



2019 NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Second Round · #3 Maryland vs. #6 UCLA

Xfinity Center· College Park, Md.

Monday, March 25, 2019

POSTGAME QUOTES – Maryland

Brenda Frese, Maryland Head Coach:

Opening Statement:

“First of all, I can’t say enough about the game, the amazing crowd, the environment that we had. You know, you talk about an entertaining game for our sport and you just witnessed two really good deserving Sweet 16 teams. Obviously, you watched the game. I thought UCLA was tremendous in the first half. I thought it took us a while, especially on the glass and to be able to get kind of settled in. Obviously, Steph [Jones] was key for us to be able to kind of hold it together there in the first half. But loved our response coming out of the locker room in the second half. I thought that it was sensational. Kaila [Charles] did everything she could possibly do for us. You know, scratch, claw, and made play after play for us. Again, I can’t say enough of how proud I am of this group; to be able to 29 wins, a Big Ten regular season title, and everything they have accomplished this season.”

On Maryland’s three-point shooting and foul shooting:

“It’s been something we have been consistently been able to rely on. So, we had some uncharacteristic, off nights for some of our players tonight and I thought UCLA was able to expose that.”

On UCLA’s defense in the fourth quarter:

“I think if you watch the game, player for player, I think you saw there was a little bit more size, length, and athleticism position wise for UCLA over us. So, I thought they were able to take advantage of that. I thought we were small in some of our guard positions, where we needed to maybe have a little more length. We battled some foul trouble that impacted some of the rotations we wanted to play. So, I thought they did a phenomenal job being able to exploit those mismatches.”

On her lasting impression of Brianna Fraser:

“Like I told Bri in the locker room, I’m just so proud of what she’s grown into. To see this young girl come in as a freshman to the maturity to what she’s leaving at is why we do what we do. I can’t say enough. For Bri, it wasn’t an easy course. She had to play behind some significant people and she stayed the course. I mean, she’s extremely loyal where a lot of kids now a days

take the first transfer option that they can take. I'm really proud of her staying the course. I know she's going to be really successful in her next walk of life."

On what lessons the team can take going into next year:

"Obviously that's exciting when you talk about nine players returning with a roster of only 10. For them to accomplish what they were able to accomplish this year, being kind of shorthanded and outmanned at times, that we were able to kind of mask. So, to get 29 wins, you add four more players to the rotation, the competition is going to be plentiful. We are going to utilize the experience factor of our vets with the young energy, like you saw. I thought Shakira [Austin] grew up tonight. When you see what bodes well for the future for Shakira and Taylor [Mikesell] and our freshmen class and with Olivia [Owens] how she worked all year, so the future is extremely bright."

On how having a full roster will help next season:

"Gosh, what a luxury. I won't know what to do myself. That was a byproduct of a two-year hit when you have kids transfer out. We knew what it was moving forward, and I can't say enough about the loyalty of the kids in our program and how hard they have fought for each other. I told this group, it's one of the best groups I've ever coached, with their chemistry, how they played for each other all season long. But, you know, excited for this group and what lies ahead for us."

On what play she wanted to run in the final seconds:

"Obviously we were trying to get something quick going to the rim, being aggressive, then tried to foul right away, which we weren't able to get the call. Just trying to make a quick play being down four going to the basket and going to the rim."

On the team's goals:

"I don't think our goals ever change. We're always trying to win championships and I think it's more of a result of your personnel and your process. I can evaluate this team and what they were able to accomplish this season is something that we can never take away from them. They've done some tremendous things. But our goals will always be high here at Maryland and for us it's just staying true to who we are and trying to win as many games as possible. I think the rest takes care of itself when you're trying to get to that point."

On her message to the team during halftime:

"I have a difficult time if we are not playing with confidence because we can control that. I think that was more of the message that I thought we could play with a lot more toughness, a lot more poise, and a lot more energy. So again, speaks volumes to this group, of their response out of the locker room, of how they came back and responded coming out at half time."

Stephanie Jones, Maryland Forward

On action on the glass:

"I think it just comes down to who wanted it more and I think that, that showed. I mean, they got more than us. We just didn't do our job with boxing them out."

On Michaela Onyenwere and the toughest part on playing against her:

"I mean, just her athleticism. Just being able to raise up and shoot. She crossed the boards hard, so she got points off of that too. We just couldn't contain her."

On what to work on in the summer for next season:

"Everything. Really anything."

On her strong first quarter and actions on the court that led to it:

“Just being aggressive, and then the guards did a great job of finding me down low. So just playing off of that and just letting the game come to me.”

On describing UCLA’s offense:

“I don’t think it was anything different that we haven’t seen before. It was just, they were crashing the boards and we just needed to box them out. That’s what it really came down to.”

Kaila Charles, Maryland Guard

On the halftime discussion and third quarter energy:

“Basically, Coach just challenged us to be tough. They had a hot start and like Steph (Jones) was saying, they were crashing really hard, being really aggressive on the offensive rebounds. So, she (Brenda Frese) challenged us to lock in on defense, box out. We had that good energy for most of the second half, but we needed to start with it.”

On what they can take away from game:

“We learned a lot. We learned that we can’t come out slow, especially in the tournament in March. Teams are going to be playing their best basketball because they don’t want to end their season. There’s a lot of lessons learned, but I’m still proud of my teammates. We fought hard, and we have nine of us coming back next year. So, we’re going to use this as motivation in the post season to get better and hopefully have a better season and go as far as we can.”

On if she was surprised with the way the team started:

“A little bit. Last game we had great energy to start, and in the tournament—the Big Ten Tournament—we picked that up. Like I said, it’s something we can learn from and we can’t get the game back now. But we’re excited to start getting work in the post season and get ready for next year.”

On her 17 points in the third quarter:

“I think it was just the motivation in half time. Coach kept telling me in the first half, ‘Things are going to get going for you. Just, you know, be positive, be optimistic.’ So, the third quarter we came out very aggressive, and I think our defense really led to a lot of my points because they were getting a lot of stops. Yeah, we just have to be more aggressive and not settle.”

On what to work on in the summer for next season:

“Everything.”