

MARYLAND



SPORTS NEWS

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Postgame Quotes

#15/14 Maryland 80, George Washington 54

Head Coach Brenda Frese

Opening Statement:

"This was a game where I was really, really pleased with our defense. It was by far one of our most complete games for 40 minutes defensively. Our ability to force them into a season-high 20 turnovers showed we were really able to dictate play on that end and follow through with the game plan. I thought that early on Blair [Watson] was just sensational. I thought we did a tremendous job as a team finding her for shots. She was a huge spark to get things going for us. We just really played a pretty complete game, minus our own turnovers. I thought we did a lot of great things tonight."

On starting the game fast:

"That was something we had seen on film with the teams they had played. When you jump on them early you'll be able to extend that. They just came off a tough loss to Mercer and they're trying to find their way a little bit. By far, following the game plan helped us with a tremendous game."

On the Terps' defensive effort:

"We had a heavy emphasis on running them off of the three-point line and did that for the first three quarters. Forty percent of their offense is from the three-point line so at halftime they were 1-for-7. That emphasis was big. I also thought we made them take some tough twos and some other tough shots."

On out-rebounding the Colonials:

"We really wanted to be aggressive off the bounce. Again, that was another area where we could expose them. I thought we really followed through with that. We always want to be dominant on the glass and we did that tonight."

On switching on defense:

"I thought we used that to our advantage tonight. I saw a lot of great plays. Even when they switched Sarah [Myers] into the post and she got a steal. The communication that was taking place showed they were locked in. And as a result the defense really opened up a lot of things offensively for us."

Sophomore Guard Blair Watson

On taking advantage of the game:

"I say just our posts and everybody screening for me and getting me open shots. That really helped get my offense going. I've got to give credit to them because without their screens then I'm not getting open and I'm not getting those shots."

On the past two games as a confidence booster:

"Definitely great big confidence boosters. Coming off, hitting shots, and knowing my team has my back and giving me extra confidence is just boosting it even more every game."

Sophomore Forward Stephanie Jones

On the play of Blair Watson and playing with confidence:

"I would say that just giving her confidence to just keep shooting the ball, I know that when she's on, it motivates us and gets us hype. Just seeing her being able to hit those shots is not only great for her but great for the team."

Junior Forward Brianna Fraser

On her feelings after making the first shot:

"It was very good, I was very anxious you know getting back on the court to play again. I think my teammates did a really good job keeping me in the game, like Steph she had a wide open shot but she passed me the ball to lay it up. I just felt really welcome."

George Washington Head Coach Jennifer Rizzotti

On the game overall:

"I think in my mind, a great opportunity for us to come and play Maryland here, short distance away from campus and one of the best teams in the country. It's one of the reasons we put it on the schedule because we know Maryland can test us in ways that other guys can't. Although it took us a little while to get going, I'm happy with the fight that our kids showed and I think our kids showed improvements today in certain areas of the game and right now with our inexperience and losing our leading scorer, it's just an opportunity to play 40 minutes against a great team and try and get better."

On the team's defense:

"They have a good size and athleticism, so for them to be able to switch at every position and still handle, when our post players get on a guard they seem to be able to handle that and do well. We were a little unorganized with our press breaks so they were able to get a few steals early and again I thought we adjusted well. I thought in the second half we handled their press a lot better. They just come at you and they don't stop. It's just relentless. It's not necessarily that they are trapping all the time but they are just always there so if you get tired or relentless with the ball or if you have the wrong guy catch it or catching it in the wrong spot, they take advantage of that. Then our turnovers resulted in us not being able to get back on transition defense so we have talked a lot about how our offense dictates our ability to get our defense set up in a press. We just weren't able to do that and just turned it over in the first half."

On the team's scoring:

"It's a matter of us getting better as a team defensively, not so much focusing on one matchup. With only one day to prepare because we played Wednesday night and then had to travel home Thursday, we didn't really get a chance to practice. Our focus in shootaround today was we need to make sure we get out to the shooters which we didn't do with No. 22 early in the game. Then we got to make sure we are ready to help off of everybody else, not because they can't score but because they are looking to drive, making sure that our rotations are there and again, they weren't all the time. But there were definitely better rotations than I have been seeing in a while. Then trying to make sure that when we switch defensively we've got guys committed to their defensive stance. They are just big and athletic and we had a hard time rebounding the ball, we got to do a better job on getting bodies on people and then just being tougher through contact and making sure we can still go get it."

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