# Southwest Maui Invitational

Monday, November 23, 2026

*Lahaina, Hawaii, USA*

*Lahaina Civic Center*

# BYU Cougars

# Coach Kevin Young

# Collin Chandler

# Jaxon Kohler

Postgame Press Conference

BYU - 83, Washington - 77

**Q. Coach, what did you like from your team today?**

KEVIN YOUNG: Just their resiliency. Obviously down a guy, number one, who's a big part of our team, happy with the way other guys really stepped up, especially in a game like that where it felt like what could go wrong would go wrong.

We have foul trouble. I think they hit three 3s with 1 second left on the shot clock. And some nights are like that. But the thing that I like the most is our guys didn't blink. They just kept fighting and found a way to get a win.

**Q. First half, they were pretty much getting what they wanted. The second half, y'all picked it up defensively. What adjustments did you make to really put pressure on them in the second half?**

COLLIN CHANDLER: Well, I think we did a poor job at the beginning of the game. We let a guy that we know can shoot the ball hit two 3s right off the bat. I think that gave them confidence, momentum at the beginning.

It took us a bit to fight back and impose our will defensively in traps and turning them over. I think that started in the first half, but bled into the second half.

JAXON KOHLER: I think what Collin said is that initially our game plan defensively, we weren't executing the way we were supposed to. And with this team, like Coach was saying, as time went on, we adjusted and we didn't blink.

It's easy for, when two made 3s right off the bat, to hang your head or whatever happens happens. But the fact that we had guys ready to step up and play their hearts out and get on the floor and cheer each other on, that's what makes this team special.

**Q. Down Rob, obviously, two guys get in foul trouble, how much confidence does it give the group as a whole when your second unit could come in and spark a comeback like that?**

COLLIN CHANDLER: Yeah, well, like you said, I think that's what sparked it at the beginning is when guys like Brooks and Nate and Jake, I thought was great defensively today. That provided a spark to get us going a little bit. And that's needed sometimes when we get in situations like that. And so I thought we responded well, and we have confidence in them.

JAXON KOHLER: One thing that we really try to work on defensively is that when the first group is done, when the second group comes in, we have to make sure that we keep putting the pressure, if not put more.

We have to have the -- the second group has to have the same energy, if not more, to wear the other team out. I felt they were ready. They responded.

**Q. You guys started off very hesitant, and, as you said, the two 3-pointers right off the bat. What did you guys say to yourself? Because both you guys were leading the team in points going into the second. What did you guys say to yourself to keep calm and keep the scorings going?**

JAXON KOHLER: I think that basketball is a game of runs. And they're going to have theirs and we're going to have ours. And the way we win is to make sure that we take a breath, they had their run, and the game is all about ending the run as soon as possible.

There were times where they were on fire and they could miss, and it seemed like we would get a foul or we'd get a turnover. But we had not only guys on the court, but guys on the bench, cheering our guys on and telling them to keep their head in the game. That's very important, especially in a tight game like that.

COLLIN CHANDLER: I felt like we were going against a set defense a lot of the first half. We weren't playing at the

pace we needed to get out in transition and kind of wear them down that way.

And I thought the second half was a lot better in pushing the pace. And they're a really good set defense team. When they get downhill, when they're set, they can bring a crowd and force you to turn the ball over and force you to spray it. And so I thought when we started to get out in transition, it was good.

**Q. Jaxon, you probably didn't play as much as you thought you were going to tonight just with the foul trouble and everything. But when you came in kind of late in the fourth quarter, crunch time, started hitting some buckets, really kind of closed game out, what was going through your mind at that point? Walk me through your mentality, coming into the game, game on the line and performing the way you did.**

JAXON KOHLER: Yeah, it's sometimes -- when you have that happen, you have to realize that there are some things that you can't control that you have to move on. I had coaches and players telling me to keep my head in the game.

And in the second half, when we had guys causing turnovers, getting shots and coming back into this game, I was just cheering them on because as a player you're invested. But I felt like for anybody, it was special to watch Brooks, Nate, and everybody on our team get into guys and play defense the way we did, cause turnovers and slowly get back into that game.

And sometimes that happens. Sometimes we have people that get hurt and they get in foul trouble. But the way that we have people step up, ready to play, it was fun to watch as a teammate. But they did an it's amazing job with that.

**Q. You especially seem to come out exceptionally aggressive -- not excessive, extra aggressive -- in the second half. Was it something coach said or was it just something your teammates is said? But in my eyes there was a huge difference, because you seemed to be a lot more aggressive with being on your defense, trying to get the ball, trying to score and everything.**

JAXON KOHLER: Both coaches and players told me to keep my head in the game. Obviously you want to learn from your mistakes, but they're thinking next play, next play.

There would be a lot of times where I would get down on myself, especially in that situation. But I had all these guys telling me, be ready, be ready, cheer your teammates on. Bringing the positive energy. When you have positive energy surging through our team like that, then we go on runs, then we have good things happen to us.

So even though sometimes you might have a couple quick calls here and there, it's very important you can still affect the game from the bench and giving good energy, telling people to play defense, get stops, just being energetic, that good energy is very contagious.

**Q. I think one of the great things about this tournament, it's a place where you can learn something about your team. What did you learn about this team today, tonight?**

KEVIN YOUNG: Just their ability to work through adversity. I mentioned that in the onset. Felt like whatever could go wrong would go wrong. I mentioned the foul trouble.

Bruce, obviously, picked up some in the first half. And then put him back in the second, he wasn't playing great. I grabbed him in one of the moments heading into the timeout, and I'm like, man, we need more from you, we need more from you.

And he made some huge plays down the stretch. Obviously he missed in free throws, had a couple of huge buckets at the rim. Had a couple of huge rebounds.

So him in particular, he's a young guy. So these early-season tests -- I love this gym, I love this environment, it's intense. So for him to kind of do it on this stage, I was impressed with that.

But more than anything, I just liked the ability we showed to fight through adversity.

**Q. Tell me about your defensive effort in the second half. I know they didn't make a single 3-pointer. They weren't shooting very well. You guys were forcing turnovers, interrupting everything. Just tell me about that effort.**

KEVIN YOUNG: Our guys were doing what we asked them to do. They mentioned those two 3s. It was really off our coverages. Was probably poor coaching on my part to be even aggressive like that to start the game, knowing they had shooting out there.

So we were able to change some stuff schematically that I thought helped really keep them in front of us. Not in one-on-one defense, but just in general, I thought our defense was a little more compact and we weren't chasing them around as much. Turned it more into a one-on-one

game, I thought.

And they have good players. They hurt us one-on-one, but 2s are a lot less painful than 3s. So that helped.

**Q. Going into the second, both your players said it was a little slow at the start. You were letting guys get in there and take their 3s. And it wasn't much that stopped the bleeding. Would you say offense or defense kind of made that transition into the second half? Because you guys were shooting higher percentages towards the second half than they were. So I think that's what kind of pushed you up. Do you think it was offense or defense?**

KEVIN YOUNG: Yeah, I think the defense got us going for sure. I thought us being able to string a few stops together, I mean, that's obviously how you go on runs. But I thought our guys fed off of that.

Then, I say this all the time, but every game has a life of its own. I thought we found the personality of this game of what was working on the offensive end. We got into a little bit of a rhythm there, but I think it really sparked off of our defense.

**Q. You've talked a lot about Brooks this year, just how impressive he's been right off the bat. And tonight or today and it felt like he was just kind of at the center of all good things for you guys.**

KEVIN YOUNG: Yeah, I mean, he's just a spirited young man. That's what he really brings to this group. And with Rob out, his number's going to get called a little bit more because we need him.

And he just has a unique way of impacting the game. And it's really hard to teach what he does. I think some guys either have that or they don't. He clearly has it. And I've said this about him before, but as the game kind of then slows down for him mentally, and then you tack on that level of aggression, he's going to be a really special player.

**Q. You had a moment with Bruce to get him going. Did you have a moment with Collin and how he went so efficient between first and second half? His numbers were so impressive?**

KEVIN YOUNG: I didn't have a direct discussion with him like I did with Bruce, but at halftime I thought they did a nice job of turning us over, making us play in crowds. I thought we were going in jumping off one foot kind of out of control. I thought that's where Collin was had some of his mishaps.

So just talk to the guys about look, you guys are getting to your spot but we need to get there a little bit more under control. I thought Collin did a really nice job of that. And then when he's getting that three ball going now you gotta press up on him. It makes it a little bit easier to drive.

But I thought his decision-making to close the game out was really impressive.

**Q. Obviously I know you haven't dove into the film yet but you were watching Ole Miss-Clemson earlier. What are your thoughts on Ole Miss? And then obviously Jaxon and Bruce didn't play maybe as much as you were planning on them to. And so is that a benefit for you guys tomorrow with them having a little more rest?**

KEVIN YOUNG: It could be. But in terms of, honestly, that was the first time I've ever watched anything about Ole Miss or Clemson. I was really hyper focused on Washington. I look forward to getting into the tape.

Obviously my coaches were over there, someone has been watching them for weeks now.

But what I did notice was -- we played Coach Beard's team in San Diego my first year. They're a tough defensive group. They changed what they did from that year. There's a lot more switching and things like that, so we'll have to be on point there.

They're a little bit smaller, which makes -- presents some challenges in terms of being able to beat them off the dribble and that kind of thing. So our ball movement will have to be good.

I really have a lot of respect for Chris. I think he's a really good coach. So I look forward to getting into the tape and getting our guys ready in a very, very quick turnaround.

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