



## **In Their Words: What the Coaches of the 2018 Maui Jim Maui Invitational are Saying**

Arizona Head Coach Sean Miller:

"Our program is honored to once again be a part of one of the storied events in college basketball. Arizona Basketball and the Maui Jim Maui Invitational have a great history together that goes back years. This season's bracket is full of excellent programs and will prove to be one of the marquee events in our game yet again. Our players, staff and great fans are excited for another tremendous trip to Hawai'i."

Auburn Head Coach Bruce Pearl:

"The Maui Jim Maui Invitational in the last 25 years has been college basketball's most prestigious tournament in the country. We are grateful to be part of this historic field. We'll do our very best to represent the SEC. All eight of the programs in this year's field are capable of getting to an Elite Eight."

Duke Head Coach Mike Krzyzewski:

"Maui is always a sensational tournament and it's an honor for our program to be selected again. This year, the field is as good as it's ever been, and we'll learn a lot about our young team in that environment against great competition."

Gonzaga Head Coach Mark Few:

"The Maui Jim Maui Invitational is the best preseason tournament in college basketball. This year's field may be the best ever, made up by legendary programs. We love taking our fans and program to Maui. It has a special place in my heart with how much time I've spent there with my family."

Illinois Head Coach Brad Underwood:

"The Maui Jim Maui Invitational is without question the elite pre-conference tournament in all of college basketball. This year's tournament has arguably the strongest field in the history of the event. All eight of these programs have tremendous winning traditions, rosters filled with extremely talented players, and outstanding fan bases who travel to support their teams. Playing three high-level games in the beautiful Maui setting and on the ESPN networks is a great honor for our program; we are looking forward to the opportunity."

Iowa State Head Coach Steve Prohm:

"We are excited for the opportunity to play in the Maui Jim Maui Invitational. This is the nation's premier tournament and this year's field will provide an outstanding test for our team as we prepare for an always difficult Big 12 schedule. Being invited to participate is a great honor for our program and we, along with our dedicated fans, are looking forward to the entire experience."

San Diego State Head Coach Brian Dutcher

"We are excited to return to the premier college basketball tournament in the country, the Maui Jim Maui Invitational. This year's field is one of the best in recent memory and will test us as we prepare for

the rigors of the Mountain West. We fell two points short in our quest to win the tournament back in 2014 and are looking forward to competing this season against some of the best teams in the nation.”

Xavier Head Coach Travis Steele

“We are honored to be a part of such a talented tournament field. It’s exciting for our players and fans to participate in such a prestigious event for the first time in program history. The tournament adds to our challenging non-conference schedule that will prepare us for the BIG EAST season.”

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