



2019 NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Second Round · #3 Maryland vs. #6 UCLA
XFINITY Center · College Park, Md.
Monday, March 25, 2019

PREGAME QUOTES – Maryland

Brenda Frese, Maryland Head Coach

Opening Statement:

“Very excited to be here today and to be one of the last 32 teams remaining. I really liked our energy against Radford from start to finish, being ready and prepared to play. That same level of intensity against a very good UCLA team we’re going to need to have for tomorrow night. UCLA is a team that sets the tone with their defense and their rebounding. For us it’s going to take a collective, united, team effort for 40 minutes.”

On Kennedy Burke and Michael Oyenwere:

“Extremely talented when you look at both of them and UCLA’s roster. They’re extremely athletic. So, they present all kinds of mismatch for a team. So, when you talk about from the defensive end their size, their length, they’re very aggressive on the glass because of that length.”

On if any teams they’ve played this year remind her of UCLA:

“I think we’re fortunate in the Big Ten. Every team is different. Maybe I would liken them to a Minnesota, a Rutgers when you talk about that kind of athleticism, when you talk about the rebounding that you have to be able to have on the glass with them.”

On the bounce Maryland had from being at home:

“First of all, I can’t say enough about our fans. When we came out the tunnel and saw, even though we were going head-to-head with our men’s game, we have just the best fans in the country. I hear for tomorrow night it’s even better. So, it speaks volumes. That’s what you play all season long for is to be able to have that home court advantage where you can feel the energy in the building. When the game gets tough to be able to have that additional boost from your fans is huge.”

On Cori Close’s accomplishments at UCLA:

“Cori and I do go way back when you talk about this bright star at Florida State when we were in the ACC and as an assistant coach. She was terrific. I always knew whenever that point came where she was going to become head coach, she was going to be very, very successful. You

obviously see that now. What she's turned UCLA into, for her to lose two players of significance last year to the WNBA and have a team like she's retooled going into the season speaks volumes. So, the feelings mutual. I can't say enough about her. I've watched her for so many years that I'm not surprised by the success that she's having."

Taylor Mikesell, Freshman Guard:

On how veteran players have helped her through her first NCAA Tournament:

"Growing up you always watched March Madness and all that stuff but they've been great just staying focused, staying locked in. Coming off our loss with Iowa just trying to send Bri (Fraser) off the right way and just play for our home fans."

Stephanie Jones, Junior Forward:

On the importance of winning for Brianna Fraser who is a senior:

"I think every game this year we were playing for her. She's always been on our mind. So, just finishing out her in College Park on a good note for her is very important to us."

On playing NCAA Tournament games at home:

"Like Kaila said, it's great to be able to sleep in our own bed and play in front of our fans. I know they really enjoy that too. Just us having them on our side too also helps."

On Brianna Fraser as a player:

"I think for the past three years she's always been helpful. Just being a leader and talking me through plays like, "Steph you should've been here on defense." She's very good at that and I think we all respect her and really listen to what she says. So, she plays a very important role for our team."

On what she's seen and heard about UCLA:

"Well we know they're a great rebounding team. They're relentless so we just know that we have to lock in and box them out. Keep them off the boards. They're a great running team too so just finding them in transition and we'll be good."

Kaila Charles, Junior Guard:

On her feelings going into tomorrow's game:

"We're excited because we get to extend our season one more game. Then we have one more game to send Bri on in Xfinity with our fans and we're just ready to play and we're excited for tomorrow."

On playing NCAA Tournament games at home instead of on the road:

"Honestly, it's a huge advantage because you're comfortable at home. You have your home crowd and they really help with the energy. So, it really fuels us when we're at home. To be in front of our crowd and just being here in our own beds and just being used to our normal routine, that really helps. So, compared to last year I think this has been very beneficial, staying home and hopefully it will work out for us and then we can do it again next year."

On being Brianna Fraser's friend off the court:

"Off the court we're actually roommates. So, I spend a lot of time with Bri but she's a great person. Once you get to know her and get her to open up, you know that she's one of the sweetest people you can meet. She's honestly a great friend and forever will be a sister to me."

So, we have a really good relationship. I think everybody does with Bri, she's a great person. We're going to miss her a lot. So, we just want to make sure we can extend our season as far as possible so we can keep playing with her because it might be the last time for a while."

On the little things that advance you to the second weekend:

"On the court it's just the little things like getting the 50-50 balls. Big keying in on your personnel or keying in on boxing out. Doing the small stuff that can add up to the end deciding the game. But off the court, recovery is important. Knowing what you're putting in your body. Making sure that you're stretching or getting enough sleep. That's all important to keep your body up to this tempo because every game is going to be a fight and a battle. So, you've got to make sure you're able to recover and get ready for the next one if you keep playing."

On if they have pre-game rituals the night before a game:

"No, not really. But we're going to go to dinner tonight for my birthday. So, that's going to be fun but we're just probably going to go to sleep early. Get our rest and get ready, go through some film. We look through our scout and just get prepared mentally for the game."

On if she did anything special for her birthday and best teammate gift:

"I didn't actually get any gifts from them. I wasn't expecting anything. All of them gave me a great gift for extending our season to tomorrow. But I didn't do much. I really just chilled and then I went out to dinner with my family. But I had a great day. We watched some more games. I had a fun day."