

# 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

Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2024  
**Dallas Stars 7, Minnesota Wild 2**  
[Game Summary](#) | [Event Summary](#)

## DALLAS STARS

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

*On the Stars' defensive plays in the first period*

"We've been concentrating on it. We need to play that way in front of our goaltenders to give ourselves a chance. We've risen to the occasion. It helps that the Minnesota Wild didn't have some of their guys in the lineup, but our commitment was pretty good tonight."

*On Minnesota's third period push*

"They pushed. It's natural to relax when you have a lead like that. They got that quick goal, and they were pushing hard. Our response with the next goal was important. Those momentum swings – we've been on the other end of those where you get a goal in the third period and you're down by three and suddenly you get a goal and it's a different game. Our response was important, and Scott Wedgewood made a couple of saves when he needed to."

### **Stars Forward Matt Duchene**

*On the defensive play tonight and Miro Heiskanen being out*

"Miro being out is a big hole for us, but the other guys have stepped up big. It's been good."

*On the system of play while missing Miro Heiskanen*

"It's the next man up – that old school terminology, and it's true. Guys see the opportunity to play more minutes, and guys have to seize it. We've seen some of the best hockey from guys on the back end. They've picked up. Miro leaves a big hole, like I said. No one on this team is going to get to that level individually, but as group they've pulled together and kept the level high as a collective on the back end. It's been good. Even when you look at the three games we've lost, other than the Colorado game, in those two combined losses to Nashville and Montreal, we gave up 40 shots in two games. You usually win those games, and we've had great goaltending. We've got a bit of everything, right now. The three-game skid didn't feel like it should've been a three-game skid, and now we're getting rewarded. Obviously, we want to get Nashville back for that last one next game. Hopefully, we'll be rolling out that same effort as tonight."

### **Stars Defenseman Nils Lundkvist**

*On scoring his first goal this season*

"It feels good. It's good to get the first one out of the way. It took me a while, but better now than never. It feels good."

*On sticking with it throughout the season*

"It's about trusting the process, like everyone says. I'm just trying to control the things that I can do and do it as well as I can. If you work hard, you usually get results out of it. Obviously, it feels good. I'm taking this opportunity and making the most of it."

### **Stars Goaltender Scott Wedgewood**

*On getting back in net after a one-game break*

"It was a weird, good feeling on the fact that I liked what I was doing. I just didn't have the work to show for it. I could have had rebound control and hindered three or four more. I held on for the first five that I needed to. It was the same thing as the game two nights ago where we took an early surge and made a couple of saves. We jumped out in the lead, and we did a good job of holding it. Bouncing on a five on three, it's a good win. We are happy about it."

*On team's defense without Miro Heiskanen*

"Everyone is stepping up. It's what we had to do with the amount of minutes he plays in a game and how effective he is on our team. In all honesty, with the way we've been playing it's nice to not have to think about it. There's not a ton of talk about Miro not being here. Obviously, he's nice to have, but the way we've been going, we are giving credit to the guys who have stepped up."

## **MINNESOTA WILD**

### **Wild Head Coach John Hynes**

#### *On his message to the team after tonight's loss*

"You've got to take some lessons out of it, for sure, and then we have to be ready for Friday. We have two home games coming up, back to back, so there is a lot to take out of it ... You have to get over it. You can't wallow in it. You've got to take some lessons out of it."

#### *On most difficult part of the game*

"There were times early in the game where we couldn't get momentum going, where we did have some looks. Even after they scored the goal, we had a look before and after that. There were moments in the game where you need to score at a certain time when you have looks, and we didn't have that early in the game."

### **Wild Forward Mats Zuccarello**

#### *On Minnesota's performance*

"It's tough. We played a good team, but they really didn't have to work too hard to get the goals in. I gave away the first one. It happens, but we didn't bounce back, and we had some chances where we could have gotten some bounces and some goals and build a game there. We played a solid third period, and they still got three goals. They got some bounces, and they're a good team – if you give them chances they are going to score. It's not a performance that we like. We have to play smarter hockey."

#### *On Minnesota's goalie Jesper Wallstedt's debut*

"It's part of a long career. He's going to look back. I know my first professional game something similar happened – I played awful, and it's something to look back on. We wish we could have given him a better start and helped him more. He'll bounce back. He's strong mentally, and this is not on him. This is on us players. We didn't do a good enough job of helping him today, but he's going to come back and he's going to get stronger. At the end of the day, it's not good enough."

### **Wild Defenseman Jake Middleton**

#### *On tonight's performance and goaltender Jesper Wallstedt's debut*

"It's a real shame. Congratulations to Jesper [Wallstedt] on playing his first game, but it's too bad we didn't play better in front of him."

#### *On the Stars' success against the Wild this season*

"We didn't generate anything on our forecheck. We made a game plan to get pucks behind them, but they continuously dinked it past us, sent guys out of the zone and created odd-man rushes. We didn't adjust properly as a group throughout the game. That led to where we're at right now."

### **Wild Goaltender Jesper Wallstedt**

#### *On what he'll take away from tonight's game*

"Only that it was my first game. We'll probably leave it at that. It was not beautiful and not like I could've imagined. Now that's done."

#### *On how he felt during the first period of play*

"I was definitely nervous in the beginning. A lot of pucks were bouncing off me. I felt like I couldn't catch anything. I remember there was one shot from their [Dallas] defense, and I tried to glove it and it just jumped out of my hand. The nerves were definitely hitting me early. After that, I felt more and more comfortable. But then it ran away a little bit. I could've made some better saves to keep us in the game and maybe turned the tide."