

**Penn State Women's Basketball
Head Coach Press Conference
Vs. Jacksonville – December 2, 2018**

Coquese Washington | Head Coach

Opening Statement

Well it's good to be back home and playing in front of our crowd. I thought that the things we've been working on and emphasizing in practice, with Amari being out, are starting to come out, in particular our defensive intensity. I like the way that we came out in the first half. Our defense was good early and then our offense kind of caught up. We've got to fix up that third quarter. We gave up too many points in the third quarter, but I thought in the fourth quarter we kind of locked in again. I'm really pleased to see the carryover from practice.

Q: I see that you're now going with the four-guard lineup. What was the process going into that and how did you come to make that decision?

A: We were kind of forced into it against Florida State because of injuries, and then coming into the Jacksonville game today it was just the matchups and who they started. It kind of worked well for us. In terms of starting those smaller lineups and giving us rotations in the post that would help us match up.

Q: Through the beginning of the season and this non-conference schedule, you guys have obviously had your ups and downs. With only a few games left in the non-conference schedule, what are you looking to see and improve on before heading into Big Ten play?

A: I think consistency. In pretty much every game we've had spurts. We've had good quarters, even good halves. Just consistency on both ends of the floor, and I'm confident that it will come. I think we have to continue to work to improve our defense and our rebounding going into Big Ten play. Being consistent in those areas is the biggest thing. When you have a lot of young players out there, that can be the last thing that comes is that consistency.

Q: In the beginning of the third quarter, you and Teniya had a little bit of a heated conversation on the sideline. How important is it as a coach to be able to express your feelings and how is it having a player like Teniya who you've had for four years now? What's it like having a player like her on the floor who you can trust and say whatever you need to say to them?

A: Teniya has an incredible basketball mind and she has an incredible basketball IQ. I trust her a lot and she trusts me, so we often have dialogue about what she sees, what she's feeling out there and what I'm seeing from the side. We come to decisions on what we can do moving forward. Sometimes I might be speaking a little more animated and sometimes she may be speaking more animated, but it's because there is certainly a mutual respect and understanding of how the team needs to be run. Most importantly how we're going to make it happen. What does she need to do? Or what do I need to do to make whatever needs to happen, happen? When you coach somebody for so long like I have with Teniya, that kind of relationship or those kinds of conversations can be had.