

Penn State Women's Basketball
Head Coach Carolyn Kieger – Postgame Press Conference
vs. Fordham – November 13, 2019

Carolyn Kieger

Opening Statement

[That was the] 950th program win which is awesome, so I want to congratulate everyone that has worn the jersey, every Lady Lion that has contributed to those 950 wins. That is a heck of a lot of wins, and I am proud to be a part of two of those and hopefully a lot more coming down the stretch here for us. I first wanted to start with that. Secondly, I thought our team really responded tonight from an energy perspective. We talked about that for the last two days about celebrating, being great teammates, and bringing the juice as we call it, and I thought they did a really great job responding to the adversity we hit against Rider. Obviously huge performances tonight from Siyeh [Frazier] with a double-double, five steals as well to add to that, and Anna Camden off the bench was amazing. 4-for-4 from the three-point line, so some great individual performances. Obviously, we have a long way to go as well. I think our focus needs to improve. I thought number 20 obviously got loose; Kendell [Heremaia] is a great shooter, and she hit five threes so we got to lock in a little bit more on that, but I thought we did a great job on Bre [Cavanaugh] and Anna [DeWolfe] holding them below 10 points. That was something that was a big part of our game plan for us on the defensive end. Offensively we have to work out the kinks. I think that is part of a young group, and learning the offense we want to run, and we will fix that in the next two days before our next game. November is a tough stretch.

Q: Coach, Kamaria [McDaniel] had 14 first-half points. How did that ignite the offense?

A: She was phenomenal in that first half. I credit her; she watched a lot of film the last few days. You know, taking better shots and making sure that she was squaring her shoulders to the rim. She is someone who is very self aware and I think that's just going to propel her as the season goes. And, I think you're going to see a tremendous amount of growth in her because she's really intentional about improving her game and I thought she did a great job, but that didn't happen tonight, that happened the last few days and I know she was getting in the gym and I know she was watching a lot of film.

Q: Coach, Anna [Camden] brought a lot of energy tonight and hit the shots when she needed to. How do you see her role increasing in the future?

A: Well, Anna got back to being her the last two days. We had some talks in the last couple days about what she needed to do, and I told her she needed to focus on her teammates first and become a leader and I thought she did a great job of that the last two days. When the focus was not on herself, all of a sudden, she was relaxed and was able to shoot. I think she did a tremendous job of that. That's a great quality that she has in leadership. She came into this program doing that this summer already as a freshman and that speaks volumes for who she is as a person and I think she's going to be a phenomenal leader as we go forward with our culture.

Q: Coach, on Sunday, you talked about how you wanted to get the ball down low more and I feel like there was an emphasis on that early on, but maybe got away from it a little bit as the game progressed. How do you feel like you did overall?

A: I think that is something that we always want to do is win the battle of the paint. I think we had 28 points in the paint. I think that free throws is where that really comes into play and when we get the ball in the paint, not only with a pass but with the attack. I think that's why we are shooting so many free throws, so I take that as pulse touches or when the guard dribbles the ball in the paint. For us, I think the second half we were more so getting that and

in the first half, we were trying to force it down low with the pass. I think we are just going to take what the defense gives us.

Q: Field goal percentage is way up this week. Was it a matter of shot quality or just better finishing?

A: Absolutely shot quality. We watched and we charted every single shot that we shot against Rider and 75 percent of the shots that we shot were contested. We watched every single one of those and best believe I think the team got the message. Obviously, sometimes we're still not flowing into the offense and I'm trying to not overcoach them right now and I want them to kind of work their ways out of it and I think that's what you have to do with a young team. I don't want to slow the pace down, so sometimes it's going to look chaotic and they're not going to know what we're running, but as the season progresses, I think you'll see our offense dramatically improve.