

Big Ten Conference Women's Basketball Tournament

Wednesday, March 4, 2026

Indianapolis, Indiana, USA

Gainbridge Fieldhouse

Indiana Hoosiers

Coach Teri Moren

Lenée Beaumont

Shay Ciezki

Postgame Press Conference



Indiana - 72, Nebraska - 69

THE MODERATOR: We have Indiana Coach Teri Moren and student-athletes Shay Ciezki and Lenée Beaumont. Coach, if you would make an opening statement.

TERI MOREN: First of all, Nebraska is an excellent team. Amy and her staff do an unbelievable job, and they are hard to prepare for. They're hard to play against.

This afternoon I just thought it was a tale of two halves. They were frickin' on fire in that first quarter. But I thought we could get to halftime and -- you know, as I said to our group, I just felt like we were trying to play a little bit individually a little too much.

I thought, if we could just come together, stay connected, share the ball more in the second half, it was a matter of time before we felt like Nebraska was going to cool off. We had to get some big stops.

It was great to see the way we shared the ball in the second half, the way we played fast in the second half. I thought that was really important to us being able to chip away at the deficit.

So really, really proud of Shay and the way she handled herself out there and her supporting cast, Beau. All year we've really leaned on these two. So proud of, not just the way that they helped get the lead, secure it, win it, but just how they handled themselves, particularly in the second half.

Q. Coach Moren said it was a tale of two halves. That's something you could kind of have said for different points throughout the season, except the

result would be the opposite early on. In the last month and now into today, that has completely changed. This is a completely different looking ball team. When you get on the court in that second half down by a bunch, what's going through your heads to swing the tide and get back into this game?

SHAY CIEZKI: I'm a firm believer in you can't succeed until you fail, and I think that we hit a rough stretch in the beginning of the Big Ten play. Obviously being 0-10, that's not how you want to start it, but I truly believe that those losses led us to win this game today.

I think that we had a lot of talks in huddles at halftime just saying how much we want it and how much we worked for this, for this game. I don't think a team's hungrier than a team trying to get in the tournament, and that's what we're playing for right now. We're just trying to stack wins as much as we can.

Everyone did their part today, and it was just a great group effort.

LENÉE BEAUMONT: Absolutely. Early on in the season, if we were down 20, the response probably would have been a little bit different than it was today. As disappointing as those losses were early on, like she said, it helped us get to the point where we are today.

Then at halftime, you're looking at each other, you're looking at your seniors, and you're like there's nothing more you would do for another day with them. If that's not enough motivation, I don't know what is.

Q. This question is for Shay. It seemed like the pace of the game definitely picked up big for you guys in the second half. Was that like a point of emphasis in that halftime conversation, or was that something you just kind of feel evolved as the half was going on?

SHAY CIEZKI: It's a point of emphasis every quarter. Every media timeout, every dead ball, it's something that we pride ourselves on. That's how we get momentum as a team, by playing fast, by running, by pushing. You know, that's only when we get stops, and that's when we get



rebounds.

The first half of it was tough. They were shooting -- I mean, in the first quarter, 68 percent. It's hard to get out and run when that team is shooting so good from the outside.

But our defense picked up, and that's how we got out and ran.

Q. Lenée, your go-ahead shot, if you could tell us a little bit about that, but leading up to that, it was coming and coming and coming and you guys were trimming and trimming and trimming, and it stayed just a little bit out of reach. What were you thinking about that? Are you going to run out of time? Or we've still got plenty of time?

LENÉE BEAUMONT: Honestly in the fourth, Shay kept saying spurts. We laugh about it now, but there was no other option other than to keep chipping away until that buzzer sounded off.

Ali Patberg, my position coach, that was something we worked on all year. If I miss two in a row, I can't go in and be a shell of myself. I've got to be able to still look for my shot and think shot first. If we're going to lose, I'm going to go down swinging. That kind of was my mentality in the fourth.

Q. In a tale of two halves, you guys shot 38 percent in the first half, but 67 percent in the second half. Was it open looks, complementary basketball? How were you able to make that adjustment and come away with the win?

SHAY CIEZKI: We were sharing the ball. I think first half personally I was pressing a little bit. I think all of us, Coach was saying that we were trying to play hero ball at half, and she was so right.

We were able to share the ball, move the ball, get Nebraska in rotations, and that's how you'll be able to get open shots.

Beau's two threes were open looks just because we were moving the ball well. We were trusting each other. It was just -- like you said, two different halves. So we've just got to make sure that with Ohio State that we're playing together all 40 minutes.

Q. Coach, can you speak about how Maya and Edessa played today, especially in that second half?

TERI MOREN: Yeah, I'd love to talk about how Edessa --

that's the first time I think all year she's had to play 40 minutes. She has really come along in a really, really good way for us in the last couple months. After we lost Z to injury, she got the nod.

We've worked every day with her in terms of how she can help us and how she has helped us and will help us as we move on, and she's really embraced the challenge that we've given her.

She's a kid that has a high IQ. She was very spirited tonight, or this afternoon, the most I've seen her in terms of how she was really trying to rally the troops, especially in that first quarter or the first half. So really, really pleased with how she played today.

Then Maya continues to be a freshman that, again, has made great strides for us. She and Edessa and throw Nevaeh in there have really taken some added pressure off of Shay. We really rely on Shay from a scoring perspective.

I think with Edessa being more aggressive, with Maya being more aggressive, they've really helped take some of that pressure off of Shay. Pleased with both of them today.

Q. I thought one of the biggest things in this game was you guys attacked the paint in the second half. Nebraska owned the first half in the paint and rebounds. Talk a little bit about how your team focused more on let's take it to the paint.

TERI MOREN: Yeah, by the end of the game we could do that. Just got off to a really bad start from a defensive perspective. They were getting a lot of easy looks at the rim. We just weren't locked in the way we needed to be.

Again, we got them to halftime and tried to just remind them of how we were going to get back in the game, how we were going to win the game, and what needed to happen.

Shay talked a little bit about us playing fast in transition and trying to get to the rim as much as we could. But part of that is you've got to be willing to share the ball. In the first half we weren't. We didn't share the ball near as well, as good as we needed to do, as we did in the second half.

Give those kids credit, right? It would have been really easy for us to walk out and just say it wasn't going to be our day, but they had that fighting spirit. So really, really proud of how they -- like I said, how they did their work, how they got back into the game, and obviously how we were able to win it.

Q. Teri, congrats on the win. You got a quick turnaround tomorrow. What are the steps that you need to take going in from today leading into tomorrow? And into tomorrow, what are the steps you're going to need to continue to put forward?

TERI MOREN: We've got to get back, and we've got to get some rest for sure. We know the thing with Ohio State and what a terrific team they are, the press is going to be something that we're going to have to face. For us, I do feel like -- it's funny how this tournament works sometimes. We've been in the double bye. We've been the single bye. Sometimes we've been -- haven't been in maybe once in our 12 seasons here.

I do think there's an advantage to getting on the floor first and feeling -- I do think our kids will feel a little more relaxed tomorrow. There was a lot riding on this game, but I just feel like in all of these tournaments, that first game, when you can get into the game and you can get your feet wet, I think that -- I'm hopeful that we will look a lot different in terms of -- I thought we looked shellshocked in the first half, right? I'm hopeful that we'll look way more relaxed.

Again, Ohio State's had an unbelievable year. Kevin and his staff do a great job. We know it's going to be a tall task. I think at their place it was competitive, especially in the first half, but the key to the game will be keeping those turnovers low against that pressure defense in the full court and in the half.

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Nebraska Cornhuskers Coach Amy Williams Britt Prince Amiah Hargrove

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THE MODERATOR: Joining us for Nebraska is Coach Amy Williams and student-athletes Britt Prince and Amiah Hargrove. Coach, if you will make an opening statement, then we'll turn it over for questions.

AMY WILLIAMS: Obviously this is an incredibly disappointing loss for our team. We led for 39 minutes and just found a way to let this game slip away. So it's very disappointing, but I still love coaching this team. I think they are a group that's still got basketball left in us, and we're excited that this will not be it for this team this season.

Q. Can you talk about what Indiana did differently in the first and second half defensively? You guys were on a heater in that first half. I think, Amiah, you missed one shot. What happened in that second half that kind of changed that for you guys?

BRITT PRINCE: They were being a lot more aggressive. I think they were obviously trying to take Amiah away a lot more. She had a great first half, and I think it made it harder for us to get it in to her.

They were a lot more aggressive, not letting us get paint touches, forcing us to shoot threes, and we kind of settled for threes and maybe shots that weren't the best shots for our team.

Q. In the first half the defense was impeccable. You guys were holding Ciezki in check. In the second half she started to go off. What were they doing defensively that started to take you guys out of your rhythm?

AMIAH HARGROVE: I think it was paint touches. We gave up way too many in that second half and they were getting easy shots off the rim, whether it be kick-out threes or dump-offs to their big. I think we just let them get downhill way too much and it just made things a lot harder for us.

BRITT PRINCE: And our transition defense was also struggling for a bit in the second half, and we just didn't get out to shooters when we needed to. Yeah, they got too many paint touches.

Q. You guys hopefully aren't done playing basketball this season, right? How do you as a team regroup from a loss like this?

AMIAH HARGROVE: I think it's sticking together. There's going to be a lot that we can learn from this game. I think something that we kind of saw all year was just looking at it, learning from it, building on it, attacking each day, and just sticking together, leaning on each other.

Because we do have a good group of girls, so I think just leaning into what we're good at.

Q. Amiah and Britt, you guys did very well playing the pick-and-roll off each other in the first half. What has that been like? Can you guys just talk about the chemistry you have formed over the season and how it was working for you in the first half?

BRITT PRINCE: It's great when we can get in that two-man game with me and Amiah. I think she sets great screens and always rolls hard. It's easy to get it to her when you're setting a great screen and rolling hard. Credit to her.

AMIAH HARGROVE: I also think Britt is so dangerous with the ball in her hands, so a lot of people go to double her and that leaves me open in the roll a lot and she's a great passer so she does a great job of getting it to me at the right time.

Q. I'm going to ask the same type of question. What

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did you see Indiana do differently in the first and second half that really caused you guys to struggle with them?

AMY WILLIAMS: I thought they did the opposite of what we did, and that was they just really hammered the paint. It was like they went to the basket. We both hit five threes today, but theirs were on 13 attempts, and ours were on 22.

I just thought there were a couple times where we took maybe some quick shots out of the flow of the rhythm of our offense from players we didn't really -- wasn't right in the rhythm of what we were looking for, and they got those long rebounds and turned those into paint touch points.

A couple turnovers to start the first half that we were looking to hit a roller like not maybe staying aggressive minded, thinking score off ball screen action, and then turn it over, and they were converting those turnovers, long rebounds with really aggressive attacking the paint.

That's something that I thought we maybe settled a little bit, and they continued to think attack.

Q. Can you speak of the play from Jessica and Logan tonight, that they always seem to really get in there, really gritty players, and how you feel that they're going to help you down when you play more basketball?

AMY WILLIAMS: Obviously Logan is one of the best 3-point shooters in the country. I think she's a player that every time she shoots, our team feels like it's got a chance to go in the basket. It's a credit to the type of shooter she is, but it's a credit to the work that she puts in. So she's always going to be a threat on the floor.

I think Jess is the same. Jess has some versatility in that post position, and it's something that both of those players, they want to be good. So we are going to keep challenging them to improve on both ends of the floor.

Q. In the first half you threw Callin and Kennadi at Ciezki, and they did a really good job of shutting her down and making her inconsistent with her shot ability. Then in the second half as they were still on her, she started getting loose. Is there something that changed in the defense that you saw that allowed her to get loose and start scoring and dishing the ball off to her teammates?

AMY WILLIAMS: I think they ran a couple of different looks and actions to try to loosen her up a little bit, but I think she's just one of those really dangerous weapons.

You're not going to hold her down for long because, if you do a great job on her for a few possessions here or there, she's just got a mindset that she's going to keep coming at you.

Q. We've had some injuries, some pretty big major injuries all season long, and then Eliza getting hurt. How much do you think that kind of impacted the rotations, and did that bring on some fatigue? I think we had three players playing 34-plus minutes. Do you think any of that helped lead to the second half?

AMY WILLIAMS: I think that would be an easy excuse for us to make. When I look up in their box score and see that they had three players play 40 minutes and another one with 37 minutes.

So I think this is the time of year where obviously Eliza is a big piece and she is a great defender and rebounder and is capable of bringing double figure rebounds. So having her healthy would most definitely make an impact for our team, but I think that it would be maybe an excuse for us to try to say that fatigue was a factor.

Q. There are a lot of really good special talented guards in the Big Ten, and Britt is definitely one of them. Can you just talk a bit about what makes her special and kind of how she's different from a lot of the other guards we see across the conference?

AMY WILLIAMS: I think that what really makes Britt special is she is so versatile. She can be a pass-first point guard that can really make things happen for everybody else the way she distributes the ball and sees the floor and just makes our offense operate.

But also she's such a capable scorer at all three levels. She showed some really crafty finishes at the rim today. Her mid-range is elite. Then the fact that she's a 3-point threat, I know that people have been talking about both Shay Ciezki and Britt Prince being 50-40-90 kids.

It's unbelievable to me with the number of minutes they play and the shot attempts that they take, that they could be that type of efficient guards. It's one of the things that -- I love Britt's competitive spirit, but I love the way just that she's so efficient offensively and impacts the game in so many ways.

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