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SPEAKERS

Sam Haiby, Amy Williams

 02:17

 Amy Williams 02:41

We most certainly do not want to get to a habit of have any type of moral victories in our program. We want to win we fight and scratch and claw that hard we want to come out with wins. But I am very proud of the resiliency that we show throughout the game and just battling and battling one possession at a time I thought we had some really good growth for our team in our program in this ballgame and I think we had a great showing down here in Indianapolis.

 03:13

Alright, we'll start with questions. First one from Brent.

 03:18

Amy they they only had I think eight fastbreak points. What, what kind of improvements did you make with your transition defense from from the first game against Maryland?



Amy Williams 03:27

Yeah, well, I mean, they had at least eight in the first five minutes at our place, you know, transition points. So we kind of learned our lesson I think they were, they were really running it down our backs and really very aggressive. I think we knew we had to do a better job in that area to give ourselves a chance. And I thought our kids really committed to that better communication in transition defense and just getting our faces turned around. So they didn't have ponytails and backsides to attack. Were keys. And I thought our kids bought into that. And we were able to mix our defense some today. And I think that kind of maybe had them a little bit off of attack mode as well.



04:09

We'll go to Abby next.



04:12

Hi, Amy. Sam Haiby had 24 points a day, nine rebounds and six assists talk a little bit about her performance and how much she spoke to you guys at the beginning of that fourth quarter.



Amy Williams 04:22

Yeah, I mean, she really, you know, all season long. She's, she's really just, she's dealt with a lot and still found a way to produce and I thought this game was really no different. I thought that she was getting beat up out there. I mean, they were really giving her a lot of attention. And it was a game was very physical. And, you know, I think you know, just two files called on Maryland in the first three quarters of the game and and you know what, Sam handled that with boys and she took that contract and still found ways to produce and a couple big threes there in the fourth quarter to kind of spark us and give us a lead. But I think she just found a way to really prove that she she can compete with the best in the country and she's pretty special player.



05:10

I will go back to Brent.



05:13

There in the how the hell the game ended? What did Maryland do the last five or six minutes to keep you from getting a field goal at the end of the game?



Amy Williams 05:23

Yeah, I mean, I think they kind of heated up and pressured up, we were trying to look to see if we could get an inside paint touch, they really brought help from the weak side. And then their ball pressure was pretty intense, which didn't allow us, you know, one of our game plans was to find a way to really make them pay for over helping and looking at skip passes. But I think, you know, they heated up their ball pressure, and they were very physical with our ball handlers, which made it difficult to be able to kind of get that ball skipped over and make them pay continue to pay for the overhead.



05:59

Let's go to Derek



06:02

Tht block charge call that got overturned off of Owusu. Made basket was that? Was that a turning point? You think just from a momentum standpoint?



Amy Williams 06:14

Well, it's absolutely a turning point and just the circumstances of the game. I mean, it went from you know, for four point game and our possession to they gave her an add one on that and now it's a seven point game and and so it's obviously a big a big kind of call right there. And and you know, it's a big turning point in the game, there's, there's no question about it. But you know, what we talked about in the game, it's just finding ways to overcome those kind of tough circumstances that you find yourself in, in, in all ball games, there's, there's, there's highs, there's lows, there's, you know, calls that we're gonna think are good calls and calls we're gonna think are bad calls, depending on what side of it you're on. But certainly something that, you know, we we wanted to be able to kind of bounce back from that. I think it just stretched it out to an upper level lead that it became a little difficult from there.



07:12

There's a follow up. Just how tough is it to contain Ashley Owusu off the dribble. And he was able to get to the free throw line in the fourth quarter like, just with our style of play, how tough is it to keep her from from getting past that first line of defense?

A

Amy Williams 07:27

It's very tough. It's very tough. What a great player. She is. And I think, you know, one of the best in our league without question, obviously, First Team-All Conference player and really was a candidate for Player of the Year in our league. I think she affects the game in so many ways. And today, it was getting herself to the free throw line 11 times.



07:51

back then.



07:54

Yeah, with the with the season now, will you when you submit to try to plan the WNIT? Or have you submitted the playing the WNIT.

A

Amy Williams 08:01

We most definitely are wanting to extend our season if we have an opportunity to do that. You know, I think this, this team deserves it. I think we've shown incredible growth. I think that, you know, one of our big goals heading into the last couple weeks, and we really had a serious chat as a team about being kind of at the bottom 14 in a couple of our rebounding categories out of 14 teams in the league and 13th and one other and really wanting to kind of improve that. And then to go up today against Maryland, who's one of the best rebounding teams, and statistically speaking sits at the top in all those rebounding stat statistics out rebound them 39 to 32. I think it shows growth, I think, you know, limiting them to eight fast break points. It shows growth for our team. I think we're still improving, we're still getting better. And we have an opportunity to continue to do that as a team together. We're going to take that and and I've seen what any type of postseason experience can do for the players that are going to be returning, you know, heading into the offseason kind of learning from postseason. So it's it's something that will most definitely want to take advantage of if we get the opportunity.



09:20

Back to Derek.



09:23

Yeah, I have kind of a bigger picture question. I saw national people online talking about Sam Haiby, kind of as this game was going on, and that she was sort of taking over at the start of the fourth quarter. I mean, the people that see her every day know how great she is, but this one seemed like a big stage for her and she completely stepped up. Do you think that this can be sort of a sort of a springboard for her to even bigger and better things moving forward?



Amy Williams 09:50

Well, I sure hope so. Derek, I think that you know that we've seen her kind of springboard. I thought that when she hit the game winner earlier in the season against Northwestern it really seemed to really kind of be a springboard that just aided in her confidence. And then now to do it against a team, that's one of the, you know, probably going to be a top four seed and in the NCAA Tournament or if not, you know, one of the top two seeds and and, you know, and to do that when they were giving as much traffic and attention to her I think that that's something that should really build confidence she scored her 1,000th point as a Husker and college athlete here today. And you know, so there's a lot of things that I'm very hopeful that really just will continue to rise the Sammy's expectations of herself and, and people's alertness to what a special player she is.



10:45

Any last questions for coach?



10:49

Alright, better wrap it up. Thank you. Thanks, guys. Thanks, Amy. Thank you.



10:57

We'll have Sam hyvee in a second here, guys.



11:29

All right, Sam Haiby here guys.



11:35

Go ahead and drop questions in the chat please.



11:50

them just how do you feel after that game?



Sam Haiby 11:53

Um, I'm honestly so proud of this team. We went in coaches main points were just basically play with no fear. And I think we 100% did that today. We didn't back down. This is obviously a very good basketball team that we played, but we came out there fighting and gave it our all.



12:11

What did the what Maryland duty you guys defensively in the last four or five minutes of that game?



Sam Haiby 12:16

Um, yeah, they kind of went on a little run there. Number 15 just kind of everything. I got a few buckets, they were pretty aggressive on our offense. But defensively, I think their precedent kind of slows down a little bit. But just flying around and kind of rattling us or hitting us up on the perimeter too.



12:51

Sami score here are 1,000th point today. What does that mean to you and do your career but also doing that against such a good team like Maryland?



Sam Haiby 13:00

Um, yeah, it's a amazing achievement. Um, it was pretty cool to experience it today, against a team like Maryland. But ultimately, we want to get that win. So disappointed that we came up short there. But I've been surrounded by great people. My three years here, and one more to go. But yeah, that's pretty cool.



13:28

But what are some of the ways or examples of how you guys fought and thought you guys could could play with, you know, the number one seeing this tournament?



Sam Haiby 13:37

Yeah, like I said, just coming out, initially, with no fear, and just being aggressive and attacking. Maryland's a team that'll go on run, like 10 point runs, and then kind of settle in, but we just wanted to make sure that they hit us, we're gonna hit back and weather that start a little bit. And I think we did that sort of three quarters very well. And it's kind of hung around. And like any good team, that's all you want to do, just hang around, hang around, and anything can happen. But I think we fought really well and gave us ourselves a chance there in the end.



14:13

They had 90 on you guys last time. And then through the through the first three quarters, they only had 57, I think is what it was you guys. Were able to keep the tempo kind of where you wanted it schematically, like what was different defensively? This time compared to the first time you play them?



Sam Haiby 14:29

Um, I think we put our scouting report report pretty well. We might have take shots that we wanted. And then rebounding was huge. This game we clean up the glass very well. I think we actually ended up out rebounding them. So that's definitely important. And then our transition defense I think they only had around a transition points. So that's going to be big on keeping that score lower in our favor.



14:51