

DALLAS STARS COMMUNICATIONS

DAILY NEWS CLIPS

FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2024



DallasStars.com

Gaining perspective: Tyler Seguin's take on the First Round and what's ahead

By Mike Heika

April 25, 2024

The Stars were given the day off Thursday, so nobody was on the ice and a few players came in for treatment.

[Tyler Seguin](#) was one of the few in the building in Frisco and agreed to meet with a small gathering of media to discuss where the Stars are in their best-of-seven series with the Vegas Golden Knights. Dallas is down 0-2 after a 3-1 loss on Wednesday and will play the next two games in Las Vegas Saturday and Monday.

Dallas had the best road record in the NHL this season at 26-10-5 and ranked second in road scoring (3.46) and third in road GAA (2.65). That said, the Stars have won just two of the past 11 head-to-head meetings with Vegas.

A little sleepy and sore, Seguin addressed all of these questions and made some good points along the way:

You are down 2-0 to the defending Stanley Cup champions, does that add anything to the story or is this just another game?

Seguin: The story is you've got to get one, you've got to start with one. The focus is we've been a good road team all season, we've taken pride in the bounce back games and not going on losing streaks, overcoming the adversity you face as a group. And we've got to find a way to win that first game in Vegas.

Is there anything to that road record? Is there anything you do differently?

Seguin: I think in any road game, you're definitely simplifying. In the playoffs, I think it's even more how you have to play simple, you've got to defend hard. If you look at Vegas, I was thinking today that with some of their top players, I don't even notice them until all of the sudden they have a result. They get that one chance and they capitalize on it. We haven't capitalized on those one chances. It feels different than last year. I felt last year a lot of the games they were dominating and we were trying to sneak one out. This year, we've dominated and haven't had it.

This is going to be their first home playoff game since they won the Cup, so there is going to be heightened emotion. Does that lend itself to playing spoiler, so to speak?

Seguin: I don't know. I think that's a lot of thinking, that's what you guys do. My last comment was dominating, I don't know that we have dominated, I think we have played good enough to win games. We responded last game. I thought our first was great and with a team like that, they find a way to have it 1-1 going into the second. You give them credit where credit is due,

they're a great hockey club. I was thinking this morning, teams like Washington, they had to get through Pittsburgh to go all of the way. This is kind of our team that we've got to find a way to overcome. Even with everything going on with them, we've got to find a way to overcome them. That's just going to spring forward all of the emotion and confidence in the group. They're playing confident, they're playing composed, they don't have a worry to them, that's what elite teams do, and that's what we're trying to get to.

Can you embrace the role of the villain and go in there and enjoy being booed?

Seguin: Sometimes when you get booed, it's better. When I used to get booed in Winnipeg, for whatever reason, I would have my best nights. Just figure out what gets you to the next level, gets the team to the next level. I think it starts with us as individuals, figure out how to take one step forward, how to not focus on results, but get results. Hockey is hard. but for the season we have had, I feel we deserve better than this. It's not looking for sympathy, it's digging down and finding something. All of us, we've got to find a way, because we earned the right to that top seed in the West and one point back from the whole league. We shouldn't be down 2-0, but here we are. Let's figure out a way to figure it out.

Does your history help you at times like this? You have had to fight through a lot of injuries, so is this just the next step in the fight?

Seguin: I'm fighting now. You try to tap into those situations you've been through and experiences and sometimes knowing you might have an excuse but look for no excuses. Just figure it out.

There have been few games this year where you struggled to find goals in the second and third periods. Are you seeing anything different on why it's been tough to score?

Seguin: When you get a few or you get one as a group or as an individual, you get that extra boost. They have all that swagger, right? They're defending Stanley Cup champs. They can finish off the year kind of slow, get a bunch of guys back and then have that composure. That's where their confidence is right now. They're heading home, but if we get that first game or first few, all of a sudden they start thinking and, all of a sudden, you have a new series. So you need that big moment here and that's what we're going to look for.

NHL.com

Thompson savoring 1st playoff experience with Golden Knights

By Paul Delos Santos

April 25, 2024

DALLAS -- [Logan Thompson](#) is doing exactly what Vegas Golden Knights coach Bruce Cassidy said to do.

One season after he helped the Golden Knights advance to the Stanley Cup Playoffs but was unable to play because of injury, Thompson is making up for lost time.

"I don't discuss a lot of technical stuff with the goalie, etc," Cassidy said. "With Logan, it was basically 'Hey, enjoy your moment, everyone gets to play their first playoff game. This is your time. You didn't get to go through it last year as an active player because of injury. So enjoy it'. Secondly, if something bad happens, and what I mean by that, is if a goal goes in, and they will sooner or later, you've got to really focus on moving on from it. Because in the playoffs it can snowball in a hurry."

Thompson was 21-13-3 with a 2.65 goals-against average and .915 save percentage in 37 games (36 starts) for Vegas last season, but did not play after March 23 because of a lower-body injury. Vegas went on to win the Stanley Cup.

He started his first two NHL playoff games in Games 1 and 2 of the Western Conference First Round against the Dallas Stars, making 26 saves in a 4-3 win in Game 1, but allowed a few goals he would have liked to have back, such as the third goal that snuck underneath his glove. In Game 2, a 3-1 win, he saved 20 shots, including plenty of game-saving ones at timely moments.

"The first game was a little too close for my liking," Thompson said after Game 2 on Wednesday. "Today, I settled in there and felt good. It's fun, but it's definitely not over. We've just got to regroup and refocus and get ready for Game 3."

Thompson received votes of confidence from his teammates, as many have credited his performances as one of the reasons why the Golden Knights are leaving Dallas with a 2-0 lead in the best-of-7 series.

Game 3 is at T-Mobile Arena in Vegas on Saturday (10:30 p.m. ET; SCRIPPS, MAX, truTV, TBS, BSSW, SN360, SN, TVAS).

"He was amazing. It doesn't surprise me because we see it on a daily basis in practice as players," Vegas forward [Keegan Kolesar](#) said. "We have two great goaltenders coached by an

unbelievable man himself (goalie coach Sean Burke), and it's awesome to see all their hard work they are putting in is paying off."

Defensively, the Golden Knights are doing what they can to help Thomson ease into the playoff atmosphere. They have blocked 35 shots and have done an excellent job at preventing the Stars from getting into the high-danger areas.

It's a staple of Cassidy's system that the Golden Knights are executing to perfection.

"We've done it all year, and we did it last year," Thompson said. "That's just the experience of our group coming through – shutting them down and keeping them on the outside and making my life a lot easier.

"I'm used to it by now. It's been two years now with this group. So I think my first year was a little hectic, but now I completely trust my forward group and my 'D' group in front of me, so I'm really comfortable. The team's clicking when they get in front of every puck, and we battle for each other."

NHL.com

Stars know 'season is on the line' heading to Game 3 at Golden Knights

By Taylor Baird

April 25, 2024

DALLAS -- The Dallas Stars have a familiar feeling, though it's one they wish they didn't, being down 2-0 in the Western Conference First Round after two home losses to the Vegas Golden Knights.

Naturally, their minds wander back to last season, when they fell behind 3-0 to the Golden Knights in the Western Conference Final, eventually being eliminated in Game 6.

It's a scenario the Stars hope to reverse heading into Game 3 at T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas on Saturday (10:30 p.m. ET; SCRIPPS, MAX, truTV, TBS, BSSW, SN360, SN, TVAS).

"I'm sitting around the table this morning, I'm thinking of teams like (the) Washington (Capitals) -- they had to get through (the) Pittsburgh (Penguins) to go all the way," Stars forward [Tyler Seguin](#) said. "This is our team that we've got to find a way to overcome, even with everything going on with them, we've got to find a way to overcome them."

Stars coach Pete DeBoer put it in simple terms.

"There's all kinds of motivation, but no more than your season is on the line," DeBoer said. "I don't think you need extra motivation other than that. I think the guys know exactly where we stand."

The story does feel different this season for Dallas, however.

"Last year, it felt like all the games, they were dominating and we were trying to sneak one out," Seguin said. "We've played good enough [this year] to win games. There's been times where I feel like we have dominated."

The Stars allowed the first goal of the series, by Golden Knights forward [Mark Stone](#), just 1:23 into Game 1 and lost 4-3. Game 2 was tied until 18:53 of the second period, when defenseman [Noah Hanifin](#) scored his first career playoff goal. Center [Jack Eichel](#)'s empty-net goal with 34 seconds to play sent Dallas to a 3-1 defeat.

"If you remove yourself from the emotion of it, and look at the actual underlying numbers of things, the margins are razor thin," DeBoer said. "I liked our Game 2 better than Game 1, and I didn't mind our Game 1. Big save, big goal at the right time and our series can turn."

Dallas will rely on its strong play away from home this season as it looks to flip the script. The Stars led the NHL in points scored on the road (57), regulation wins (24), and face-off winning

percentage (53.9 percent), were second in goals-for per game (3.46) and power play (26.4 percent) and third in goals-against per game (2.63).

"The story is, we've got to get one. Start with one," Seguin said. "The focus is we've been a good road team all season. We've taken pride in the bounce-back games and not going on losing streaks, overcoming that adversity faced as a group. We've got to find a way to win that first game in Vegas."

The Stars will try to get that first win by taking a look at themselves first.

"It starts on us as individuals," Seguin said. "Figure out how to take one step forward. How not to focus on results but get results. Hockey is hard. But for the season we've had, we deserve better than this. It's not a looking for empathy or sympathy kind of thing, it's dig down and find something."

"All of us, we've got to figure out a way. We've earned the right to have that top seed in the West and one point back for the whole League. We shouldn't be down 2-0, but here we are."

The Dallas Morning News

Dallas Stars' Matt Duchene on their series with Vegas: 'We could easily be up 2-0'

By SportsDay Staff

April 26, 2024

Dallas Stars center Matt Duchene recently joined Sportsradio 96.7 FM/1310 The Ticket (KTCK-AM) to discuss the team going down 0-2 in their opening-round playoff series with the Vegas Golden Knights.

Here are some highlights, edited for length and clarity:

How are we doing today? Obviously, the circumstances heading into the interview down 0-2. That's not where you want to be. What's the vibe like in the room?

Matt Duchene: "It's been a weird series so far, we could easily be up 2-0, and we're down 2-0. There's lots of we're doing well, we didn't have our A-game Game 1, and we still held them to 15 shots. We got a pretty fortunate third goal, but they had two tip goals and a weird one that went through a screen. And then last night, I think we played a lot better and just couldn't get the lead. When we did, we got it late in the first and they scored right after. It's been a strange series so far. And it's been frustrating to be honest with you. We were really good road team this year. There's really no discrepancy between our home and road record. We have to go in there and probably take two, but it starts with one and we're getting ready for that."

Related:Dallas Stars have been NHL's best road team all year. Now, their season depends on it You guys got hit 55 times in game one. And then last night, you put 54 hits on the Golden Knights, which is well above the season average. Was there a concerted effort last night to bring the physicality to the Golden Knights?

Duchene: "No, not at all. We don't talk about that. We talk about playing hockey. You're not gonna go out and win a series by out-hitting a team, it doesn't work that way. It's part of the game and I think it came with the intensity and the urgency we had to win that game last night. The way that they've played is pretty identical to what we expected. And we're trying to find a way to get more offense. They basically put five guys in the middle of the ice on their end and let you have the outside. They block a ton of shots. We had looks last night we didn't capitalize and that was the difference."

When you guys get hit 55 times in game one and then 55 times again in game two, how much more can that wear you down in a seven-game series? Compared to a team that doesn't hit as much?

Duchene: "I didn't even notice. We probably had some of the bigger licks on them last night. It's a physical game in the playoffs and guys that don't usually hit are going to hit, but it doesn't

change anything at the end of the day. The story of the series has been us not scoring enough. We're a team that can defend well and you give up two goals against and how many shots have they had in two games? Just over 40? I think we had better chances last night to score. The more dangerous chances. It's frustrating, we're not where we want to be. We're a hell of a team. I think we've controlled the play for both games. We haven't been outplayed, that's for sure. So there's some positives, but at the same time, when you're down 2-0, you got to figure out a way to, to write that in the regular season, it's easy to reset. In a seven-game series, you gotta win four of the next five, it's a different mindset."

You talked about how Vegas will just put five dudes in the middle of the ice and clog things up. How do you count or something like that if you can at all?

Duchene: "I think there's times we're chipping and chasing too much. I know I wasn't happy with myself after game one, I felt I kept it way too simple individually. That's not my game. Last night, I felt a lot a lot more like myself. There was a lot more time and space. As a group, we're not turning the puck over in bad places. They've got a really good deep core, they've got three defensemen who are number one defensemen in the NHL. They are defending well, but I think I think there's more time and space out there. We're making ourselves a little short on time. We have a better ability to make some plays. I think we got to push them a little bit more."

Through two games, has there been anything about the opponent that has surprised you that you hadn't seen in the regular season?

Duchene: "No. We don't feel like we've been outplayed. At the end of the day, it doesn't matter we gotta get wins and losing both at home is a tough way to start. It doesn't mean the series is over by any means. We can go in there and take two and it's a brand new series and it's the best the best out of three. You got to go through those emotions and feelings, then move forward. We believe that this team could be a Stanley Cup-winning team. If we get through this series, we could end up looking back on this, and maybe this is our toughest round of the entire thing."

The Dallas Morning News

Dallas Stars have been NHL's best road team all year. Now, their season depends on it

By Lia Assimakopoulos

April 25, 2024

One D-FW team already proved that dominating the road schedule can be key to winning a championship — going 11-0 in away games en route to their World Series title in November.

Now, five months later, the Stars are trying to take a page out of the Rangers' book.

Dallas will hit the road Friday for games Saturday and Monday at T-Mobile Arena. Trailing 0-2 in the series after starting at home, the Stars need to win at least one to guarantee they'll play at American Airlines Center again this year.

But luckily for the Stars, they don't have to start from scratch entering Saturday's matchup.

"We've been the best road team in the league all year," Stars coach Pete DeBoer said. "We've got to go in there and win some road games."

The Stars posted a 26-10-5 road record this year, earning points 69.5% of the time — a league high. Over half of their total points this season (57) came in opponents' buildings. They're second in the league in goals for per game on the road (3.46) and third in goals against (2.63). While they were still fourth in the league in goals at home (3.71), they were 17th in goals against (3.02).

Vegas and Dallas had the same points percentage at home this year of .683. Statistically, the Stars are better on the road than Vegas was at home.

"I don't have an explanation for that, but I'm glad those are the numbers, and I'm glad we're going on the road," DeBoer said.

DeBoer said he'd like to think the Stars' style of play is the reason they've been so successful on the road. He said being reliable in multiple aspects of the game from special teams to 5-on-5 play builds a certain level of consistency that translates no matter where you play.

Forward Tyler Seguin said, in some situations, playing on the road can be easier, even if it seems counterintuitive.

"In any road game, you're definitely simplifying," he said. "I think it's even more [heightened] in the playoffs of how you've got to play simple, defend hard. I think you look at Vegas, and some of their top guys and their top players, and I really don't even notice them until, all of a sudden,

they have a result. They get that one chance and capitalize on it. We haven't capitalized on those chances."

Vegas arrived in Dallas knowing they didn't have much to lose and played like it. The Stars have overcomplicated the game at times this series, always trying to make the extra pass or the fancier move. Vegas, while its chances have been limited, has made the most of them.

On top of that, Seguin said teams enjoy entering opponents' buildings and playing the villain. The Golden Knights will play their first home playoff game since they hoisted the Stanley Cup in Game 5 of the finals last year. They're entering on a high with a 2-0 series lead. Dallas hopes it can spoil that.

"Sometimes when you get booed, it gets you going," Seguin said. "I didn't really enjoy our fans booing Mark Stone. That gets you going. When I used to get booed in Winnipeg for whatever reason, I would have my best nights."

From knocking off the defending champions to crawling back into the series, there's all sorts of motivation for the Stars in Saturday's game. To earn their first playoff win, they'll have to play to their strengths, and road games just happen to be one of them.

While it seems like a quickly fading dream down 0-2, they'll hope Games 3 and 4 could be a start to having their road record engraved in their championship rings, too, in a matter of months.

"Hockey's hard. But for the season we had, I feel like we deserve better than this," Seguin said. "It's not looking for empathy or sympathy. It's dig down, find something, all of us, we've got to figure out a way because we earned the right.

"We've prided ourselves all year on how we respond, how we don't lose many games in a row, so we'll start with one."

The Athletic

NHL Power Rankings: The playoffs are here and everything has changed

By Sean Gentille and Dom Luszczysyn

April 26, 2024

We've finally made it to the most important time of year: The week after the release of a new Taylor Swift album. That's right folks, it's time for everyone's favorite theme, NHL Power Rankings: Taylor's Ver—

Another one? When will this lady leave me alone? No. [We're not doing that again.](#)

What do you mean, why not?

It's the first week of the playoffs. I'm done hearing about Taylor Swift. Be serious.

But the Tortured Hockey Department?!

No. Stop.

Fine. Whatever!

Err ... it's time for everyone's actual favorite theme: The Rankings Boys Just Talk About Hockey. You're welcome!

This week's agenda is figuring out why each team is where it is after the first two or three games of the playoffs. A star player? Goaltending? Special teams? All of the above? Find out below along with our usual unimpeachable list of teams in the correct order.

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9. Dallas Stars, down 2-0 to Vegas

Last week: 1

Sean's ranking: 8

Dom's ranking: 9

Having the audacity to finish first in the West

The Stars haven't played badly, per se. They've earned 60 percent of the expected goals at five-on-five in both games against Vegas — games that were spent predominantly at even strength. That's usually enough to win both games or at least come away with a split, but the Stars instead find themselves in an 0-2 hole.

The major problem is that the team they're facing is [no ordinary wildcard team](#). Vegas can execute at a very high level and, unfortunately, the Stars are matched up against such a good team so early. There are no easy matchups in the West, but Vegas might truly be the most difficult one for this team in particular. It feels a tad unjust for the Stars to be "rewarded" that way after such a strong season.

Them's the breaks. It's up to the Stars to prove they are in fact the best in the West, by beating another team in strong contention for that title — no matter how early it is.

The Hockey News

Logan Stankoven Earns Another Honor

By Stephen Kerr

April 25, 2024

Logan Stankoven might want to invest in a bigger trophy case at the rate he's going.

The 21-year-old Kamloops, British Columbia native has been named the winner of the Dudley (Red) Garrett Memorial Award as the AHL's Most Outstanding Rookie, the league announced Thursday.

The award was voted on by a committee of players, coaches and media members throughout the AHL.

Last week, Stankoven became the third Texas Stars player to earn a place on the AHL's All-Rookie Team, joining Curtis McKenzie (2013-14 and Riley Damiani (2020-21). He was also selected to the 2023-24 AHL All-Star Game along with teammates Mavrik Bourque and Matej Blumel, as well as head coach Neil Graham.

Stankoven, who hasn't played in an AHL game since being called up by Dallas on February 24, still managed to lead all rookies with 57 points. He tied for third among rookies with 33 assists and ranked third in goals (24). in 47 games for Texas during his first professional season. He also compiled six power play goals, 20 power play points, three game-winning goals and a +9 rating.

From November 10 through December 9, 2023, Stankoven had an 11-game point streak, scoring 16 points (8-8-16) during that span, matching a franchise record.

The Stars' 47th overall pick in the 2021 NHL draft also joined McKenzie and Damiani as the only Texas Stars players to win the award in its 15-year history. In 24 regular-season games with Dallas, he had 14 points (6-8-14), and has one point through two games of the Stanley Cup First Round series against the [Vegas Golden Knights](#).

Since he was one game short of the 25-game regular-season minimum to be considered a rookie, Stankoven would qualify for the NHL's Calder Memorial Trophy for Rookie of the Year next season. With the experience he's picked up during his short stint with the big club, there's no reason to believe he won't at least be in the conversation.