

**Penn State Women's Basketball  
Head Coach Carolyn Kieger Postgame Press Conference  
vs. Delaware State- November 16th, 2021**

***Q: Did you know that she (Makenna Marisa) almost had a quadruple double at that point? Or was it just more or less just trying to get everybody in the game at that point?***

A: We wanted to challenge the team at halftime because McKenna had six steals that half and was leading our team and the flooding was obviously playing very hard. We wanted to make sure that we turned up the pressure in that second or that third quarter to kind of reflect what McKenna's energy was, but I think the team was aware of what she was doing and I think they had a little pressure on them for a little bit but they came through for and then at Beverly came up with that 11th assist as well which was huge.

***Q: How does the team stay focused and keep their foot on the gas with a big lead that you guys came up with?***

A: We've been talking a lot about that in terms of having that line mentality, as we call it attack and 100% 24/7. Doesn't matter. The score is always 0-0 and how close to a perfect game can you get. Obviously, we're never going to reach perfection, but we've been trying to put that foot on the gas if we want to become an NCAA tournament team. That's what you have to do and scoreboards always 0-0, and next quarters always 0-0. That's kind of the mentality we've been trying to get to. This was a good experience for us to mature through that.

***Q: How do you go about this next week of practice after a win like this?***

A: Very easily. We have a gauntlet of a stretch coming up, so we need to be locked in. Tonight was about Penn State. It was about getting better. It was about everybody playing and sharing the minutes and we've been now preparing for Clemson now for a couple of days as well been watching film and doing some stuff on the court for them. But it was a huge road win, or I should say hopefully road win but was a huge road game for us against Clemson and then we go to a really stacked tournament in Fort Myers that will really test us so we're excited. I think we're ready. We've been beating up each other and practice too and here now. I think we're ready to face an ACC opponent and I really get excited to see what kind of squad we have on the road because we haven't faced that challenge yet.

***Q: This is the 24th time in history that this program has started off 3-0. What would you say are the qualities that this team has that make them capable of accomplishing this?***

A: I would say chemistry right now. You know, our team is really vibing, they have a lot of good energy for each other. They're very selfless. They share the ball obviously, that's been a reflection of these first three games, being unselfish and trying to make each other better every possession on the floor. Moving forward I think we have to get a little bit more gritty in terms of holding each other accountable. I think that that'll come as we have ACC opponents. And then we have potentially St. John's and potentially Iowa State, potentially UCLA. We have some battles up here where we're going to have to kind of hold each other accountable and keep that chemistry alive at the same time.

***Q: Coming off of the Rider game, what is something that you really stressed in practice that you saw play out in favor for you guys tonight?***

A: We want to keep our turnovers down. We had too many passing mistakes and discipline of not on time on target reads. So, I was pleased with that. Tonight, we had a few and then we kind of gained our composure there and that second half, and then we obviously wanted to get in the passing lanes and disrupt a little bit more. We thought that tonight that would be an advantage for us and I think our team really bought into that.

***Q: What do you have to say really about your team's defensive performance and how it led to some good offensive opportunities?***

A: I think we were feeding off each other and the energy was contagious. I think the team got excited when Makenna got in stances and started to get tips and deflections. That's been something that Makenna has been really working on over the last year to really improve her defense. And I think the team kind of fed off that tonight. When you see your guards getting off the ball that kind of makes everybody set the tone and gets everybody behind them excited to get after that play defense. However, the number one thing we're trying to do on the defensive end is make them shoot shots that they don't want to shoot and hold that field goal percentage down. So yes, the steals were great, but I'm still celebrating that 37% field goal better than anything.