Southwest Maui Invitational

Tuesday, November 24, 2026

Lahaina, Hawaii, USA

Lahaina Civic Center

BYU Cougars

Coach Kevin Young

Collin Chandler

Postgame Press Conference

Ole Miss - 73, BYU - 63

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

KEVIN YOUNG: Tale of two halves, obviously. We came out of the gate with great intensity, great ball security, great defense. And then, obviously, end of the first half and into the second, they obviously took the game over.

So you've got to give Ole Miss all the credit. They played really good. They clearly accepted whatever Coach Beard said to them at halftime. And we've got to be better.

Bottom line, in these types of environments, you've got to have a short memory, so we're trying to move on to the next game.

Q. Especially with this kind of loss, what are you going to tell your team tomorrow to kind of get them more engaged and amp them up for tomorrow's game?

COLLIN CHANDLER: We have to move on fast, but also take what we just learned, what we had to learn in that game, and that was a lot. So we have to take that but also move on as fast as possible and then get fresh to play whoever wins this game or loses this game, I guess.

Q. I really enjoyed watching you play yesterday and today, your composure and your leadership. Today you really took the team on your back. Is it just coming to the Maui Invitation? Have you always had this role? Has it just kind of evolved?

COLLIN CHANDLER: We're in a little bit of a tough spot without Rob Wright, honestly, so that puts a little bit more responsibility on me to get downhill. And I think I learned a lot today. There's a lot that I can grow from in mistakes that I made doing that as well.

And so today was a good opportunity for me to learn especially and move on to tomorrow and get better at those things that Ole Miss exposed.

Q. Playing against this Ole Miss defense, what did you see from them that made them so effective and made it so hard to play against?

COLLIN CHANDLER: Well, the first half we made it easy because we were the ones that came out and set the tone. And we were getting turnovers and getting out in transition.

They're a great set defense team, and they force turnovers that way. I think they're the best in the country at doing that. So that's how we were able to play well in the first half.

And we're a very experienced team but that was a little bit of an inexperienced look for us, thinking they weren't going to come out and do that in second half. And they completely flipped the script. So they were set in defense and they did the same thing to us. They turned us over and got out in transition and made their lives easy.

Q. Do you feel like the second half maybe you guys just got a little bit ahead of your skis? Did you maybe overlook the second half, or was it just more of them executing better than you guys did? What was kind of your mental state going into the half?

KEVIN YOUNG: I mean, we knew they were going to come out. We said in the locker room, they're over there, rah rah, trying to get going. And we came out and it looked like we didn't expect that to happen. And it did.

So I think a tough learning moment for us as a team in getting a lead and keeping a lead and setting the tone in the second half.

Q. What's your main takeaway from that second half when -- the offensive performance especially for your group?

KEVIN YOUNG: I thought Collin was amazing. We put the ball in his hands a lot, put a lot of pressure on them.

But the bottom line is it was just frustrating because I firmly believe that -- again, Ole Miss deserves all the credit. They made the plays. But it felt like we were not playing intelligent.

That was kind of the message coming in. If you play intelligent against a team that is that aggressive, especially with the way we shoot the basketball -- in a game like that, for us to only even shoot 28 3s tells me that we're not playing the way that we want to play.

I thought that was a game where we probably could have got 40 3s up, honestly. We were repeatedly driving, playing in a crowd. The kid, Clark, is one of the best I've ever seen in terms of just stripping the ball.

And so it was just frustrating because we felt like our guys were, it was self-inflicted wounds. In terms of the stuff Collin's talking about, you know his own ability to learn -- he's so dynamic and explosive with the ball in his hands and he's going to generate a lot of help.

I thought there was a couple times he could have thrown it back to Jaxon for some 3s. But we weren't able to execute that.

So for me, the biggest takeaway was just having a better, what I told the guys, offensive integrity coming into a game where we know a team's going to be super aggressive.

Q. Going into the second, you guys played a really good first half, do you think your defense was different from the first to the second?

KEVIN YOUNG: Yeah, because we were in transition the entire game in the second half. We turned it over at such an alarming rate, that we were just giving them -- there's not a great defensive scheme to do it off of turnovers, and obviously that fed what they were doing.

When we had them set in the first half, I thought our defense was tremendous. So it was really our offense that impacted our defense in the second half.

Q. Bruce sat for long stretches in the second half. What went into that decision to maybe put him on the bench a little bit more?

KEVIN YOUNG: He was struggling. He was turning the ball over, wasn't knocking shots down. Thought other guys were giving us a little bit more on the offensive end. It was a frustrating game because we were trying to find a rhythm. I played him a lot in the first half, too.

I thought when he got in a little bit of a funk in that second half going to a little more experience might have helped us. But I have to do a better job of putting Bruce in positions to succeed.

Look, a part of it is, too, you can -- the bottom line is, yes, we miss Rob Wright, no getting around it. The guy's first team All-American. He's a leader of our team. So it was good, I thought, for Bruce and others to just be put in that type of game. There might be a handful of other teams that we play throughout the whole season that's that aggressive. So it's good for some of our young guys and our non-kind of point guard guys to have to deal with that kind of stuff and we hope to learn from it.

Q. How concerned are you with the shot-making from the past two days? I know you've had open looks but they're not going in.

KEVIN YOUNG: Yeah, I am not concerned. I thought this was a game where we would get a lot of open looks, as I mentioned.

So if you look at the starters by way of example, I mean, Collin goes 3-of-6, and then you've got Jax, Bruce, Tyler, Jake, that line-up 0-for-18. It's going to be tough to win games when that happens.

So we have a lot of good shooting. All of our guys know that they can make shots, and I look forward to seeing more of that tomorrow, where they're actually going in.

Q. And then a game like this, which you described as a tale of two halves, how do you find that right balance between trying to build on what you did in the first half versus correct what happened in the second half when you have a quick turnaround tomorrow?

KEVIN YOUNG: Yeah, you don't. You just flush it and you move on. You see who you're going to play and we've got to worry about that what type of -- whoever we are going to play is going to put us in, and then once we get home from this tournament, then you kind of do a deep dive on what you learned from the tournament as a whole.

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