

# 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

Saturday, Feb. 17, 2024

**Dallas Stars 3, Edmonton Oilers 4 (OT)**

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

## DALLAS STARS

### **Stars Head Coach Pete DeBoer**

#### *On today's game*

"You had two pretty evenly matched teams. There were a lot of good players on the ice. In the first period, we were a little too cautious. A little bit of feeling out. In the second period, we started to play and got to our identity a little bit more, and same with the third. I didn't mind our last 40 minutes. We did some good things, and we started to take the game over for some stretches. [Edmonton] is an opportunistic team. I said at the beginning, if you take penalties, they are going to make you pay, and that is what happened in the end."

#### *On killing a long five-on-three penalty in the second period*

"It was a big kill. A little self-inflicted with us having too many men on the ice, so you want to avoid those, especially against that team, but we dug in killed it. It's a big point at the end of the day against a good team, but we left a point on the table tonight. We could've got two, and I think our group is probably disappointed we didn't get two, and that's what you want out of your group."

#### *On the tough road trip coming up*

"We've got a bunch coming up. We have played two games in a row now with five defensemen for extended period. Nils [Lundkvist] left the Nashville game with only a minute of ice time, and I think [Jani Hakanpää] only played 10 or 11 minutes tonight. That is taxing on your group, especially with the schedule we have coming up here. Those guys, particularly, have to get rested up and ready to go. We have a lot of hockey the next two weeks."

### **Stars Forward Wyatt Johnston**

#### *On the even matchup between the Stars and Oilers*

"They have been playing some good hockey these last couple months. It was a big game for us – we wanted to show we are the best team in the league. People have been giving them a lot of hype. It's good to get a point, but we would much rather get two."

#### *On his penalty in overtime*

"I was just trying to help out. You don't want to take a penalty in that situation. I just have to be better and not get tied up with him and take the penalty there."

### **Stars Forward Mason Marchment**

#### *On the OT loss*

"They had the upper set on us in the first period. The second period we really pushed back and played our game. We saw that when we played our game it was hard for them to play theirs. The third was back and forth a little bit and a little chippy. I didn't really get to see the penalty in overtime, but it was a tough bounce. We'll take the point and look forward to the next one."

#### *On how forwards adjust after losing a defenseman to injury*

"I think more support. Just talking to them. We got some good defenseman back there, and they can all handle the ice time. Just keep supporting them and talking to them as much as we can. For sure just make sure we get it deep when they're out there for a while so they can change. They did a great job today. [Jani Hakanpää] is a beast out there for us, so it was tough to miss him, but they did a great job."

### **Stars Defenseman Thomas Harley**

#### *On scoring a goal today and ranking second in goals among NHL defensemen*

"It's nice. I love scoring goals. [Matt Duchene] made a great pass and I just had to stick it in the net. I had the easy part."

*On chemistry with Matt Duchene*

"[Duchene] is a really smart player and is skilled enough to make that pass. I just have to recognize where the open space is and hit it at the right time."

*On adjustments to defense after losing Jani Hakanpää to injury*

"It's just being smart. [Jani] Hakanpää made a great block on that PK and got a lot of momentum for us. It's not taking crazy chances. It's making sure you are conserving some energy and making sure you are still defending well, and then just picking your spots up the ice."

## **EDMONTON OILERS**

### **Oilers Head Coach Kris Knoblauch**

*On today's game*

"They responded very well, and in the second period Dallas started taking over and was probably the better team. We regrouped after the second period, and we were able to play a really strong third. A lot of credit to the guys. We talked about how good Dallas is off the rush and how they score a lot of goals in that way, and I thought we did a really good job on the forecheck with the defense pinching, knowing when not to. The biggest this is probably the forwards and how they work to get back."

*On Evan Bouchard's game today and his play of late*

"He's been playing really well. Tonight was probably the best I have seen him play over the last couple of weeks, and he is very dangerous when he has the puck. We have talked about his ability to fire the puck and get it in with the big bombs and those big heavy shots, but a lot of his goals are just little sifters. That last one where he made a little move walking the line and freezes the forward, and then rips a nice little wrist shot inside the post. Also, I believe it was [Ryan Nugent-Hopkins] that was right in front of the goalie creating a really good screen, but he is always able to find and get shots through like that."

### **Oilers Defenseman Evan Bouchard**

*On scoring the overtime goal*

"I saw their other D- man kind of screen for me and figured I'd get it to the net and see what happens."

*On the response from the team and winning in overtime*

"That was huge, we knew they were a good team. We had to play a good game, and we did that. That's what makes us so special. We can compete with any team, and we know what we have in here."