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# GAME RECAP

Thursday, Feb. 27, 2025 - Honda Center  
26-25-7, 59 pts.

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	GOALS					SHOTS					POWER PLAYS	
	1	2	3	OT	TOTAL	1	2	3	OT	TOTAL	G-OPP	%
<b>DUCKS</b>	0	3	2	-	5	6	11	8	-	25	0-2	0.0
<b>CANUCKS</b>	2	0	0	-	2	8	11	5	-	24	0-2	0.0

## ANAHEIM DUCKS POSTGAME NOTES

The Anaheim Ducks erased a two-goal deficit with five unanswered goals to earn a 5-2 victory over the Vancouver Canucks Thursday night at Honda Center. The Ducks (26-25-7, 59 points) beat Vancouver for their fifth straight win at home to close to within six points of the Canucks (65 points), who hold the final playoff spot in the Western Conference. Anaheim, who also has one game in hand vs. Vancouver, was as far back as 11 points from the final playoff spot entering play Dec. 28. (13-15-4, 30 pts.).

Anaheim's multi-goal comeback win was the fourth at home this season, co-leading the NHL (also Carolina). Anaheim is also tied for second among NHL teams with six multi-goal comeback wins this season, trailing only Seattle (7). Anaheim is now on pace for a 24-point improvement in the standings compared to last season (83 vs. 59). The Ducks are 8-2-1 the last 11 games overall and 8-1-1 the last 10 games at Honda Center.

The Ducks continue to lead the league with 98 points from players 21-and-under (Carlsson, Gauthier, Mintyukov, Zellweger). With Mason McTavish now 22 years old, Anaheim's 104 points from skaters 22-and-under rank third among all NHL clubs (46-59=105). Anaheim's 46 goals from players 22-or-younger rank second among NHL clubs, trailing only Columbus (49).

**RYAN STROME** recorded the game-winning goal at 18:41 of the second period and added two assists for his seventh multi-point outing of the season (1-2=3). He has 1-3=4 points his last three games.

**FRANK VATRANO** opened the scoring for the Ducks with his team-leading 18th goal of the season and third point his last four games (2-1=3).

**CUTTER GAUTHIER** scored his 12th goal of the season, his third goal the last three games (3-0=3). He now ranks third among league rookies in goals and tied for sixth in scoring (12-23=25).

**TROY TERRY** earned his team-leading eighth multi-point outing of the season (1-2=3) and 16th career three-point game to pass Andy McDonald for seventh most in Ducks history. He extended his point streak to four games (1-5=6, +4) and continues to lead Anaheim in points (17-28=45).

**JACKSON LACOMBE** scored his 10th goal of the season to extend his point-streak to a career-best five games (1-4=5) and also has 2-8=10 points with a +4 rating his last 10. He continues to lead all NHL defensemen 24 and under in goals. With his 10th goal, he became the 14th defenseman in Ducks history to reach 10 goals in a season (last: Cam Fowler, 10 in 2022-23).

**MASON MCTAVISH** earned two assists to extend his point-streak to three games (1-3=4, +2) and push his totals to 12 points the last 12 games (8-4=12, +4).

**ISAC LUNDESTROM** earned his first multi-point outing of the season with two assists (0-2=2), marking three his last two games (0-3=3).

**LUKAS DOSTAL** made 22 saves to earn to improve to 6-1-1 his last eight appearances. His 17th win of the campaign capped his February at 4-1-1 and 12-7-3 since the start of December.

Tonight's attendance was 17,174, a sellout. The Ducks conclude the two-game homestand Saturday, March 1 vs. the Chicago Blackhawks (7 p.m. PT).



# ANAHEIM DUCKS POSTGAME QUOTES

## RYAN STROME

### *On the game*

The first period wasn't pretty, but I thought we had really good energy and good legs so I think that was a good sign for a team coming off a tough road trip. I think it was just a matter of executing a little bit better, just kind of playing a little bit north south. We knew they were on a back-to-back so I think when you can simplify the game and tire them out a little bit, I think we saw some results. I think it was just simplifying our game in the second and third and we just kept rolling them over. Everyone did a great job. The bench was really ready to go. Everyone was on their toes and it seemed like every line was generating more and more momentum.

### *On his line's performance with Troy Terry and Frank Vatrano*

We made a mistake on the second goal and I think we were pissed off about it. I think with us, there's a big trust factor. I think we're all a little ticked off after the first period and I could sense in our body language everyone was a little frustrated. I think we all felt we had really good legs tonight and just the puck wasn't bouncing our way, and we just stuck with it. It was actually Franky (Frank Vatrano) that said, "let's just play north-south and let our skill take over after that. I think Frank's goal, just a couple bad shots around the net, just keep getting pucks on there [and] we make a play. On [my goal], a good play off of a breakout. I just think when we simplify our game, same with our team, we have success. Sometimes we get a little bit too east-west and carry the puck back and we kind of do a little loopy loop. I think when we play north-south we're a good line. We got back to that and had a good result.

## FRANK VATRANO

### *On the comeback after trailing by two goals at the first intermission*

I think we weren't happy with the first period and I think we knew that we just needed to simplify the game. That's what we did in the second and third period, and that's why we won the hockey game. I think we wore them down, we knew they played last night. It's obviously tough running back to backs in this league and that's a four-point game for us, that's huge.

### *On his line's performance*

We talked about it after the first period, we needed to simplify our game. You know the whole team said that, but by individualizing the line, we wanted to do it too. The first couple shifts we [were] stressed on getting pucks in deep and trying to get pucks in back. I think after we did that [for] two or three shifts, we ended up making skilled plays and we got pucks back. So, sometimes it is just as simple as that.

## HEAD COACH GREG CRONIN

### *On the team's performance after the road trip*

Yeah, honestly when you come back from the East Coast like that and you have a day off that starts at 3:30 in the morning when you get in, it's one of those things that teams don't realize that don't play on the West Coast, your hours as a head coach, you're a little bit worried about the internal timing mechanism that's off. So we're playing at 7 p.m. but it's really 10 p.m. where we just came from, so I was worried about the start of the game and a little bit of the sloppiness and sluggishness. To their credit, they responded to the messages, they played more of a direct game, north-south and we started to get our legs, legs started to come alive and I thought that allowed us to get a lot more tight gaps on the puck.

### *On Ryan Strome's line with Troy Terry and Frank Vatrano*

They got us going just by putting the puck deep and getting it back. Obviously, Troy (Terry) is a puck carrier, right? He likes the puck on his stick but if you notice, there's many times during the game, particularly in the second and third period, where he just pitched it in and they went and got it back. They had a couple offensive zone shifts in the second period that allowed us to get a lot of energy.



# VANCOUVER CANUCKS POSTGAME QUOTES

## **QUINN HUGHES**

*On the difference in tonight's game*

I'm not sure. I mean, they just capitalized on the looks and we didn't.

*On what the team needs to do better*

Probably be better on both ends.

*On Tyler Myers' performance*

Yeah, he's a good player and he's going to make plays. Happy for him, he's got to keep going.

*On why the team has had trouble protecting leads this season*

It's a good question, I'm not too sure. It's obviously something we have to focus on. I think I'm just excited for the day off tomorrow, then we can regroup and try to get a win here to end the trip.

## **TYLER MYERS**

*On the team's performance*

We got away from a lot of details tonight. Even in the first period I thought that our rush defense really killed us tonight. They were hitting late guys, hitting the weak side way more than they should have been, especially because we talked about it. We have to make sure we come in the next game and be prepared before the game and make sure we're ready to go. We're doing a lot of swinging right now, we gotta get back to playing simple hockey and focus on doing our job.

*On how he felt after being hurt last night*

I was pretty stiff today but luckily it was just muscle, it didn't hit any bone so ultimately it was just stiff so it was fine.

## **HEAD COACH RICK TOCCHET**

*On the players and their thinking after being up 2-0 after the first period*

I hope they don't think that way, I mean the coaches aren't saying that. You got to be crazy to think that everything is over. You know, we are a desperate hockey team. I don't care if it is 4-0, you have to keep playing the game plan and we just had too many guys that instead of going straight went right or left. Little too much perimeter for my liking.

*On the game*

They are a rush team, [we] got the 2-0, a two-on-one and we didn't connect that. I think we had a breakaway and a couple of missed opportunities. Then all of a sudden they had a rush game. We just decided to abandon the game plan. We just need some guys to rise to the occasion whether that is a middle drive to go the net, we had shots on net with nobody going to the net, so a little disappointed in the grit part of our game.