

# POSTGAME QUOTES

D A L L A S S T A R S C O M M U N I C A T I O N S

Saturday, March 16, 2024  
**Dallas Stars 4, LA Kings 1**  
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## DALLAS STARS

### **Stars Head Coach Pete DeBoer**

*On playing playoff-style hockey*

“Good response after the last one. We were really solid. When you look at it, in LA, the Florida game, this game – we played some really good hockey for long stretches. That’s a good sign, we just have to keep building on that.”

*On the performance of young players such as Wyatt Johnston and Thomas Harley*

“It’s great to see. Those two guys might have been the best players on the ice tonight. You know their age, so that’s a great sign, especially for this time of year. This is the time of year where some young guys start to get worn down or pushed out a little bit. Those guys are finding another level for us, which is fantastic.”

### **Stars Forward Craig Smith**

*On bouncing back after Thursday’s loss to the Devils*

“That was good for our team there. It’s always tough coming back from a road trip like that, but these are points that we need, and we’re certainly capable of getting them if we play the right way.”

*On playing playoff-type hockey*

“There’s different levels throughout the season. You’ve got to elevate, and this is a good plateau for us to continue to build and get better each night. I’m not worried so much about the score but how we’re playing, and that will take care of itself.”

### **Stars Forward Wyatt Johnston**

*On responding after two consecutive losses*

“The last two games we haven’t won, so this was definitely a much better game and more complete. It was nice to get the win.”

*On playing playoff-style hockey*

“Right now, is a pretty good time to start ramping it up and getting ready. We want to hit the ground running come playoffs. These last 13 games are really important to get our game to a good spot.”

### **Stars Defenseman Thomas Harley**

*On tonight’s game*

“We came out, and we started on time, which is a big key for us. We stuck to our game plan the whole game. You’re hard on pucks. You’re hard on the three feet along the wall. Put pucks on net and got to the net. Simple stuff”

*On the importance of a game like this after back-to-back losses*

“Yeah, it’s definitely getting back on track. Pete [DeBoer] and the coaching staff have been emphasizing playoffs habits. This was a game where we really did that well.”

## LA KINGS

### **Kings Head Coach Jim Hiller**

*On tonight’s takeaways*

“We knew that they were going to be able to pressure us in the start. We needed to get through the first ten minutes of the game – that was one of our keys. Making sure we didn’t turn the puck over, we did that twice. We had four odd-man rush in the first period, and that’s not a recipe for success. They’re a good team, but we needed to play a cleaner game, and we didn’t. They finished.”

*On LA's skating tonight*

"We skated, we forechecked early, we just turned the puck over in the neutral zone and they transitioned. We lost F3, and they came at us with odd-man rushes. Those were mental mistakes. Those weren't physical or anything like that. Those were mistakes that can't happen against a team like this when you are on a back-to-back, when you have to play tight."

*On Dallas' offensive strategy*

"They're a good team. They skate well, they track back, they're defensemen gap well. They make it hard on you for sure. I don't know that we had an odd-man rush tonight, so they kept it clean that way. We gave up too many. There's a difference right there. It's easier to get in the zone if you have got an odd man. Give them credit – they played well, and they're a good team. More than that I don't know. You just have to play better against them."

**Kings Forward Phillip Danault**

*On the game*

"We haven't played good against that team at all so far. We haven't shown what we've got. Maybe it's mental. We've got to be more ready. Obviously this is a back-to-back, but we should be better. We were better in the third, so we should be playing that way the whole time."

*On the first period*

"They had some good bounces there. They had some grade-As, some good chances. They buried them and got some good bounce as well. Nothing we can do there."