressor and learn from it and move on.

Q. Coach, you talked about them playing harder, but some of the things that you would like to see, just from an execution point, that you would have hoped to see in counters to what they were trying to do or some of those things you were trying to do?

BRAD BROWNELL: Yeah, I mean, they're very disruptive in terms of denying passes, trying to eliminate our high post pass, and we just didn't handle it very well.

We have some young players and some new players that, frankly, ran to the wrong spot on a couple of things and completely disjointed you in a team game like this where you're under duress, then you just start dribbling, and that's not a recipe for success for our team.

So I've got to do a better job of coaching these guys and putting them in positions to help them. We just were not ready today. And again, credit to Ole Miss. They're a very disruptive defense. We knew that coming in. They keep it on the side. They switch. They hedge. They get after you. They rake at your ball every time you drive. They're handsy, and they're very physical.

If you're not ready to drive to make the proper play, which is usually not the one right in front of you, which we did multiple times, when you do that, you're going to turn it over. And so they sped us up and got us to turn the ball over today a lot.

Q. Do you think because they were young, the nerves played in? And part two is, how do you prepare them for tomorrow with two more games back to back?

BRAD BROWNELL: Yeah, I mean, there's one or two kids on our team that are young players that are still kind of growing and haven't played a lot. So there's probably some nerves with a couple of them. We have enough older guys that should have been able to respond better.

It's a teaching moment. We're going to go back and watch film. We always do, good, bad, and ugly, this, and then it's like, hey, we gotta get right on to the next.

Whether it's Washington or BYU, we're going to have a challenge for us tomorrow, and we'll probably be in the film room, the treatment room, most of the day.

But mentally we've got to approach it in a much better way than we did today.

Q. You kind of talked about it. In the first half, you were kind of slow at the feet. Looking at the rebounding, they outrebounded you guys. But in the second half, you guys came out sharp. Do you think rebounding was something that kind of held you back in the first?

BRAD BROWNELL: Yeah, I think turnovers are number one. Just not getting shots and leading to transition for them, that was number one on our things not to do.

Number two, we knew they were going to be an extremely aggressive rebounding team, and we have to be extremely physical in our block-outs.

I thought it was sporadic. At times we were okay, but at times they showed their will to win and their competitive fight. And certainly that is a major strength of theirs.

Chris does an unbelievable job of getting his guys to play really, really hard, regardless of score, regardless of time of possession in the game, and we just haven't been able to get our guys to kind of match that yet. So that's on me as a coach to do a better job.

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