

# MARYLAND



## SPORTS NEWS

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## Postgame Quotes

*#4/2 South Carolina 94, #15/13 Maryland 86*

### **Maryland Head Coach Brenda Frese**

#### *Opening Statement:*

"First of all, I want to thank the fans. On a school night, to be able to come out, it was an incredible atmosphere. I thought they were just waiting to be able to explode with the play we were able to get to in the second half. Obviously a great experience for our young team to be able to go through. We obviously know that the second game of the season in November isn't who we are going to be come January, February, or March. Being able to learn from the first quarter we dug ourselves into too big of a hole to turning it around and waking up. I love the fight of our team. I thought our chemistry really came together late in the fourth quarter and then I thought you saw a true picture of our team in the fourth quarter when we settled in and played Maryland basketball. Obviously disappointed with the outcome, but excited by the fight in this young team."

#### *On Kaila Charles' performance:*

"That's the Kaila we have to have. She had four points at halftime and a little bit of that is the rhythm and foul trouble we got in. When she's attacking the rim and getting to the free throw line 15 times, you see that nobody in the country can stop her. So just a sensational job by her. A lot of players might have folded after having four points in the first half but she just put her head down and fought. I thought it obviously showed what makes her special. She's got flashes that she looks like Alyssa Thomas and taking the ball the length of the floor and being really athletic. She's a match-up nightmare so that type of experience for her is invaluable."

#### *On seeing potential for later in the season:*

"I thought we had a great game plan and they hit every shot to start the game. Obviously A'ja Wilson is a woman amongst girls when she should be in the pros. She's just that talented. I thought we had a great scout. I think this team is really going to grow when you look at we're young in our backcourt, we're young in our front court so the more games we can get under our belt for our players to play in these atmospheres is going to be huge."

#### *On matching up well with the defending champions:*

"It should [put us in a good mindset]. When you look at how tough our schedule is in the non-conference, it should give us great confidence. Now we've just got to be able to build upon it and make it a 40 minute game. Like I told them in the locker room, when we were down 26 most teams would have folded. Most teams would have put their head down and folded and called it quits. I thought this team showed a lot of fight and a lot of pride to fight to the bitter end."

### **Sophomore Guard Kaila Charles**

#### *On her scoring and confidence:*

"Definitely my teammates and my coaches, they just gave me confidence. I had a slow first half with the foul trouble and I was settling for shots and they just kept encouraging me to attack the basket and once I saw I was getting the foul calls, I was finishing, I just had that mentality to start attacking and not keep settling."

*On the change of mentality:*

"I just feel like the way we attacked on the defensive end especially late third quarter just had us ramped up and fired up so we just built off of that energy and we tried to cut the lead."

### **Freshman Guard Channise Lewis**

*On her first start:*

"Yeah I got my first start tonight. Coach B told me after the Albany game, the next day. She said the way I held myself throughout the game gave her the confidence that I would take the lead this game. I wasn't scared at all, I've been in big time games a lot in high school so I just took what I learned from that game and took into to this game."

*On her change of mindset after sitting for a while:*

"I knew my team needed me in the fourth quarter. The time wasn't on our side so I had to keep on pushing the ball and if I had my shot I was going to take my shot with confidence. The team kept on showing me and motivating me to shoot your shot if you're open, if not pass the ball and keep moving."

*On her defense in the fourth quarter:*

"I think our competitive fight showed. When we were in the locker room, we were talking like, 'this is our house and we need to leave everything out on the floor,' so we went out on the second half with a different mentality. A'ja is a great player but we were just trying to do everything we can to limit her touches so we just went out there and played Maryland basketball."

### **Sophomore Guard Blair Watson**

*On tonight's game:*

"I just think we were coming into it and as a team. After we had to first quarter under our belt we were just really amped up and ready to go get after it and it's definitely what we did."

### **South Carolina Head Coach Dawn Staley**

*On if this was a statement game:*

"It was a great win, coming on the road with the big crowd. We set this game up so we could test ourselves. They played for forty minutes and we also played with what we had for those forty minutes and it turned out to be a good game."

*On how South Carolina moves forward after this game:*

"We are going to break this game down. There were some very good things that happened and some things we need to improve on. We got a little fatigued with shooting the ball too quickly and allowing Maryland to get the ball back, play fast and downhill like they like to play. They controlled the tempo in the second half."

*On what Coach Staley was telling her team in the fourth quarter:*

"Throughout the game you have to be disciplined, you have to stay in character. I told them that we were going to be fatigued. Physically, you are going to get tired because you look tired and that is when you have to mentally kick in. You can't do the same things in the fourth quarter that you do in the first quarter if you're fatigued. You need to stick to the game plan and play conservatively when you need to play conservatively. We grew up and had other people contribute. That's what we need to work on and do all year long."

*On how the team rebounded throughout the game:*

"We did for about three quarters. They closed the gap to five. Our kids came in with the mindset of not getting out rebounded because they are a notoriously a good rebounding team. I'm happy that we won. They wanted it more in certain instances."

### **Senior Forward A'ja Wilson**

*On her career high 35 points:*

"I think the biggest thing was that we got a win. A big road win for us. I felt good out there. My teammates were finding me in good place. I think we did a pretty good job of rebounding the

basketball. Our main goal was to come here and try to get a road win and we got it done. It felt pretty good.”

*On the Gamecocks’ fourth quarter play:*

“We kind of just got tired. Our minds were just everywhere. When you get tired you lose everything and you stop listen and aren’t very disciplined. That is kind of what happened. They [Maryland] hit big time shots. It felt like they couldn’t miss. In our huddles we just say that ‘we have to find it and dig down deep and find it.’ We were able to and got the win.”

*On containing Kaila Charles:*

“It is very difficult. She kind of just kept going. It is tough because you never know whether to guard her outside or down low. She kept bringing it to us and making us foul, that’s a good player. I think we did a pretty good job but we have to keep working.”

### **Redshirt Junior Forward Alexis Jennings**

*On rebounding:*

“It was very difficult. They are a very good rebounding team. Coming into this I knew that I had to do my job and that was to box out. I just tried to do what I could for my team and get as many rebounds as I could have.”

**-Terps-**