

MARYLAND HEAD COACH BRENDA FRESE

IMPORTANCE OF MAKING HALFTIME AND THIRD QUARTER ADJUSTMENTS...

The first part was from the 3-point line. They had eight three's on us and only three in the second half. We had some breakdowns defensively that we needed to clean up. I thought we did a better job eliminating them to get more than one offensive rebound and it was important for us to get our rebounding under control.

ASHLEY OWUSU STEPPING UP AS A GO TO PLAYER...

Usually there is a specific play that happens, but I thought she was tremendous. Almost a triple double. I thought she was more of a facilitator in the first half and then really understands when this team needs a bucket. I thought we were able to get her going and post her up and get some easy offense for her. She continues to do what Ashley does and she wants the responsibility. She wants to make the big play, whether it is a score or an assist. She wants to make the right play and it was critical for us.

MESSAGE HEADING INTO THE FOURTH QUARTER...

Just to message a voice. When they went up three, I called a timeout to make sure we were set defensively, but I thought we needed to get tougher with the 50-50 balls, some of the hustle plays, the box outs and just control what we needed to control. Just kind of taking a breath, which we were able to do and I think that next play out I think Chloe hit a three and that gave the team a ton of confidence and they were able to lock in on the defensive end.

PLAYING A CLOSE GAME AND RESPONDING TO ADVERSITY TODAY...

You're not going to continue to have 20 or 30 point blowouts at the end of your season. Every team is playing to want to move on. I loved our response. I thought it wasn't one of our better games. Missed a lot of layups and uncharacteristic plays from us, which I know we'll be able to tighten up, but when you can win ugly, I'll take it. We showed the poise and the toughness and we didn't get rattled. Our mindset is really tough and I thought the last 10 minutes really displayed the psyche of this team, where the resiliency is and the confidence factor. They all have a belief in each other on both ends of the floor and that bodes well for March.

MARYLAND GUARD ASHLEY OWUSU

LATE GAME APPROACH TO HELP CLOSE THE GAME OUT...

Just playing hard and having the mindset of not wanting to go home. Like coach said, I want to make the right play, whether that is scoring or an assist or rebound. We just came out in the fourth quarter really focused and locked in on defense.

SUCCESS OF PLAYING IN BIG TEN TOURNAMENT...

I like this tournament. Who doesn't like to be under the spotlight, come out and have fun with their team?

STRUGGLES TODAY, BUT OVERCOMING FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER RALLY...

I came out a little flat on defense in the first half and coach challenged me during halftime and in the huddles throughout the game to pick up my defensive energy, but that led to my offense.

BEING THE HOT HAND DOWN THE STRETCH TODAY...

I just try to be myself and not let the other team speed me up or change my game. It's about playing my game and playing Maryland basketball.

MARYLAND GUARD CHLOE BIBBY

PLAYING A CLOSE GAME AND RESPONDING TO ADVERSITY TODAY...

I think it was really good we came out the way we did in the fourth. We weren't going home today. That wasn't even an option for us. It was good we were able to rally together. We're still really young and so we need these tough games. This is tournament play and we're going to get everyone's best every night. It was really good. Ashley is going to come out and do her thing. Everyone has tremendous trust in her that she's going to facilitate and get her bucket. I think it's the chemistry that we all have and that's what makes us so great. She got on the boards tonight and we struggled there, but those little things that make her a great player and take us all the way.

CHLOE AND MIMI GOOD STARTS...

I think everyone can score. We can all get a bucket at any time. Mimi and I were able to get our shots, they had to adjust and it opened up the floor for Ashley and Diamond and everyone else. It's just playing through those flows throughout the game and finding each other when we're open. I think that's what makes us tough to guard.

NEBRASKA HAVING A BETTER SHOOTING NIGHT THAN USUAL...

Everything they looked at tonight seemed like it went in during the first half. We had to stick to our defense and our style of play which is Maryland defense. We knew eventually it would get there and they shot the crap out of it tonight. They found their open players, but teams are going to have those nights and that's when we have to step up and lock down defensively.

HAVING VETERAN EXPERIENCE FOR GAMES LIKE THESE TO HELP YOUR TEAM...

I've been in this position a couple times where a lot of these girls have barely been to one tournament or this is their first time so bringing that leadership onto the court and staying calm when we get a little frazzled and keep everyone's head cool, but I'm just doing what I can really.