

**Penn State Basketball**  
**Student-Athletes Postgame Press Conference**  
**vs. Rutgers - December 9, 2021**

Ali Brigham | F | Sophomore

***Q: Could you just talk about the significance particularly with what this team's been through lately to win this game? And what were the things that that you look to carry you through at the end?***

A: Yeah, I mean, obviously, we went into this game knowing we had to pull that W out. Like Coach said, our offense wasn't exactly there, but we had our defense to rely on. We've worked so hard on defense the last few practices, and honestly this whole entire year, so the fact that we could rely on that practice to get us through... I mean, we won so worked it worked out for us.

***Q: Ali, being in a little different position tonight coming off the bench, you know, how did you approach it?***

Ai: I think I could answer for both of us: just to come in and make an impact, make the change right away. We both have our individual strengths, and we know what they are. So, if we can come off the bench and utilize that, it just works out for us. But the fact that we have such a deep team, and we're able to have five, six other game changers come in make a huge impact like Tova [Sabel] tonight. It's huge for us.

***Q: I think there was some points during the game where you can tell that some people were getting a little bit frustrated out there. How do you guys keep your composure on the court when things aren't really going your way the calls just everything in general?***

A: I mean, basketball is a game of runs, there's highs and lows. But to know that like our team, we have each other's back. So, if you come out and something happens that's not supposed to happen to know that four other people on the court now have your back. It's good feeling. And we come out, and only positives can come from that.

***Q: What went into that strong defensive play in the game?***

A: We work on our defense every day. That's a really big factor for us. So, to continue to do what we know that we can do on defense, and honestly, we didn't have a great offensive day that comes with that too. So, if we can't score on offense as well as we should have, we had to bring our defense.

Shay Hagans | G | Junior

***Q: In this game, specifically, they needed your defense and, you know, it was times where you checked in in the game. As soon as you came in, ball gets turned over, you all are going the opposite direction and you know, what do you feel like you bring to the defensive end of the ball? Just on a day-to-day basis.***

A: Aggressiveness, being all over the ball. I know a few games before I wasn't all over the ball, and she told me in practice, when I get aggressive and get all over the ball, it's gonna help out the team and bring that spark. So, I listened to her the past two days. I've been up on the ball practicing, and it leads to this win with the defense.

***Q: Just the mindset that you have to have to be able to come in, in that position and contribute immediately.***

A: Coach talks about game changers. You step on the floor, you change the game, even if it's

up or down, always change the game. So that's the mindset that we come into and just be that extra spark.

***Q: What went into that strong defensive play in the game?***

A: And also, Coach talks about heart. That's where defense is, is heart. So, I think we all had a lot of heart on defense, offense may not have been there, but toughness and heart today pulled out that W.