

Penn State Women's Basketball
Head Coach Carolyn Kieger Postgame Press Conference
Vs. Indiana - January 23, 2020

Opening Statement

We have to get better, absolutely. I was really proud of our effort in that first half. We came out flat in the third quarter. Adversity hits and we give up. We played selfish basketball in the second half and we had eight assists total for the game. That's not going to get it done. And we can talk all day about 'oh you know we are young or we don't understand the offense,' but what that is an excuse. We don't make excuses around here. We have to get better and we cannot tolerate the same mistakes over and over anymore.

Q: You mentioned adversity is that all that went wrong in the second half? Like you all just mentally fell apart.

A: I mean, everything went wrong the second half, you name it. It starts with adversity, we start the second half, that matched up in defense they get a wide-open layup then we take a contested pull up and from there it's just a spiral down effect. We have to be mentally tougher, you know, we're taking bad shots, we're not running the offense, we're running around with our heads cut off not acting like we know the offense. Now everybody gets composure and then it just becomes a rattle down. You know every game in the Big Ten so far, we've at least played with the team for a half, which proves we can play. It's more of an intangible thing or consistency thing and that's what as a staff we're searching for. We're searching for our consistent players, we're searching for consistency. Obviously, we're going to keep watching tape and we're going to keep watching film but at the end of the day we need winners. We need people that want to step up and want to win a ballgame. Right now, I look in the locker room and I see a lot of defeated people and that's not the way that you're going to win ballgames. I want to know who my lions are, I want to know who my winners are, my killers, and right now we're going to try to find it.

Q: Coach, going forward you mentioned that seeing a lot of defeated faces in the locker room after this, what do you, what can you do as a coach that's under your control to kind of help them moving forward, or is it totally on them as the players?

A: No, absolutely not, it's a complete program thing. At the end of the day, we've got to change. We keep saying the same things every day in practice, and as a coach you're going to keep doing it. You're going to keep watching film, you're going to keep buying into them, you're going to keep hoping that someday the light bulb goes off. As of right now as a staff, my staff is working very tirelessly right now. We are pouring into these young women and we are watching lots with them and at some point, we can't have the same mistakes over and over. Obviously, it starts with me. I'm the boss, I'm the leader, so every loss goes on my plate and everything that goes wrong with my team is all on me.

Q: You went through a rebuilding phase at Marquette, is this kind of something similar? Is there anything you can draw from that experience to here to help?

A: Absolutely, I remind myself every day that it's a process, to be patient. Same thing happened when we were at Marquette, we'll get there. It will get there I have zero doubts in my head that we will get there, but you know I'm a competitor, and I'm a winner. I'm not very patient. For me, I want it to happen now, but I know that it's baby steps. I know that every moment in this locker room that's tough now will pay dividends down the road next year, and the lessons that we're teaching now are bigger than just a win or a loss you know. We're trying to make them strong young women, we're trying to make them competitors in life, not just when we're playing Indiana. I think that's where as a staff we're really trying to pour into these young women to understand you have to give your max effort every day, like there's no other way. Like why wouldn't you dive on the floor for loose ball, why don't you try to get an

A, and not settle for B, why don't you try to be the best woman you can be, the best daughter, the best teammate, the best friend and that's what we're striving for every day.