

Penn State Women's Basketball
Kelly Jekot Postgame Press Conference
vs. Maryland - January 30, 2022

Kelly Jekot | Gr. | Guard

Q: Twenty-four turnovers for the team today. How big of a role did that play in the loss?

A: It played a huge role unfortunately. I just listened to coach's response, but we put a lot of emphasis on live ball turnovers meaning you turn it over while the game is in live action, there's a difference. If you turn it and throw it out of bounds its different because they don't have an opportunity to score right away and, unfortunately, we had a lot of live ball turnovers which resulted in them getting easy buckets, so we need to work on that for next for sure.

Q: Is there anything specific you feel that you guys need to work on earlier in the game so that way you have that lead rather than playing catch up the whole time?

A: I'll give it to Maryland. Maryland's a great team and we had high expectation for them to come out and perform. We have five key factors that we come into every game with and it's battlefield communication, 50/50 balls, we have stopped score mentality, we call it CHIP: check, hit, hold, pursue, it's our rebounding acronym and, our juice, so it's our level of energy. If we just hone in and make it easier for ourselves, there's a lot going on in college basketball, but we try to make it simple. We just need to put more emphasis on what our game plan is in those five areas.

Q: What went into your offensive play and energy on the court today and how good did it feel to play like that?

A: Felt really good. I'm going to give it all to my coaches and my teammates. Obviously, the game plan and just reading the way Maryland covers our offensive game plan, it's super fun to play with Makenna Marisa. Coach had mentioned she had five assists and she was finding me open on the three-point line, which was great. I'm also proud of our freshman, Kayla Thomas. She stepped in, played more minutes today which was nice to see. Build up her confidence. I enjoyed playing tonight and that's why I came back to Penn State for my sixth year because I love this game and I know that Coach Kieger is going to do great things with this program, we're already on the way but it was a lot of fun.

Q: Before the game, Makenna Marisa got honored for getting 1000 career points. How big was that for the team?

A: It was huge. She got it in the last game which was really cool to see because she had a 30-point game. Just like Coach Kieger said, the sky is the limit for Makenna. That is not the first award she is going to get, there's many more to come. Like I said before, it's really fun to play with her. All she really cares about it winning and that's what she preaches every day in practice.