



**AMALIE Arena Media Clips
Wednesday, December 6, 2023**

1. How Andrei Vasilevskiy, Lightning got payback against the Dallas Stars – Kristie Ackert (Tampa Bay Times)
2. Nuts & Bolts: Penguins are back in town – Chris Krenn (TampaBayLightning.com)

How Andrei Vasilevskiy, Lightning got payback against the Dallas Stars **Kristie Ackert (Tampa Bay Times)**

TAMPA — Now that was a comeback. Two days after Andrei Vasilevskiy was pulled from an embarrassing loss in Dallas, the goaltender turned away 25 shots and posted his first shutout of the season as the Lightning beat the Stars 4-0 Monday night at Amalie Arena.

“Obviously, I didn’t have much to chew on the last few games, so that game was pretty huge for me and for our team,” Vasilevskiy said. “It feels pretty good.”

The win snapped a four-game losing streak for the Lightning (11-10-5) and came on the night they honored Victor Hedman for playing in his 1,000th NHL game. He became the first Lightning defenseman and third player in franchise history to reach that mark, joining Vincent Lecavalier (1,037) and Steven Stamkos (1,027).

“Dallas is a phenomenal team,” Hedman said. “I think we actually have played better in some games that we lost than we did (Monday), but Vasy was big and the guys were working hard, and we were able to capitalize on our opportunities.”

Here are four things that helped the Lightning bounce back to beat the Stars.

With less than four minutes remaining in the first period, the chants began.

“Vasy, Vasy,” the crowd chanted, serenading Vasilevskiy’s return to the form that led his team to two Stanley Cup championships and three Cup Final appearances in the past four seasons.

Vasilevskiy, who missed the first 20 games of the season after undergoing back surgery, looked rusty Saturday in Dallas. He gave up six goals on 25 shots and was pulled after the second period.

Monday, he resembled the goalie who stole some wins for the Lightning and anchored those championship squads. He posted the 33rd shutout of his career and sixth against the Stars.

“He’s back,” Lightning coach John Cooper said.

Vasilevskiy admitted it’s taking a while for him to get there.

“I can prepare my stamina and my physical ability, but to save the puck, you can’t really practice that,” he said. “Only through the games I can get better at it. It was only the first game I really felt like myself. ... So I just had fun (Monday), and now turn the page.”

Vasilevskiy showed he was on his game during a crucial early stretch, making back-to-back stops on Roope Hintz and Jason Robertson as the Lightning struggled to get the puck out of their zone.

He kept it up the rest of the night.

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When Nikita Kucherov snapped a wrist shot past Stars goalie Jake Oettinger 7:47 into the game, he extended his point-scoring streak to 10 games.

Kucherov now has eight double-digit point streaks, fourth-most among active players behind Connor McDavid (12), Sidney Crosby (11) and Leon Draisaitl (nine).

Less than 11 minutes after his goal, Kucherov also ran his assist streak to 10 games with a helper on the first of Anthony Cirelli's two goals.

Kucherov's assist streak ties Vancouver's Filip Hronek for the longest in the NHL this season and matches the Lightning record for the longest such run, shared by Brad Richards and Martin St. Louis.

Cirelli came to play

Cirelli had been held scoreless in the previous three games. Monday, the center put the Lightning up 2-0 with less than two minutes remaining in the first period with his first goal since Nov. 27 at Colorado.

Cirelli won a faceoff in the Dallas zone and posted up in front of the Stars net. He held his position as defenseman Erik Cernak circled toward the back of the net then flipped the puck back to him. Cirelli redirected it past Oettinger for just his second goal in the last 11 games.

He added a second goal just over 12 minutes into the third period with a backhand shot that extended the Lightning's lead to 4-0.

"Everyone (Monday) was rolling on all four lines," Cirelli said. "All four lines were going hard for 60 (minutes), and then obviously Vasy. ... So we were just kind of rolling like that."

The Lightning blocked 24 shots to help Vasilevskiy preserve the shutout.

For Luke Glendening, one also led to a goal.

Glendening blocked a Ty Dellandrea shot in front of the blue line and took the puck up the ice on a breakaway. He closed quickly on Oettinger and scored on a backhander to give Tampa Bay a 3-0 lead just over three minutes into the third period.

It was Glendening's fourth goal of the season.

Nuts & Bolts: Penguins are back in town **Chris Krenn (TampaBayLightning.com)**

Everything you need to know ahead of Tampa Bay's matchup against the Pittsburgh Penguins on Wednesday.

When: Wednesday, December 6 - 7 p.m. ET

Where: AMALIE Arena - Tampa, FL

TV coverage: Bally Sports (check local listings)

Radio coverage: 102.5 MHz-FM, Lightning Radio 24/7

Where to stream it: BallySports.com

Lines from Monday's game (subject to change)

Forwards

Steven Stamkos - Brayden Point - Nikita Kucherov
Brandon Hagel - Anthony Cirelli - Alex Barre-Boulet
Tanner Jeannot - Nick Paul - Mikey Eyssimont
Cole Koepke - Luke Glendening - Tyler Motte

Defensemen

Victor Hedman - Erik Cernak
Mikhail Sergachev - Darren Raddysh
Calvin de Haan - Nick Perbix

Goaltenders

Andrei Vasilevskiy
Jonas Johansson

Wednesday's Matchup

The Lightning and Penguins are playing the second of three matchups this season and the second of two meetings at AMALIE Arena...Tampa Bay fell 4-2 Nov. 30 vs. PIT at AMALIE Arena...The Bolts posted a 0-2-1 record vs. PIT last season and were outscored 18-9 over the three contests...Nikita Kucherov (1-4—5) and Brayden Point (3-2—5) were tied for the Tampa Bay team lead in points vs. PIT last season with Kucherov pacing the team in assists and Point leading the way in goals...Kucherov has found the scoresheet in four consecutive games vs. PIT (1-6—7)and has 21 points over his last 16 contests vs. PIT (6-15—21)...Point has scored a goal in three of his last four games vs. PIT (3-2—5)...Steven Stamkos has pointed in 15 of his last 18 contests vs. PIT (8-15—23) and has found the scoresheet in 10 of his last 11 home games vs. PIT (5-12— 17)...Victor Hedman has recorded points in nine of his last 12 contests vs. PIT (2-9—11)...Mikhail Sergachev has picked up 13 points over his last 15 games vs. PIT (4-9—13)...The Bolts are 5-4-1 in their last 10home games vs. PIT and 4-5-1 in the last 10 meetings overall...Stamkos (16-29—45), Martin St. Louis (15-30—45) and Vincent Lecavalier (27- 18—45) are tied for the Lightning franchise record for career points vs. PIT with Lecavalier leading the way in goals and St. Louis ranking first in assists.

Injuries

Conor Sheary - Upper-body, out

The Road Ahead

Thursday, December 7 at Nashville Predators

Saturday, December 9 at Seattle Kraken

Tuesday, December 12 at Vancouver Canucks