

MARYLAND

SPORTS NEWS

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Postgame Quotes

#8/9 Maryland 71, Minnesota 69

Maryland Head Coach Brenda Frese

Opening Statement:

"You know this really ranks up there in just a special, special win for us. Just loved the way we had to fight, claw, and scratch. I think it speaks volumes to the character and the competitiveness in the locker room. You couldn't ask for more of an uncharacteristic night from us. A lot of missed lay ups, turnovers, and defensive breakdowns especially in the first half. That kind of continued over in the second half. I thought we were plugging holes a lot when we Bri (Fraser) went down. I thought Minnesota came and punched early and often. I thought some of our adjustments in the second half was huge when you talk about our triangle and two that slowed them down a little bit. I thought we got a little bit more patient on the offensive end.

"Obviously the inbound late play with Shakira (Austin) there for the deflection to the steal for Kaila (Charles) to finish it. I said this in the locker room, you always want that to play out the way it did for Kaila tonight, the responsibility that she holds and wants, the ownership. To come off of a tough game at Iowa, to flip it that quickly to end the game is why she is such a tremendous winner and competitor and why we trust her so much. Just a night we all won't forget."

On going against Lindsay Whalen:

"I think when the ball is tipped it's kind of a chess match, you are just trying to maneuver. I think she obviously has instilled a lot of confidence in her team. I thought they were tremendous with their game plan and how aggressive they were when they attacked just off the bounds. Tough way to win when you are going against a former player you coached. But again once the ball is tipped and you got two really competitive people on the sidelines trying to match back and forth.

On what was going through her head before Kaila's two shots to tie and win the game:

"I think our last two games have felt like that. That is what we are preparing for, March. There even late, I was thinking we were going to go into overtime. Potentially just trying to manage things, how many time outs you have left, how many fouls you have to give. So there was a lot going on that you are trying to manage to get your team to understand time score and where we are at. "

On what she was telling the team as they were coming back in the fourth quarter:

"I thought you saw their trust. It really unfolded in the fourth quarter I thought on both ends of the floor. I thought we got a lot more aggressive defensively. Offensively I thought we were able to play through Kaila with some of those screens, put the ball in her hands, making play after play, making reads out of it I thought were huge. Having Taylor's (Mikesell) threes there, we needed every one of them to be able to get us back. I thought she was patient, she had some shots that didn't fall for her, but she continues to stay the courts and make some big shots for us."

On what was causing trouble throughout the game:

"I thought we were flat to start the game. I don't know if it was the snow day we had yesterday, maybe we laid around a little too much. But we had a ton more energy in shoot-around. Obviously, loved the response after halftime that we needed to be able to have. We were in foul trouble, Bri (Fraser) going down, we had some pieces that were really tough and then missing so many layups which uncharacteristic for us I think fed into our psyche a little bit and in the game."

Junior Guard Kaila Charles

On the Minnesota turnover that created the buzzer beater:

"When she deflected it I just saw the ball and I was like 'Just go get it' and I knew we had four or five seconds so I was just trying to get to the rim, maybe draw a foul and it went in. That was it. I was just glad because that play wouldn't have happened if Shakira (Austin) didn't tip the ball and had high hands on that."

On the game tying layup:

"They were really playing to my left hand and I'm right-handed, so I just saw a lane and my teammates have been encouraging me all game to stay in the game because I missed a couple of layups. Taylor (Mikesell) was encouraging me like 'You're going to get it back, you're going to get it back' and so when I saw the lane open I just drove and I was able to finish."

On how big it was to have a game like this for her after an uncharacteristic game against Iowa:

"It just helped with the confidence, but I wasn't really worried about that game. It was in the past, my teammates were telling me and my coach was telling me, 'You're gonna bounce back, things are gonna work out.' I just kept my head down, just not worrying about it, just getting in the gym, and we had practice yesterday and we were able to get a lot of shots up as a player practice. So I just know that you're going to have bad games here and there, and you just have to be able to play through it and my teammates and my coach really helped me through that tough time."

Freshman Guard Taylor Mikesell

On how the win felt especially rebounding from Iowa:

"I think it's huge especially how far down we were going into halftime, I think it says a lot about how we fight as a team and how we trust each other. The way Kaila (Charles) was playing, she's our leader, and the way she goes the team goes and I think coming in here as a freshman being able to play under and alongside Kaila's leadership, I think it's a blessing."

Minnesota Head Coach Lindsay Whalen

On the last minute of the game"

"Not our best. Give them credit. Give them credit. They out physicaled us in a couple of possessions. When it comes down to it, it comes down to making those plays in the last minute, end of the game execution. So, obviously we need to work on that."

On the key to getting a jump on Maryland in the game:

"Our guys play hard. We give it everything we have every night. We put them in some tough spots. I think we guarded well until the fourth. We had guys who were finishing at the basket and making some plays."

On rebounding against Maryland:

"I'm glad we rebounded well, but we didn't win."

On the growth she's seen with the 6-game win streak:

"They're giving us everything they had. They've really come together, they're playing hard, they're playing the game the right way. I told them nights like this really sting, and it should hurt. It should hurt because we put so much into it in this last stretch but, we have two games left and onward from here. It's a good team that beat us but we gave it everything we had."

On what to learn from facing adversity tonight

"Well yeah, sometimes you go through adversity. Next time I'm very confident we will have it in the winning stretch."

On the team's mentality in the last quarter:

"We still had it. Thank you."

Sophomore Guard/Forward Destiny Pitts

On the last minute of the game:

"For me, the last minute I was sitting on the bench with five fouls. So for me, I just have to be a little smarter down the stretch."

Redshirt Senior Guard Kenisha Bell

On the last minute of the game:

"We needed to stay poised. We didn't stay poised within the last minute and it cost us the game."

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