



**AMALIE Arena Media Clips
Friday, November 10, 2023**

1. As Lightning try to find their identity, lack of pushback is concerning – Eduardo Encina (Tampa Bay Times)
2. Top draft pick Connor Bedard's 4 points help Blackhawks past Lightning – Associated Press
3. Former Lightning forward Corey Perry draws a crowd in return to Tampa – Eduardo Encina (Tampa Bay Times)
4. Tampa Bay Lightning made mistakes but a more egregious issue plagued them Thursday – Erik Erlendsson (Lightning Insider)
5. The Backcheck: Bolts fall at home to Chicago – Chris Krenn (TampaBayLightning.com)

As Lightning try to find their identity, lack of pushback is concerning **Eduardo Encina (Tampa Bay Times)**

TAMPA — This Lightning team has talked a lot recently about finding its identity. And a familiar script played out in an embarrassing 5-3 loss to the Blackhawks on Thursday night at Amalie Arena.

The Lightning held the lead twice early, then allowed a wave of three goals in four minutes at the end of the first period, forcing them to chase the game.

We've seen the turnovers, we've seen the blown leads, but seeing such little pushback from the Lightning with two periods to play was new.

"We didn't really push that much in a game that we were down," center Anthony Cirelli said. "So that's on us, that's on the players. We've got to be better. We've got to be focused and ready for the next game."

The Lightning deserved more out of the first period. They outchanced Chicago 19-4 but went into the first intermission down 4-2. They opened the scoring and carried a 2-1 lead into the final 3:17 before it all broke down.

With the score tied at 2, a pair of costly Lightning neutral-zone turnovers led to odd-man rushes that ended in Blackhawks goals.

Chicago applied pressure at the red line and forced defenseman Calvin de Haan into one turnover that led to Blackhawks wunderkind Connor Bedard setting up a Tyler Johnson goal on a 2-on-0. Then, after stripping forward Nikita Kucherov in the neutral zone, Bedard scored his second goal of the night as Cirelli stumbled into goaltender Jonas Johansson rushing back on a backcheck, allowing the puck to slide over the goal line.

"I hadn't really thought about it," Bedard said of stripping Kucherov. "Some of the guys on the bench were talking about it. He's someone I love watching. It's fun to play against a guy like him. I guess it's cool."

The Lightning gave Bedard credit — the 18-year-old, this year's first overall draft pick, became the third-youngest player to record a four-point game (two goals, two assists) — but knew they played a big role in his success.

"He's a good player, and don't get me wrong," defenseman Mikhail Sergachev said. "But we just gave it to them. It was totally on us."

On most nights, the Lightning embrace a deficit. They would go into the locker room and tell each other there's plenty of time to rally, and on most nights, they'd make it a game. This is the team that made "process over outcome" its mantra, a team that believed it could come back from anything.

But that jolt never came Thursday.

"It's just the pushback," Cirelli said. "We've got to go out there that next shift, just have a good next shift, build on that, every line just go in there and have a good O-zone shift and just play hard. Obviously (Thursday), we let that one slip away."

What should have given the Lightning hope was their past success against goaltender Petr Mrazek, who was 3-12-3 with a 3.30 goals-against average and an .881 save percentage against them for his

career entering the night. But they never really challenged Mrazek down the stretch. The Lightning had 20 shot attempts blocked, including six by Sergachev, and 14 missed attempts, including four by Steven Stamkos and three by Brayden Point.

The Lightning had just five shots on goal in 13 minutes of 5-on-5 play in the second period. They had their best opportunity to get back into the game when they went on a power play 43 seconds into the third, especially given how good they have been on the man advantage (ranked third in the NHL going into Thursday). But a Stamkos one-timer was blocked, and another went into the side of the net. Kucherov couldn't find Point in front, and the Blackhawks intercepted a pass he tried to thread cross-ice for Stamkos.

After that, the Lightning went 11 minutes, 7 seconds without a shot on goal. And even when coach Jon Cooper pulled Johansson with 5:33 left in the game, the extra attacker provided little spark. When Stamkos' 6-on-5 goal with 2:10 left made it 5-3, it was too little, too late.

"We had the momentum in this game, clearly, the first 12 minutes, whatever it was, and we gave the momentum back with our self-inflicted errors, plain and simple," Cooper said. "Just egregious turnovers and lack of execution, and in the end, we just gave them freebies.

"This is a tough league to win in if you're just going to continue to do that. If there was one disappointing part of the game, it was our lack of pushback in the last few periods. That was tough."

Top draft pick Connor Bedard's 4 points help Blackhawks past Lightning

Associated Press

TAMPA — Top draft pick Connor Bedard had his first multipoint game with two goals and two assists as the Chicago Blackhawks beat Tampa Bay 5-3 on Thursday night to snap an eight-game losing streak against the Lightning.

The 18-year-old Bedard powered Chicago to its first win over Tampa Bay since a 4-3 shootout victory on March 5, 2021.

“I think it’s just kind of sticking with it,” Bedard said of the biggest night in his young NHL career. “I felt like there were games when I could have created more than this and I had zero points. That’s how things go sometimes. It feels good to get on the scoresheet.”

Rookie defenseman Kevin Korchiński and ex-Lightning forwards Tyler Johnson and Corey Perry also scored for Chicago. Nick Foligno had three assists and Petr Mrazek made 30 saves.

Anthony Cirelli, Nikita Kucherov and Steven Stamkos scored for the Lightning, who lost in regulation for the first time in seven home games this season (4-1-2). Jonas Johansson made 24 saves.

“Listen, we had the momentum in this game clearly for the first 10-12 minutes, whatever it was,” Lightning coach Jon Cooper said. “We gave the momentum back with our self-inflicted errors, plain and simple. Turnovers, lack of execution and we just gave them freebies. It’s tough to win if you’re going to continue to do that.”

The Lightning controlled play for most of the first period, yet the Blackhawks led 4-2 at the break.

Cirelli’s one-timer from the slot on the power play at 3:20 put Tampa Bay ahead 1-0. Bedard tied it at 4:42, converting a pass from Philip Kurashev.

“He created the whole first goal,” Chicago coach Luke Richardson said. “He was on the defenseman hard, and he has a good stick, good stick skills. He’s not in there slashing; he’s lifting sticks and disrupting things. Good things happen when you play hard in the right way.”

Bedard, the top pick in the 2023 draft, has seven goals and 11 points in his first 12 NHL games.

“He’s new to the league; he’s been here for a dozen games,” Richardson said. “He’s starting to really figure it out, use his skills to the best of his ability. It paid off for him, and for us, tonight.”

Kucherov, who entered the game with an NHL-leading 22 points, put the Lightning back in front at 12:31.

But the Blackhawks closed the period with three goals in 3:07. Korchiński tied it at 16:43 with his first NHL goal, Bedard stole the puck from Kucherov and set up Johnson’s score at 17:38, then got credit for his second goal of the night and seventh of the season at 19:52 when a rebound of his shot hit Cirelli and slid past Johansson.

Perry tipped in Bedard’s shot on a power play 2:12 into the second period for a 5-2 lead. He had a couple of wide-open chances for a hat trick but couldn’t get another puck past Johansson.

“You play and you always want to score,” he said. “But I wasn’t trying to force anything. If it had come, it would have been great.”

Lightning defenseman Mikhail Sergachev said he and his teammates were to blame for Bedard's big night.

"He's a good player, don't get me wrong, but we just gave it to him," Sergachev said. "It's totally on us."

Stamkos scored with 2:10 remaining in regulation.

Former Lightning forward Corey Perry draws a crowd in return to Tampa **Eduardo Encina (Tampa Bay Times)**

TAMPA — Shortly after Lightning players took the ice for their morning skate before tonight's game against the Chicago Blackhawks at Amalie Arena, a crowd formed by the visitors bench.

There, Corey Perry held court with his former teammates.

Perry played only two seasons in Tampa Bay and didn't achieve his goal of adding a second Stanley Cup to his likely Hall of Fame resume. But he made an impact in the dressing room as a veteran leader and consummate teammate.

"I don't know where he's going to end up when he finally finishes, but I hope he's back here with us," Lightning coach Jon Cooper said. "You're not going to meet somebody more first-class than Corey Perry, but someone who would just lay it all on the line to win. He was just a gem to have on this team. ... He was almost an extension of (the coaching staff). He just gets it."

Perry, who has embraced the task of mentoring first overall pick Connor Bedard on a young Blackhawks team, said he stays in touch with many of his old teammates. He said he tries to watch the Lightning on TV as much as he can, including once this week with his son Griffin, who also made several friendships in a parent-heavy Tampa Bay locker room.

"It's fun watching, because he knows everybody," Perry said. "That's exciting."

Nicknamed "The Worm," Perry long ago earned a reputation as someone players love to have as a teammate but hate to play against. The way he can get under an opponent's skin makes him reviled by other teams and their fans.

Though he spent only two seasons in Tampa Bay, Perry, 38, anticipated an emotional return and undoubtedly will receive a warm welcome from the crowd during the game, which will include a tribute video.

"It'll be interesting; it'll be fun," Perry said. "It was home for two years, so we laid down some roots here and it was an exciting time for us. So it's nice to be back. We'll see how it goes."

The Raddysh sibling rivalry

Lightning defenseman Darren Raddysh played against his younger brother, former Tampa Bay forward Taylor, when the siblings were in the AHL. But tonight's game against Chicago will mark the first time the two are on opposite ends of the ice as NHL regulars.

The brothers grew up playing hockey together and were teammates in the OHL while playing for the Erie Otters. They played together at AHL Syracuse and in one game with the Lightning on Feb. 11, 2022 in Arizona before Taylor was traded to Chicago as part of the Brandon Hagel deal.

That game was the last time the brothers were on the ice together until tonight.

"I'm just going to make sure I'm doing the right things and playing my way and make sure I keep him off the scoresheet," Darren said.

Taylor, a former Lightning second-round pick, played 53 games with Tampa Bay as a rookie. He became an everyday player in Chicago, scoring 20 goals last season for the Blackhawks. But before

the trade, getting to play with his brother was a reason Darren signed with the Lightning after spending time in the Blackhawks and Rangers organizations.

Add one more wrinkle: The brothers' mother, Gwen, will be watching her sons play against each other as part of the Blackhawks' moms trip.

"She's probably a little nervous," Darren said of his mother. "I know she doesn't like it when we go up against each other, so I think she's probably just going to enjoy the moment and just enjoy having her two boys on the ice."

Lightning recall extra defenseman

The team recalled right-shot defenseman Philippe Myers from AHL Syracuse before the game as the seventh defenseman on the roster.

Myers, who played 11 games with the Lightning last year but spent most of the season with the Crunch, didn't make the opening-night roster but had played well in Syracuse. His plus-7 plus/minus rating leads the Crunch and is tied for second in the AHL among defensemen. He is second on the team among defensemen with 18 shots on goal, so he's been aggressive in the offensive zone.

After the team sent Haydn Fleury to Syracuse on a conditioning assignment and traded Zach Bogosian to Minnesota for a draft pick, the Lightning entered Thursday with just six defensemen before calling up Myers. He was acquired from Nashville in the summer of 2022 in the cap-space trade that sent defenseman Ryan McDonagh to the Predators.

Quote of the day

"(We'll miss him) a ton. There's another guy with championship pedigree and was part of the family of us winning. The only solace is that I think he's going to a spot that wants him where he's with guys he knows. He and Patty (Maroon) are really close and he has a house there, so the moving situation won't be bad for him. But he'll definitely be missed here, because he was a great teammate."

— Cooper on defenseman Zach Bogosian, who was traded Wednesday to Minnesota

Tampa Bay Lightning made mistakes but a more egregious issue plagued them Thursday **Erik Erlendsson (Lightning Insider)**

TAMPA – The Tampa Bay Lightning got an up-close and personal look at the Connor Bedard experience on Thursday.

The Lightning didn't enjoy the view.

The top overall pick in the 2023 NHL Entry Draft became the third-youngest player in NHL history, and the youngest since 1944, to record four points in a game. Bedard had two goals and an assist in the first period and added an assist on Corey Perry power play goal. And it came at the expense of a Lightning team still trying to sort out their game on the defensive side of the ledger.

And Bedard made them pay.

"He's a good player, don't get me wrong, but we just gave it to him," Lightning defenseman Mikhail Sergachev said. "It was totally on us. He didn't like, pull it out of his, you know . . ."

Yeah, we know.

Through 14 games of the season, the Lightning sit with a 6-4-4 record with 16 points. They have allowed 50 goals on the season, an average of 3.57 per game, the seventh most per game in the league. Compared to last season at the same point, Tampa Bay has one more point than last year (15) and the goals against last year through 14 games was 3.29.

This year, they don't have Andrei Vasilevskiy – yet.

But the type of chances the Lightning are allowing at times this season, it wouldn't matter who was in goal for Tampa Bay. Turnovers at bad parts of the ice like the Lightning allowed in the final four minutes of the first period put the goaltenders in precarious positions.

Things were somewhat smooth for Tampa Bay to start the game on Thursday. Anthony Cirelli popped in a one-timer from the slot off a Brandon Hagel feed at 3:20 of the first period for a power play goal to give the Lightning the lead.

Bedard scored his first of the night as he took advantage of a slight stumble by Victor Hedman behind the net to beat him back to the post and pop in a quick shot to tie the game at 4:42. It seemed like things were going to go Tampa Bay's way when Tanner Jeannot scuffed a one-timer from the high slot that went right to Nikita Kucherov who had a wide open net to shoot at for his 11th goal of the season at 12:31.

But Chicago wasn't buried by any means as the Blackhawks turned a one-goal deficit into a two-goal lead in the span of 3:09. The first was an unfortunate bounce off a lost faceoff before defenseman Kevin Korchiński bounced a pass off the skate of Darren Raddysh into the Tampa Bay net at 16:43.

The next two goals, the garden variety neutral zone turnover that catches a team going the wrong direction that often doesn't work out well for the team that loses the puck.

Calvin de Haan tried to force a pass at center ice through Nick Foligno that was blocked and set up a 2-on-0 as Bedard collected the puck, raced up ice and fed former Lightning center Tyler Johnson for the go-ahead goal at 17:38. Then in the final seconds, Erik Cernak looked for Kucherov at the red line at center ice, but Kucherov was covered by Foligno who forced Kucherov to go back to try to make

another pass. That was disrupted by Phillipp Kurashev, Foligno collected the puck to spring a 2-on-1 as he fed Bedard driving the far post. Jonas Johansson made the save on the shot, but Cirelli knocked the puck in as he backchecking to give Chicago a 4-2 with 7.2 seconds left.

“In here as a group, we know we have to be better,” Cirelli said. “We know we can’t turn the puck over. You see what happens off turnovers, the other team comes at you and capitalize on chances. So that’s on us. And we have to be better in that regard.”

That, though, wasn’t the most egregious part of the night. Mistakes happen, whether they are forced or unforced errors. When they happen, they can either deflate a team or get them mad. It’s about the response after.

On Thursday, the Lightning had no response. Even at 4-2, the game was not over, there were 40 more minutes to play and overcoming a two-goal deficit is a somewhat common occurrence in the NHL these days. All it takes is give some pushback.

The Lightning had almost none.

“We didn’t really push that much in a game that we were down,” Cirelli said. “That’s on us, on the players that we have to be better.”

What did Sergachev think of the Lightning’s push?

“We didn’t really have one,” he said.

It didn’t help that Jeannot took a double-minor for high sticking 72 seconds into the second period and Bedard picked up his fourth point of the night when Perry deflected a shot/pass on the first half of the power play.

Yet, when the Lightning had a power play chance in the opening minute of the third for a chance to try and get back in the game, it resulted in nothing. Suddenly, it was midway through the third period and Tampa Bay went more than 11 minutes without a shot on goal.

That’s the opposite of pushback.

Head coach Jon Cooper summed it all up with a succinct 49-second postgame breakdown.

“We had the momentum in this game, clearly for the first 10-12 minutes and we gave them momentum back with our self inflicted errors. Plain and simple,” he said. “And just egregious turnovers and lack of execution and in the end we just gave him freebies. It’s a tough league to win in if you’re just going to continue to do that. Then give them credit, now they come out and have to protect the lead. And if there was one disappointing part of the game it was our lack of pushback in the last two periods, that was that was tough.”

NOTES

D Mikhail Sergachev recorded his 200th career assist. ... After trading D Zach Bogosian to Minnesota on Wednesday in exchange for a seventh-round pick in the 2024 draft, the Lightning recalled D Phil Myers from Syracuse of the American Hockey League. ... RW Walterri Merela was recalled from Syracuse on Wednesday and RW Conor Sheary was placed on injured reserve with an upper-body injury suffered in Tuesday’s win at Montreal. ... Tampa Bay scratched D Hayden Fleury, RW Austin Watson and Myers. ... C Steven Stamkos has two goals and seven points during a five-game scoring streak.

MY THREE STARS

1. Blackhawks C Connor Bedard – Two goals, four points, plus-2, five shots on goal
2. Blackhawks G Petr Mrazek – Kept the Lightning from gaining momentum, stopped 30 shots
3. Blackhawks LW Nick Foligno – Three assists, plus-3

The Backcheck: Bolts fall at home to Chicago

Chris Krenn (TampaBayLightning.com)

After falling behind 4-2 in the opening 20 minutes of play, the Tampa Bay Lightning were unable to mount a comeback and fell to the Chicago Blackhawks 5-2 at AMALIE Arena Thursday night.

The Lightning got on the board early with Anthony Cirelli netting a power-play goal for his second tally of the season. With Seth Jones in the penalty box for tripping, Mikhail Sergachev sent the puck to the top of the left circle for Brandon Hagel, who skated downhill and feathered a pass through the legs of Connor Murphy for Cirelli to fire a quick one-timer past Petr Mrazek just 3:20 into the opening period.

But the Bolts didn't hold the lead for long with rookie sensation Connor Bedard beginning his big night by evening the score 1:22 after the Cirelli goal for his sixth tally of the season. After Philipp Kurashev intercepted a pass below the Lightning goal line, he sent the puck to the back door for Bedard, who beat Jonas Johansson to make it 1-1.

Tampa Bay answered at the 12:31 mark of the first when Victor Hedman sent a pass to Tanner Jeannot, who misfired with a one-timer, but Nikita Kucherov was right there to continue his hot streak, collecting the loose puck and quickly scoring his 11th goal of the season to give the Bolts a 2-1 lead.

With 3:17 remaining in the opening frame, Kevin Korchinski took a pass at the left circle and sifted a puck towards the net that found its way behind Johansson after going off the skate of a Tampa Bay defender to even the score at 2-2.

Chicago grabbed their first lead of the night only 55 seconds later when Tyler Johnson took advantage of a neutral zone turnover by his former team before skating in all alone on a 2-on-0 with Bedard, who fed Johnson a backhand pass, allowing him to beat Johansson for his fourth goal of the season, making it a 3-2 game.

As it looked like Tampa Bay was going to head into the first intermission trailing by one, Bedard picked up his second goal of the game with 7.2 seconds left in the period. Driving the net, Bedard took a pass from Nick Foligno and made a move to the backhand before Johansson made a great save with his right pad. But trying his hardest to stop the play on the backcheck, Cirelli crashed into Johansson and the puck slid over the goal line to put the Blackhawks up 4-2. The four goals against were the most the Bolts have allowed in a single period this season.

Opening the second period trailing by two, the Lightning were sent to the penalty kill 1:12 into the frame when Jeannot was assessed a double minor for high-sticking Bedard. Sixty seconds later, Bedard sent the puck to the front of the net for Corey Perry, who redirected his third goal of the season past Johansson to put Chicago up 5-2. Perry's goal was the only tally of the second period.

As Tampa Bay continued to look for ways to get back in the game, Jon Cooper pulled Johansson for an extra attacker with a little over five minutes remaining in regulation. The strategy worked, with captain Steven Stamkos scoring his fifth goal of the season off assists from Cirelli and Brayden Point with 2:10 remaining.

But the Lightning were unable to find the back of the net for the remainder of the game and fell by a final score of 5-3.

Bolts by the Numbers

- Mikhail Sergachev recorded the 200th assist of his career, tying Tyler Johnson for the 11th-most helpers in Lightning franchise history.
- Nikita Kucherov scored his 11th goal of the season and has recorded 12 points over his last four contests (5-7—12). Kucherov is up to 23 points on the season, the second-most among all NHL skaters, trailing only Elias Pettersson (24).
- With one goal, Steven Stamkos extended his point streak to five games (2-5—7).
- Victor Hedman recorded one assist and extended his point streak to four games (2-6—8). Hedman is up to 14 assists on the season, tied for the second-most among all NHL defensemen and tied for fourth among all NHL skaters.
- Brandon Hagel recorded one assist and extended his point streak to three games (1-4—5). Hagel has recorded at least one point in each of his four career games against his former team.
- Anthony Cirelli picked up his first multi-point game of the season with one goal and one assist.
- Brayden Point recorded one assist and extended his point streak to four games (4-4—8).

Bolts Quotes

Jon Cooper: “We had the momentum in this game, clearly, in the first 10 or 12 minutes, whatever it was. And we gave the momentum back with our self-inflicted errors, plain and simple.”

Anthony Cirelli: “We've just got to be better. It's little things that we need to clean up and obviously the big one is turnovers. If we limit those, a lot of scoring chances go away. That and just being better in our own zone. Maybe breaking out the puck a little bit cleaner. That's on us. Little things that are easily correctable. We've just got to go out there and do it.”

Mikhail Sergachev: “We didn't really have one (a pushback) in the second. We kind of pushed, but we didn't shoot the puck. We created chances, but we didn't shoot. That was our problem, I think.”

Jon Cooper: “Just egregious turnovers, lack of execution. In the end, we just gave them freebies. This is a tough league to win in if you're just going to continue to do that. Give them credit, now they come out and have to protect the lead. If there was one disappointing part to the game, it was our lack of pushback in the last two periods. That was tough.”

Krenner's Three Stars

1. Connor Bedard
2. Nick Foligno
3. Corey Perry

Lightning Look Ahead

Saturday, November 11 vs. Carolina Hurricanes, 7 p.m. ET, AMALIE Arena

Tuesday, November 14 at St. Louis Blues, 8 p.m. ET, Enterprise Center

Thursday, November 16 at Chicago Blackhawks, 8 p.m. ET, United Center