



AMALIE Arena Media Clips
Wednesday, October 25, 2023

1. Lightning, Jonas Johansson shut out Hurricanes – Eduardo Encina (Tampa Bay Times)
2. Jonas Johansson gets his due reward as Tampa Bay Lightning get the message – Erik Erlendsson (Lightning Insider)

Lightning, Jonas Johansson shut out Hurricanes Eduardo Encina (Tampa Bay Times)

TAMPA — The Lightning came out of Saturday's home overtime loss to the Maple Leafs frustrated on many levels, but probably the most disappointing part of the defeat was how they left goaltender Jonas Johansson out to dry.

Given the situation, in which Johansson has been thrust into the starting role with Andrei Vasilevskiy out for the first two months of the season, Johansson has played remarkably well, and on most nights (including Saturday), he had given the Lightning a chance to win despite facing heavy shot volume.

Facing a struggling and road-weary Carolina team on Tuesday, the Lightning made amends, and Johansson was rewarded with his second career shutout and first in a Tampa Bay uniform with a 3-0 Lightning win.

Johansson stopped all 32 shots he faced, including 13 in the final period. Unlike Saturday, the Lightning played a stout defensive game in front of Johansson.

"When you don't give up a goal in game, it's more than just the goalie," Lightning coach Jon Cooper said. "We played a pretty complete game. I don't think we gave anything all night....But I thought we kept everything outside and the goalie got to see everything and if there was a hair-raising moment for a second, he was calm in the net for us."

Seven games into the regular season, Brayden Point scored his first goal of the season, Alex Barre-Boulet scored for the second straight game, and Nick Paul sealed the win with a goal with 2:56 left in regulation. And one game after blowing a two-goal, third-period lead to Toronto, the Lightning clamped down in the final 20 minutes of regulation while also killing off a pair of Carolina power plays. The Lightning's penalty kill was 4-for-4 on Tuesday and is 13-for-13 over the past six games.

"I thought it was a pretty workmanlike game for the guys, they got the lead and they extended it and they held it," Cooper said. "That's what you want to do in this league and we were able to do it for 60 minutes. ... I wouldn't say (Johansson) played better (Saturday), but he was really, really good against Toronto. Tonight, he just had to sit there and let the pucks hit him."

Johansson, who came into the season with just 28 NHL starts under his belt, recorded his first shutout since April 9, 2021 with Colorado against Anaheim. He has switched organizations five times since then.

"I think everyone had a really good game tonight," Johansson said. "We played really hard, tough as a team against a good opponent. So great team effort and good two points."

The Hurricanes (3-4-0, six points) ended a grueling six-game road trip that took them to the West Coast and back on Saturday, and weren't the same team that gives opponents fits with relentless end-to-end pressure.

Like Saturday, the Lightning entered the third period with a two-goal lead after goals by Point and Barre-Boulet, but unlike Saturday's contest, the Lightning clamped down on Carolina in the final period.

"To close it out is a step in the right direction," Point said.

After allowing eight 5-on-5 high-danger scoring chances to the Leafs in Saturday's third period (in which Tampa Bay blew a 3-1 lead before losing in overtime), the Lightning (3-2-2, eight points) held Carolina without a high-danger scoring chance in 5-on-5 play in the third.

"Tonight, less sitting back, still trying to press and play our game and stay on top of them," Point said. "I think in the Toronto game, we just kind of sat back and gave them too much time to make plays and I thought tonight we did a better job of just continuing to play and press them.

After getting turned away in the opening minutes by a sprawling Pyotr Kochetkov, Point — who scored a career-high 51 goals last season — tipped Victor Hedman's shot on net with the Lightning on the power play, looping the puck past the goaltender for the game's first goal with 54 seconds remaining in the first period.

Point entered the night with seven points — all assists — and his 17 scoring chances ranked fourth on the team.

"He's scored a lot in his career," Cooper said of Point. "But when you don't get off to a hot start, it can be a little frustrating. So yeah, there was definitely some relief. And you're hoping, especially with these guys that are used to scoring, that once they get one, they come in bunches after this."

Jonas Johansson gets his due reward as Tampa Bay Lightning get the message **Erik Erlendsson (Lightning Insider)**

TAMPA – One week into training camp when news broke that Vezina Trophy goaltender Andrei Vasilevskiy underwent back surgery a dark cloud cast a shadow over the Tampa Bay Lightning.

But Tampa Bay refused to believe it was about to start raining because they felt they had a silver lining up their sleeve. Two weeks into the regular season, that silver lining is shining.

Jonas Johansson has been exceptional in net for the Tampa Bay Lightning through his first six starts with the team. On Tuesday, he was perfect in stopping all 32 shots he faced for his first shutout in a Lightning sweater and the second of his career.

It came on a night that the skaters on the ice knew they had let Johansson down on [Saturday](#), so they ensured Johansson was rewarded this time.

“He’s been getting peppered, something that we’re working on, but another stellar performance,” Brayden Point said. “Getting rewarded with the shutout is something that he definitely deserves.”

The numbers don’t quite reflect how Johansson has played in his six starts filling in as the No. 1 netminder for Tampa Bay, particularly against Toronto where he was terrific despite the outcome while stopping 48 shots on goal, tied with Ben Bishop for third most in franchise history in a regular season game. But his performance on Tuesday saw his goals against average drop from 3.58 to 2.99 and his save percent rocket from .902 up to .917.

He looks calm and comfortable in the net and his confidence appears to grow with each start he’s made.

“I think it’s always good to spread some calmness along the team,” Johansson said. “I think that helps and try to just give the team confidence and play solid and play well. I think that’s what works for me, so that’s what I try to do.”

Unlike Saturday against Toronto, Johansson was not under the same barrage of shots against the Hurricanes, with 19 fewer shot attempts against. And the scoring chances allowed by Tampa Bay on Tuesday are tied for the second fewest given up by the Lightning this season.

After playing too loose defensively for too many games this season, Tampa Bay tightened things up against the Hurricanes. There were not too many moments in Tuesday’s game where Carolina felt dangerous. And the few times they did, Johansson was in the right position to make sure nothing got past him.

“We played a pretty complete game,” Cooper said. “I don’t think we gave them anything all night. I thought we kept everything to the outside and the goalie got to see everything. And if there was a hair raising moment for a second he was calm in net for us. But I thought it was pretty workman like game for the guys. We got the lead, extended it and held it and that’s what we want to do in this league. And they did it for 60 minutes.

“When you don’t give up a goal in the game, it’s more than just a goalie. And I think this is probably the first time I’d say it was a team shutout.”

GETTING ON THE BOARD

Tampa Bay got on the board in the first as the power play delivered once again. Late in the first period, Brayden Point was in the middle slot and tipped a Victor Hedman shot past Pytor Kochetkov with 54 seconds left in the period. It's the eighth power play goal the Lightning have scored this season – tied for third most in the league – and the seventh in four home games.

The goal was the first of the season for Point, who finished last season with a career-high 51 goals, the third player in franchise history to reach the 50-goal mark. Through the first six games, Point had an individual expected goals of 2.18, third highest on the team, but hadn't found the back of the net leading into Tuesday's game.

Point had a big smile on his face during the group goal celebration on the ice.

"Who doesn't like to score, right?" Point said. "It was nice to see it go in for sure."

FINDING A FIT

Alex Barre-Boulet notched his second goal in as many games, scoring at 5-on-5 while once again playing on the top line with Nikita Kucherov and Point. A prolific scorer in the American Hockey League throughout his career in the Lightning organization, Barre-Boulet is finding a fit on the top line since being moved up with the team's dynamic duo.

"He's a great player, and he sees the ice really well," Point said. "And I think the more reps he gets, just the more confident he becomes and he's just playing his game right now. His game is dynamic and he makes great plays. I think tonight was another really good game for him."

CLOSING IT OUT

Unlike Saturday against Toronto, the Lightning kept their approach to the final period. They didn't play loose. Instead, they continued playing the same way. They didn't sit back, they didn't retreat and hope to protect the lead. Tampa Bay just played.

"Less sitting back, still trying to press and play our game and stay on top of them," Point said. "In the Toronto game, we just kind of sat back and gave them too much time to make plays. I thought tonight we did a better job of just continuing to play and press them."

They heard the message that resonated over the two days between games, went out and put it to practice. It's a process and Tuesday was a step in that direction. The next chance to take another step comes Thursday against winless San Jose.

NOTES

Tampa Bay scratched D Zach Bogosian, D Haydn Fluery and RW Austin Watson. ... C Brayden Point has points in four consecutive games. ... Jonas Johansson registered his first shutout since April 9, 2021, against Anaheim while a member of the Colorado Avalanche. ... C Steven Stamkos was held without a shot on goal for the second consecutive game. ... Tampa Bay has not allowed a power play goal since opening night against Nashville. ... Point's game-opening goal was the 42nd of his career, the sixth most in the NHL since Point made his debut in the 2016-17 season. ... The Lightning have the day off on Wednesday.

My Three Stars

1. Lightning G Jonas Johansson – Stopped 32 shots for his second career shutout
2. Lightning C Brayden Point – Goal, assist, plus-1

3. Lightning LW Alex Barre-Boulet – Goal, plus-1, two shots, takeaway