



DALLAS STARS COMMUNICATIONS

# DAILY NEWS CLIPS

Friday, January 30, 2026

**NHL.com (Dallas Stars)**

## **Heika's Take: Stars navigate chaotic game, secure win in shootout over Golden Knights**

By Mike Heika

Date: 01/30/26

In its own way, the Stars' 5-4 shootout win over Vegas on Thursday was a lovely appetizer.

The NHL announced on Thursday morning that the two teams would play in a 2027 Stadium Series contest next February at AT&T Stadium, and then a fierce battle at T-Mobile Arena kind of reflected just how close the two teams are.

With the win, the lads in Victory Green are now 9-8-4 all-time against the Golden Knights, and the fierce rivalry added another thrilling chapter.

"We've had a lot of good games against one another, so it should be good," forward Radek Faksa said of next year's meeting.

The Stars would have preferred a little simpler contest on Thursday, but that's just kind of how these games usually go. Dallas squandered a three-goal lead for the second game in a row, but found a way to win again. Both Jason Robertson and Mikko Rantanen scored in the shootout, while Jake Oettinger stopped both shooters he faced to push Dallas to 31-14-9, a point behind Minnesota for second place in the Central Division with a game in hand.

Vegas falls to 25-14-14 and is now tied for first in the Pacific Division with Edmonton.

"You look at the way the league is with all of the comebacks," said coach Glen Gulutzan on a night when a couple of different teams overcame multi-goal deficits in the third period. "They're a good team. We're not going to dominate them for 60, they're not going to dominate us for 60. It's about sticking with it. That's just the way it is. You've got to be confident and comfortable playing in those tight games."

Dallas has been seeking to find that comfort on a more regular basis. After stumbling through a 2-6-4 stretch, the Stars have won four of their past five. Now, included in those games were the past two "shaky" wins, but they did end up winning both.

"The points are obviously what we target for," said captain Jamie Benn, who had two assists. "It's not ideal giving up three. The league is too good to take even a shift off. Every play is so important."

The Stars felt they let their intensity and execution slip in the third period against St. Louis on Tuesday, so they came out and played a very good first period on Thursday,

taking an early 1-0 lead on a Matt Duchene goal. However, Vegas was very good in the first five minutes of the second period and tied things up.

Dallas then responded by winning faceoffs, playing physical and getting the better of the “compete” game. Mavrik Bourque scored off of pretty feeds from Roope Hintz and Benn, and then Wyatt Johnston made it 4-1 off a great pass from Rantanen.

That should have been the game, but Vegas scored shorthanded off a turnover on the Dallas power play four minutes into the third, added another goal at the 13:54 mark and then tied things up with its goalie pulled in the final minute of regulation.

The two teams then battled through a frantic overtime where both Robertson and Bourque had nice chances, and Dallas finally banked the two points in the shootout.

“I thought we had good looks 3-on-3, and then we won the shootout,” Gulutzan said. “You need to collect those points. Good on our guys, we stuck with it. I really liked our group tonight.”

In a lot of ways, learning lessons while winning games can be a good thing.

“A lot of the battles and physical plays we didn’t have in St. Louis,” said Sam Steel. “We knew coming into this building we would have to up it a notch, and I thought we did for a good portion of the game. That’s the time we spent in their zone and got rewarded for it, and at the end of the day, that’s how we won the game.”

Dallas finished with a 27-21 advantage in shots on goal, won 31-of-61 faceoffs, and had a 29-26 advantage in hits. They had the better of the chances, and that was a nice feeling.

“This was much better,” Gulutzan said in reference to the Blues game. “We’re playing a good hockey team here. We played two solid periods and even our third period wasn’t a bad period. It was just one of those games, you’re playing a good team. But I liked our physicality, I liked the way we defended, I thought it was a good hockey game.”

**NHL.com**

## **Dallas Stars to play Vegas Golden Knights in 2027 NHL Stadium Series**

By NHL PR  
Date: 01/29/26

NEW YORK (Jan. 29, 2026) – The National Hockey League announced today that the Dallas Stars' opponent will be the Vegas Golden Knights in the 2027 Navy Federal Credit Union NHL Stadium Series™. In November, it was announced that the Stars would host the outdoor game at AT&T Stadium, the home of the NFL's Dallas Cowboys, on Saturday, February 20. The 2027 Navy Federal Credit Union NHL Stadium Series will begin at 7 p.m. CT and be broadcast on ABC.

The 2027 Navy Federal Credit Union NHL Stadium Series is the second time the Stars and the state of Texas will serve as hosts of an NHL outdoor game. The Stars defeated the Nashville Predators 4-2 before a sold-out crowd of 85,630 at the Cotton Bowl in the 2020 NHL Winter Classic. A complete history of NHL regular-season outdoor games can be found [here](#).

Dallas has qualified for the Stanley Cup Playoffs in six of the last seven seasons. During that span, the Stars have reached the last three Western Conference Finals and the 2020 Stanley Cup Final.

Additional details about the 2027 Navy Federal Credit Union NHL Stadium Series, including ticketing information, will be announced when available. Fans can sign up for news and updates [here](#).

The full release from the NHL can be found [here](#).

**NHL.com**

## **Golden Knights to play Stars at 2027 Stadium Series in Dallas**

By Tom Gulitti

Date: 01/29/26

The Vegas Golden Knights will play the Dallas Stars in the 2027 Navy Federal Credit Union NHL Stadium Series at AT&T Stadium on Feb. 20, 2027.

The game will begin at 8 p.m. ET and be broadcast on ABC.

"Those events are always fun to be a part of," Vegas captain Mark Stone said. "You get to bring your families to them. The families really enjoy it, especially when you on the road and at the same hotel together."

The NHL announced Nov. 3 that the Stars will host the 2027 NHL Stadium Series at AT&T Stadium, home of the Dallas Cowboys, but did not name their opponent at the time.

This will be the Golden Knights' third outdoor game. Vegas lost 3-2 to the Colorado Avalanche in the NHL Outdoors at Lake Tahoe in 2021 and lost 3-0 to the Seattle Kraken in the 2024 NHL Winter Classic at T-Mobile Park, home of the Seattle Mariners. There were no fans at the Lake Tahoe game because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It should be a great atmosphere," Golden Knights coach Bruce Cassidy said. "I've been involved in a few of these, and I've always enjoyed them. I didn't like the outcome in Seattle a few years ago. I don't think we played great with the buildup and the fact that you're involved with. They're always great venues, places you otherwise wouldn't go to. I'm kind of a curious guy, so I'm looking forward to it. I'm glad they included us."

This will be the Stars' second outdoor game. They drew 85,630 fans, the third-largest crowd in NHL history, when they defeated the Nashville Predators 4-2 in the 2020 Winter Classic at Cotton Bowl Stadium in Dallas.

The Golden Knights have developed a strong rivalry with the Stars during their nine seasons since entering the NHL in 2017. The teams have met in the Stanley Cup Playoffs three times, including twice with a spot in the Stanley Cup Final on the line.

Dallas defeated Vegas in five games of the 2020 Western Conference Final, winning twice in overtime during the best-of-7 series, which was held with no fans in attendance at Rogers Place in Edmonton because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Alexander Radulov scored 31 seconds into overtime in a 3-2 victory in Game 3 and Denis Gurianov scored at 3:36 of OT in a 3-2 victory in Game 5 to send Dallas to the

Cup Final for the first time since 2000. The Stars lost to the Tampa Bay Lightning in six games.

Vegas got its revenge by defeating Dallas in six games of the 2023 Western Conference Final. Helped by overtime wins in the first two games, the Golden Knights jumped to a 3-0 series lead before the Stars won the next two games. Vegas closed the series with a 6-0 victory in Game 6 in Dallas to advance to the Cup Final for the second time in its history and defeated the Florida Panthers in five games to capture its first championship.

The teams met again in the 2024 Western Conference First Round, when Dallas recovered from losing the first two games of the series at home to prevail in seven games.

"It's a cool experience," Golden Knights forward Keegan Kolesar said. "I remember Seattle. Everything that went up to it was exciting. Really excited to play another big stage like that against a good team."

**NHL.com**

## **Stars win in shootout after Golden Knights rally from 3 down in 3rd**

By Paul Delos Santos

Date: 01/30/26

LAS VEGAS -- Mavrik Bourque scored twice for his first multigoal NHL game, and the Dallas Stars recovered after blowing a three-goal lead in the third period to defeat the Vegas Golden Knights 5-4 in a shootout at T-Mobile Arena on Thursday.

"I just see him growing," Stars coach Glen Gulutzan said. "It's not easy. He's a young player. It's his first multigoal game, and I thought he played really well tonight."

Mikko Rantanen scored the deciding goal in the third round of the shootout after Mitch Marner tied it 4-4 for Vegas with 49 seconds remaining in regulation. Tomas Hertl won a face-off back to Marner, who scored through traffic with a wrist shot from the point with Adin Hill on the bench for the extra attacker.

"Just saw an opening to the net," Marner said. "I saw Hertl going to the front. Honestly, was just shooting for a rebound or tip there. Lucky enough I found that one."

Wyatt Johnston and Matt Duchene scored, and Jamie Benn and Sam Steel each had two assists for the Stars (31-14-9), who have won three in a row. Jake Oettinger made 17 saves.

Dallas also blew a three-goal lead in the third period on Tuesday before recovering late for a 4-3 win against the St. Louis Blues.

"It's three in a row now. Obviously, the last two games they came back down by three," Bourque said. "But tonight we're better, and it's not an easy rink to go in and win. We've got to fix some stuff, but it's a hard league. It's hard to win."

Marner and Keegan Kolesar each had a goal and an assist, and Reilly Smith and Ivan Barbashev also scored for the Golden Knights (25-14-14), who have lost five of their past six (1-3-2). Hill made 23 saves.

"It's a bit baffling at times," Vegas coach Bruce Cassidy said. "Take care of the puck and play direct. You've heard me say that. Play direct. That's why it's baffling when they see the end result. It's on me to do a better job to get them to understand."

Duchene gave the Stars a 1-0 lead at 1:37 of the first period. Benn cut across the low slot and got Hill out of position, and although his centering pass wasn't able to be handled by Steel, it wound up on the stick of Duchene, who scored into the open net.

Kolesar tied the game 1-1 at 4:07 of the second period. Marner helped poke the puck out from the left corner into the low slot, where Kolesar scored glove side on Oettinger.

Bourque responded to put Dallas back in front 2-1 at 8:46. He scored on a one-timer from the low slot off a pass from Roope Hintz after Jason Robertson poked the puck away from Kolesar behind the net.

Bourque then made it 3-1 at 14:16 on another one-timer, this time from the right circle off a short backhand pass from Benn.

“He played a good game,” Benn said. “He’s fitting in with [Hintz] and [Robertson]. It’s not always easy playing with elite guys like that. He’s doing great and it’s nice to see him get a couple.”

Johnston pushed the lead to 4-1 at 16:43. His initial chance following a face-off win by Rantanen was stopped by Hill, but Johnston skated into his own rebound and scored high glove side from the left hash marks.

Smith cut it to 4-2 at 4:04 of the third period, scoring a short-handed goal from the left circle on a 2-on-1 rush.

Barbashev got the Golden Knights to within 4-3 at 13:54, shooting around Stars defenseman Miro Heiskanen and scoring blocker side from the high slot.

It was Barbashev’s first goal since Dec. 27 (17 games).

“It’s a little bit too much,” Barbashev said. “I’ve been struggling for a bit, but I saw my game. It may be getting better lately in the last couple of games. But it’s huge for me.”

## **Dallas Morning News**

### **Dallas Stars to host Vegas Golden Knights for 2027 Stadium Series game at AT&T Stadium**

By SportsDay Staff

Date: 01/29/26

The Dallas Stars know who they'll face in next year's Stadium Series game in Arlington.

On Thursday, the NHL announced that Dallas would host the Vegas Golden Knights at AT&T Stadium. The game is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 20, 2027.

According to the league, puck drop is set for 7 p.m., and the game will be broadcast by ABC.

NHL officials were at AT&T Stadium in November when the league revealed Dallas would host the 2027 Stadium Series game. It will be the first hockey game at AT&T Stadium.

The Stars aren't strangers to stadium games, as they hosted the league's Winter Classic at the Cotton Bowl in 2020. That game notably drew an attendance figure of 85,630.

Many speculated for the last two months whom the Stars would face at AT&T Stadium, and the league ultimately chose one of Dallas' newer rivals. The Stars and Golden Knights played playoff series in back-to-back seasons in 2023 and 2024 — with the Stars falling to the Golden Knights in the 2023 Western Conference finals before avenging that loss in a thrilling Game 7 win in the first round of 2024.

This would be the third time Vegas plays in an outdoor game. The Golden Knights last played outdoors in 2024, when they faced the Seattle Kraken in the Winter Classic at T-Mobile Park in Seattle.

**DLLS**

## **It's official: Stars & Golden Knights will meet in 2027 Stadium Series**

By Sean Shapiro

Date: 01/30/26

The Dallas Stars officially have their opponent for the “outdoor” game that will be played next season at AT&T Stadium after it was announced the Vegas Golden Knights would be joining the Stars in Jerry World on Feb. 20, 2027.

It'll be the Stars second outdoor game, the first being the largely-successful Winter Classic in 2020 in the Cotton Bowl and the third for the Vegas Golden Knights, who have played outdoors in the Lake Tahoe Classic in in 2021, a picturesque game without fans during COVID protocols, and then in the 2024 Winter Classic against the Seattle Kraken.

For the Stars and the NHL, picking the opponent for the game in a collaborative effort, with the league getting final say, although teams can make a hard push one way or the other. For example, when the Minnesota Wild hosted a Stadium Series game, the NHL originally pushed for the Stars to be the visiting team, but the Wild preferred to have the Chicago Blackhawks as the visiting team, which the league eventually agreed to.

For me, it would have come down to either the Golden Knights or Colorado Avalanche for this marquee event. While the Avalanche have surpassed the Golden Knights in recent history, especially with the Mikko Rantanen saga, the Golden Knights have been one of the Stars most consistent rivals since they entered the league.

The Golden Knights first ever game, in fact, was a road game in Dallas, where James Neal scored twice against Kari Lehtonen after Ben Bishop was knocked out of the game on a slap shot by Reilly Smith, a former Star.

**DLLS**

## **Dallas Stars game notes: Bourque's first double dip & 40 minutes of classic road hockey in win at Golden Knights**

By Sam Nestler

Date: 01/30/26

The Dallas Stars dominated the second period, then held on very, very tight in a 5-4 shootout win against the Vegas Golden Knights at T-Mobile Arena on Thursday

Stars lines

Hryckowian – Johnston – Rantanen

Robertson – Hintz – Bourque

Steel – Duchene – Benn

Bäck – Faksa – Erne

Lindell – Heiskanen

Harley – Lundkvist

Capobianco – Petrovic

Oettinger

DeSmith

Scratches: Nathan Bastian, Colin Blackwell, Ilya Lyubushkin (injured).

Top story

The announcement that came this very morning.

Earlier today, the NHL and Stars made it official; Dallas is set to host the Vegas Golden Knights in the Stadium Series game in February 2027 at At&T Stadium.

My initial reaction was a bit of disappointment. I thought perhaps the league would choose the Philadelphia Flyers, Washington Capitals, or New York Rangers for a NFC East football draw in. Well, maybe not the Rangers because, let's be honest, the Giants are awful. And that is coming from a New Jersey native. Maybe it should be the New Jersey Devils since the Giants play in Jersey? In a swamp, by the way.

Anyway... What were we talking about?

Oh yeah.

I pictured the Stars in blue and silver and the Flyers in green and black. I thought that would be really cool and would pay tribute to the venue, which I thought would be important.

Before that, I strongly believed the Colorado Avalanche would be the opponent. Their rivalry with Dallas has been the biggest of recent past. Their playoff series have been epic, and the Mikko Rantanen trade only added to that fire. But then Colorado was announced as the opponent of the Utah Mammoth in their outdoor game at the University of Utah in the Winter Classic right around that time.

The more I thought about it, and the more we talked on our DLLS Emergency Podcast, the more I liked it.

These teams hate each other. These fans hate each other. There have been three entertaining and violent playoff series in the past five years. Jamie Benn cross checked Mark Stone in the head, left the building early, and was suspended two games because of it. Stone tackled Miro Heiskanen last season and knocked him out until into the playoffs with a knee injury.

Dallas knocked out Pete DeBoer's Knights in the bubble. Vegas dominated the next series. Then Dallas beat them in dramatic fashion in seven games.

There will be some hatred. There will be theatrics. Maybe Stone will even have to make a massive walk of shame like Corey Perry did? You never know.

Live game notebook

Period 1

Sean Shapiro has reverse jinxed Matt Duchene, it has been decided. Since Sean went off about Duchene being cooked, the veteran has three goals in just barely over three periods. He has four goals in his past three games and really has started to look more like himself all over the ice. Confidence is huge for a skilled player like Duchene. He has it, and you can see it with his puck handling and how quickly he makes decisions. Duchene just doesn't make this play a month ago. Simple as that.

Dallas gave Vegas very little on its first power play. Their penalty kill is now 14-16 over the past eight games.

Jason Robertson is a very underrated passer. He found Thomas Harley streaking down the high slot with a little saucer pass off the rush. Good save by Adin Hill.

This game has settled in. Both these teams strive to defend well and counter strike off of it. Even when they aren't doing that well heading into their matchups, they bring the best out of each other.

That Rasmuss Andersson guy is pretty good, eh?

Remember when Reilly Smith was a Dallas Star? He had some nice moments down in Big D. Did you know his brother is former Stars defenseman Brendan Smith?

What a first period on the road for Dallas. Got out to an early lead, played sound defensively, didn't make Jake Oettinger be great, and kept things simple. About as good as you could have asked for.

Stars 1, Golden Knights 0

Period 2

Justin Hryckowian was nearly the beneficiary of another elite pass from Mikko Rantanen. Rantanen went full NHL 21, extending his stick out on his backhand to open up the passing lane behind the defender going down the right wall. Shea Theodore just got a piece, but Hryckowian crashed the far post and nearly tipped it in.

Oof, a loose puck bounced right to Keegan Kolesar in the low slot, and he beat Oettinger to the blocker side. Heiskanen's D-to-D rim attempt behind the net hit off Mitch Marner and skipped out to Kolesar for a quick wrist shot.

Robertson passed up a couple of golden shooting chances, and Esa Lindell was stopped in right after a puck bounced off Robertson's stick in the slot. Good response shift from Dallas.

Stars give Vegas all sorts of trouble on the forecheck, eventually turning it over on a poke check by Robertson. Roope Hintz quickly collects the loose puck behind the net and fires a pass to Mavrik Bourque, who one times it past Hill. Tic-tac-toe starting with a poke check on the forecheck. Love that, and I have really liked this trio as a line. They have been very good on most nights.

When Rantanen wants to do something with the puck, he does it. His body control, edges, and vision are absolutely ridiculous.

After the power play finally got some good possession toward the end, Jeremy Lauzon came out of the box and was stopped by Oettinger on a breakaway. Dallas is getting away with some ugly puck play in the period, giving Vegas one good shorthanded rush and nearly a glorious chance on a poor drop pass.

Harley did do this when Kolesar tried to hit him, though. Lol.

Bourque is feeling it tonight. Sam Steel made a great pass across to Benn on a 2-on-1, but Benn was unable to get enough on it or he would've had an open net. But the Stars jumped on the forecheck, and Benn made up for it, getting a quick backhand saucer

pass to Bourque, who dropped down to a knee and absolutely hammered a one-timer past Hill from the right circle. It's Bourque's first career multi-goal game.

Dallas runs either the most or nearly the most faceoff plays of any NHL team. Vegas has struggled to handle them tonight, and this time, Wyatt Johnston got two chances and scored on his own rebound. The Stars now have a commanding 4-1 lead that feels commanding.

Stars 4, Golden Knights 1

Period 3

Vegas didn't take very long to make this game more interesting than it needs to be. As we chatted about earlier, Dallas had been getting away with some bad puck play and sloppiness, especially on the power play. Well, Smith converted a 2-on-1 for a shorthanded goal that completely flipped the storyline of the game. And odd-man rushes, especially up a man, always come from turnovers.

The players Vegas has grabbed in trades is absurd. They go full video game mode every spring and bring in two or three superstars or at least players that are on the top of the trade market. Marner and Andersson are just the latest. Stone, Jack Eichel, Tomáš Hertl, Noah Hanfin, Alex Pietrangelo, and Ivan Barbashev. All on the same roster. And others who have since left, like Jonathan Marchessault.

Dallas has done a really good job defending tonight. Vegas has only 17 shots with less than seven minutes to go in the game, and the Golden Knights have had a lot of trouble getting interior on the Stars D. Good checking, good coverage, blocking shots, and doing exactly that they needed to do.

But one of those superstars, Barbashev just made this a one-goal game, assisted by another. Dallas did not do nearly enough in the neutral zone, and Vegas danced its way in and find the open slot.

Did I mention Vegas leads the NHL with eight third-period comebacks?

Rantanen drilled the left post on a breakaway after intercepting a horrible pass through the neutral zone. Rantanen nearly slipped the rebound out of mid air and in.

Remember those comebacks...

That's the second consecutive game Dallas blew a three-goal third-period lead.

Stars 4, Golden Knights 4

Overtime

Duchene just went crazy on the forecheck, stole the puck after a batter, and one-handed it to the middle of the ice. Robertson skated into it and went in all alone, but missed high. What a chance to end it and what a play by Duchene.

Wowwwweee, Bourque just dangled between his own legs and nearly beat Hill on the glove side. His confidence may be at a career high in this game. He never makes those moves at this level. What skill.

Now Stone barely missed the net on a backdoor 2-on-1 chance. It's been a fun, albeit unnecessary, overtime period.

Shootout

Don't worry, Robertson scoring in the shootout is so back. He went five hole this time. So lethal.

Oettinger stayed with Eichel, who made about 400 dekes in tight and beat the poke check. Good pad save using his length.

Rantanen ENDS it under the glove. Perfect shot. Dallas hangs on. And I mean hangs on.

Final: Stars 5, Golden Knights 4 (SO)

And here's this to end your night with a smile.

## Stars Thoughts

### Some Thoughts on Vegas as the Stars' Opponent in the Stadium Series

By Robert Tiffin

Date: 01/29/26

In case you haven't seen it yet, the NHL announced today that the Stars' opponent for their Stadium Series game in Arlington on February 20, 2027 will be the Vegas Golden Knights.

(Officially, it's the 2027 Navy Federal Credit Union NHL Stadium Series™, but I am under no obligation to enhance Navy Federal Credit Union's media presence, though I suppose I've done so by mentioning them twice already. I hereby command you all to forget about them.)

As for the hockey thing itself, my initial reaction when I first heard Vegas being whispered as the likely opponent was simple: It makes a lot of sense.

Colorado was already out as a possibility after already being announced as Utah's opponent for next year's Winter Classic. And while Minnesota is another divisional rival that would make for a raucous game, they're the ones who pushed back against the NHL's preference for Dallas as the Wild's own Stadium Series opponent a decade ago, as Mike Russo and Bob McKenzie reported back in 2015. No favors need to be returned here.

As for the other four teams in the Central, no others are really in a competitive spot right now, as the standings have reflected all year. St. Louis just got their own Winter Classic two years ago, and Chicago is the last team anyone wants to see in another outdoor game at this point. Nashville? We did that already.

Edmonton would be a fun matchup after the last two playoff meetings between the teams, but Canadian opponents don't tend to appeal to the NHL's TV partners in the States, which also nixes Winnipeg. So really, if you're Dallas, what other opponent with history and a decent roster is left in the Western Conference—I don't imagine there was a ton of desire to make this a cross-conference game—besides Vegas?

So, yeah. Vegas makes sense. The teams' have met in three playoff series over six years, in which the Stars have won 10 of the teams' 181 playoff contests. The last two meetings were the more entertaining ones, with the seven-game first-round victory for Dallas in 2024 being one of the best examples of dramatic playoff hockey you're likely to see. And my sense from Pete DeBoer and Steve Spott last year was that getting past Vegas was one of the pinnacles of their time in Texas, and possibly the pinnacle. That series really did have everything.

<https://youtu.be/r6a5SxCxK1E>

So on a competitive and historical level, Vegas is a fun opponent that should make for a hard-fought game. (More on that below.)

But with the announcement coming today, ahead of the Stars' first meeting with the Golden Knights in nearly a full year, you can't help but think of the history within these teams' recent games, starting all the way back in 2017, when the Stars hosted Vegas for the expansion franchise's first NHL game.

The game was notable for the portentous Ben Bishop injury in the third period, when the Stars' 1-0 lead immediately disappeared after Kari Lehtonen had to come in cold, with James Neal scoring twice (once off a Cody Eakin setup) en route to a 2-1 Vegas victory.

There was also a moment that sticks in my mind from the first period, when Alex Radulov lined up Eakin in the neutral zone and absolutely flattened him, only for Eakin to pop right back up.

The other thing that proved portentous from that game was the penalties—oh, such penalties—including three by Antoine Roussel in the first period alone, and two more by Radulov.

Vegas would get a total of seven power plays in the game, but none of them would be converted, while Tyler Seguin scored Dallas's only goal on a secondary assist from John Klingberg, and a primary assist from a player you probably won't guess in five tries. (Here's the box score, if you want to check your work.)

That was the first game Dallas played during Ken Hitchcock's one-year return, and it set the tone both for the Stars' 2017-18 season, and for the Dallas/Vegas matchup as a whole. Vegas would run roughshod over the Western Conference en route to the Stanley Cup Final, and the Stars would ultimately miss the playoffs, with Bishop missing more time in the second half of what would turn out to be Kari Lehtonen's final season of his career.

Goalies have been big talking points for both sides in their three playoff matchups, as they so often are under Pete DeBoer. From the Dallas end, Jake Oettinger's 2023 performance against Vegas felt like something of a letdown after his performance against Calgary the prior year, while Adin Hill's inability to repeat his 2023 performance the following year was a key factor in Dallas getting past them in 2024.

And of course, Anton Khudobin's all-timer of a run in 2020 was never more apparent than in that Vegas series, when Khudobin held Vegas to just 8 goals in 5 games despite VGK's expected goals being nearly double that number. Given how quickly that series ended, I still think we don't quite appreciate just how good Khudobin was in that five-game series.

Ever since then, two things has remained constant about this matchup: The two teams do not like each other one bit, and the final score is usually a tight one. In the regular season, 8 of 20 games have gone to overtime, which is why Dallas's 8-8-4 record is the flip side of Vegas's 12-4-4 record in those 20 games.

Both teams have scored 10 power play goals in those 20 regular season matchups, but the Knights have (as you'd expect) scored more goals overall. In fact, the goal-scoring for Dallas has been downright opportunistic against Vegas in the playoffs, outside of the 2023 series that was forever defined by Jamie Benn's cross check on Mark Stone in Game 3.

In their regular season meetings, Vegas has averaged 2.7 goals per game to Dallas's 2.3.

In the playoffs, Vegas's goal-scoring has been similar, at 2.63 per game. Dallas's, however, dips to a paltry 2.11 per postseason game. The Stars' ability to turn those numbers into a 2-1 postseason series edge is pretty impressive, or perhaps maddening, if you're Vegas.

But of course, we can't just talk about the stats. Mark Stone has gone from victim to villain in the eyes of Stars fans after taking out Heiskanen's knee last January, and the Knights can boast a Stanley Cup in recent years, while the Stars cannot.

(Side note: How differently would Benn's cross-check have been viewed had it happened a year after Stone took out Heiskanen for the season, I wonder? Would perceived vengeance have made it more or less despicable than just frustration and message-sending?)

So, yeah. There's a whole lot of history packed into what will be approaching a decade(!) between the teams by the time February 2027 rolls around, and that could even involve another chapter this spring.

As for the pageantry around the game, I tend to think the state fair and country western aspects of the 2020 Winter Classic will be downplayed for this game in favor of the glitz and glamor that tend to be associated (rightly or wrongly) with the stadium in which the teams will be playing.

I'd expect to see a nod to the Cowboys, and football, to a decent extent. Whether that will extend to the outfits the teams arrive at the stadium wearing or even the hockey sweaters they sport during the game remains to be seen, but I do think they're more likely to lean into it rather than away from it.

I mean, it's Arlington. There is nothing around that parking lot other than more stadiums, chain restaurants, and Six Flags. You don't host a game there and pretend like you're in Lubbock. It'll be flashy.

And that's why Vegas is probably the right opponent for this game. Coaches and players try to treat the game like any other contest, focusing on a win more than anything else, but these really are events more than contests, and pageantry tends to overshadow strategy. If you want pageantry over tradition, style over substance, then Vegas has to be at the top of your list. And for a Stadium Series game in particular, it's hard to argue with that approach.

Like so many other games played in Cowboys AT&T Stadium, this one will also be more about the experience and the event than about the sport being played. And if you go in expecting that to be the case, it will make it a whole lot easier to enjoy.

(So long as you don't mind paying full price for parking and concessions, that is. Because you sure won't be taking a train or a bus to a nearby happy hour.)

## Stars Thoughts

### Game 54 AfterThoughts: Third-Period Leads Are Meant to Be Broken

By Robert Tiffin

Date: 01/30/26

SotG

[https://youtu.be/bbfFDcP\\_bqI](https://youtu.be/bbfFDcP_bqI)

The phrase “a taste of your own medicine” is a weird one when you think about it. I guess it presumes that aphorisms are only for doctors or something, or that all these phrases are for children being forced to ingest daily spoonfuls of vile syrups and serums.

Third period leads are not bad things, either by nature or in the experience of them in the moment. But in Vegas, the Stars managed to make another three-goal lead in the third period feel every bit as unpleasant as a dose of castor oil to a five-year-old.

They also won the game, which strikes me as not unimportant to mention. For once, they were the better team in 3-on-3 overtime, with two great scoring chances that Adin Hill had to go back to 2023 to keep out of the net, but it was in the shootout where they would actually put two pucks into the net, and that was enough to get Dallas the two points that had seemed like they should have been a bit easier to grab after 40 minutes.

But not all blown leads are alike, and to Glen Gulutzan’s credit, he recognized as much after the game, even after presumably experiencing the same blood pressure alteration that you all did watching on television.

“Yeah, this was much better [than last game]. We’re playing against a good hockey team here,” Gulutzan said. “We had two solid periods. Even our third wasn’t a bad period. They pushed, they got a late goal. Before that, we had a chance to hit an open net and put the game away. We had a breakaway before that to put the game away. Just one of those games, you’re playing a good team. But I liked our physicality. I liked the way we defended. I thought it was a good hockey game.”

That sort of perspective is refreshing, given that it’s lately felt like the Stars have been looking for new and creative ways to snatch defeat from the gaping jaws of victory. But after the way January started for Dallas, they aren’t going to complain about three straight wins—even ones that require dramatic, last-minute victories.

And the underlying numbers kind of bear out what Gulutzan is talking about, too. Dallas blocked 23 of Vegas’s shot attempts, and they outchanced them at 5-on-5, with Natural Stat Trick having scoring chances 28-20 in Dallas’s favor. Overall, Dallas got interior on

Vegas tonight far more than it feels like Vegas often allows, and that led to the four goals Dallas scored through 40 minutes.

Really, if Rantanen scores on that breakaway the way he did in Ottawa a few weeks ago instead of hitting the crossbar, that's probably what we're talking about. Instead, a couple of bad mistakes led to just enough offense for Vegas to get to overtime—which they've done all year, seemingly. And while I'm sure Gulutzan could have thrown Robertson under the bus for his turnover on the shorthanded goal, or said something about needing a save from Oettinger on the Barbashev goal, he opted to focus on the overall process when the microphones were out, which was made easier by Robertson and Rantanen scoring in the shootout. And that was probably as much of a relief to Gulutzan as anyone.

Another thing helping Gulutzan keep that perspective is the level of effort Dallas showed tonight, which was pretty plainly of a higher degree than it was in the second half of both St. Louis contests. Dallas had 29 hits, and you actually saw them happening in this one, unlike the way hits are sometimes recorded. Dallas also got their fourth goal off a face-off win (just as Vegas did theirs) and Gulutzan said face-offs are something they've been emphasizing for the group.

I wonder if that's not just because faceoffs allow for set plays and strategy, but because they also set the tone of the entire shift. If you have all five guys looking to execute something specific right from the drop of the puck, that might just keep them a little more battle-ready as the shift goes on. But we're descending into narratives and speculation here, so let's turn back to what was actually said.

"Good on our guys," Gulutzan said at the end of his media availability postgame. "We stuck with it. I really liked, actually, our group tonight."

Again, I can totally understand if a fan watched this game and now feels like Dallas can't defend leads, like Dallas is going to get punished for these sorts of things in the playoffs, like this validated all their fears about this wacky and very good hockey team. Any time a team blows a pair of three-goal, third-period leads in back-to-back games, they have to answer for that, absolutely.

But to the Stars' credit, they've found ways (and Robertson and Harley in particular) to atone for their sins by scoring big goals. And wouldn't you rather have a team full of players who can score big goals than ones who just try to sit on a lead? (Maybe don't answer that until you've slept a bit.)

The Steel-Duchene-Benn line was really good in this one, with Duchene scoring one goal, and with Bourque filling in as an honorary Duchene and scoring another. Benn and Steel had two assists apiece, and that line has some of the makings of a playoff-ish third line, especially when Duchene is putting forth the level of effort he did tonight. (If we're not counting the missed empty-netter for an icing, and the subsequent lost faceoff for Marner's tying goal, at least.)

You absolutely have to get scoring from third lines like that in the playoffs, and it helps if you don't have to assemble them on the fly.

Mavrik Bourque is the big story from this game, though. If he'd scored that overtime goal after going between his legs, I think the Stars fans in attendance in Vegas might have knocked over a slot machine out of sheer delight. And Bourque admitted he was feeling pretty juiced when he got an overtime shift, too.

"First-ever shift in overtime," Bourque said to Razor and Josh Bogorad after the game. "I got excited there, and yeah. I tried to go low-glove like Seggy's always telling me, and I guess it wasn't there today."

(Blaming Tyler Seguin seems like a safe move, given that he's on the road trip.)

Bourque had never scored two goals in an NHL game before, let alone three. But in this one, he went to scoring areas in two big moments, and he executed both times. And that confidence makes him a more dangerous player, as Vegas learned tonight. The only way to become a better goal-scorer is to keep trying to score more goals, and Bourque showed a very promising sign of how he can do that, tonight.

Last season, Bourque had 11 goals and 25 points. This year, he's already at 10 goals and 20 points through 54 games. He's looking more and more like an NHL regular with a good amount of upside, and that can feel like the biggest leap for any promising prospect to make, that move from being a rookie with a few highlights here and there to a reliable, night-in and night-out guy in all three zones.

The first period was just as low-event as you'd expect a more normal VGK/DAL matchup to be, though even it was not entirely devoid of excitement.

After a turnover nearly burned Dallas in their own end, Jamie Benn traversed the top of the crease and just missed scoring a goal after a great behind-the-back feed from Matt Duchene. But not to worry, because Duchene has rediscovered his goal-scoring touch in recent games, so he cleaned up the detritus by then scoring into the gaping net.

Watching Adin Hill in this whole play, it reminds me a lot more of 2024 Hill than the 2023 version that won a Stanley Cup.

Jason Robertson took a tripping penalty shortly after that, and the Golden Knights had a chance to wipe the slate clean. Braeden Bowman got a great chance standing still with the puck, but Oettinger stood tall to stop it, and the power play came to naught.

Thomas Harley got his own chance as a trailer on a rush with the Hintz line, but the 2023 Adin Hill showed up that time, and Harley was denied. And from there, the period began to settle into the familiar low-event Stars/Knights cadence, with icings and dump-ins aplenty.

Jeremy Lauzon tested Oettinger after a failed zone exit by Dallas led to a Mitch Marner Play, but the shot was about as dangerous as you'd expect a Jeremy Lauzon shot to be, so no dice. Esa Lindell got his own chance after Matt Duchene won a puck out of a crowd to set him up in the low slot, but again, the defenseman's shot was goalie'd by a goalie.

It was a hard-working period for Dallas, exhibiting a lot of the traits Glen Gulutzan had expressed concern about them not showing in the 3rd period against St. Louis. They went over 60% on faceoffs in the opening frame, and the lead they had was a fair reflection of their effort and execution. That's about as much as you can ask of any team in the first period in that building.

The second period began with a near-miss from Rantanen and Hryckowian, as a nice shoulder-dip from 96 led to a back-post chance that popped off the rookie's blade and just past the top corner:

[VIDEO]

Hryckowian will feel like he ought to have done better there, you suspect.

Keegan Kolesar got a similarly great setup a couple minutes later, though this time it wasn't intentional. A Miro Heiskanen rim-around hit a skate in the corner (not a referee's, this time) and bounced right out into the slot to Keegan Kolesar, who wasted no time converting the opportunity. 1-1.

A bit of a Pachinko bounce, that one. But Heiskanen took the risk when he tried to thread it through Marner's skates, and sometimes you get burned in that city for taking risks. Or so I'm told.

But Kolesar's goal would be given right back on a turnover by someone with the exact same name, who I believe might be the exact same person, too. And after some hard work along the boards by Hintz and Robertson, Mavrik Bourque finished the chance he got to restore the Stars' one-goal lead.

Dallas got a power play right afterwards when Lauzon tripped Rantanen as he spun off the boards, but the best chances fell to Vegas. First, a 2-on-1 was squandered by Vegas at the Stars' blue line after Heiskanen shot a puck into the Vegas phalanx at the other end, letting Dallas off the hook. But then, at the end of the power play, Jeremy Lauzon popped out of the box just in time to get a breakaway, and he looked every bit like Jeremy Lauzon on a breakaway at the end of it:

[VIDEO]

Don't overlook the Jason Robertson defensive play (while 2:10 into his shift) to come all the way back and protect against the second chance at the back post, either. Dallas was putting in the work, even when mistakes were made.

Speaking of the work, Sam Steel nearly set up a goal for Jamie Benn at the back post off the rush, but Benn's tip went just wide of the net. But Steel and Benn kept working along the boards, and they forced a turnover that Benn dished over to Bourque (filling in for Duchene, who had just been on the second half of the prior power play).

And Mavrik Bourque buried a one-timer past a stickless Adin Hill to make it 3-1.

When it comes to filling in for Matt Duchene, Bourque had clearly been watching recent tape.

And when it comes to playing after offensive-zone faceoffs, Wyatt Johnston had clearly been watching Jason Robertson, as he made it 4-1 two-and-a-half minutes later off a faceoff play by grabbing his own rebound after Rantanen's stick gets lifted:

[VIDEO]

The Stars power play (AKA the two minutes featuring great scoring chances for Vegas) was a clear turning point. After failing to grab the lead, Vegas watched Dallas grab hold of the game after that point with three unanswered goals before the second intermission. As Brien Rea put it during the break: "Vegas let the kids out of the playpen."

After looks at each end, Jack Eichel put his stick right into Rantanen's mouth, perhaps hoping another Stars power play would afford Vegas some more scoring chances. And he was right, when a Robertson turnover along the boards and a lack of passing lane defense by Heiskanen led to a shorthanded goal for Reilly "College Boy" Smith to make it 4-2:

[VIDEO]

A three-goal lead means you don't have to panic after allowing one, but both the way this goal was allowed and the recent history of Stars third periods meant that you probably stopped enjoying the third period quite as much as you had been.

You probably enjoyed it even less after Rasmus Andersson hit the "Justify the Trade" button with six minutes to go, flying down the right wing and feeding a wide-open Ivan Barbashev in the slot, who made it 4-3:

[VIDEO]

To be blunt: Jake Oettinger does not look good on this goal. He's deep in his net and late to pick up the puck.

Heiskanen is also standing still there, likely because he had been anticipating Andersson's carrying the puck into the corner and behind the net. All up, not a great way to surrender a third-period goal.

Mikko Rantanen nearly restored the lead after picking off a telegraphed Noah Hanifin pass in the neutral zone, but his breakaway ended with a dented crossbar only, and Vegas continued pushing in the final minutes, with a Mitch Marner spin move forcing another save out of Oettinger.

Gulutzan put the fourth line out with under three minutes to go in a one-goal game, and that meant something, I think. They had a great shift, too, keeping the puck down the ice and forcing an icing out of Vegas. It felt like a message from Gulutzan about how hard work was as important as anything, even in that moment.

Matt Duchene nearly scored into the empty net from his own blue line, but it resulted in an icing instead. And then Vegas did what Dallas has done twice in their last two games, and punished Dallas for an icing in the final minutes of a game, with Marner just barely avoiding a high stick before the point shot that sailed just underneath the crossbar.

And so, we went to overtime after Dallas blew its second three-goal lead in as many third periods.

Matt Duchene continued to Be Involved when he closed down a puck along the boards and reached over to poke it to Jason Robertson for a Grade-A+ scoring chance for the Stars' best goal-scorer, only for Robertson to miss.

Glen Gulutzan said a couple of weeks ago that he had been looking for a chance to get Mavrik Bourque into the 3-on-3 action, and tonight he made good on that. And Bourque nearly rewarded him with a hat-trick goal, after pulling this between-the-legs move that Hill barely saved:

[VIDEO]

The shootout was kinder to Dallas.

Vegas opted to shoot second, and Jason Robertson punished them for that choice by starting off with a goal, going five-hole before Hill could flinch.

The next three shooters didn't score. Dorofeyev's shot got Oettinger's stick, and Duchene's backhand attempt got either the glove of Hill or the side of the net.

Jack Eichel then came in and put about six dekes on the puck before Oettinger's pad met him at the post. Eichel has still not scored a shootout goal this season.

And so Mikko Rantanen took the ice with a chance to end all the late-night foolishness for good, and he did just that, snapping a puck just below Hill's glove to give the Stars a 5-4 victory that they will hope doesn't end up factoring into any critical tiebreakers 28 games from now.

## Lineups

Dallas started like this:

Hryckowian-Johnston-Rantanen  
Robertson-Hintz-Bourque  
Steel-Duchene-Benn  
Back-Faksa-Erne

Lindell-Heiskanen  
Harley-Lundkvist  
Capobianco-Petrovic

Oettinger

Vegas threw this out there:

Smith-Eichel-Stone  
Dorofeyev-Marner-Bowman  
Barbashev-Hertl-Kolesar  
Reinhardt-Laczynski-Holtz

Lauzon-Theodore  
Hanifin-Andersson  
Hutton-Korczak

Hill

## After-AfterThoughts

Patrick Kane passed Mike Modano on the U.S.-born points leaderboard earlier Thursday night. However you feel about that, this message from Modano was pretty neat.

Meanwhile, in the Central Division:

Utah blew a 4-2 lead with two minutes to play en route to losing in regulation to Carolina. That's a level of lead-blowing that Dallas certainly knows nothing about (please do not ask Vancouver about this).

And Colorado gave up 7 goals to Montreal tonight, losing back-to-back games by pretty ugly margins. How are things in Colorado these days? Well, see, they're like this:

[https://substackcdn.com/image/fetch/\\$s!o0pz!,w\\_1272,c\\_limit,f\\_webp,q\\_auto:good,fl\\_p\\_ogressive:steep/https%3A%2F%2Fsubstack-post-](https://substackcdn.com/image/fetch/$s!o0pz!,w_1272,c_limit,f_webp,q_auto:good,fl_p_ogressive:steep/https%3A%2F%2Fsubstack-post-)

[media.s3.amazonaws.com/public/images/8d80eda2-63d2-4ffc-9711-7d3629c7c10d\\_1188x326.png](https://media.s3.amazonaws.com/public/images/8d80eda2-63d2-4ffc-9711-7d3629c7c10d_1188x326.png)

Pavel Dorofeyev and Wyatt Johnston came into the game as the NHL's two leading power play goal-scorers. But that's putting it a bit charitably, because Dorofeyev started out as many power play goals behind Johnston's 17 as Tyler Bertuzzi was behind Dorofeyev's 13.

Matt Duchene was given three maintenance days over the past week. Seems like they helped. Even outside of the goals, he's also finding himself making plays (like this one), which involve both good fortune and the willingness to battle. This one didn't pay off, but the work is always worth putting in, I hear.

Adam Erne drew into the lineup for his 400th game tonight, and it's been a long time coming. That number is important for pension purposes, though the calculation appears to involve both numbers of seasons and games played now. Still, 400 is a big deal, both for practical purposes and for the accomplishment in its own right.

The Stars didn't get burned this time, but for the second straight game, a puck was turned over by a referee:

[VIDEO]

Hintz wasn't pleased after the play, and you can't really blame him. But of course, accidents happen, and you know the referee (I didn't catch whether this was Graham Skilliter or Graedy Hamilton) doesn't want that to happen, either. All told, you know everyone was glad the scoreline stayed the same after the shift was over.

Mavrik Bourque didn't have the offensive start to his season (or to his NHL career) that he might have wanted, but his 9th goal of the year tonight elicited a pretty elated reaction that was surely even more jubilant after his 10th.

This might just be my imagination, but after Wyatt Johnston contained Jack Eichel here by (maybe) reaching out a leg to do so, it looked like Eichel almost tried to do the same when Harley took the puck the other way, only to think better of it at the last moment:

[VIDEO]

## **The Hockey News**

### **Dallas Stars To Host Vegas Golden Knights in 2027 Stadium Series At AT&T Stadium**

By Jake Tye

Date: 01/29/26

The NHL is bringing another outdoor spectacle to Texas in 2027, as the Dallas Stars are set to face the Vegas Golden Knights in the Stadium Series. The two clubs, who meet Thursday in a regular-season matchup, are scheduled to meet again outdoors on February 20, 2027 at AT&T Stadium, the home of the NFL's Dallas Cowboys in Arlington, Texas.

This will mark the second outdoor game hosted in Texas, following the Stars' previous appearance against the Nashville Predators in the 2015 Winter Classic at Cotton Bowl Stadium in Dallas. That game drew fans from across the state and set a high standard for outdoor hockey in Texas.

The Stars and Predators battled in front of more than 85,000 spectators in frigid January temperatures, creating a memorable experience that combined the excitement of the NHL with the festive atmosphere of a massive outdoor event. The success of that game demonstrated the strong support for hockey in Texas and helped pave the way for future outdoor games in the state.

The 2027 matchup continues the NHL's push to expand outdoor games to iconic stadiums. This year's Stadium Series kicks off Sunday, February 1, 2026, when the Tampa Bay Lightning host the Boston Bruins at Raymond James Stadium, home of the NFL's Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

AT&T Stadium, a fitting stage for an Outdoor Classic AT&T Stadium is one of the largest and most impressive sports venues in the country. The stadium's standard seating capacity is around 80,000 fans, but it can expand to accommodate over 100,000 spectators for major events like playoff games, concerts, or outdoor hockey games.

The venue has previously held massive crowds, setting attendance records above 105,000 for NFL games and should draw a massive crowd for this marquee matchup. Its scale and flexibility make it the perfect venue for the Stars vs. Golden Knights, transforming from an NFL stadium into a memorable outdoor hockey arena.

## **The Hockey News**

### **Stars Aim To Hold Up Winning Streak vs. Slumping Golden Knights**

By Jake Tye

Date: 01/29/26

The Stars are beginning to find their rhythm in Dallas, having won three of their last four games and starting to resemble the team they know they can be. The offense has become more consistent, netting 13 goals over that span, while the defense has allowed just eight.

These incremental improvements are encouraging as Dallas attempts to climb out of the hole created by their recent slump, during which they lost ten of 12 games before their recent surge.

However, their next challenge will be formidable in a tough road matchup against one of the West's elite teams, the Vegas Golden Knights. As the Stars strive to regain their footing in the divisional race, the Golden Knights are looking to rebound themselves, despite currently sitting atop the Pacific Division with a 25-14-13 record. Vegas has stumbled recently, losing four of their last five games, making this a crucial matchup for both sides as each seeks to regain momentum.

#### **Lineup Storylines**

The Dallas Stars offense has made a major resurgence, with eight different skaters scoring during their four-game hot streak. Several players have notably bounced back, most prominently Matt Duchene and Justin Hryckowian, though each has excelled in different ways.

Duchene, who led the Stars in scoring last season, faced skepticism this year as some questioned whether the 35-year-old was beginning to decline. Through his first 26 games, he tallied just four goals and 11 assists for 15 points. However, Duchene revealed he was returning from a concussion that affected his early-season performance and needed time to readjust to the ice.

Over the past two games, he's shown signs of his former self, scoring a goal against the Blues last Friday and adding two more goals in Tuesday's rematch in St. Louis. With Duchene back in form, the Stars' offense could be poised to produce at a high level once again.

Hryckowian's story is one of perseverance as the 24-year-old undrafted forward from Northeastern fought for every opportunity in his career. After finishing college, he earned a contract with the Texas Stars and quickly proved himself, recording 22 goals and 38 assists for 60 points in 67 AHL games. He earned an NHL call-up, appearing in five games with one assist.

This season, Hryckowian has carved out a spot on Dallas' main roster, providing solid depth as a middle- to bottom-six forward. He has eight goals and nine assists for 17 points in 52 games and has even seen time on the top line with Wyatt Johnston and Mikko Rantanen. Hryckowian had a standout performance against the Bruins last Tuesday, scoring a goal and adding two assists. With his top-line opportunity, he could deliver more game-changing performances.

Both Duchene and Hryckowian are helping fuel the Stars' turnaround, supported by a defense that has also stepped up. Dallas could further bolster its roster, with trade rumors pointing to a potential addition of a top-four defenseman and a top- or middle-six forward to sustain their red-hot offense.

Next up, Dallas faces a potent Vegas Golden Knights offense, one of the few teams capable of matching the Stars' firepower. Jack Eichel and Mark Stone anchor the top line, with Stone particularly hot lately, recording 13 goals and 12 assists for 25 points over his last 18 games.

The depth is impressive, featuring 100-point scorer Mitch Marner at center, sharpshooter Pavel Dorofeyev on the second line, and an elite third line of Tomas Hertl, Ivan Barbashev, and Keegan Kolesar forming one of the NHL's most dangerous bottom-six units.

On defense, Vegas boasts top-tier talent in Shea Theodore, Noah Hanifin, and recent acquisition Rasmus Andersson. While the Golden Knights have hit a minor skid, they remain a formidable opponent and should not be underestimated.

#### Goalie Matchup

Dallas: Jake Oettinger Expected (19-10-4 record, 2.71 GAA, .900 SV% | VS VGK: 6-2-2 record, 2.33 GAA, .917 SV% in ten games)

Vegas: Adin Hill Expected (3-2-2 record, 3.53 GAA, .855 SV% | VS DAL: 3-4-1 record, 2.88 GAA, .908 SV% in eight games)

## The Hockey News

### Line Combinations: Stars at Golden Knights

By Jake Tye

Date: 01/29/26

The Dallas Stars are starting to regain their identity, winning three of their last four games after a brutal stretch in which they dropped 10 of 12. During this recent surge, their offense has steadied with 13 goals scored while the defense has tightened up, allowing just eight.

Much of the turnaround has been fueled by renewed production from Matt Duchene, who has shaken off early-season struggles tied to a concussion and scored three goals over his last two games, and by the continued rise of Justin Hryckowian, whose perseverance has earned him a regular role and even time on the top line.

With contributions coming from throughout the lineup and trade rumors swirling about possible reinforcements, Dallas appears to be climbing out of its slump at the right time.

That momentum will be tested on the road against the Vegas Golden Knights, one of the Western Conference's elite teams despite a recent skid of four losses in five games. Vegas still boasts elite firepower led by Jack Eichel and a red-hot Mark Stone, along with enviable depth up and down the lineup and a strong defensive core.

In net, Jake Oettinger is expected to start for Dallas, where he has historically fared well against Vegas, while Adin Hill is projected for the Golden Knights. With both teams eager to reestablish consistency and momentum, this matchup shapes up as a critical measuring stick for the Stars' resurgence.

#### Dallas Stars' Expected Line Combinations vs. Vegas (Thursday)

Hryckowian - Johnston - Rantanen

Robertson - Hintz - Bourque

Steel - Duchene - Benn

Back - Faksa - Erne

Lindell - Heiskanen

Harley - Lundkvist

Capobianco - Petrovic

Oettinger

## **The Hockey News**

### **Stars Beat Golden Knights in Shootout**

By Taylor Newby

Date: 01/30/26

The Dallas Stars faced off against the Vegas Golden Knights for the first time this season. Ironically enough, the same day it was announced that Vegas will be the Stars opponent during the Stadium Series at the AT&T Stadium next season.

The Stars are finally starting to stack some wins together after a rough start to 2026. As part of the three-game road trip, they went to St Louis after just playing them at home and they defeated them twice in a row, with the game-winning goal being scored with a minute (or just over) left in regulation.

The game started on a positive note with Matt Duchene scoring about 90 seconds into the first period. Jamie Benn drove the net and created a rebound while pulling Adin Hill out of the net. The rebound fell right in front of Duchene who had an empty net, outside of the defender standing in it, to shoot at and he did not miss, notching his eighth goal of the season.

The Knights tied the game up early in the second period after Miro Heiskanen tried to slap the puck around the boards, only for the puck to bounce off of Mitch Marner, directly to Keegan Kolesar who was all alone in front of Jake Oettinger. The Stars, who have historically had bad second periods were determined to not let another second period take momentum from the way they played the first period.

Mavrik Bourque scored back-to-back goals scoring his ninth and tenth goal of the season to give the Stars a 3-1 lead. The Stars did not take the foot off the gas pedal even after a two-goal lead. With a couple minutes left in the second, the Stars took a face-off in the offensive zone, Wyatt Johnston was able to clean up his own rebound, making the score 4-1. All four goals for the Stars were on 5v5 which is something the Stars have known needed to get better.

The third period appeared to smooth sailing at the start with the three goals lead they started the final frame with. Especially since the third period started with a power-play attempt, which did not go well for the Stars from the beginning. A turnover by Jason Robertson created a 2-on-1 going the other way and Reilly Smith was able to get it past Oettinger off of the pass.

After the short-handed goal it appeared the Stars started to take on some water, spending a lot of time in their zone. The Knights would come within one when Ivan Barbashev gets a shot off nearly unchallenged from the middle of the ice with a little over six minutes left in the game. With under two minutes left in the game, Vegas pulled Hill for the extra attacker. With the way the third period had gone, a last minute tie game

felt inevitable. And it was, Marner scored his 13th goal of the season with 49 seconds left.

The game would not be settled in 3-on-3 hockey, as both teams have spent a lot of time playing in over time this season. Robertson was up first in the shootout. He was 3/6 going into tonight and would move 4/7 after beating Hill. Duchene took the second attempt, a good coach's call as he has been hot recently, but he was snubbed by Hill. Vegas did not score on their two attempts and Mikko Rantanen took the game home for the Stars.

The Stars now head to Salt Lake City to take on the Utah Mammoth.

## **Breakaway on Sports Illustrated**

### **Stars to Face Golden Knights in 2027 Stadium Series**

By Seth Dowdle

Date: 01/29/26

After much waiting and anticipation, the Dallas Stars' opponent in the 2027 NHL Stadium Series has finally been announced. The Vegas Golden Knights, one of the most prolific franchises in the league despite having existed for only nine years, will travel to Arlington, Texas, on Feb. 20 to play the Stars at AT&T Stadium, the home of the Dallas Cowboys.

It will be the third outdoor-game appearance for the Golden Knights, who are 0-2 in their first two contests — Vegas lost to the Colorado Avalanche 3-2 at Lake Tahoe in 2021 and was defeated 3-0 by the Seattle Kraken in 2024. Meanwhile, the Stars have competed in only one outdoor event — a thrilling matchup against the Nashville Predators in front of a sold-out crowd of 85,630 at the Cotton Bowl in 2020 — but are 1-0.

The 2027 Stadium Series in Arlington between the Stars and Golden Knights will be the continuation of an intense rivalry the two teams have been brewing over the past several years. The clubs met in the Western Conference final in 2023, with Vegas prevailing in six games.

After that series, the Golden Knights went on to win their first Stanley Cup in franchise history. The following year, the sides matched up in the first round of the playoffs, with the Stars coming back from down 2-0 in the series to win in seven games. Should the matchup on Feb. 20, 2027, live up to previous iterations, the Stadium Series could be in for a classic tilt between two teams that don't particularly care for one another.

#### **Hockey Heads to AT&T Stadium for Stadium Series**

Despite never hosting an NHL game, AT&T Stadium is accustomed to big-time events like the Stadium Series. For one, the venue will be the site of several World Cup matches this upcoming summer, but that's just the start of AT&T Stadium's resume. It was the site of the 2010 NBA All-Star Game, the 2014 NCAA Men's Division I Final Four, and WrestleMania 32 and 38. It also hosted the historic, yet anticlimactic, boxing match between Jake Paul and Mike Tyson in 2024.

It will be up to the Stars and the Golden Knights to continue building on the extraordinary events of the past at AT&T Stadium. While the Cowboys, who have been wandering through the desert for three decades, haven't been up to snuff in their state-of-the-art venue, perhaps the Stars and Golden Knights can show the city of Arlington what winning — on the ice instead of the gridiron — is all about.

**Sportsnet**

## **Stars to host Golden Knights outdoors at Cowboys stadium**

By Sportsnet Staff

Date: 01/29/26

The NHL is heading to the Lone Star State for its next Stadium Series game.

The Dallas Stars will host the Vegas Golden Knights at AT&T Stadium, home of the Dallas Cowboys, in an outdoor game next season. The game in Dallas had previously been announced, but the NHL confirmed Thursday that the Golden Knights will be the opponent.

The game will take place on Feb. 20, 2027 and will be the second outdoor game played in Texas, after the Stars hosted the Nashville Predators at the Cotton Bowl in 2020.

The Stars and Golden Knights have been two of the top contenders in the Western Conference over the last few seasons. The Stars have reached the Western Conference Final in each of the last three seasons and played in the 2020 Stanley Cup Final. The Golden Knights won the Stanley Cup in 2023 and have made the playoffs in seven of their eight seasons since entering the league.

The matchup will be the third outdoor game on the calendar next season. The Winnipeg Jets host the Montreal Canadiens in a Heritage Classic game on Oct. 25 at Princess Auto Stadium, home of the Winnipeg Blue Bombers. Then, the Utah Mammoth will host the Colorado Avalanche at Rice-Eccles Stadium on the campus of the University of Utah in the Winter Classic in early January.

The next Stadium Series game will take place this Sunday when the Tampa Bay Lightning host the Boston Bruins at Raymond James Stadium, home of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

**The Associated Press**

## **Stars win 5-4 in shootout after blowing 3-goal lead to Golden Knights**

By Mark Anderson

Date: 01/30/26

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Jason Robertson and Mikko Rantanen scored in the shootout and Dallas escaped with a 5-4 victory over the Golden Knights after the Stars blew a three-goal lead in the third period Thursday night.

Vegas' Mitch Marner forced overtime when he used his stick to keep the puck from leaving the offensive zone and then blasted a shot from the left point with 48.7 seconds left.

Mavrik Bourque scored twice for the Stars, who have won four of their past five games. It was the first multigoal game for Bourque, whom the Stars drafted 30th overall in 2020.

The Stars also got goals from Matt Duchene and Wyatt Johnston, and Jamie Benn and Sam Steel each had two assists. Jake Oettinger finished with 17 saves.

Marner and Keegan Kolesar each had a goal and an assist for the Golden Knights, Ivan Barbashev scored and Reilly Smith had a short-handed goal. Smith has 13 career short-handed goals for the Golden Knights, two off the franchise record set by William Karlsson.

Adin Hill had 23 saves for the Golden Knights, who have lost five of six and are 1-6 in shootouts this season.

Two Stars reached career milestones, with Adam Erne playing in his 400th game and Johnston in his 300th. Johnston, who has not missed a Stars game since his NHL debut on Oct. 13, 2022, is the fourth player from the 2021 draft class to hit that mark.

Dallas scored in the opening two minutes for the third game in a row when Duchene took advantage of a vacated net to score his fourth goal in three games.

After Kolesar's equalizer 4:07 into the second period, the Stars scored three goals — two by Bourque — before the Golden Knights rallied with three goals in the third.

Up next

Stars: Visit the Utah Mammoth on Saturday.

Golden Knights: Host the Seattle Kraken on Saturday.

**CBS Sports**

## **2027 NHL Stadium Series: Golden Knights to visit Stars at Cowboys' AT&T Stadium**

By Zachary Pereles

Date: 01/29/26

With the 2026 NHL Stadium Series game just days away, the NHL announced its 2027 matchup: The Vegas Golden Knights will visit the Dallas Stars at AT&T Stadium, home of the Dallas Cowboys, in Arlington, Texas. The game is set for Feb. 20, 2027.

The Stars were named the host for the game back in November, but it wasn't until Thursday that they found out their matchup -- one that has plenty of history. The Stars beat the Golden Knights in five games in the 2020 Western Conference Final, only for the Golden Knights to avenge that loss by winning the 2023 Western Conference Final over Dallas in six games. The two teams also met in the first round of the 2024 playoffs, when Dallas overcame an 0-2 series deficit to win in seven games.

This will be the second time the Stars have hosted an outdoor game; in 2020, they beat the Nashville Predators 4-2 at Cotton Bowl Stadium in Dallas. The Golden Knights have less fond memories of playing outdoors. In 2021, Vegas lost to the Colorado Avalanche, 3-2, in the NHL Outdoors at Lake Tahoe in 2021. It also lost 3-0 to the Seattle Kraken in the 2024 NHL Winter Classic at T-Mobile Park, home of the Seattle Mariners.

The 2026 NHL Stadium Series game -- the Boston Bruins vs. the Tampa Bay Lightning at the Tampa Bay Buccaneers' Raymond James Stadium -- is on Saturday.

**WFAA**

## **Dallas Stars hosting Golden Knights at AT&T Stadium for 2027 'Stadium Series'**

By Paul Livengood

Date: 01/29/26

ARLINGTON, Texas — Texas hockey just got a little bit bigger.

For the second time in Stars history, they'll host a hockey game in a football stadium – this time in Jerry World. That's right, y'all; in the home of the Dallas Cowboys, the Stars will faceoff against the Vegas Golden Knights on Saturday, Feb. 20, 2027.

The last time the Stars hosted did this was in 2020, in front of 85,630 fans in the Cotton Bowl. It was, at the time, the second-highest attended NHL game ever (105,491 in 2014 between Detroit Red Wings and Toronto Maple Leafs). It now ranks third all-time after the 2025 Stadium Series game between Columbus Blue Jackets and Detroit Red Wings at Ohio Stadium drew 94,751 fans.

The Golden Knights are 0-2-0 in previous outdoor action, while the Stars won their only outdoor game against the Nashville Predators in 2020 (4-2).

These two perennial playoff contenders clash at one of the grandest stages in the world – which has hosted countless large scale events such as Super Bowl XLV in 2011, the 2015 College Football Playoff National Championship Game, the 2018 NFL Draft, the 2010 NBA All-Star Game, the 2014 NCAA Men's Division I Final Four, WrestleMania 32 (2016) and 38 (2022), and more.

AT&T Stadium is also set to host nine World Cup matches this summer, more than any other venue.

<https://youtu.be/T9gF9LLzbeM>

