



2017 NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

First Round · Maryland vs. Bucknell
XFINITY Center · College Park, Md.
Thursday, March 17, 2017

POSTGAME QUOTES QUOTES – Maryland

Maryland Head Coach Brenda Frese

Opening Statement:

"I first want to thank our fans who took the opportunity to come out and miss work. Tremendous crowd for a noon tip off. I can't say enough about Bucknell and their program. They had a sensational season and a really well coached team with discipline. I can't say enough about who they are. Obviously we were led by our two seniors and when you talk about that experience factor, that's what you need to have especially for your first NCAA Tournament game. They started out the first twenty, no surprise there in terms of setting the tone. They allowed our young players to get comfortable in terms of what they were doing. We were really proud of our defense and our assist to turnover ratio. We really shared the basketball and loved the fact that everyone scored and had a rebound in this game so we are really excited about moving on."

On how Maryland only had five turnovers as a team:

"It was incredible, we were clicking on all cylinders and being patient. We were making really solid decisions and you see when we aren't turning the ball over we are really good. I think setting the tone defensively really helped us lock in on the offensive end."

On how the ability to use many players bodes well for Sunday:

"It is huge. We wanted to get those nerves and anxiousness out for the seven new players. Depth is huge and when you get into foul trouble, being able to have fresh legs going into Sunday's game when last year Shatori had 38 minutes. It definitely impacts your shot and how you defend."

On if the defense is all coming together now at the perfect time:

"I think it really is. It has become a stronger emphasis for us as we went into the conference tournament. When you have two freshmen on the floor and the others it takes time. So you want to be rounding out at the right time come March."

Senior Guard Shatori Walker-Kimbrough

On if she was especially locked in with this being her second to last game:

“We just tried to go out there and play our game. It was a great team win and a great atmosphere. We have the best fans in the country and we love playing in front of them.”

On if being able to limit minutes was especially important:

“As a team we just wanted to come out and make them feel our presence. We are very versatile, especially with this talent group of freshmen we have this year. I thought the bench was great. With Ieshia [Small] and Kiah [Gillespie] coming off the bench we were able to show them different looks and I thought that played a big part of the starters minutes. We were able to throw different rotations and I thought that was a big factor.”

Senior Forward Brionna Jones

On her defense this year:

“I think it just doing my work early and get into a better position on defense. I worked on that over the summer and it followed me into the season.”

On if Brionna gets excited when she’s able to post up in the paint:

“It makes my job easier when I have amazing guards out there hitting shots. I take advantage of that when I get the ball and just try to finish the play.”

Freshman Guard Destiny Slocum

On the mindset of the team coming into the tournament:

“I think like we have said since we saw it, it’s just a number in front of our name. To go out there and play Maryland basketball is all we can do. The number doesn’t change who we are as a team and as long as we go out there do what we have to do, I think that is what is going to get us the furthest.”

On how much the pressure bothered Bucknell:

“We really stepped up our game today just defensively. Our communication was really on point and the bench came in and gave us a big spark to keep going. That was really important for us that we started the pressure and they came in and finished it.”



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Head Coach Aaron Roussell

Opening Statement:

"First off I want to thank the committee, they did an outstanding job hosting this. Maryland has done an outstanding job hosting this as well. People have said that this might be the coolest experience of your lives, and it's 100 percent lived up to that.

"With regards today, we had a tough opponent. Maryland has a very, very good team. I thought for a while we were able to hand with them and then there were some stretches in that game where it kind of got away with us. We've been about the process this entire season, not the result, and I couldn't be any prouder of our team. I said last night to these guys at dinner, 'I don't think there's a coach in the country that had more fun with their team and I don't think there's a coach in the country that loved their team more and I don't think there's a coach in the country that's more proud of their team.' There isn't anything that happened today that made me second guess that. We talked about in this room yesterday about how much better this program is. These three seniors have completely changed our program, culture, and expectations down the road. These guys have a banner to hang. The expectations for the rest of us down the road are going to be tough to live up to because what these three have done."

On Maryland's performance:

"They're incredibly talented and Brenda does an outstanding job of utilizing those guys. For being a mid major, this is about as big as you can get. Their such a well coached team. They play well together, they pass together. Sure they have a bunch of talent, but they use it well together and their seniors played well. It was a very efficient 25 points for [Shatori] Walker-Kimbrough. There was a stretch when it was 32-20 when we were in it but then they got out in transition and were hard to stop."

Senior Forward Sune Stewart

On matching up with Brionna Jones:

"She's huge, and a really good player. I felt confident that she couldn't bury me down there and she did a good job. They're a Big Ten team and a great program."

Senior Forward Claire DeBoer

On reflecting on the last three years:

"We've been working for this moment ever since we've been here. To end it like this our senior year, to make it to a NCAA Tournament is what we wanted. I know it wasn't the outcome we wanted today but Maryland is a great team. A Patriot League Championship was definitely our goal. I thought we played tough today and left it all out there."

Senior Guard Megan McGirk

On reflecting on this past season:

"It was everything I could've asked for. They made it pretty far last year when I was out with an injury and that was pretty brutal for me, but to be able to come back strong, it just seemed like our whole entire team and coaching staff put it on the line for the seniors. I couldn't be more proud with the way we made it through the whole entire season, got the Patriot League Championship on Sunday and to be here today. I couldn't have asked for more."