

**Penn State Women's Basketball
Student-Athlete Postgame Press Conference
vs. Rider – November 11, 2021**

Niya Beverley | G | Senior+

Q: Niya so your first game you were a little quiet on offense, you only got three shot attempts off, but tonight you've had certainly a much bigger role in the offense. So offensively what was clicking for you tonight that allowed you to have such a big game?

A: I have to give the credit to my teammates. They were looking for me a lot today and they hit me for open spots, and I just knocked the shots down. I just tried to be aggressive and let the game come to me and that's what happened tonight.

Q: Niya, you had six rebounds yourself in that game. So, what do you do as a guard to be able to get as many rebounds as you do in terms of being able to box out and keep people away from the ball?

A: Well, I have to give the credit to our coaches, they really have been emphasizing on rebounding the past few weeks, so I just try to do whatever I can to help my teammates out with rebounding and I'm just trying to get a body in there and get a rebound if I can.

Q: Both you both you guys and Makenna [Marisa] had 20 points in scoring tonight. How big is it to the team to know that you guys can rely on anyone in any given night?

A: It's amazing. We work hard, we're a team. Whoever has the hot hand, we're going to give them the ball that night. And I think that's what we did tonight. And we got the W and that's all that really matters.

Ali Brigham | F/C | Sophomore

Q: You guys had a huge night as a team rebounding, you outrebounded Rider 41 to 24. What did you think both for yourselves and for your teammates of how that effort was as a team?

A: That was a big thing that we talked about in halftime. It's one of our goals. Every game is to outrebound the other team. So, we got our goal, but obviously we can always progress and be better. So that's what we're going to work on in practice and upcoming games, just keep the rebound energy rolling.

Q: Ali you had six rebounds, but you also had six assists. Last game you filled up the stat sheet, this game you also filled up the stat sheet. I mean how important is it to be a versatile post player and be able to distribute, but also grab rebounds and then be able to kick those out to your teammates?

A: I want to be the teammate that people can rely on, but obviously that comes from their trust in me and that comes from them being able to facilitate to. I mean I'm not the only one who played well, I got my teammate [Niya Beverley] right next to me, [Makenna Marisa], she had a great game. And like I said, we're just going to keep working on it as a team. I think we're going to be really special.

Q: Leilani Kapinus led the team in rebounds today. Is there anything that she was doing in practice differently this week? Like how has she been in practice leading up to this game?

A: I think Leilani gives it her all every opportunity she has, as you can see, before she was injured, like she just attacks it at every chance she can and we see that every day in practice too. Like Coach said, she loves defense and she's going to go as hard as she possibly can. So even on offensive and defensive boards, Leilani just gives it all she has and it's really obvious and it's contagious. It makes all of us want to rebound just as much as she does.

Q: Ali, what do you do personally just to be able to work on all facets of your game? And especially, I mean, how do you feel like it's changed since you've been here at Penn State?

A: I'd say a big thing that I noticed is being able to practice against practice guys. Going up against like 6'4, 6'6, 6'7 [foot] guys. Coach puts us in really great positions that we work on shots that we see in games often. Same thing for rebounding, and we get a lot of reps done in practice that it makes us feel confident when we get into the game. We're like, "oh, I just did this practice," and we feel comfortable.

Q: Do you feel like just being here makes you feel a little bit more comfortable just knowing that you have teammates that you can rely on a ton with scoring and not have to hold as much of a load as he did?

A: Absolutely. Yeah, like our depth on the bench. It's really great to know that you don't have to rely on one person, you don't have to rely on two, you got a team of 12, 13 girls that you know that can step in and play and have a really great game