Southwest Maui Invitational

Tuesday, November 24, 2026

Lahaina, Hawaii, USA

Lahaina Civic Center

Colorado State Rams

Coach Ali Farokhmanesh

Kyle Jorgensen

Carey Booth

Postgame Press Conference

VCU - 84, Colorado State - 81

Q. What did you see from your team this evening?

ALI FAROKHMANESH: A lot of fight. I thought, again, it was similar to Arizona. I thought we fought really hard, came all the way back. And we talked about it. Everyone's going to talk about the half-court shot and whatnot. But there's a lot more moments that led to that situation being there, and there's more things that we can control than that shot that led to that situation.

So we'll be better from it. I think the best thing about this group is I know they're resilient. We've got great leadership, and the best thing about basketball is it's not football; you don't have to wait seven days to play. We need to play tomorrow at seven, literally in 24 hours.

Q. Carey, what did it mean to have Kyle back out on the court after taking a hit and having him here kind of and what it meant, this comeback tonight, in terms of his presence?

CAREY BOOTH: It means a lot. Obviously a big-time player for us, tough player, wants to play under any circumstances. To be honest, if we had the mask yesterday, he probably would have come back and played. So, I mean, it definitely means a lot that he's out here.

Q. What is one takeaway from today's game that you saw playing against this team that you're excited to go forward with?

KYLE JORGENSEN: I would just say our competitive spirit. We didn't start the game the way we wanted to. And we could have easily just gave up when they kept hitting 3s and kept making shots, we could have just gave up and let them run away with the game.

But we buckled down, and we made some adjustments and did some stuff that, we went to zone, and that's stuff we work on. So I would just say our competitive spirit is to not give up.

Q. For both of you, just in general really impressed with the way you guys played, shooting the 3s, getting some assists, just fighting, hitting the boards. What are some of the things that, leadership-wise, in between, like, timeouts, in between the game itself, how are you motivating and kind of poking each other, other players, to get them up?

CAREY BOOTH: Just telling guys to play with confidence. Be sharp. Make plays little by little. No home runs. A lot of, we always say, singles. Just making good plays.

Q. You hit it on the head. Your team is competing. If there are one or two things that you want to continue to refine and get them to continue to work on, what are some of those things that you're seeing that can get you over the top?

ALI FAROKHMANESH: I think there's multiple things, there's multiple possessions offensively where we didn't execute. And honestly, if we just executed, we were scoring a lot. So we've got to figure out a way. A lot of it happens in transition.

I think our guys have to realize how to get us into our flow faster. There was a few possessions where I thought we made some -- just took some tough shots. It's not that you can't make them. It's just realizing time, scoring situations, and what was going on during the game.

When we were screening and cutting and driving the basketball playing off each other's penetration, we were getting great looks. So stick with what got you there.

And then defensively just sticking to the game plan. I thought early in the first half, we lost some guys that can make shots and got stuck in some tough spots. But that's basketball.

And you've got to keep growing from it. You've got a lot of

continuity on this team but you still got a lot of new pieces that are contributing at a high level, too. So we gotta just keep growing as a group.

Q. Obviously your players are very talented. Can you talk to us a little bit about what other things your players bring to your team?

ALI FAROKHMANESH: I thought they really stayed together. Kyle gave up an offensive rebound on a free throw block in the first half. I called timeout and I wasn't happy. And he came in right away and said, I'm done with that. That's the last one that's going to happen. I take ownership of it.

I thought that spoke volumes to the group. And I think when your best players and your leaders take ownership, it lets everyone else -- it makes them take their guard down a little bit and allow them to speak up and own what they're doing wrong too because basketball's a game full of mistakes, right. And the quicker you can move on from it and make the next play, that's the biggest part of the game.

Q. Besides accountability and what you just talked about, what are other character identifiers that you feel are really important into your program?

ALI FAROKHMANESH: I think being unselfish, honestly, like truly being unselfish, because I think at the end of the day, basketball can become a game that's very selfish, right? There's one ball out there. There's only five guys. And when you get hot and whatnot, it's easy to take over the game by yourself.

But when you play as a group, and when this team plays together like that, they're really hard to guard. That's for both ends of the floor, offensively and defensively. So I think that's one thing, is guys that are truly willing to sacrifice. And usually it comes with winning, right? High school, AU, whatever that is, winning usually is bred from an unselfishness.

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