

Penn State Women's Basketball
Makenna Marisa Postgame Press Conference
vs. Northwestern - February 6, 2022

Makenna Marisa | Jr. | Guard

Q: Coach Kieger just talked a lot about Play4Kay. What does it mean to you to be able to play in this game and do something bigger than basketball?

A: This game always makes me emotional just to see all the survivors and everyone in the stands always gives me a little bit more motivation. Like I said, it makes me really emotional and it's really special for our whole team to be a part of so it's one of my favorite games every year.

Q: The team had an extended stay in Nebraska following that road game. How did the team stay active during that time away from State College?

A: We were able to practice, fortunately, in Nebraska, so we were able to keep our legs moving, stretching, recovering. I think that's the most important part just not sitting around so our muscles get stiff, but we were moving and practicing there. We got to do some fun stuff, some team stuff but I think that just practicing really helped us.

Q: From a player's perspective, what do you think made it so hard late in the fourth quarter to keep up and score?

A: I have to go back and watch. Whether it was us not making the right play calls, me not making the right play calls. Coach Kieger mentioned directing and it's something I'm working on, something to go back, watch, get better and our whole team is just to figure out what went wrong so it doesn't happen again.

Q: Before the game, there were a lot of videos being played of past players talking about the impact that this game has on them. For you personally, beyond basketball, once your time here at Penn State is done, what do you think this game is going to have an impact on you?

A: Basketball has brought me so much and I know looking back at it after I graduate there's going to be so many cool memories for me to remember and people I met, places I've been, lessons I've learned and just me kind of growing. Throughout my life playing basketball it's made me into the person I am today. It's brought a lot and I reflect on it all the time, but it's done a lot for me.

Q: Northwestern scored their most points in the fourth quarter. What went wrong defensively down the stretch and what needs to improve so that doesn't happen again?

A: Coach had mentioned communication and that's the biggest thing. Honestly, for us we have a lot of communication breakdowns which led to some of those three pointers for them and us not covering that. It's just something we're going to have to hone in on in practice and just make sure it doesn't happen again. So, communication, that's the biggest thing right now for our team.