



Friday, Dec. 15, 2023

Dallas Stars 5, Ottawa Senators 4

[Game Summary](#) | [Event Summary](#)

DALLAS STARS

Stars Head Coach Pete DeBoer

On challenges for Scott Wedgewood

"Nothing, just do what he's done. He's been great all year, he's 6-1-1 now. We're all real comfortable with him taking this and running with it whether he needs to for a little while. It's a great luxury to have to be able to throw him in like we did tonight and going forward for however long Jake [Oettinger's] out."

On assessing the win

"First off, a gutsy win by us. Over 82 win you're not going to have all perfect games, but there were different opportunities in that game where we could've lost that game 6-2 and we kept battling back and fighting back. Showed a lot of guts, a lot of character for two really important point here. So that was the biggest takeaway for me. Obviously, there's somethings we have to clean up, getting in an early hole like that isn't good. The big takeaway for me is our resiliency and finding a way to get two points."

Stars Forward Matt Duchene

On tonight's win

"Weird start. Pete [DeBoer] came out and after the first period and he said it best, 'You got to find ways to win in all kinds of games in this league.' We don't want to give up that many goals, but fortunately they [Ottawa] did too. Coming out in the 3rd like that is the type of team we can be. We just have to demand that more. It's got to be more consistent. We know how good of a team we are. We know we can win any game that we're in. That's a privilege, we have to make sure we're ready to go each period and play more complete games. We've won a lot of games this year. It's funny to sit here and complain that you haven't played your best hockey as a team for a lot of the year and that's true. But we're still winning. Hopefully, we find it as we keep going and learn from these experiences early."

On the winning goal

"There hasn't been that many of those bounces this year, so it was nice to get that one. [Tyler] Seguin was great on draws tonight. He wins a great draw. It was a faceoff play and we had two options drawn up. I couldn't get it to [Thomas] Harley and cut back and gave it to [Mason] Marchment, who made a great play for me. I tried to hit Seguin backdoor, and I fanned on it twice. I threw at the net and sometimes good things happen. It was a great play up until I whiffed on it twice. Fortunately, I did."

Stars Defenseman Thomas Harley

On the goal

"When I was growing up, I was taught that whether you have the puck then you're on offense. Faksa won the draw clean, and I got it and took a couple of crossover steps and it was clean up the ice so take

it. Two on two and got a D on one side and forward on the other. I chose the forward side and tried to drill the puck to the net and got an extra whack.”

On getting the win tonight

“It’s a heck of a lot better than a loss. We believe in ourselves all game long. We knew we weren’t out of it and we knew it was winnable. Playing from behind, we played aggressive. We were on our toes. We’re winning puck battles, we’re shooting pucks. I think that’s the key to our success is being aggressive.”

Stars Goaltender Scott Wedgewood

On difficulty level going into the game early

“I feel that I’ve been in every situation now. It’s tough, my first thought was [Jake Oettinger’s] skate blade was out. So, I stood up and was waiting for the trainer to come get [Oettinger] a skate blade and I saw the look in his eye, and it obviously sucked. So just a tough situation and one that they pay me for. It’s a little difficult. I wish my skates were a little tighter, wish my gear to be wetter from warmups and stuff like that. You get in there and unfortunately [the Senators] got another one after we woke ourselves up. I challenge that to getting my mind in the game and for the rest of the 40+ minutes after that I felt like I got into my hockey game. We came to play for the win and you’re not going to draw them up like that every week, but we’ll take them.”

On tonight’s win

“As long as we come out on top of those. It’s hard and it’s a challenge but you look back at these games and you come up against a team on a back-to-back and we got an opportunity to go out there and find some goals, we do that. That boosts the morale after the last couple weeks here. There has been ups and downs. We’re not in a bad spot by any means. That’s a nice level up for the boys.”

OTTAWA SENATORS

Senators Head Coach D.J. Smith

On the positive things to take out of this game

“We deserved a lot better than that, for sure. We played most of the night with nine forwards. The injuries to some guys and we’ll have updates to all of them. The effort and commitment was there for a back-to-back. You want to get out of there with a win.”

On the emphasis to starting the game strong

“They care in there, everyone cares. It’s a tough one to lose tonight on a back-to-back. The effort was so good. Guys were blocking shots, finishing checks and we didn’t come out with a win.”

On Drake Batherson’s performance

“He was good. He was physical, tracked and got above the puck. He did all kinds of things and could’ve had more than two. There was a lot of good things tonight, but we’re sitting here empty handed.”

Senators Forward Drake Batherson

On tonight’s game

“It was a tough game. Obviously, we got off to the start we wanted to. We got the lead after two and they get a few bounces there late to take the lead. We played 10 forwards most of the game, which is tough in a back-to-back. Good on the guys for battling and just a bounce away.”

On the start of tonight's game

“We came into today and treated it like a must win game. Obviously, we had a great start and got a few bounces early. Like I said, the game turned out the way it did. But the work ethic by everyone was definitely there.”

Senators Defenseman Jakob Chychrun

On his thoughts at the end of the game

“It's just tough to swallow. We didn't like our efforts the last couple games. We come out hard tonight, lose a few guys, just keep battling and competing and [the Stars] found a way to get the lead on us. It's a tough one to swallow.”

On building on today's game for Sunday's game

“That was a lot better 60 minutes by us as a group. The boys worked hard and then 10 forwards, the second night of back-to-back, guys are competing there to the end. It's just one of those [losses] that stings a bit. We have to continue to play that way and continue to push for better results.”