

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

Friday, Dec. 29, 2023

Dallas Stars 5, Chicago Blackhawks 4 (OT)

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DALLAS STARS

Stars Head Coach Pete DeBoer

On the Stars' stretch of one-goal games

"You can't be surprised. We talked to our group today. These guys, in the last ten days, have beat Colorado and beat Winnipeg. It's a tough league and every night is a battle. Two important points tonight ... We're more comfortable in overtime than we were last year. That's obvious. There were some situational things like a puck over the glass in the last two or three minutes – that's an unavoidable penalty. You have to deal with all kinds of things in a long season and learn to win all kind of different ways to put points in the bank. It wasn't a perfect game, there was some good and some ugly, but we found a way."

On the play of the Robertson-Hintz-Pavelski line

"That was some of the good stuff. Their line looked like they were back to last year. They were moving and working off each other and attacking. Wyatt Johnston was outstanding tonight too which is a good sign for us. Those are the good things that happened. Jamie Benn had a big goal for us which is really important for him to get going in the right direction."

On the Stars remaining focused and patient

"We've had the luxury of having some of our guys work through some tough periods and still win games because of our depth and goaltending. That's what good teams do. No one is hot every night. In order to be an elite team you have to have a couple of lines going every night and we have that type of depth."

Stars Forward Jason Robertson

On his line's chemistry

"Our whole line looked vintage out there, taking the game over and creating a lot of chances. Most importantly, we weren't giving up a lot of offense either. It's a step in the right direction."

On generating more offense

"Getting the shot volumes up – you never know what's going to happen. I would like to bury a couple of them, but I just have to keep working for those opportunities."

Stars Forward Roope Hintz

On his hat trick performance

"I got three tap-ins. They were nice passes from the linemates. There wasn't much else I could have done ... You have to work to get to the back post, but credit goes to them."

On his line's success tonight

"We had a whole 60 minutes played like we've been playing for the past three years. It's felt good tonight."

Stars Forward Wyatt Johnston

On his recent performance

"I could be a little better in terms of getting chances. It's a matter of me putting it in the net. Overall, I could be a little better and being able to finish plays will help with that."

On building on his line's momentum

"When you have a shift and you're getting your chances, getting pucks around the net and getting good looks, it helps the confidence. It helps learn what might work for that game. It's important to take that with you throughout the game."

CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS

Blackhawks Head Coach Luke Richardson

On back-and-forth scoring

"We started out well. They pushed back. They had a nice power play goal, but we killed off the next one. In the second period, we had too much defensive zone time. We just backed off for some reason. We played a little bit more defensive, meaning not attacking them, even in the defensive zone. It's a big team that can skate, so that's not a good recipe for us. We rebounded well in the third period, even after them scoring that goal, we were starting to come. We were resilient at the end. It was almost like two power-play goals. Our power play did a really good job on Jason [Dickinson]'s goal. Their guy just stepped out of the box, so it really was still 5-on-4. That gave us some confidence to move the puck and shoot it on the next power play. It was a big goal."

On maintaining the lead

"It's partially that the other team is a good team and they come at you, but we let them have a little room too. It's got to be focus and the desire to play the same way for 60 minutes. It's hard, but you've got to keep reminding them, and these are good examples. We got a point out of it tonight. If we could play like we did in the third period and the start of the first, you're looking at two points in this league a lot of the time. We've got to spell that out and make sure that it sinks it and you learn your little lessons along the way in each one of these games."

Blackhawks Forward Jason Dickinson

On tonight's game

"We showed a lot of good push. We never quit. When they scored in that goal in the third, we could've packed it in and said, 'We'll come back and get them Sunday.' It felt like we kept on it, kept pushing and kept tying. A lot of good looks on the power play. That created momentum and opportunities. Obviously, we were able to tie it up 6-on-5. It felt good. Great pass by [Cole Guttman] to find me there and [Tyler Johnson] driving to the net for the first goal and getting a secondary is great. But I'd love for us to get the win."

On Cole Guttman

"He's playing very determined and hard nose getting to the net. He's finding the areas to create opportunities. It's a hard league, especially as a young guy to recognize those situations every night. It takes getting used to. Good for him to take a couple of games off and watched for a little bit. Maybe that helped him see the ice a little bit better when he came back."

Blackhawks Forward Tyler Johnson

On tonight's game

"We battled, that part was good. Our structure and discipline could be a little better. We gave up too many odd-man chances and odd-man rushes. We talked about that before the game, trying to clean that up, and I don't think we did that. It's good that we got the point, but we could be a lot better."

On Dallas's overtime performance

"That's how you should play. I know they brought 3-on-3 to try to be exciting. Through all the history that I've played in 3-on-3, the more you can wear a guy down and catch teams tired, the more you get odd-man opportunities. You really shouldn't just take shots. If you want to win it, you can't play that way. They did what they needed to do to win, and we can take a page out of that. Use it for ourselves a little bit more."