

MARYLAND



SPORTS NEWS

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Postgame Quotes

#15/14 Maryland 100, Illinois 65

Head Coach Brenda Frese

Opening Statement:

"I wasn't sure coming off of the break what we were going to look like, but I thought we set the tone with our energy right from the tip. We were ready to play and I thought that transferred to everything we were doing. Defensively, you saw a game that was really physical and we were ready for it. Our defense led to our transition game and that was fun to be able to see us getting out and setting the tone. We were led so much by the three players up here and they did so many great things for us. Love the unselfish play we were able to play with and our third straight game with 100 points so we're really able to grow. I'm really excited defensively after holding them to 65 points and 35 percent from the field. I thought we did a lot of tremendous things to build upon after our first Big Ten game."

On the full-court defense:

"It's something that we've been able to go to all season. It gets us going and we're able to throw a lot of different looks right now. Full court, three-quarter court or half-court different things we're looking at defensively. That really helps to jump start us defensively and get going."

On scoring in the paint:

"I thought all of our bigs were ready to play. Like we talked about, when you look at our options inside and on the perimeter, every game is going to be different in terms of how you stop us. So when you have that kind of dominance that our post players displayed tonight that was where we needed to go. I thought you saw, as the game moved on, how it opened up other things like Blair [Watson] and all of our shooters outside. Just continuing to see what the game gives us and with our weapons, utilize it from there."

On Blair Watson:

"This is who she is. Unfortunately last year she came in after shoulder surgery and was never really able to get in that kind of rhythm all season. But this is how well she was able to shoot after high school and now you're seeing her abilities."

On Kaila Charles' performance:

"Kaila makes us go, that's why she heads our defense and you'll see that energy in our press. She's a match-up nightmare when you talk about both ends of the court and on the defensive end I thought she really took the game and what came to her. Whether it was attacking off the bounce or going to the rim I thought she played a lot slower and understood what the game was giving to her. That's what she can do every night. I love the six assists and no turnovers. She's just so talented and can do a lot of things."

On the sophomores:

"Both Blair [Watson] and Stephanie [Jones] now are healthy. So when you talk about them coming in last year after ACL or shoulder surgery they didn't quite get to be who they are. Obviously Kaila was able to do a lot of great things with two seniors in Brionna [Jones] and

Shatori Walker-Kimbrough. Seeing the minutes they're all able to get and the talent they have that's what's been so fun for this team. They're able to show what we've always seen in them."

Sophomore Guard Blair Watson

On her recent hot streak:

"If my teammates aren't screening for me, I can't be open, I'm not hitting threes and not making shots. In the beginning of the game, I wasn't hitting shots and my defense leads to my offense, going from there it kind of comes to me. I can't tell when it's going to happen."

Sophomore G Kaila Charles

On the team scoring 24 fast break points:

"I feel like when we lock in and we bring that energy and effort you see us play our best game. Today we just locked in our defense and trying to force turnovers and score of those turnovers by pushing the ball and pushing tempo, they like to slow the game a lot so we wouldn't let them dictate the game. We dictated it ourselves."

Junior Forward Brianna Fraser

On outrebounding Illinois by 20:

"It's very important, we go in with a mindset of being aggressive and boxing out is part of Maryland basketball. We try to rebound and run - that's what we do, so we try to capitalize on that."

On taking what they learned this game into the next game:

"Just being aggressive and dictating, executing, and keeping our energy up."

Illinois Head Coach Nancy Fahey

On her transition to coaching Division I:

I've really enjoyed trying to change the culture of Illinois, and trying to get back in the right direction. You're going to have games like this. I was displeased with some of the things that we did today, but it is a transition. I understood that when I got the job. We're going to keep fighting."

On preparing for upcoming games:

"Maryland rebounded incredibly well compared to us. You can't give Maryland easy points. They got a ton boarding and they got a ton in transition in the first half. Honesty, not two things that were surprising. We knew they were going to run, we knew that they board incredibly well, so second half we did a better job with that, but you can't bury yourself against a team like that in the first two quarters."

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