

Penn State Women's Basketball
Head Coach Carolyn Kieger Postgame Press Conference
Vs. Minnesota – December 28, 2019

Opening Statement

It was a tale of two halves today, but I'll take that second-half team to battle any day. I'm very proud of our effort, our adjustments, and our composure. In the first half we obviously had a lot to fix, but I definitely saw some growth there in the second half and I'm proud of our team for keeping their heads, for fighting and playing as hard as they did in that second half. Hopefully we can put two halves together and we'll become a team that we all know we can be.

Q: Coach what is the thing you'll focus on the most? What becomes the prime focus then in the next couple of practices?

A: We focus on growth and learning opportunities, and we just talked in the locker room what did we learn about ourselves tonight? I think first and foremost when we play with effort and play with energy, we can play with anyone. When we play emotional and we get upset at any little mistake and we focus on the past, we become very average very quick. So, for us we are trying to do is lock in 200 feet at a time, and I do not think it's a positive or a negative, I think we're looking at every possession as a growth mentality.

Q: In the first half it did not seem like you were getting spacing. Why was there so much trouble with spacing? How much of that was PSU and how much Minnesota? Why were you having trouble with distance?

A: It was a combination of both. We got to get composure from our guards. We need to put the ball on our hip instead of dribble. I think that's a tendency of our team is when we're unsure or we get bothered by pressured or they're denying us which they were, we tend to over dribble. It's something as my job as coach to fix that, and obviously I thought that's something they did a much better job in second half. Minnesota was denying our passes so we couldn't get it to them, so our guards tend to over dribble, and once we fixed that we played very soundly that second half and our offense flowed and we scored 53 points in the second half. Great adjustments.

Q: Does luck have anything to do with winning?

A: I personally believe you make your own luck and that's effort. Second half we played harder. So of course, when you play harder the basketball gods reward you and you're going to get easy buckets and that's what happened. I think it was a matter of focus and effort that first half and the second half we rallied and we played like a team that wanted to win. First half we were passive, we were unsure, we were casual, and we missed our open la ups and we turned the ball over and weren't running offense.