

**Penn State Women's Basketball  
Makenna Marisa Postgame Press Conference  
vs. Minnesota – February 27, 2022**

***Q: Could you talk a little bit about what Niya [Beverley] and Kelly [Jekot] brought to you? What did they add to your game? What will you take from getting to know and play with them?***

A: Both Niya and Kelly have been amazing teammates on the court and off the court. They've taught me so much about leadership, IQ, composure, and everything that came with the experience. Plus, off the court, we are all friends, we are close. So this was a special game, and we wanted to get the win for them. It's too bad we couldn't get it for them. It's disappointing, but they mean so much to me.

***Q: Coach talked about toughness, learning toughness, getting tougher. How does a player, how does a team get that? What will be the kinds of the things that you'll work on between now and next season to try to develop that more and help your teammates develop?***

A: I think half of it is heart, effort, and wanting it. Then the other half is IQ and positioning—that takes effort as well. Knowing what positioning you need, and then getting there fast to get yourself in position to get the rebound or whatever toughness that is a 50-50 ball. So half of it is heart, half of it is IQ positioning. So we're going to work on all of that IQ part in the offseason. Then heart is heart. So we got to play for each other and have a heart for each other. But I think the main thing that we can really work on is the IQ and positioning part, and then the heart will come.

***Q: You guys were down by 22 in that third quarter, and then you guys made a comeback and you really got it down to single digits pretty quickly. How are you guys able to not let the game really get out of hand and be in a position where you still could come back and win at the end?***

A: We knew we could do it. We did against Nebraska pretty quickly. We got a quick 10 or 13 points. So, we know we're very capable of it. When we get up in our press and get some steals and get going, we can turn it on and get some buckets. I think the main thing was we just had to get some buckets and then get the momentum going our way so that we could get the closer game. Like I said, we knew we could do it and that's our game: pressing, playing fast, that's what we got to do. That's what we're gonna continue to work on and continue to emphasize.

***Q: It was a pretty rough shooting night for you guys tonight from the three point line. Then meanwhile, Minnesota shot the ball really well from the three point line. Do you think that was the result of bad shot selection on your guys's part or what they were doing defensively?***

A: Credit to [Sara] Scalia—she's a heck of a shooter. Some of it, or maybe even most of it, is probably shot selection and we'll probably go back and watch how we can get better shots. How we can get the hot hands and get people the ball. I think you're not always gonna have an on night with threes or shots, but shot selection and getting the ball in the right people's hands is definitely important. So, we're gonna go back and watch, but like I said, not every night it's going to be a great shooting night so tonight wasn't our night.

***Q: Second chance points were 22 to 7. Obviously part of that is because of the offensive rebounds allowed, but outside of rebounding, what do you think can really be done to limit those second chance opportunities?***

A: I think communication solves everything. We talked about battlefield communication a lot. Talking effectively, efficiently, and making sure we're finding their shooters quickly so that they can't get those shots off in the first place. The second part has to do with rebounding, but I think we need to limit the amount of shots that these other team's shooters get. So, that's gonna be a big thing for us.

***Q: As you head into the Big 10 tournament, what do you want to see from your team defensively?***

A: I would say just correcting mistakes that we had in this game. I just mentioned finding people's shooters, finding their hot hands, making sure we're not letting them get any shots off, playing with heart, being smarter with our defensive positioning, going back and making corrections in film that we see, and rebounding. Rebounding is going to be huge for us.