



**AMALIE Arena Media Clips
Sunday, November 5, 2023**

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3. The Backcheck: A wild win in Ottawa – Chris Krenn (TampaBayLightning.com)

Lightning bolt past slumping Senators in Ottawa

Associated Press

OTTAWA, Ontario — Brayden Point had three goals and an assist to help the Lightning beat the Senators 6-4 on Saturday night for their first win on the road this season.

“I think (the win) came from a better effort,” Point said. “I really liked our compete, and it resulted in a win, so that’s something we’ve got to learn and take moving forward, that compete.”

Nikita Kucherov had a five-point night with a goal and four assists. Victor Hedman and Mikey Eyssimont also scored, and Jonas Johansson stopped 22 shots as the Lightning improved to 5-3-3. Tampa Bay started the season 0-3-1 away from Amalie Arena.

Kucherov’s five-point game was his fourth in the NHL, passing Vinny Lecavalier (3) for most in Lightning history.

“I think it all started (Saturday) with (Kucherov) dumping pucks in and showing us how to play, how to play hard,” Eyssimont said. “He led us (Saturday), all night, not just on the score sheet but the way he played.”

The Lightning jumped out to a 4-1 lead with a three-goal second period, then added two goals in the third as the Senators fought to come back.

“It was a game of responses, to be honest,” coach Jon Cooper said. “(The Senators) get the first one (in the first), and we came back and tied it, and I thought that was big. We come out in the second and score early. Then, when the game ... got a little hectic (in the third), Brady (Tkachuk) scored (to make it 5-3), and we scored right after that. I thought that was big for us.

“Every time there was a little bit of adversity for us, we responded. Hence, we pulled it out.”

Tkachuk scored twice, and Claude Giroux and Drake Batherson added goals for Ottawa. The Senators are 1-5-0 in their last six and 4-6-0 overall. Fans broke out a “Fire D.J.” chant for coach D.J. Smith during the game.

“Whenever you don’t win, it’s frustrating,” Tkachuk said. “It’s frustrating, the negativity from the outside. The constant booing ... from the crowd (Saturday) was frustrating, too. I understand they’re a passionate fan base, I understand, I love it, but when you face adversity, you don’t turn your back on the guys out there.”

The game turned with the Lightning’s second-period outburst.

Thirty-two seconds into the period, Point came down the wing and beat Joonas Korpihalo high for his first goal of the game.

Four minutes later, Eyssimont battled his way through Jake Sanderson and Travis Hamonic and roofed a backhand while falling to the ice to beat Korpihalo, who was then pulled after allowing three goals on 20 shots.

“I don’t know if tenacity has ever been a problem with him, to be honest,” Cooper said of Eyssimont. “That’s kind of what he brings every single night. ... He never stops on plays, and he didn’t stop on that one, and he was rewarded.”

Tampa Bay struck again late in the second period when new goalie Anton Forsberg, who allowed three goals on 17 shots, lost sight of the puck and Point was able to just get it across the goal line.

“We were playing pretty soundly,” Point said. “Obviously, Ottawa’s such a dangerous team, so good off the rush, and they can really score on any chance they get. But for the most part, I thought we did a good job in the first two periods kind of limiting their chances and limiting their team speed.”

Point’s final goal came in the middle of the third period to make it 5-2.

“It feels good to help contribute offensively,” Point said. “Still out there for too many (goals) against, but it feels good to contribute offensively, that’s for sure.”

A tale of two responses, plus Point and Kucherov outbursts lead Tampa Bay Lightning to first road victory

Erik Erlendsson (Lightning Insider)

OTTAWA – For the better part of two days the Tampa Bay Lightning sat on a [third period](#) where they gave away two points.

Watching that game get away in the manner in which it did looked uncharacteristic for a team that has made a habit of knowing how to close out games when they have a lead entering the third period. That loss in Columbus marked just the fourth time since 2019 in which the Lightning lost a game in regulation when entering the third period with the lead.

What they needed heading into Ottawa on Saturday was an answer because Thursday's result led to plenty of questions.

On Saturday, there was a response. And a response within a response. Oh, and Tampa Bay's top players, yeah, they had a response, as well.

It was a game of responses to be honest.

– *Jon Cooper*

COMPETE, COMPETE AND COMPETE

The answer Tampa Bay provided led to a much-needed first road victory of the season.

"I think it came from a better effort," center Brayden Point said. "I really liked our compete tonight and it resulted in the win. So that's something that we've got to learn and take moving forward."

For two periods, the Lightning put the lesson to practice. Despite allowing the opening goal of the game, Tampa Bay dominated the opening 40 minutes. Other than a couple of short stretches where the Lightning were stuck in their zone – one of which led to the Senators first goal – the Lightning's possession game was strong.

Tampa Bay was clean coming out of their own zone, which is why they didn't spend extended shifts in their own zone. The transition game looked quick because the passes coming out of the zone were on point. Collectively, the Lightning were engaged in puck battles, the ultimate measure of a team's compete level.

It all starts with the amount of work players are willing to put forth to give themselves a chance at gaining the proper result. Having played [Ottawa just two weeks prior](#), the Lightning knew exactly what they were up against.

"I think playing them recently helped us," Lightning head coach Jon Cooper said. "We had that dreadful first period against them the last time we played, then played a couple good periods after that. So we kind of knew what we had on our hands. And let's be honest, they've got some big names out of a lineup for themselves, so we had to come in here and take advantage of that. But their style of play, the fact that we played them earlier, I think helped us out."

THE FIRST RESPONSE

Tampa Bay enjoyed a strong start to the game, all things considered. By the end of the first period, the Lightning had 64-percent of the shot attempts, 70-percent of the scoring chances, 77-percent of the high danger chances and 79-percent of the expected goals rate.

That effort was pretty consistent through the opening 20 minutes. Yet, for the seventh time in 11 games, the Lightning allowed the opening goal of the game when the Senators had one of those rare shifts in the first period that had Tampa Bay chasing in their own zone. It resulted in a Mathieu Joseph – remember him? – shot that was deflected by Brady Tkachuk and past Jonas Johansson.

All the work the Lightning put in and 12:58 into the game, they were trailing. For a team that is battling itself as much as the opposition,, that can take the air out of their game.

But Tampa Bay's compete level didn't drop. All that good work continued. The process didn't change.

The reward doesn't always come under that scenario – it is hockey after all – but it did late in the period when a Nikita Kucherov pass meant to find Point cutting down the slot bounced off a skate right to Victor Hedman cutting down low where he gave it a quick backhand to pop it over Jonas Korpisalo with 2:55 left in the period to tie the game on his second goal of the season.

"They get the first one, and we came back and tied it," Cooper said. "I thought that was big."

SECOND PERIOD RESPONSE

That response carried over into the second period, and it was a quick response.

In the opening minute, Jonas Johansson kicked out a rebound that Nikita Kucherov swooped up and dished a pass up to Point. It sprung a 2-on-1 as Point raced up the right wing side and lifted a shot up and over the glove of Korpisalo 32 seconds into the second for a 2-1 lead.

The push continued. The Lightning just dominated the period from start to finish. Unlike other times this season, however, Tampa Bay was rewarded multiple times for their effort.

Mikey Eyssimont tried to split the defense as he was looking to make a pass, the puck came back to him. He pushed his way through and as he leaned forward he chipped the puck over Korpisalo to give the Lightning a 3-1 lead and chance the Ottawa netminder from the game.

"I think I'm starting to show my tenacity more this season that was evident last year," Eyssimont said. "So I think if I just keep doing that I'll feel better."

Point scored his second of the night when he pushed a loose puck under the pads of Anton Forsberg with 1:45 left in the period.

It put an exclamation point on a period where Tampa Bay had 65-percent of the shot attempts, 82-percent of the scoring chances, 80-percent of the high danger chances and 72-percent of the expected goals.

THIRD (PERIOD) RESPONSE

With Thursday's game in mind, the Lightning figured this would be easier to close out. But, they would have been wrong because 1:17 into the third Ottawa cut it to 4-2 on a Claude Giroux one-timer. It brought out a bit of an uneasy feeling because it gave the Senators life and the Lightning started to get caved in, which didn't happen much at all in the opening 40 minutes.

Tampa Bay, however, responded as Point capped off his second career hat trick with a power play goal, tapping in a shot/pass from Steven Stamkos to regain the three-goal lead at 9:38. Point's only other hat trick came at Pittsburgh on November 15, 2018, when he scored a natural hat trick with three goals in 91 seconds.

Ottawa made things nervy again when Tkachuk scored a power play goal 90 seconds after Point scored. But the Lightning responded yet again on the next shift when Alex Barre-Boulet found Kucherov off the side of the net for a quick shovel shot 16 seconds later to restore the three-goal lead. It capped off a five-point night for Kucherov, his fourth career game with five points, one shy of tying the franchise record.

Ah, but that didn't end the night because Ottawa made it a two-goal game once again 50 seconds later. Tampa Bay challenged for a missed hand pass just before the goal, but the review did not change the call, which means the Lightning were hit with a penalty to put the Senators on the power play.

This time, the penalty kill responded to keep Ottawa off the board. Johansson did the rest, finishing the night with 24 saves to improve to 5-1-3 on the season. It all added up to the first road victory in five tries for the Lightning.

"When the game got a little hectic ... every time there was a little bit of adversity for us, we responded," Cooper said. "Hence we pulled it out."

BIG RESPONSE

The team offered a good, strong response from Thursday's set back, and provided more responses in-game. When you get pushed, how do you push back is always something coaches will look for.

But Tampa Bay's biggest stars were also issued a bit of a challenge. For the first time this season, Point and Kucherov did not start the game on the same line, with Point skating with Brandon Hagel and Eyssimont. Kucherov was with Anthony Cirelli and Barre-Boulet.

That lasted all of one shift into the game, though, as Kucherov and Point were reunited with Hagel.

The response? Kucherov registered a five-point night – he just missed an empty net that would have been his sixth point of the night, which would have tied Doug Crossman's franchise record – and Point recorded his second career hat trick. Point is the 10th player in franchise history to record multiple hat tricks.

Just don't tell Point about the individual response.

"It feels good to contribute offensively," Point said. But "I thought we responded well, I really liked our effort tonight. I think if anything that's the one thing that we should take forward is our compete and our effort was much better tonight."

They responded.

NOTES

Tampa Bay scratched D Nick Perbix, RW Walteri Merela and D Haydn Fleury, who remains on a conditioning assignment with the Syracuse Crunch. ... G Jonas Johansson has just one regulation loss on the season, improving to 4-0-3 in his past seven starts. ... D Victor Hedman scored his 145th career to tie Freddy Modin for the ninth most in Lightning history. ... C Brayden Point registered his 125th career multipoint game. ... C Steven Stamkos has two goals and eight assists during a six-

game scoring streak. ... Johansson recorded his first career NHL point with an assist on Point's goal 32 seconds into the second period.

MY THREE STARS

1. Lightning C Brayden Point – Second career hat trick, four points, plus-1, five shots
2. Lightning RW Nikita Kucherov – Four assists, five points, five shots
3. Senators LW Brady Tkachuk – Two goals, assist, six shots on goal

The Backcheck: A wild win in Ottawa **Chris Krenn (TampaBayLightning.com)**

After a disappointing third period in Columbus Thursday night that led to a 4-2 loss to the Blue Jackets, the Tampa Bay Lightning came out with a purpose Saturday, skating to a 6-4 win over the Ottawa Senators at Canadian Tire Centre. The win marked the first road victory of the season for the Bolts, who were led by a five-point night from Nikita Kucherov along with a four-point effort and a hat trick from Brayden Point.

Despite a quick start for the Lightning, Ottawa opened the scoring at the 12:58 mark of the first period with Brady Tkachuk redirecting a shot from Mathieu Joseph that got past Jonas Johansson to put the Sens up by one.

The Bolts continued to press and evened the score just 4:07 later with Victor Hedman netting his second goal of the season off assists from Kucherov and Point. With the two forwards showcasing their chemistry and relentlessly cycling the puck in the Ottawa zone, an attempted pass from Kucherov bounced off the skate of Tim Stutzle and right to the back door, where Hedman had crept in to shovel a backhand shot past Joonas Korpisalo and make it a 1-1 game.

After outshooting the Sens 15-7 in the first period, the Lightning kept up the pressure in the middle stanza, recording a 16-9 shot advantage and outscoring Ottawa 3-0.

Point gave the Bolts their first lead of the night 32 seconds into the second period when he took a pass from Kucherov in Tampa Bay's defensive zone and flew up the right boards into the Ottawa end before roofing a shot over the glove of Korpisalo to make it 2-1.

Mikey Eyssimont scored his third goal of the year with a highlight-reel play 4:25 later to push the Lightning's lead to 3-1. After Anthony Cirelli blocked a shot in the defensive zone, he found Eyssimont skating downhill into the neutral zone before the relentless forward split the Ottawa defensemen and, as he was falling down, lifted a backhand shot over the glove of Korpisalo with 15:04 left in the middle frame.

Tampa Bay went up 4-1 with 1:41 left in the second when Point scored his second goal of the night. After a shot from Kucherov was stopped by Anton Forsberg, who came on in relief of Korpisalo, Point located the puck under the pad and jammed it over the goal line for the Lightning's third goal of the period.

The two teams combined for five goals in the third period, with the Bolts finding ways to respond to multiple pushback goals from the Senators to secure the two points.

After Claude Giroux made it 4-2 at the 1:17 mark of the period, Point capped off his hat trick and restored the three-goal lead 7:21 later when he redirected a shot from Steven Stamkos on the power play. Kucherov picked up his fourth helper of the night with the secondary assist.

Ottawa got back within two with a power-play goal of their own from Tkachuk at the 11:08 mark. But Kucherov answered right back for the Bolts only 16 seconds later, redirecting a pass from Alex Barre-Boulet past Forsberg to pick up his fifth point of the night and bring the score to 6-3.

The Senators added a fourth goal from Drake Batherson, but Jonas Johansson shut the door the rest of the way, finishing the night with 24 saves on 28 shots against for his fifth win of the season.

Bolts Quotes

Jon Cooper: "It was a game of responses, to be honest. They get the first one and we came back and tied it. I thought that was big. Then, we come out in the second and score early. Then, when the game got a little hectic, Brady scored and we scored right after that. I thought that was big for us. Every time there was a little bit of adversity for us, we responded. Hence, we pulled it out."

Brayden Point: "I think it came from a better effort. I really liked our compete tonight and it resulted in a win. That's something that we've got to learn and take moving forward is that compete."

Mikey Eyssimont: "There were lapses tonight, but I thought we responded to those. If they get a chance on a shift, it doesn't mean we're playing bad, but we've got to respond and not let it snowball."

Jon Cooper: "I think playing them recently helped us. We had that dreadful first period against them last time we played. We played a couple good periods after that, so we kind of knew what we had in our hands. Let's be honest, they've got some big names out of the lineup for themselves. We had to come in here and take advantage of that. Their style of play, the fact that we played them earlier, I think helped us out tonight."

Mikey Eyssimont: "I think it started with Kuch dumping pucks in and showing us how to play, how to play hard. He led us tonight, all night. Not just on the scoresheet, but the way he played."

Bolts by the Numbers

- With one goal and four assists, Nikita Kucherov recorded his fourth career five-point game, surpassing Vincent Lecavalier (3) for the most in Lightning franchise history.
- Brayden Point scored his second career hat trick, making him the 10th player in Tampa Bay franchise history with multiple hat tricks. He joins Steven Stamkos (11), Martin St. Louis (8), Vincent Lecavalier (6), Tyler Johnson (4), Nikita Kucherov (4), Wendel Clark (3), Freddy Modin (3), Ryan Malone (2) and Teddy Purcell (2).
- Victor Hedman scored his 145th career goal, tying him with Freddy Modin for the ninth-most goals among all skaters in Bolts franchise history.
- Tampa Bay improved to 4-1-0 when they outshoot their opponent.
- The Lightning moved to 3-0-0 in games when Mikey Eyssimont or Brayden Point score a goal.
- With three goals and one assist, Brayden Point recorded his sixth career four-point game, tying him with Victor Hedman for the fifth-most in Bolts franchise history (most: Nikita Kucherov, 22).

Krenner's Three Stars

1. Nikita Kucherov
2. Brayden Point
3. Mikey Eyssimont

Lightning Look Ahead

Monday, November 6 at Toronto Maple Leafs, 7 p.m. ET, Scotiabank Arena

Tuesday, November 7 at Montreal Canadiens, 7 p.m. ET, Bell Centre

Thursday, November 9 vs. Chicago Blackhawks, 7 p.m. ET, AMALIE Arena