

**Penn State Women's Basketball
Postgame Press Conference
vs. Michigan – February 27, 2020**

Carolyn Kieger | Head Coach

Opening Statement

"I want to talk about Siyeh here for a second. What a phenomenal last game: career-high 28 points, seven rebounds, four steals, and played her heart out. Unfortunately, we didn't get the W for her, but what a transformation she's made this season not only as a player, but as a leader. I'm very proud of her and I'm very proud that she was able to go out with her career high at the BJC. Hopefully, that's one for her to remember. As a team, we have to keep chipping away, and we have to keep getting better. We can play a half at max effort then in our third quarter or fourth quarter, we hit a wall and we have to learn how to play 40 minutes as hard as we can. I will say this: I thought it was a drastic better difference, huge difference, from the first time we played them at their place, and we can tell our team is getting better. We don't have the wins that we want, but I can tell that we're chipping away, and that's part of changing the culture and part of growing day-by-day. It's patience and that's hard, as athletes and as coaches, but we'll keep at it and we'll keep doing everything we can to take this program back to where it needs to be."

Q. You mentioned you hung tough in the first half, then you took the lead in the third. What happened in those last seven minutes that allowed Michigan to go on that big run?

A: Transition defense. I thought a lot of it had to do with shot selection, a lot of it had to do with not getting back. I think they scored six-straight points in transition at one point, then they blew it open. We keep trying to figure out what our third quarter lull is right now. I think a lot of it has to do with youth and inexperience. We can scheme for the first half for three-straight days and we can tell them what we're going to do for the first 20 minutes, but when teams make adjustments and we try and solve stuff at timeouts, I just don't think were there yet in terms of being able to do stuff on the fly and make adjustments during the game, so that's something we'll keep practicing. I think that will also come with more minutes that our freshman log, the more minutes that our upperclassmen who haven't played that much get an experience that will help pay dividends down the road later on. It needs to happen sooner rather than later for this year, but it's coming.

Q. Coach, you spoke about Siyeh's [Frazier] and impact on the game today, but has her lasting impact on the whole season been?

A: Siyeh has always been someone who isn't that vocal on the floor, and she wasn't a vocal leader before. I've been pushing her out of her comfort zone all year because we needed that. I think she's really growing as a person and as someone that the younger people can go to. I think that she's the first person that everyone would say has helped her the most as they made their freshman transition. I think that's really big for her because that's not a role that she's been in before. I'm proud of her for that because that is going to be a skill that she's going to carry for the rest of her life, whether she plays another basketball game or not, she's going to be able to take that leadership that she's learned this year and apply that to anything that she does in life. I'm just excited that she took on the challenge and that she bought in and stuck with it.

Q. Coach I know you have at least two more games left, but looking back, what do you want to remember about this season?

A: I've been a part of two rebuilds now. One as an assistant and one as a head coach. The first year is always a lot of learning, a lot of teaching. Your first year is always tough, but it's always memorable because you look back to the start and where you came from and you never get too big. You never know the highs can't be too high and the lows can't be too low. For me, grinding with the staff right now, I think you find out more about yourself in tough moments and you find out more about your players when you're losing than when you're winning. Hopefully in the next few years when we're winning 20 ballgames a year and we're looking at each other and it's easy, and you're winning by 20, and you're winning by 15, that of course will be easy. When your character really comes out is when you're in the grind and when you're trying to figure out who's in your foxhole, what you're made up of as a coach, figure out what made us a team and who's with you. I think those are the things I'll remember as our first year as a rebuild.