



**AMALIE Arena Media Clips
Tuesday, November 7, 2023**

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Maple Leafs pick up wild overtime win over Lightning

Associated Press

TORONTO — Home or away, overtime remains unkind to the Lightning when facing the Maple Leafs.

Calle Jarnkrok scored his second goal of the game 46 seconds into overtime to give Toronto a 6-5 victory Monday night. When the teams met in Tampa on Oct. 21, the Maple Leafs pulled out a 4-3 win after Tampa Bay blew a two-goal lead in the final eight minutes of regulation.

All this after Toronto won all three games in overtime at Amalie Arena in the first round of last season's playoffs.

Mitch Marner had a goal and three assists for Toronto (5-4-2) in regulation Monday night. Auston Matthews added two goals and an assist, while Matthew Knies had a goal and two assists for the Leafs, who snapped a four-game slide (0-2-2).

"It's one of those things where if you're going to give up six goals in a game, it's kind of miraculous that we got a point out of it," Lightning coach Jon Cooper said.

Jarnkrok scored in the extra period after taking a pass from Morgan Rielly and redirecting the puck past Jonas Johansson.

Toronto's Ilya Samsonov allowed four goals on 12 shots in just over 15 minutes before getting the hook. Joseph Woll made 18 stops in relief to pick up the victory.

Nikita Kucherov had two goals and two assists in the first period for Tampa Bay (5-4-3). Victor Hedman added a goal and two assists, while Brayden Point and Brandon Hagel each had a goal and an assist. Johansson made 27 saves.

"Everyone's just got to want to go to the wall for the guy right next to you," Hagel said. "At times we know how to do it, we do do it at times. And then at times we get comfortable and it's costing us a ton of points throughout the season already."

Down 4-3 through 40 minutes, the Leafs got even at 1:55 of the third when Jarnkrok buried the rebound of a Nick Robertson shot.

With the crowd at Scotiabank Arena still buzzing, Marner took a pass from Knies off the ensuing faceoff and snapped it upstairs on Johansson just eight seconds later for a lead that seemed unlikely after a disastrous first period.

The Leafs appeared to be in control late, but Hagel tied it 5-5 with 2:26 remaining in regulation when Calvin de Haan's point shot leaked through Woll.

Toronto jumped in front 1-0 on a Knies goal at 3:42 into Monday's game, but Hedman tied it off the rush just 35 seconds later on a shot where Samsonov appeared to lose the angle.

Kucherov, who had five points in Saturday's 6-4 victory over the Senators, then fired a puck that somehow got through the Toronto netminder at 6:11.

Tampa Bay went to the power play later in the period after the Leafs were assessed a too many men on the ice penalty, and Kucherov blasted a one-timer past Samsonov at 11:27 for a 3-1 lead.

The crowd gave its goalie a mock cheer on a long shot moments later, and Point's power-play goal from the slot at 15:13 spelled the end of the night for Samsonov, who slammed his mask on the bench before the Leafs were booed off the ice at the intermission.

"The bothersome thing for me on this road trip is that we've had the lead in the third in all three games," Cooper said. "And we only have three points to show for it." The Lightning dropped the opening game of this road trip 4-2 to the Blue Jackets.

Toronto got some life at 2:23 of the second when Matthews fired his 12th goal in 12 games with Knies screening Johansson, who has seen the majority of the work with Andrei Vasilevskiy out following back surgery.

The Lightning are now 0-4 in overtime games and have yet to record a shot on goal. In fact, they have been outshot 14-0 in OT games this season.

"It's not good enough," Hedman said. "We showed in the first period, when we're on the puck, when we're playing hard, we're a tough team to play against. But when you give guys chances ... It's frustrating, it's disappointing."

Lightning coach Jon Cooper reflects on Tampa Bay today: 'We're still relevant'

Ian Mendes (The Athletic)

OTTAWA — Jon Cooper is rarely at a loss for words.

The outgoing, loquacious coach of the Tampa Bay Lightning answers most questions from reporters with a level of depth and honesty that exceeds his peers. And inside an empty room across the hallway from the visiting coach's office at Canadian Tire Centre, Cooper was in his usual, talkative mood.

Sitting on a stool and reflecting on the evolution of his team over the past decade, Cooper smoothly laid out the progression of the Lightning.

"I've watched us go from the new kids on the block to the kids that couldn't get it done to the kids that can't be stopped," Cooper said.

But when asked what label he would affix to the current edition of the Lightning, Cooper was suddenly at a loss for words.

"That's a good question," he said.

As he was contemplating his answer, Cooper pulled up a second chair and stretched out his legs onto it. He took nearly 10 seconds to formulate a response before finally saying, "Maybe now, we're the kids that don't want anybody to forget about them."

To many observers, the Lightning are an afterthought, a collection of older, Hall of Fame-bound superstars who are slowly starting their descent from their perch atop the league. When you hear a list of elite teams and Stanley Cup contenders, the Lightning — who used to lead this conversation 12 months ago — are often omitted. Last season's first-round playoff exit at the hands of the Toronto Maple Leafs has managed to overshadow the three consecutive trips to the Stanley Cup Final that preceded it.

And Cooper believes he and his players can use that as motivation.

"When people think of us as afterthoughts, there is a little 'F you' in the guys to say: 'Whoa, whoa, whoa. We're still relevant,'" Cooper said. "So yes, for sure, it's useful."

In his 12th season behind the bench in Tampa, Cooper is constantly looking for new ways to push his team's buttons. He believes his personality has changed dramatically during his tenure. During this conversation, Cooper is mellow and relaxed despite his club dropping a 4-2 decision in Columbus 18 hours earlier. Cooper said his mood a few years ago would have been radically different if his team was coming off a loss.

"Back then, (after) every win I was on the top of the roller coaster, and (after) every loss, I was flying off the tracks. And today, the way I react to things emotionally is much different," Cooper said. "I'm much more big picture today. I was more narrow-minded back then."

Then Cooper concedes his new mindset might have altered the ending to his first trip to the Stanley Cup Final in 2015, when his team squandered a 2-1 series lead before falling in six games to Chicago.

“Who knows? Maybe the Jon Cooper of today could have coached the 2015 team to two more wins in the Stanley Cup,” he says.

Cooper eventually got his two championship rings after consecutive Stanley Cup victories in 2020 and 2021. He’s closing in on the 500-win plateau, a mark he should easily reach this season, considering he is sitting at 485 wins. When he accomplishes that feat, Cooper will join Al Arbour as the only head coaches in the expansion era (since 1967) to win 500 games and a Stanley Cup for a single franchise.

Arbour was behind the bench for the New York Islanders dynasty that captured four consecutive Stanley Cup titles. And he also garnered a Jack Adams Award as the league’s top coach. The coaches of the dynasty era — Arbour, Scotty Bowman in Montreal and Glen Sather in Edmonton — all won the Jack Adams during their tenures. But Cooper, who has coached the closest version to an NHL dynasty in the salary cap era, has never won the award.

He’s been a Jack Adams finalist on two occasions, including in 2018-19 when his Lightning matched a then-NHL record by registering 62 regular-season victories.

“We tied the record for the most wins. When you don’t win it that year, you think, ‘Well, I don’t think I am ever going to win this award,’” Cooper said with a laugh.

Cooper then turned the tables and posed a question to his interviewer.

“Who’s that soap opera actress who was always the runner-up?” Cooper asked.

After half a minute of searching his mind for the answer, it suddenly comes to him.

“Susan Lucci,” Cooper said, clapping his hands together.

Lucci infamously received 19 Daytime Emmy nominations before finally winning the award in 1999 for her work on the soap opera “All My Children.”

Cooper was passed over in 2014 for Patrick Roy, who guided the Avalanche to a surprising turnaround. In 2019, Barry Trotz got the Jack Adams nod ahead of Cooper for his work in reshaping the Islanders in his first season in New York.

“When you look at the winners of those awards, you can’t argue they shouldn’t have won it,” Cooper said. “When I sit back and look, I’m humbled that I was recognized as one of the top three guys.”

The Jack Adams Award — voted on by NHL broadcasters — tends to skew toward coaches like Roy and Trotz who have a dramatic impact in their first season with the team. The only time in the salary cap era that a coach won the award later than his first three seasons with his team was 2005-06, when Lindy Ruff captured the Jack Adams in his eighth year with the Buffalo Sabres.

Much like the team he coaches, Cooper has become an afterthought in this realm. But maybe there is an opening for the voters to change their minds if the Lightning qualify for the playoffs again in 2023-24. They’ve started the season without perennial Vezina Trophy candidate Andrei Vasilevskiy, whom Cooper remains hopeful will return to Tampa’s crease later this month.

This is old hat for Cooper, who has endured substantive injuries to star players on a fairly regular basis throughout his time in Tampa.

“I’ve gone a season without (Steven) Stamkos. A season without Nikita Kucherov. We’ve gone long stretches without Brayden Point and Anthony Cirelli. And now we’re playing without Vasy,” Cooper

said. “We build a team. They’re massive parts of our team, but if we can’t get along without them, then what are we?”

To outsiders, the Lightning are suddenly vulnerable in the Atlantic Division, and if they manage to secure a seventh consecutive playoff appearance, perhaps some Jack Adams voters will finally be willing to give Cooper his proper recognition. The only time Cooper’s Lightning have missed the postseason was in 2016-17, when they finished with 94 points — missing a playoff spot by a point.

He is firmly at the top of the conversation when it comes to the best head coaches of the salary cap era, yet unsurprisingly, Cooper is not preoccupied with individual hardware.

“I just don’t have the trophy hanging on my mantel, but I do have the ones that are team-oriented. And the ones that are, are why I coach the game, and those are the ones that mean the most to me,” Cooper said. “Winning Jack Adams would be something super cool. But if I retire from this league at some point and don’t have one, I’ll always rest easy because I’ve got a couple of big trophies looking over my shoulder.”

And Cooper has an unwavering belief that his club is still in its window of contention. He thinks part of the reason people are writing his team off is there is a fatigue factor after seeing the Lightning reach the final in three consecutive seasons from 2020 to 2022.

“I think it’s the greatest compliment in the world. It’s like when people didn’t want the New York Yankees to win because they won all the time. Or the L.A. Lakers. And they didn’t want the (New England) Patriots to win because they won all the time. And so it’s the same for us in Tampa. People look at us and say, ‘We don’t want them to win again. They’ve already won,’” Cooper said. “And when people don’t want you to win anymore, that’s a pretty good feeling for us.”

By their standards, the Lightning are off to a fairly pedestrian start this season with a 5-3-3 record. But it’s similar to last season, when the Lightning stumbled out of the gate by winning only seven of their first 14 regular-season contests. They caught fire in the middle of November, winning 21 of their next 28 games, looking every bit like a juggernaut. They fell in a Game 6 loss to Toronto in the first round, but Cooper is adamant his club is talented and motivated enough to reach the conference final again in the spring.

“It’s been a decade where we feel like we should be playing in June. We truly believe that,” Cooper said. “I get that we’ve lost players every single year. I get there is a flavor of the league every year. But to us, we think we’re still the flavor.”

No silver lining as Tampa Bay Lightning pick up a point in Toronto

Erik Erlendsson (Lightning Insider)

TORONTO – Typically in this space you come to expect a tidy game story, recapping the events of what took place the previous night with moments, anecdotes, quotes and some analysis sprinkled throughout.

The game recaps have become a part of your daily reading habits (I hope) as part of the coverage of the Tampa Bay Lightning, no matter the end result. Win or lose, it's about the how and why hopefully provided during those days.

But today, as you read about what took place last night in Toronto, I'm going to do things a little differently and give you some thoughts of what happened as Tampa Bay let another point – and overtime result – slip right through their fingers.

See, the Lightning were primed for a good showing in Toronto. Tampa Bay finally secured a road win on Saturday in Ottawa and for two periods they were dominant against the Senators. The Lightning were on their game, breaking out of their own end consistently by clearing the zone and moving up ice with speed in transition. It led to five goals at even strength.

Add in that the Leafs entered on a four-game winless stretch and they were being called out by their head coach along with the local media for not having the right kind of response when defenseman Timothy Lillegren was tripped up by Boston's Brad Marchand and fell into the end boards, sending Lillegren to LTI.

The recipe was ripe for the Lightning to continue building at the expense of the Leafs. That's how Monday night should have played out.

Instead, it turned from a romp to a meltdown to a rebound only to end in yet another loss past regulation. Only this time, locating the silver line from the result feels like searching for a silver pebble at the bottom of Lake Ontario – you know its there but the glistening of the water and movement of the waves makes it elusive to locate.

THE START

The Lightning know what it takes to be a good hockey team. It's been there for stretches of time through the opening 12 games of the season, including on Monday. When they do, Tampa Bay resembles the type of team that fans have come to expect to see on a consistent basis. They break out of their zone cleanly, they move up the ice with speed in transition that allows them to create off the rush or establish their forecheck.

That's how the first two periods played out in Ottawa and that's how the first period played out on Monday. Even against a dangerous offensive team like the Leafs, that's a formula for success. And despite allowing the opening goal, Tampa Bay was up the ice quickly and attacked. That's when they are at their best.

"We know we can be a good hockey team, look what we did in the first period," forward Brandon Hagel said.

The Lightning attacked and built a 4-1 lead. Nikita Kucherov had two goals and four points, giving him nine over a four period span. Victor Hedman had a goal and three points. Brayden Point had a goal and two points. Tampa Bay was on fire and the Leafs were booed off the ice by the crowd.

“We’ve shown in that first period when we’re on the on the puck, when we’re playing hard, we’re a tough team to play against and our skill is going to take over,” Hedman said.

THE SECOND PERIOD

Here’s the true kicker about how this game played out. After the first period, the Leafs were going to make a push. They’ve shown in the past they are not intimidated by falling behind by multiple goals to the Lightning. It happened in the playoffs last season and it happened when the two teams met last month at Amalie Arena.

The push came at Tampa Bay fast in the opening of the second period. Toronto started to come at the Lightning with pressure on the puck. That’s when the Lightning’s mortal enemy showed up – the Lightning.

All of a sudden, Tampa Bay was not able to get pucks out of their zone. The Leafs were sealing off the boards and the Lightning kept trying to send the puck up the boards. That strategy doesn’t tend to work out, sort of like the moveable object means the irresistible force. The object gets run over.

Less than six minutes into the second period, it was a one-goal game on a pair of goals by Auston Matthews. On the first, one, the Lightning were lost in their coverage with two defensemen down low covering one player while the Leafs were rotating around the zone. As Mitch Marner was at the right point, Tanner Jeannot went out to pressure the puck, which left the middle wide open as Auston Matthews slid back to the high slot to take the pass and zip a wrist shot through a Matthew Knies screen and through the five-hole of Jonas Johansson.

On the second Matthews goal of the period at the 5:42 mark, the Leafs struck off transition. And to show you just how things are going, it was Tampa Bay’s most reliable defensive forward that let his guard down. First Anthony Cirelli lost the puck battle in the offensive zone, then as he was tracking back up ice, he lost Matthews and you can see in the picture below looked away from the play just long enough for Matthews to gain a half-step, which is all he needs.

It’s those type of little details that are just slipping in the team’s game right now. And every time it seems the Lightning make one of those mistakes, it costs them on the scoreboard.

“The Leafs turned it up a notch and we sat back and watched them,” Cooper said. “That was pretty much it. Just another example of guys not having that push, that desperation.”

The Lightning were able to settle the game down for the final 14 minutes of the period, but the damage had been done and it was a one goal game.

THE THIRD PERIOD

It didn’t even take two minutes for things to go sideways in the third period and it was an other unforced turnover that proved the difference. Darren Raddysh attempted to go up the wall with the puck The breakout was stopped before it began and in a flash, Nick Robertson’s shot rebounded right to Calle Jarnkrok and the game was tied 1;55 into the third.

It got worse.

Right off the next faceoff, the Leafs won the puck back and Erik Cernak jumped to pinch Knies along the boards at the red line. Morgan Rielly's pass went right past him up ice to find Mitch Marner. And for some reason as that was happening, Mikhail Sergachev went for a change which left Hedman out of position and created all sorts of space along the left wing side. Marner had a clear path to the puck, collected it and promptly snapped a shot over the shoulder on the glove side eight seconds after Toronto tied the game.

The two goals in eight seconds are the second-fastest two goals against by an opposing team in Lightning history. The fastest two goals against came February 28, 1998 in a 5-2 win over the Capitals (5:50 & 5:57 of the 2nd) on goals from Calle Johansson and Jan Bulis.

"They had some big players make some big time plays but I thought we kind of delivered it for them," Cooper said. "We gave them an opportunity and they seized it. That was pretty much it. The guys are trying to game it out. We just we just did some dumb things and they ended up in our net."

Hagel was able to tie the game with another clutch goal as he was at the net to push in a loose puck in the paint after Calvin de Haan sent a puck on net with 2:26 left.

THE OVERTIME

Then came the overtime, where Tampa Bay has not won a game beyond regulation since December 3 of last season, not counting shootout wins. And as has been the par for the course in overtime this season, the Lightning lost the opening faceoff and never touched the puck before the game was over.

And it was another mistake, this time on coverage, that proved costly.

William Nylander carried up ice and as he gained the zone, he pulled up. Brandon Hagel was chasing behind and curled back when Nylander hit the brakes. But Sergachev also followed toward Nylander before peeling back and went for a turn. By then it was too late because the Leafs crated a 2-on-1 look down low with the open space and Rielly feld Jarnkrok for a tap in at the side of the net.

The Lightning have been outshot 14-0 while dropping all four games in overtime this season, two of which Tampa Bay held the lead when entering the third period. And to date this season, the Lightning have now dropped points in three games this season when they had the lead entering the third period, twice to Toronto. And the Lightning have had the lead after two periods in all three games on this road trip, but have a record of 1-1-1 to show for it.

"If you want to make sure you're a playoff team you have to close those games out," Cooper said. "And we feel like on this road trip we've left three points on the table. If you want to be playing late in the spring can't be doing that because it'd be hard to get there when you're give those up."

Even in a game that Tampa Bay looked good to start, it was difficult to find any positive in the game, not the four-goal outburst, not even another late tying goal by Hagel to force overtime was enough for Tampa Bay to feel good about anything in this game.

No silver lining to be found.

"It's embarrassing at this point," Hagel said. "We talk about it all year, it's happened . . . I don't even know how many times we come out and just all over the ice not sticking to our game plan, not doing what makes us a good hockey team. It's just an ongoing thing. It's got to change."

NOTES

Tampa Bay scratched LW Mikey Eyssimont, D Zach Bogosian and D Haydn Fleury, who remains on a conditioning assignment with the Syracuse Crunch. ... LW Waltteri Merela was assigned to the Crunch on Sunday. ... LW Tyler Motte returned to the lineup for the first time since suffering a hand injury on opening night against Nashville. ... RW Austin Watson dressed for the second consecutive game but took only five shifts, one in the second and none in the third. ... D Victor Hedman scored his 146th career goal to move past Fredrik Modin for ninth most in franchise history. ... D Mikhail Sergachev recorded his 244th career point, to pass Pavel Kubina for third most by a defenseman in franchise history.

MY THREE STARS

1. Maple Leafs C Calle Jonkrok – Two goals, including OT winner
2. Lightning RW Nikita Kucherov – Two goals, four points, 11 shot attempts
3. Maple Leafs C Auston Matthews – Two goals, assist, plus-4, six shots, 10 shot attempts

Nuts & Bolts: Wrapping up the back-to-back and the road trip **Chris Krenn (TampaBayLightning.com)**

Everything you need to know ahead of Tampa Bay's matchup against the Montreal Canadiens on Tuesday.

When: Tuesday, November 7 - 7 p.m. ET

Where: Bell Centre - Montreal, QC

TV coverage: Bally Sports (check local listings)

Radio coverage: [102.5 MHz-FM](#), [Lightning Radio 24/7](#)

Where to stream it: [BallySports.com](#)

Projected Lineup (subject to change)

Forwards

Brandon Hagel - Brayden Point - Nikita Kucherov

Steven Stamkos - Nick Paul - Conor Sheary

Tyler Motte - Anthony Cirelli - Alex Barre-Boulet

Tanner Jeannot - Luke Glendening - Austin Watson

Defensemen

Victor Hedman - Erik Cernak

Mikhail Sergachev - Darren Raddysh

Calvin de Haan - Nick Perbix

Goaltenders

Jonas Johansson

Matt Tomkins

Tuesday's Matchup

The Lightning and Canadiens are playing the first of four matchups this season and the first of two meetings at Bell Centre... The Bolts posted a 3-1-0 record vs. MTL last season with a road record of 1-1-0 and a home record of 2-0-0...Tampa Bay outscored MTL by a combined total of 16-8 in the four meetings last season...Brandon Hagel (6-1—7) led the Lightning in goals and points vs. MTL last season, while Nikita Kucherov (1-4—5) and Mikhail Sergachev (0-4—4) were tied for the team lead in assists...Hagel has found the scoresheet in four of his seven career games vs. MTL (6-2—8)...Kucherov has picked up points in 15 of his last 18 contests vs. MTL (10-16—26) with 10 multi-point efforts during that span...Kucherov has pointed in seven of his last nine games at MTL (5-7—12)... Steven Stamkos has found the scoresheet in 16 of his last 18 contests vs. MTL (10-12—22)...Stamkos has pointed in nine straight games at MTL (5-7—12)...Sergachev is riding a three-game point streak vs. MTL (0-4—4)...Brayden Point has picked up points in three straight games vs. MTL (3-1—4) and has pointed in seven of the last eight meetings (6-4—10)...Victor Hedman has found the scoresheet in seven of his last eight contests vs. MTL (3-8—11)... Anthony Cirelli has picked up points in six of his last nine games vs. MTL (3-4—7)...Tampa Bay is 7-2-1 in their last 10 games at MTL and 8-1-1 in the last 10 meetings overall...The Lightning are 56-39-11 with six ties all-time vs. MTL, including a road record of 27-24-3 with one tie...Hedman (9-36—45) holds the Bolts franchise record for career assists and points vs. MTL, while Stamkos (23-20—43) leads the way in goals.

Injuries

Andrei Vasilevskiy - Back, out

Tampa Bay Sports Item of the Game

DKNY Launch

DKNY is back with new women's Tampa Bay Lightning styles. Shop the collection now, available in store at Amalie Arena and online at TampaBaySports.com, while supplies last.

The Road Ahead

Thursday, November 9 vs. Chicago Blackhawks

Saturday, November 11 vs. Carolina Hurricanes

Tuesday, November 14 at St. Louis Blues