

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

Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2024
Dallas Stars 5, LA Kings 1
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DALLAS STARS

Stars Head Coach Pete DeBoer

On tonight's win and a dominant third period performance

"We did what we were supposed to do against a team on the end of a seven-game road trip coming off of a back-to-back, and that was start off well and finish well. We let them back in in the middle there with a couple of penalties to start the second, but we did what we were supposed to do to a team in that situation."

On juggling his lines and what he looks for in those situations

"It's different every time. In this situation, a lot like the Hintz line last year, the Duchene line has been consistently pretty good all year, and the other three lines have been some good, some average, some poor. So that's kind of why we shook up all three of those lines. Especially the groups with history, you want to give them as much runway as you can to get it together, but we are halfway through the season now. So, it's time to make some changes if things aren't turning around with some of the groupings."

On moving individuals to new lines

"Sometimes it is single guys. Wyatt Johnston is a good example of that. He always gives you what he's got, and I felt like he wasn't getting enough puck touches and enough offensive zone time. You know with Roope [Hintz] and [Jason Robertson], he is going to get some of that stuff, and on the flip side I think [Joe Pavelski] is one of those guys you can stick anywhere and makes other people better."

Stars Forward Radek Faksa

On the team having a good night

"It doesn't matter if it's a good night for me or not. What's important are the two points. It was a tough game, a good first period and second period they bounced back. They were playing really good. The third goal was huge and then we comfortably finished the game."

On playing his 600th NHL game

"It means a lot to me. You have to appreciate every day in the NHL because it's a childhood dream and not everyone got lucky to be here. Just enjoying every day here."

Stars Forward Wyatt Johnston

On his goal

"It feels good. It was a good confidence booster, and it was good to help chip in. Obviously, that's the number one thing is to help do your part whenever you can. It feels good when you're able to do that."

On pulling ahead in the third period

"It was a 2-1 game at that time. Jake [Oettinger] was awesome. One goal gives us a little bit of a cushion and then we were able to get a couple more after that which is huge. It was a tight game for the whole time."

Stars Goaltender Jake Oettinger

On coming back after injury

"That's how it goes, ups and downs and ride the way. Just happy to have played well. I've tried to add in my game slowly, and when you see it pay off, it feels good. The last two games, it just feels good to win."

On embracing the challenge of maintaining a tight game

"Especially when you're playing a championship team like that, it's one or two saves – one or two plays. You just have to try to give the guys a chance to make it 3-1. We had guys step up and made huge goals. The breathing room that that gives us – it's 2-1, and you can do all the things right and they get a bounce in or two and next thing you know you lose. So just have to give the guys a chance to get that two-goal lead, and we did that and added to it."

LOS ANGELES KINGS

Kings Head Coach Todd McLellan

On tonight's loss and giving up three goals in the third period

"I'll start at the beginning of the night. It took us some time to find our legs and get going, and we were down 2-0 by the time that happened. We had a tremendous second period. A character period, and going into the third you had a feeling that we either needed the next [goal] or we were going to be in a little bit of a trouble, and [Dallas] got it about four or five minutes in. After that, we had to open it up, and our passing and our execution in the third period wasn't anywhere near where it was in the second. Our two-on-one's, three-on-two's, we had a four-on-two and a power play entry. The passing just annihilated any opportunity that we had at offense. They, on the other hand, came down and scored on three entry goals, and they made their plays, so that was the difference."

On his team's play in the second period

"We were a lot cleaner. Sometimes when you play back-to-back and you travel like we did, it does take a little bit to get your legs going. That's understandable, but the passing, whether it was the quarterback or the receiver in the first period, wasn't really good. Then that began to dissipate late in the first, and in the second, we were well connected and looked fast. We were on top of them and created multiple scoring chances and didn't finish. In the third, after they got that goal, our execution was poor again. We will go home and get some rest and get ready to play on Thursday."

Kings Forward Trevor Lewis

On falling behind in the third period

"Our passing wasn't very good tonight, and [the Stars] capitalized on a lot of those chances that we had the puck, or they transitioned quicker than us. They capitalized on a few early in the third."

On playing back-to-back

"I don't think there's any excuses. We've all been around long enough to play these back-to-backs. It was a three o'clock game yesterday, so there was no excuse for that. We were good in spurts, just not a full 60 tonight."