

Big Ten Conference Women's Basketball Championship

Friday March 3, 2017



Brenda Frese
Kaila Charles
Shatori Walker-
Kimbrough
Brionna Jones
Maryland Terrapins

Maryland - 92, Minnesota - 80

MODERATOR: We've been joined by Maryland. We'll start with an opening statement from Coach Frese. Then go to the students for questions.

COACH FRESE: I thought we started a little slow, which sometimes it's typical when you start a tournament and then Minnesota came out, having played in the game before really aggressive, especially on the glass. But I thought once we were able to kind of settle in we were able to make a lot of plays. I thought our bench contribution with Ieshia and Brianna Fraser off the bench gave us some great minutes. Shatori in the third quarter really gave us great scoring punch.

And again when you look at, from Kaila and Bri, they continued to do great things on the defensive end. Kaila was very active for her first tournament game here. So I was proud that we were able to use our depth in terms of this game.

Q. Shatori, third quarter you had 16 points. Can you talk about that? You seemed comfortable shooting the ball in that quarter.

SHATORI WALKER-KIMBROUGH: My teammates kept finding me, kept giving me great confidence. I air-balled in the first half. Kristen looked at me, told me to keep shooting. Come in at halftime, Ieshia said let the thing fly. So I let the thing fly in the second half.

Q. Kaila, what was it like playing in your first tournament game, playing in an NBA arena? (Indiscernible)

KAILA CHARLES: It was exciting. It was a good team win. I like how we pushed through fatigue, and we had

a slow start so we were able to pick everything up. In terms of just how it felt, I love challenges. So I like that we have this tournament where everybody's playing their hardest to win. So it's a fun experience.

Q. Brionna, another quiet double-double. I say quiet because Shatori, six 3-pointers. She mentioned a slow start, Minnesota had the day before to play, did it feel good to get this one out of the way?

BRIONNA JONES: Yeah, it feels good to have one under our belt, just to get our flow back and just getting prepared for the next game.

Q. Just a follow-up for any of you. You plan on watching the game here that's about to take place, or are you just going to go back and focus on the game you just played, get ready for tomorrow?

SHATORI WALKER-KIMBROUGH: A little bit of both. Probably watch the minutes and probably go -- not watch the full game but we'll try to be the most prepared team going into tomorrow. If we don't we'll definitely be prepared for tomorrow for film.

Q. Shatori, you guys mentioned how you're expecting to get everybody's best punch here in the tournament. Everybody is 0-0. Is that what you kind of attribute the slow start to, just Minnesota coming out intense, or what do you think happened there?

SHATORI WALKER-KIMBROUGH: Yeah, I think Minnesota came out and threw the first punch. I give credit to them. They came out pushing tempo, pushing in transition and had us on our heels a little bit. But I thought we responded really well. I thought we came out in the second quarter, third quarter defensively and offensively putting the pressure back on them.

Q. Are there different things you want to clean up before going into tomorrow night's game, especially after Minnesota shoot 53 percent or something like that?

COACH FRESE: Yeah, we definitely talked about that in the locker room after the game. I think we can give a better effort defensively and rebounding the basketball. So I know how much these guys pride themselves on both areas. So I know that we'll bounce back in terms of playing better on both ends.

Q. On the flip side, fourth time in five games you've shot as a team better than 52 percent. What's kind of been working offensively for the team?

COACH FRESE: I think just the way we share the basketball. When you look at our assist-to-turnover ratio. We're just really starting to understand they want to collapse on Bri, and being able to play through her, and it gives us easy looks. But I thought our ball movement again was really, really good as a team.

Q. Again, you blew them out last time, just less than a week ago, 33 points or something. What do you kind of attribute the difference to? What do you take away from this?

COACH FRESE: You know, I think they shot the ball extremely well. Hubbard was someone we talked about that hadn't played in the contest against us. You saw the line she had tonight with 28 points. So there's a big difference right there with a player that didn't play last time.

We did want to utilize our depth having a big picture. So I think when you look at the fourth quarter and we got beat in that quarter, I thought defensively we gave up a lot of points in the fourth quarter.

THE MODERATOR: Thank you.

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Marlene Stollings Gadiva Hubbard Carlie Wagner Minnesota Gophers

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THE MODERATOR: We are joined by Minnesota. Coach, an opening statement.

COACH STOLLINGS: Thank you. Well, first of all, credit to Maryland. They're a seasoned team and a team that's used to playing in these moments. And every time we made a run, they came right back. We were trying to get it to 10 in the second half and every time that we would get on a little run, they answered it. And that's what championship teams do.

And they're very seasoned and used to that. So I think a lot of good takeaways from our team at the same time, especially with our youth.

If you take the second, third and fourth quarters, if I did my math here correctly, we won 66 to 65. But the start of the game, obviously, hurt us, transition defense and then turning the ball over. The 27-14 deficit made it difficult for us to dig out of. But three very good quarters for us. One first quarter start that really cost us the game.

Q. Maryland's offense, they have a lot of talent, perimeter players and they pass very well. What stands out to you, though, about their offense that makes them difficult to defend.

CARLIE WAGNER: I would say they have good ball movement and they just find each other really well on the floor when they're playing. You can definitely see that when they're playing, too.

Q. Gadiva, you obviously had a very good night. What kind of was there within the offensive rhythm for you, or what kind of enabled you to have so much production tonight?

GADIVA HUBBARD: My teammates and my coaches were just telling me to shoot. I know the last game I had an off-shooting game. So I tried to keep shooting

and attacking, mix it up.

Q. Carlie, obviously five, six days ago or whatever you lost by 33, what strides do you feel you made even within this short span of a week in tonight's game?

CARLIE WAGNER: I thought we came out with more heart and intensity. If they made a run, we didn't break down and stop playing. We kept playing with them and kept coming at them, kept staying alert, stayed aggressive. And I thought we did a good job of that throughout the third and fourth quarter just staying aggressive.

Q. Coach, similar question just about Maryland's offense, especially in that first quarter, I think you had four scores in the last eight minutes but they answered every single one of them. What just about their offense and maybe even the timing sometimes of their offense that is so difficult to guard?

COACH STOLLINGS: Well, I think it's more individual talent. It wasn't so much a play that was hurting us, it's just that they have a number of people that can score from anywhere on the floor. So you take away something, there's another person there. And it was just a lot of times it was just quick ball movement with several people that could make a shot from many different places.

Q. What stands out to you about Gadiva's game tonight?

COACH STOLLINGS: A lot of things. She really stepped up in a big moment. And she's used to that on the youth level, amateur level, having played for the Boo Williams program in Virginia. So she's used to big moments. But I'm really proud of how she handled this because it's even a much bigger moment on this stage.

She shot the ball extremely well, but she also made some great decisions. She made very nice reads and you don't often see that from a freshman in this type of a game and this type of moment. She has an extremely bright future ahead of her.

Q. You kind of touched on it. You guys are down 27-14, but you cut it to five. After the way the game went six days ago, what does that say about your team, you feel that to not let that happen again and

cut into that deficit there?

COACH STOLLINGS: Well, we're not into moral victories by any means. But a lot of positive takeaways: As I said, we outscored them for three quarters. We outrebounded them, made one more free throw than they did. We made eight 3s. Statistically you go across the line, it's really solid in a lot of categories.

Big takeaways for us is we had so much youth in the game, they were in this moment for the first time. And they'll remember this, and it will sting a little bit. And they certainly don't want to be done playing this early in March.

They have aspirations to really put our program back on the map on a national level. And this freshman class is going to do big things by the time they get some more experience under their belt.

Q. You mentioned the youth of this team. What's one or two components or developments they need to make to take that next step forward as a program and reach a higher level?

COACH STOLLINGS: Well, I think a lot of it happened just by them being able to log so many minutes this year. And we also made our freshmen February and March captains. So we gave them a voice early on here. We're trying to speed up their progression. So that in itself will bode well for us in a lot of ways. And then we'll have an offseason with them so we can advance their individual skill development, which will be very beneficial to them to have that one-on-one time with the staff in spring and summer.

THE MODERATOR: Thank you.