# Southwest Maui Invitational

Monday, November 23, 2026

*Lahaina, Hawaii, USA*

*Lahaina Civic Center*

## Providence Friars

## Coach Bryan Hodgson

## Malik Mack

## Ryan Mela

Postgame Press Conference

Providence - 72, VCU - 66 (OT)

**Q. Coach, what did you think about your team's performance tonight?**

BRYAN HODGSON: Proud of our resiliency, to be honest with you. I think the biggest things for me, we did a lot of things to put ourselves in a position to have to be playing an overtime game.

We turned the ball over way too many times, and something that we've got to fix. We gave up 17 offensive rebounds. And quite honestly we had a stretch there in the second half where we got in a little bit of a funk on both ends of the floor. We gave up clean looks to them, made some missed plays at the rim that led to them getting that five-point lead with about two minutes to go.

But really proud of the resiliency, to be honest with you, because to have, listen, they shot 28 free throws, we shot eight. And to be in a position to still win the basketball game, we were called for 22 fouls. They were called for 11.

I thought there was two blatant goaltend plays that were just missed. I'm not knocking the officials here; those are tough calls; those are bang-bang plays. But to be in a position to go into overtime and escape that with a win, just really proud of their effort.

**Q. Ryan, clearly you were hurt at one point and came out with the shin splints and then came back. Maybe you can just tell me how banged up you were. And after you had that offensive rebound, Ryan Mela doesn't usually give a fist pump, but I thought I saw two of them there.**

RYAN MELA: It actually wasn't my shin splints, they're feeling pretty good. I just got a calf cramp. I got some pickle juice in me, and I was good to go.

It was a big win. I felt like that sealed it a little bit. So showing that emotion that was needed, it was a big game.

**Q. Malik, offense obviously was struggling there in the second half. It was kind of ball in your hands an awful lot. Can you point to any issues with the offense, again, especially in the second half?**

BRYAN HODGSON: We won, we won.

MALIK MACK: I don't know, maybe we just felt like that was the best answer to what they was giving us on defense today. You never know what Coach is going to pull out of the bag, and today he just trusted me with the ball to make decisions.

When I got that opportunity I just thought to myself to make the right play every time, whether it was score or put pressure on the defense or find one of my guys or throw it in the post, just make the right decision with the ball in my hands.

**Q. Can you speak to the scrappiness on defense? They only had one field goal in overtime.**

MALIK MACK: We just knew we had to dig in. We practice very hard so we was prepared for the overtime moments. And we knew once we got a chance in overtime that we was going to dig in.

A lot of blue-collar things we was kind of missing today, so when we got to the overtime we just knew if we could win on the blue-collar and get some stops defensively we could win the game.

**Q. Sometimes games are just ugly. But what does it mean to just be in this atmosphere competing in this atmosphere for you two tonight?**

MALIK MACK: It means a lot. Just being in a legendary tournament like Maui is just something that every college player looks forward to. So being in this environment, I feel like our whole team was looking forward to it and we are

very excited be here. And we're happy that we capitalized on the opportunity for one game.

**Q. You were kind of a beast on rebounding today both offense and defense. You had six in total. What mindset do you have when you go up to those boards because rebounding is a big part of this game?**

RYAN MELA: For sure, I mean, every day, Coach B, you know, he preaches it. That's what we gotta do. Every time a shot goes up, we gotta crash. So just doing the little things, like he said, the blue-collar stuff to win. So that's pretty much it.

**Q. Super impressed with your composure all night. You had the most minutes on your team through the ups and downs. You were just super -- carried the team your back the whole time. What's going to be your rebound for tomorrow? How are you going to kind of reset and be ready to go for tomorrow?**

MALIK MACK: It's a quick turnaround. I've been in this position before, playing back-to-backs in the Ivy League. Just knowing it's a quick turnaround, we gotta be ready to play for tomorrow. We can't think about this game too much and be too excited. We have to watch the game that's coming on right now and see who we play and get ready for the next one.

**Q. Coach, you mentioned, obviously with the 20 turnovers. What are some of the things you want to clean up and kind of get ready for tomorrow that you were seeing tonight that, things that you can just clean up?**

BRYAN HODGSON: We had some goofy ones and it's got to get cleaned up. Credit to VCU. Coach Martelli, he's phenomenal. He beat us last year in the Battle 4 Atlantis when I was at South Florida.

And honestly I wasn't thrilled that that was our first round match-up, because that's a darned good program with a really good roster and a great coach.

It says a lot about their program that they were able to retain the guys that they do. That's not happening at a lot of places.

So a credit to them for forcing those turnovers. I thought they did a good job of keeping us out of the paint. They had us playing east/west too much instead of getting north/south.

I thought we were trying to thread the needle too many times with paint-to-paint passes. We turned it over multiple times on our post entries instead of just scoring, or excuse me, driving, getting to two feet, scoring the basketball, we're trying to make dump-offs. Just got a little lax with the basketball.

But, again, credit to them. I mean, they put us in that situation.

**Q. Can you speak to the two 3s late by both Byrd and Arrinten when you really needed them? Those guys, especially Byrd, really hadn't impacted the game all that much offensively at that point.**

BRYAN HODGSON: Yeah, I mean, those were massive 3s. And guys like that that work, you know, consistently -- those guys are constantly in the gym. Two guys that really lead us in getting shots outside of practice. And we preach to them to have elite confidence when they get a shot, whether it's overtime, end of game, buzzer, whatever it may be.

But we preached to step in, and when you're taking the right shots, shoot them with confidence. I don't care when they're, again, overtime, end of game, when you're taking right ones, step in and make them.

Arrinten Page led us in plus-minus tonight with a plus-10. And he had a rough stretch with some turnovers there. To see him get rewarded and make a tough shot like that was special.

**Q. Can you walk me through your mental process going through a tough game like this? It's up and down, you're winning, you're losing. How are you going to -- especially going into tomorrow?**

BRYAN HODGSON: To be honest with you, in these tournaments, it's what makes them special and so difficult at the same time, you really have to, honestly, we've got to wash this one and go on to the next opponent.

I can't spend too much time thinking about what happened today because I don't even know -- what time do we play tomorrow? I'm not sure. But you turn around and you play, it's quick. I think it's less than 24 hours.

So when you're in these tournaments, you've got to fix mistakes and maybe look at some things that carry over into the next scout. But you've really got to turn the page.

That's what makes these tournaments unique and great for college basketball, coaches, players and fans alike, is it's on to the next game. So you have to have a short-term memory.

And I told our guys, enjoy this one, but the second we get on the bus, we've got to turn to the next scout.

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