

MARYLAND



SPORTS NEWS

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Postgame Quotes

#14/14 Maryland 99, #12/8 Ohio State 69

Head Coach Brenda Frese

Opening Statement:

"Wow, what an incredible atmosphere tonight. A tremendous game. By far our most complete game and we were locked in from yesterday's practice to tonight's tip off. We talked all year about how important our chemistry and doing the little things would be and I thought they were on full display tonight. On every end. Obviously it started on one end with Eleanna [Christinaki] who threw the punch offensively to keep us confident. And obviously Kaila is Kaila and she continues to do things at such a high level for us and is so aggressive. And Kristen [Confroy] does all the little things that always matter to hold it all together. I loved our assist-to-turnover ratio. I think for 15 minutes in the second and third quarter we didn't turn the ball over. I thought the command of Channise [Lewis] was on display and you saw her confidence that she was able to play with."

On team's growth process:

"Obviously any time you talk about our team and how we need to grow you talk about Eleanna becoming eligible in the middle of the year or Blair [Watson's] injury. You're going to have some holes that just take time. What I love about this team is that they just keep trusting and putting their head down and working. We're not going to feel sorry for ourselves for what we don't have. Like I told them at the start of the game, we're going to focus on what we do have."

On holding Ohio State down on defense:

"We executed the game plan. I thought mixing up our defenses was huge between the man and the zone. Our team really understood the concept of shadowing Kelsey [Mitchell] and always constantly being around her. Every shot she took and every point she scored was a difficult take because it was team defense."

On a potential rivalry with Ohio State:

"We love great competition and great games. What it speaks on January 22 is that we lined up and put forth 40 minutes of effort which causes great things to happen. We have to understand we're only seven games into the conference season and we already have a valuable lesson from Michigan State that when we're not in that groove anything can happen. We have a lot of road games ahead and a lot of home games where we want to be getting better. I love our mindset and I love our work ethic."

On gaining momentum off a good start:

"It was just a huge confidence boost. Ohio State has shown that they're a first quarter team that wants to punch early and we were prepared for that. I thought that from the jump we were confident and poised and we were ready to make plays."

Sophomore Guard Kaila Charles

On team defense:

"I think we did a good job playing team defense. We knew it was going to be a collective effort and I think we executed it very well."

On defending Kelsey Mitchell:

"Well I played more. I was making sure that I wasn't handsy with it; that's what we talked about in practice. She's a great player and we knew she was going to score, but like I said, it took a team effort to stop her. I knew my teammates had my help if she went by me or anything, but it was a good team effort."

Junior Guard Eleanna Christinaki

On the first half run:

"We said that we need to start from the first and be very aggressive. Ohio State is a very good team, so we needed to start very good and be confident. I have good teammates so that's why we started very well."

On filling the scoring need:

"I never thought that I need to replace the scoring. Blair [Watson] was a great defender too. So my mindset was that we need to start to play better defense. When you lose a player like her, everyone contributes to that. Not only me scoring, it's everybody and today everybody was great."

Senior Guard Kristen Confroy

On shot selection:

"I think our team is a great team and we're getting to that point where we understand how to find great shots and keep the ball moving. I don't know how many people are in double figures now, but just constantly being a threat around the perimeter. It makes our job easy, especially for me as a shooter. When you get a wide open shot it's a lot easier to knock it down. I think continuing to play off each other and knowing that because everyone on the floor is a threat, we can keep moving the ball around so we get the best option."

On tonight's win:

"It's a great win. I'm so proud of our team. Just the practices we've had leading up to this game. We have been practicing really well and it hasn't always transferred to the court and I felt like we had 40 minutes of great effort, great energy, great execution and this is a team we need to beat moving forward."

Ohio State Head Coach Kevin McGuff

On how important it is to set the tone early:

"Yeah we got out-coached, out-played, out-hustled, out-everything from start from to finish. Maryland did a great job and we didn't. Give them credit; they showed up and played well."

On if depth will be a problem for Maryland this season:

"I thought they played really well. I think as long as they can stay out of foul trouble, I don't see why they can't win. They looked very good tonight on both ends of the floor. Depth is nice and great luxury, but sometimes I think it can be a little overstated."

On if the competition level between these two teams has produced a rivalry:

"We had played really well against them the past couple of years, but we didn't have it tonight and they were really good. I'm sure they've talked about it because they've had great success in the Big Ten, but we had been good against them. I'm sure this was a game they pointed to where they had an opportunity to turn the tide and they did."

On if planning for Eleanna Christinaki was difficult:

"Not really. I knew she could really score the ball. I knew what she was capable of. One thing we did was let her get comfortable early and I think that was key for her. She got it going early and played great."

Senior Guard Kelsey Mitchell

On what was different from Maryland in this game versus previous years:

"They came out like they wanted to win right from the tip. They were focused on personnel. They were tuning in to what their coach was saying and they responded."

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