

Penn State Basketball
Student-Athletes Postgame Press Conference
vs. Illinois - January 16, 2022

Makenna Marisa | G | Junior

Q: Did you guys see a difference between the way Illinois played during the second half compared to the first half?

A: Yeah. They were knocking some of those threes down. And we had to make some defensive adjustments. They definitely started to hit some more shots, and that's going to happen, you know, it's a game of runs. So, like I said, we had to adjust our defense and that's what we ended up doing.

Q: Looking at one of your teammates today. Shay Hagans put up a season high. How would you grade her offensive performance?

A: I'm really proud of Shay. I think today you could see her confidence, you could see she had the juice, the energy and like Maddie said, like Coach Kiegs said, her defense led to her offense. She was juiceful. I'm really proud of her.

Q: Coach said, this was the best first half you guys have played in two and a half years. What kind of went into that and how did you guys get off to such a quick start?

A: I think, you know, it all goes back to practice and how hard we've been practicing and going at each other. We really have been working on our defense and getting steals, creating those opportunities to get steals with our press. And I think that has been a huge difference for us and we're going to continue to work on that in practice and keep getting better at it. Credit to Shay and Lei (Leilani). They were great on the defensive end today, getting after it, you know, getting those deflections. They did a really great job.

Maddie Burke | G | Sophomore

Q: Maddie at you obviously had a great game today How does it feel to be able to step up and contribute in a game like that?

A: It feels great to be back. All my teammates have been giving me confidence and I'm just happy to hit shots for them.

Q: Did you guys see a difference between the way Illinois played during the second half compared to the first half?

A: I feel like they came out strong and started hitting shots in second half. They're good a team, so we just had to adjust.

Q: Coach said, this was the best first half you guys have played in two and a half years. What kind of went into that and how you guys get off to such a quick start?

A: Yes. I would say it all starts on defense. We had Lei (Leilani) and Shea in the front of our press, and we put those presses in the beginning of conference play, which really helped, and we had a lot of juice today, which is like the main thing. Energy. Juice. This is what we harp on.