

Big Ten Conference Women's Basketball Tournament

Thursday, March 6, 2025

Indianapolis, Indiana, USA

Gainbridge Fieldhouse

Nebraska Cornhuskers

Amy Williams

Logan Nissley

Jessica Petrie

Britt Prince

Postgame Press Conference

Nebraska - 74, Illinois - 70

THE MODERATOR: We have here with us head coach Amy Williams, Logan Nissley, Jessica Petrie, and Britt Prince.

Coach, if you would go ahead and make an opening statement, then we'll open it up for questions for the student-athletes.

AMY WILLIAMS: We're just incredibly blessed to be advancing in this tournament, and I'm incredibly blessed to coach this tough, gritty team here. I thought they just obviously fought till the final buzzer, and it paid off for us here tonight.

Q. Britt, you had 17 points, 5 assists, 100% from behind the arc today. 10 points, 5 assists yesterday. How's the Big Ten Tournament going for you?

BRITT PRINCE: It's going good so far. Any time you can come out with a win is good. Hopefully we can carry it into tomorrow, and it will be good for us.

Q. Logan, I've got to say this is a trust-the-process effort from you. I've watched you grind on the boards and take bodies, then to hit the two big threes. What did this mean for you? This is a statement game for you to make the plays you made.

LOGAN NISSLEY: We talked about it all week long, making plays for each other is what's going to keep our momentum going forward and win us games. We have to go 1-0 every day. My teammates are out there fighting.



We talked about it before the game just trusting each other. I know my teammates are going to take good shots, and not every single one is going to go in. So just being able to get those second-chance opportunities for my team is what I was working on today.

Q. Jess, you've had to fill in for Natalie this whole season. Can you just talk about what this game and maybe this season has meant for you so far playing that kind of role.

JESSICA PETRIE: Coached talked about it when Nat went down. Not everyone can replace Nat. It's finding ways that everyone can contribute a little bit more. Two extra boards here, and an extra four points here. I think this season has been a lot of growth for me in those areas. Just stepping up for my teammates and I know they have my back and it's been really fun to play with them this year.

Q. Britt, I'd really like to ask this for the coach, but I'll ask you. Fouling a shooter in an intense ballgame like this, I think it happened twice in the fourth quarter, one late. Just your reaction when that happens? You're sending somebody to the line, especially when she hits all three of them.

BRITT PRINCE: Yeah, obviously that's not what I was trying to do. I made a couple mistakes down the road, but I'll learn from it. I mean, we still won the game.

Q. Britt, I've watched you win state title games at Nebraska, and the moments were never too big. Compare winning those titles and having the ball in your hands to having this moment in this big venue with all the eyes on you.

BRITT PRINCE: It's super cool. I think, I just love playing with this team. They're all so great. Great humans, great people, great basketball players.

Just them trusting me with the ball in my hands late, especially as a freshman, is something that's really special to me. Yeah, I just love playing with this team.



Q. For each of the players, you had a chance to play yesterday. You start the fourth quarter, I believe, down seven, and yet you had the energy and capabilities to be able to not fold and to be able to come out on top. What does that say about the group that you have this year at Nebraska?

BRITT PRINCE: I think just the way that we play together, we all trust each other. Like Coach said before the game, just trust your training, trust each other. I think that helped us a lot down the stretch.

JESSICA PETRIE: Another emphasis has been having fun, and I think this is the best time of the season, this March Madness. March is so much fun, and just cherishing these last couple of games with this group just brought us back today.

LOGAN NISSLEY: I think too these are one-game seasons, and obviously we're playing for something. We don't want to go home. Obviously there's a lot more of March left, and we want to just play the rest of March, and like Pet said, we just want to cherish what we have with this group because we don't want our seniors going home.

Q. How do you evaluate tonight when Alexis goes for 9 and 4 and you're still playing tomorrow?

AMY WILLIAMS: Well, just how blessed am I? I'm sitting up here after my second win in this tournament with three different players than were sitting up here yesterday, and I think it speaks to just the depth of this team.

Make no mistake, you might want to say Lex was 9 and 4, but Alexis Markowski is the reason we won the game. I said before the game her super power is an incredible ability to instill belief. She believes in herself at a very high level, but her ability to instill belief in everybody around her is -- it's something I've never been around.

I really wish I could like bottle it up and save it for when she's not in my program anymore, which I don't even want to think about. But she had us believing heading into that fourth quarter that we were going to win that game.

So I have no doubt that her influence was all over this game. We just had a lot of other people -- Petra Bozan, I think, stepped up and really contributed points in the paint when we needed them the most. I think yesterday's game that allowed us to play our bench significant minutes really built some confidence up and down our roster to be able to step in and make the contributions that we really needed tonight.

Q. You saw them just two weeks ago, three weeks ago

maybe. What was important for you guys this time around in terms of coming out with the win?

AMY WILLIAMS: We wanted to do a better job of trying to protect the paint, and I'm not sure that we did that for 40 minutes tonight. They still got in there, got some and-ones, a few too many free throws down in the paint and stuff.

I thought that down the stretch in the fourth quarter we did a little bit better job of keeping Bostic and McKenzie kind of under wraps.

Q. When you look at this, you don't really know who won the game and who lost the game by just looking at all the stats. What do you think you won the game for? What made you win the game?

AMY WILLIAMS: I thought just some really tough, gritty plays down the stretch, Logan Nissley grabbing a couple offensive rebounds down the stretch. I thought we had a baseline inbound play that we were really kind of looking for, designed to get a back side upscreen, but we're thinking get it to the ball side, get it in, and maybe run a little more clock to a different action, and Callin Hake had the courage to look for Jess Petrie on the weak side for that layup that stretched the lead out there, gave us a little cushion and confidence.

I just thought gritty, tough, courageous plays where our team really trusted each other. That's the biggest explanation.

Q. Illinois started the game on a 9-0 run and at one point was up 11, and even in the fourth quarter they were up 6. Didn't call a timeout. Can you talk about your mindset of why not at that point?

AMY WILLIAMS: I'm quite sure you're not the only person who is asking that in that moment. Earlier this season we started our Michigan State home game down 10-0, and my brother told me after the game that's a bold strategy, Cotton. A little Dodgeball quote for you.

That certainly wasn't our strategy going into the game, but I have seen this team be able to regroup and fight back, and I'm really glad that we were able to kind of overcome that and fight back in in that first half. It allowed us to be able to have the timeouts we needed down the stretch.

Q. Coach, there was a moment fourth quarter, late run by Illinois, and there was a timeout, and it was your moment in the game where you stomped your feet. I actually heard your voice elevate, and it was, boxing out, rebounding, and then getting effort. That's a choice that you made. I patiently watched to see when

you were going to ignite. What about that moment was that moment that you needed to correct the game?

AMY WILLIAMS: We really wanted to stave off any of the dagger threes where an offensive rebound on their part would lead to an open three-point basket. I thought we had some hustle plays with tips on basketball that's just ended up in their hands and a layup late shot clock or whatever. Right there I thought we played pretty good defense. We were covering up for each other, flying around, and we missed a boxout on the back side, and it led to a wide open three for them.

I thought that was enough for us to take that timeout and just catch our attention and regroup and just remind our team how important it was going to be to give them just one shot.

Q. Kendall Bostic had 16 points during the first half, only 3 in the second. What went into that?

AMY WILLIAMS: She was on fire early. I mean, she's just a great player. She's just a great player that can do a lot of different things. I thought in the first half her mid-range was just on point. We were not getting to her on the ball screen short rolls and they were finding her, and she just wasn't even hesitating. She was 5-for-5 before we even knew really what hit us.

I thought she got an open three in the second half that she knocked down. We needed to -- she just is so capable with her back to the basket, mid-range, three-level scorer, it's just crazy. So you just try to do everything you can to try to slow that down.

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THE MODERATOR: We welcome the University of Illinois, Coach Shauna Green, Kendall Bostic, and Adalia McKenzie.

Coach, we would ask you to make an opening statement.

SHAUNA GREEN: This game just comes down to, again, the fourth quarter and really our last five minutes again. It's something that we've struggled with the last few games. We were leading going into the fourth. Then we give up a seven-point run there in the fourth quarter. Their best scoring run's in the fourth. That can't happen.

We gave up whatever it was in the fourth, and then again, everything we've been talking about was finishing plays, getting those rebounds. It's why we lost really the Michigan game, and we did the same thing tonight. We got stops, and down the stretch could not get the rebound. You just can't win in March when you're doing those things.

So those are controllables for us. It's what we hang our hat on. Just too many mishaps in the last five minutes that cost us the game.

Q. Kendall, what are you seeing or feeling on the floor in those final five minutes? Did you think maybe you had gotten that addressed in the last four or five days?

KENDALL BOSTIC: I feel like it's just like a lack of awareness. Like I feel like we're all -- like we're locked into the game and we're playing hard, but it's like the IQ things, like getting a boxout. That's a basic, fundamental thing. It's not like running a play or stopping a play. It's a basic boxout. We have to be able to do that.

We work on rotations every single day. We have to be able to rotate. We have to be able to guard out of bounds. We've been preaching that all year long because last year we weren't very good at it. Last couple of games they've gotten a lot of points on the baseline out-of-bounds plays. They had a wide open layup with a minute or two left, and that can't happen. It's uncontested open layups.

It's just a lot of little things we have to clean up. That's just us on the court. There's no excuse for it, there's no reason for it to happen. We have to be able to lock into that and say we've got to do it. We have to have all five on the floor. It can't be four of us or three of us. It has to be all five willing to do whatever we need to do to win.

Q. If I'd have told you Alexis Markowski goes for just 9 and 4, I think you probably thought you were going to win. What did the other interior players do that was different that maybe you saw on film?

KENDALL BOSTIC: Additionally with Markowski, we talked about taking up her space a little bit more. Last game I gave her a lot more space. We've been working on it all week long with our practice players and stuff. So I think that was executed well.

I think a couple times I kind of slacked off on their other bigs coming in to try to take a break, which can't happen. It's the Big Ten; everyone is capable. I think we cleaned up that in the second half a little bit.

I think they also took advantage of our 4s a little bit like size-wise, and they really went in, especially when Berry was in there.

I think we made the adjustments from last game, but we've just got to carry that over to the entire position, not just the one player.

Q. Adalia, I wanted to ask, last few games in general as the season has closed, really good teams, but obviously not the results you wanted. How do you guys shake the last few games as you enter the final phase of the postseason?



ADALIA MCKENZIE: You can't do anything after the game is done, so you've got to focus on the next one and the next opportunity that we have. We do a really good job of bouncing back. Unfortunately, we haven't done what we need to do to bounce back fully, but we will.

It's just all about staying confident and really learning, like KB said, the little things, boxing out. We keep preaching it. Everybody has to do it collectively.

So just keeping our head high. Us seniors don't want the season to end, so we're going to fight to the end. That's something we keep talking about as well. A lot of learning and just a lot of focus just carrying over.

Q. Adalia, you had 10 assists, but you and KB had it going really good there in the first half. Was that a part of the game plan to get the ball inside to KB?

ADALIA MCKENZIE: Yeah, that's every game plan to feed KB and get her going. She does a good job of just driving and being strong, and I see her most of the time.

It's fun playing with KB, and she did a really good job today.

Q. Shauna, given how the final five minutes have gone, are you all surprised given how cohesive it was during the winning streak, and being a veteran team, it's kind of shaky right now in those stretches?

SHAUNA GREEN: This team has always really learned from mistakes, and we've been working on it and preaching it. A little bit, yeah. I thought today, I thought we kept talking about it even in the timeouts that I would bring up, okay, the Michigan game, this happened, and we're going to learn from it. It's not going to happen today. Just really trying to be positive mindset and get them to believe that we're going to make those plays today, and it just didn't happen.

That's what's frustrating is for me and for them is these are things we can control. We can control boxouts. We can control our baseline out-of-bounds defense. We have not executed. To win in March, it's all about who executes at a higher level, and we did not execute.

We missed some easy baskets, but like I don't usually get on them about that. I'm more about the defense and the rebounding. We knew that was what it was going to take down the stretch to win. It's why we lost against Michigan, and we didn't do it.

At some point, you've got to step up and you've got to

make those plays if you want to continue to have your season going, or you're going to be done real quickly.

Q. What did they do differently to limit Kendall in the second half?

SHAUNA GREEN: They didn't do anything. Kendall had 19, so they didn't do anything. She missed a couple of those jump shots, but we didn't execute.

Q. It was mentioned earlier in a previous press conference about this conference, and you guys are in that group of 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 in the seedings and all that. The toughness and competitiveness every night of everybody just kind of beats up on one another. Kind of your thoughts on that?

SHAUNA GREEN: You're right. That's why this conference is the best conference in the country, and I firmly believe that. I think we've shown it.

There's so many teams. The top two have kind of held their ground, but everyone else, literally anyone can beat anyone on any night, and it's hard. Then you throw in a neutral court in those type of games. We just played Nebraska a week and a half ago or whatever it was, so you know each other so well.

It's so hard. Every night is just so competitive. You're right, we just sit there and beat up on each other. We could get, what, 12, they're saying 13 teams in the NCAA Tournament. That's unbelievable.

Q. 22 points for Nebraska coming off the bench tonight. Everybody talks about this time of year, getting hot at the right time. How do you go about guarding a team who's got that depth on their bench to be able to put points up on the board and also not know who's going to have the hot hand going into each matchup?

SHAUNA GREEN: They obviously have a lot more players than we have to put in there, so that's a nice thing that Amy has the luxury of.

We did a great job on Markowski. Petrie made some really big plays. That three that she hit was the dagger.

Then 44, I'm going to totally ruin her name, so I'm not going to say it, but she made some really nice plays. That's why I told KB, you're doing such a great job on Markowski, like she made reference to, you can't take a break when these other guys come in because they keep coming.

We're just not deep and we're not that big, so they took advantage of it, so credit them.

None of this takes away from, again, this team. I'm really proud of them, what we've done with the adversity we've had this year. Are they running out of gas? I don't know. I'm never going to say that. I told them in the locker room again there's no excuses. We're never going to sit here and talk about that.

Nebraska made more plays down the stretch than we did, and we've got to figure out how we need to execute and rebound and be physical down the stretch and make winning plays down the stretch. That's what we're going to attack in this week off and leading into the NCAA Tournament.

Q. Last year, if you remember, we were over at Hinkle Fieldhouse, and J.D. was even there. We were talking about after the Villanova game, and you said, this is really nice, but I don't want to be in this position again. What changed your team from last year to be one more of the elite Big Ten teams this year?

SHAUNA GREEN: That's a great point. I actually talked about that just in the locker room. I said, remember what our mindset was last year and how mad we were up in Minneapolis. We had a complete change of our approach, and we were going to go into this WBIT, and we were going to win it. If we're going to be in it, we're going to win it. So I said we need to have that same approach going into the NCAA Tournament.

What we went through last year, there's no way we deal -- we're able to deal and have the success we had this year through the adversity we faced -- losing two top players, an All-American, First Team All Big Ten -- we don't accomplish what we accomplish this year without the adversity we went through last year and without the WBIT championship run.

That stretch in Indy last year to win that really changed this team and the trajectory to be able to go out and compete night in and night out and to get 11 wins in the Big Ten. We were on an eight-game winning streak in the Big Ten, the consistency, that no doubt about, was from that run last year and really prepared and propelled our team to now.

And now we are going to be in an NCAA Tournament, and that's what our goal was when we cut down those nets last year about a month from now.

Q. We kind of asked you this a couple days ago, but you've got the better part of ten days now before Selection Sunday. How do you want to go about using

that time with this group?

SHAUNA GREEN: Rest, we need rest. I'll give them a few days off. Even KB, her back today, she played 40 minutes and kind of tweaked it. I mean, that's toughness right there.

Gen -- shoot, I forgot Gen went down in the first quarter. We just hold our breath, and Gen battled back through on a sprained ankle and fought and played the rest of this game.

We're just going to take rest. We're going to try to get everyone healed up and tape them all together and get out there and really enjoy.

I told them, I want to enjoy this next week. This is a special group that, yeah, it didn't end the way we wanted it to end. We wanted to win today obviously. But this group is special, and I want to enjoy the rest of this journey with them, and we're going to go, and we're going to fight like hell in the NCAA Tournament.

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