Southwest Maui Invitational

Tuesday, November 24, 2026

Lahaina, Hawaii, USA

Lahaina Civic Center

Clemson Tigers

Coach Brad Brownell

Liutauras Lelevicius

Postgame Press Conference

Washington - 64, Clemson - 63

Q. How do you feel your team played this afternoon?

BRAD BROWNELL: I thought we played hard. Proud of our effort. Obviously 14 more shots than them, more offensive rebounds, less turnovers. We just didn't make shots today.

Credit to Washington. Their kids played hard as well and they were able to finish your game, you know. We just got to stick with it. But ill thought our guys played very hard today and got off to a very poor start offensively. And our defense kept us in it. And unfortunately we just came up a basket short.

Q. Liutauras, talk about what you learned over the first two days, your own growth and development about your teammates and how you hope to finish tomorrow. But what have you learned in these first two days of competition?

LIUTAURAS LELEVICIUS: We just saw that ugly part of basketball where you give it all and it's still not enough sometimes.

We didn't deserve it yesterday. We played bad. We didn't give it all. Today we came out with a better effort, but it still wasn't enough.

At the end of the day, no time to feel sorry for ourselves. Another game tomorrow, a long season ahead of us. It's sad, but we've still got to keep fighting and improve.

Q. Even though you guys are 0-2 in this tournament, what do you think are some positives that you and your team can take moving forward?

LIUTAURAS LELEVICIUS: It's hard to tell at the moment. It's right after the game. The only positive I can say is that we showed that we can fight and we can play harder than our opponent.

We didn't show it the first six games of the season, I would say. But this is the positive I take from today, that we show that we can fight and we have the character in ourselves.

Q. It was a hard-fought match. Who are some of your teammates that keep you grounded as a player on and off the court?

LIUTAURAS LELEVICIUS: I mean, it's all of us. It's hard to pick one guy. We all have different roles on this team, but at the end of the day we all sort of keep each other, stay positive, keep each other's heads up. One day one guy needs some help, the other day, the others. It's effort from everybody on this team.

Q. You seem to have some things that clicked in the second half. They seemed to kind of pull it together a little bit. What did you see that you feel like you could build on it in the second half that allowed for you to kind of close the gap here?

BRAD BROWNELL: I mean, I just think we changed a couple of things and tried to make it a little bit easier, got our guys a couple easy baskets, which was good to get us off to a good start. The first ten minutes were rough. Our team is we're still trying to figure out how to maybe play with two big guys successfully on offense. It's been hard for us all year so far. We just haven't been as good.

We went away from that a little bit and downsized, and I think it helps our offense, not always our defense, but today I thought our small lineup was good. I thought our guys competed. We held our own, more than held our own, on the boards, but it wasn't quite good enough.

Q. What player on your team or players really showcased what they could do tonight? You mentioned kind of a smaller lineup. How did that keep you going forward? Do you think you want to keep growing those specific players?

BRAD BROWNELL: Yeah, I don't know that I want to single anybody out right now. We had a lot of guys who I

thought gave great effort. We gave great effort today. As a coach, I was disappointed in our effort, especially in the first 20 minutes yesterday. Ole Miss just rattled us. Today I really challenged our team to respond, and when you're not scoring in the beginning of the game, it can be frustrating and you can give in.

Our guys did not do that. We continued to battle, we continued to fight, we continued to play with mixed results for a long time until we finally got back into the game and had a chance to win, had a shot to take the lead with ten seconds to go.

That's something that I hope we learn from, and we're still kind of a young group. So lots of time and games ahead.

Q. I thought your defensive efforts were just fantastic tonight as opposed to last night. Was there any kind of specific intentional, like, discipline schemes or anything --

BRAD BROWNELL: Not a lot. I think Ole Miss is outstanding when they turn you over and they get into the open floor. They're one of the premier transition teams that you'll see. They just get so many points off their defense, and when you're in transition, it's really hard, and BYU and ourselves, 20-plus in two games. Most games, it's not like that. You're able to run better offense, execute, then you can set your defense.

I thought we got our defense set. Thought our guys competed, had a few breakdowns in scouting stuff that we need to do better. But sometimes in a one-day prep, that happens.

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