

**Penn State Women's Basketball**  
**Head Coach Carolyn Kieger Postgame Press Conference**  
**vs. Illinois – February 9, 2020**

***Opening Statement***

“First, I want to talk about the 507 survivors that were here tonight. What an amazing event. Shout out to all the people that worked hard to make this happen. I know I'm inspired by it. 3,687 years (of survivorship) that we're celebrating with 507 of them is incredible. We had a guest coach, Mo Cooper, in the locker room today. She did a phenomenal job inspiring us in the locker room. What an event to be a part of and I think it's bigger than the game. I can't wait to grow this event and make it even bigger. In terms of our team, we have to keep building. We have to keep growing. We have to keep teaching. We have to keep getting better. We show moments and we show spurts, but we're not there yet. It's our job to keep coaching them and teaching them and showing the way. I know we'll get there, it's just a matter of when and in the meantime, we'll keep teaching.”

***Q: The team seemed to struggle a lot in the half court against their zone, but on the flip side you were able to create transition opportunities and speed their pace of play up with your full court press. What made things so difficult in the half court on offense, but also what did you take away from seeing so much success from the press?***

**A:** I mean, we need to figure out how we can get play makers on our team and how we can share the ball. We play with blinders on and don't see the open person; get fixated on one option. We don't move the ball. We don't get into the high post, we don't get into the short corner and against the zone those are the two areas that you need to get the ball to. Right now, we need to learn the game. We have a lot of players who are young and, in my mind, don't understand the options that we are looking for right now. So my job is to watch the film with them and teach them how to play basketball and how to be better basketball players and in the summer work on our skills and we will get there. We need to learn time per touch and how to share the basketball and how to set people up because we don't have anybody doing that for us right now.

***Q: At the beginning of the year, you talked about how one of your goals was to bring bigger crowds to games on average. Is this the type of crowd that you want to bring on a normal night?***

**A:** Yes, it is a start absolutely. There was about 4,500 people here tonight and obviously I am never going to be satisfied with that. I want that lower bowl full and then eventually we want to fill this place up, but we need to get better and produce a product that people want to watch and then we have to do our part from a marketing standpoint. But yes, the crowd was awesome tonight and we will take those 4,500 and build upon that.

***Q: How would you describe the energy in the Bryce Jordan Center for your first Pink Zone?***

**A:** Yeah, it was great. I told a lot of people last night that I had been looking forward to today for a really long time. I have admired it from afar. Penn State has always done the Pink Zone and the Pink Game right and I am excited to be a part of it and do my best to add a little nuance to make it better because it is a really special night and I think that a lot of people look forward to it.