

Penn State Basketball
Student-Athlete Postgame Press Conference
vs. No. 11 Michigan - January 13, 2022

Makenna Marisa | G | Jr.

Q: The team really seems to play a lot better defense at home here at the Bryce Jordan Center. What about being at home here in the BJC makes that really happen and click for the team?

A: I think the fans, you know, we feed off the fans' energy. They're awesome. Like Coach Kieger said, we love playing at home, it gets us adrenaline and gets us going. when we have our home support. So like I said, we feed off that energy and after the Maryland game like she said, our defense—we really need to pick it up. So I think this game we came out with more of a goal to be you know, better on defense.

Q: Even on a night like tonight when you have a tough loss, maybe your shots not falling the way you wanted it to. What's your mindset mid-game just to not let the any slump of any sort get you down and just to keep your head in the game?

A: I think that I'm just staying composed, you know, and when they go on a run still say composed because you know if we if we get too crazy, we can't lose our heads. Just work with the offense that we have and keep the ball moving. Look for the best shots. So that's kind of going through my head the whole time. Just stay composed. Stay calm, keep the team calm.

Q: How much would you say the COVID break impacted the team?

A: Like Coach Kieger said, I think the team is handling it very well. We're working hard and practice getting back into things. And I think of course, the whole country is affected by it right now. So, like Coach Kieger said, it's no different than everyone else. I think we're handling it really well. We're just getting after it in practice and just getting back into the swing of things.

Q: What does it mean to be able to play for Penn State and represent [THON]?

A: Yeah, it's amazing. THON is such a big deal here, obviously. And like Coach Kieger said, Kelly [Jekot] sent a video in our group chat before made us all really emotional because it really shows what we're playing for tonight. And just the whole event of going to Penn State and helping the kids, it's so emotional and it's just amazing. It was cool to play for THON tonight.