

**Penn State Women's Basketball  
Coach Kieger Postgame Press Conference  
vs. Maryland – February 16, 2020**

**Penn State Head Coach Carolyn Kieger**

***Opening Statement***

You know, first tonight is senior night so we obviously want to celebrate Siyeh [Frazier], Jaida [Travascio-Green, and Kayleigh [Semion] and what they've meant to our program, and what they've done for Penn State. A tremendous impact that they've had on this program over the last four years and it's going to continue. I know they're going to be very successful so, unfortunately, we didn't get the win for them tonight, but that's the story tonight is playing for them. I thought our team played, obviously, phenomenal first half on offense. Defensively, obviously, gave up 60 points in that second half and kind of took a punch and we didn't respond. We got to learn how to fight harder and be tougher.

***Q. Coach, what can you from the first half? This is obviously a team that is very tough for anyone to match up with their length and athleticism. What can you use, particularly with the younger players, from that first half to carry-on in the future?***

**A:** I thought we did a great job with the ball not sticking. We shared the basketball. Time per touch was better than it was in the second half. The ball didn't stick to one players hand, we set each other, we made the right pass, and we were attacking downhill. I thought our spacing was great. We still didn't play good defense, obviously they had 46 points at half. It was back-and-forth, but still wasn't a great performance on the defensive end even in the first half.

***Q. Do you think Maryland changed anything tactically on offensive and defense in the second half?***

**A:** They started running on us. First half, they only had four points in transition and of the 60 points in the second half, 40 of them were in transition. I'm sure they got reamed pretty good in the locker room for not running on us in the first half. I think that was the difference. They pushed pace and we didn't send two back like we were supposed to and it got out of hand.

***Q. How do you address the need to fight and the need to keep that mental composure?***

**A:** You keep talking about it. You keep addressing it. You keep talking about being fighters. You keep talking about culture. At the end of the day, Maryland is the number 10 team in the country and the only way you're going to beat them is to fight. We did that the first half and we gave ourselves the chance. We gave ourselves an opportunity to play with them. In the second half, when we take a punch and we fold and we give up, that's obviously never going to work, especially when you're the underdog. We keep showing it, we keep teaching it, and we keep putting ourselves in position in practice to work on that, to fail and to keep pushing because at the end of the day basketball is a game of runs. There's going to be run every single time they step on the court. Every time you don't weather the storm, or you take a punch and you fold, that's going to be pretty hard to come back from.