



**AMALIE Arena Media Clips
Friday, January 5, 2024**

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Defenseman Darren Raddysh scores twice, Lightning beat banged-up Wild

Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Defenseman Darren Raddysh scored his first two goals of the season, and Victor Hedman had a power-play goal in the Lightning's 4-1 victory over the injury-ravaged Minnesota Wild on Thursday.

"We've got to generate a little bit more offense, especially from the back end," Lightning coach Jon Cooper said. "That was in our game plan (Thursday), and it worked out well for us."

Andrei Vasilevskiy made 22 saves to end a three-start losing streak, and Brandon Hagel added an empty-net goal to help the Lightning hand the Wild their fourth consecutive loss. Vasilevskiy's bid for his 34th career shutout lasted until there was 4:25 left, when former Tampa Bay teammate Zach Bogosian snapped a shot past him.

Marc-Andre Fleury made 26 saves for the Wild, missing for the third straight game the chance to match Patrick Roy for second place on the NHL victory list with 551.

Nikita Kucherov was limited to two shots and one assist for the Lightning on the night he was named to his fifth All-Star Game, ending his four-game goal streak. The Russian right wing has 10 goals and 10 assists in his last 12 games.

Raddysh brought the Lightning to life soon after the first intermission when he redirected Luke Glendening's shot from the point and backhanded his own rebound just out of Fleury's reach as former Lightning forward Pat Maroon was a split-second late with his clearing attempt.

Then Raddysh, a 27-year-old defenseman who had one goal in his first 60 regular-season NHL games, buried a wraparound less than 2½ minutes later after going unchecked behind the net. The Lightning had only nine goals from the blue line this season before getting three in this game.

"They just haven't gone in. So to have three from the back end it, just gives us a little boost going forward," said Raddysh, who scored once in the playoffs last spring.

The Wild might as well have hosted this game in Iowa, where their AHL affiliate plays, given how many minor-leaguers they needed to fill out their lineup with their recent rash of injuries.

Goalie Filip Gustavsson, defensemen Jonas Brodin and Jared Spurgeon, and forwards Marcus Foligno, Kirill Kaprizov, Vinni Lettieri and Mats Zuccarello were all unavailable. Just a week ago, only Brodin and Zuccarello were sidelined from the group that includes two first-line wings, the most experienced pair of blue-liners and their primary netminder. Oh, and all three of their captains.

"Our execution (Thursday) didn't allow us to play fast," Wild coach John Hynes said. "It was more the second pass out of the zone. We had a lot of pucks in skates, missed passes, bobbled pucks."

The Wild fell to 3-15-1 when their opponent scores first.

"I thought we worked and tried to do the right things," Bogosian said. "We've just got to stay connected."

Lightning's Nikita Kucherov selected to play in NHL All-Star Game **Eduardo A. Encina (Tampa Bay Times)**

TAMPA — Despite the Lightning's inconsistent play this season, right wing Nikita Kucherov is off to the best start of his NHL career.

Kucherov entered Thursday's games leading the league with 63 points, and his 27 goals trailed only Toronto's Auston Matthews (30).

So Kucherov was an easy selection to represent the Lightning in this year's NHL All-Star Game festivities Feb. 1-3 at Toronto's Scotiabank Arena. It will be his fifth career All-Star Game.

On Thursday, the league announced its initial list of 32 All-Stars, one player from each team selected by the Hockey Operations Department. Fans will have the opportunity to vote for the final 12 players by going to [NHL.com/vote](https://www.nhl.com/vote).

This season, teams will be assembled through a player draft on Feb. 1, selected by four All-Star captains, each paired with a celebrity captain. The teams will play each other in a 3-on-3 tournament on Feb. 3.

Last season, Kucherov also was among the initial All-Star Game selections. Goaltender Andrei Vasilevskiy was voted in by the fans, joining him on the Atlantic Division roster. Kucherov had two goals and an assist in two games, helping the Atlantic to the 3-on-3 championship.

Kucherov has had a flair for the All-Star Game spotlight. In the 2018 game at Amalie Arena, he had the first hat trick in the 3-on-3 tournament format in a 7-4 Atlantic Division semifinal win over the Metropolitan, a performance capped by his famous "no-shot" goal.

Kucherov's five All-Star Game selections tie him with Vasilevskiy for third-most in Lightning history, trailing only Steven Stamkos (7) and Marty St. Louis (6).

This season, Kucherov has been the league's most consistent point producer and is on pace to surpass the totals of his 128-point, Hart Trophy-winning season in 2018-19.

Kucherov is one of the game's most dynamic playmakers, but this season he's taken it upon himself to shoot more. He ranks second in the league in shots on goal (he was 20th last season), and is on pace to set a career highs for both goals and power-play goals (10).

Kucherov was the NHL's First Star for the month of November, when he totaled nine goals and 28 points in 14 games. His 19 multi-point games were second-most in the league, and he had 16 points (eight goals and eight assists) in the nine games prior to Thursday's contest in Minnesota.

On Nov. 27 against Florida, Kucherov scored his 300th career goal in his 679th career game. He became the fourth Lightning player to reach the mark (joining Vinny Lecavalier, St. Louis and Stamkos) and ninth active player to reach 300 goals in 700 games or fewer.

Lightning's Mikhail Sergachev headed to long-term injured reserve **Eduardo A. Encina (Tampa Bay Times)**

TAMPA — The Lightning have placed Mikhail Sergachev on long-term injured reserve.

The move sidelines the left-shot defenseman for at least the next four games but allowed the team to recall Sean Day and Declan Carlile from AHL Syracuse before tonight's game in Minnesota to help a depleted blue line.

Sergachev was injured on Dec. 19, when he took a puck to the back of his left foot. Initially, coach Jon Cooper hoped Sergachev would miss only two games before the holiday break and be able to return after a week of recovery time.

That timetable was clearly overly optimistic. Sergachev has now missed six games, and after being placed on LTIR must miss a total of 10 games and 24 days. Since the move is backdated to his last game, Sergachev will be eligible to return against the Ducks Jan. 13 at Amalie Arena.

The Lightning previously placed left-shot defenseman Haydn Fleury on LTIR. Fleury, who was knocked out of the win over Montreal on Dec. 31, is not eligible to return until Jan. 22. Right-shot defenseman Erik Cernak, who was knocked out of the same game, is listed as day to day.

After playing just five defensemen in Tuesday's 4-2 loss in Winnipeg, the Lightning will need help from two players with little NHL experience. This is the fourth time in the past three weeks Tampa Bay has recalled Day without him seeing ice time. He almost definitely will play now. The Lightning played with just two left-shot defensemen against the Jets: Victor Hedman logged 29:14 of ice time, Calvin de Haan 21:17.

Day, who turns 26 next week, has no goals and eight assists in 17 games with the Crunch. He said last month he has found his defensive game under the new coaching staff in Syracuse. He played two games for the Lightning in 2021-22, averaging 10:43 of ice time.

Carlile, 23, has three goals and nine points in 31 games in his second full AHL season. He had eight goals and 24 points last season at Syracuse. Should he play for the Lightning, he will be making his NHL debut.

The Backcheck: Lightning end winless streak in Minnesota

Chris Krenn (TampaBayLightning.com)

Going into Thursday night's contest against the Minnesota Wild, the Tampa Bay Lightning were looking for their first win at Xcel Energy Center since April 2, 2011, after dropping 10 consecutive games in St. Paul over the past decade.

That winless streak came to an end with a sound, 4-1 win over the Wild behind goals from Darren Raddysh (2x), Victor Hedman and Brandon Hagel.

After the first period ended in a 0-0 tie, Raddysh opened the scoring with his first goal of the season and gave the Bolts a 1-0 lead 4:31 into the middle frame.

Raddysh made a nice play to pinch up the right boards in the offensive zone and force a turnover from former Lightning forward Pat Maroon, who had his clearing attempt held in at the blue line by Luke Glendening.

After making his move up the boards, Raddysh continued forward and went straight to the Minnesota net, where he jumped on a rebound off a shot from Glendening and beat Marc-Andre Fleury with a backhand to give Tampa Bay the 1-0 lead.

With the weight of that first goal off his shoulders, Raddysh was right back up in the play and made it a 2-0 game just 2:29 later.

Moving up the right boards once again, Raddysh took a pass from Conor Sheary and drove towards the Minnesota net. With a little shot fake, Raddysh got Fleury to drop down into the butterfly before quickly shifting behind the net and scoring on a wraparound to double the Lightning lead.

The Bolts outshot the Wild 13-9 in the second period and went into the third period with a 2-0 lead before Victor Hedman made it a 3-0 game just two minutes into the final frame.

With Nic Petan in the penalty box for hooking, Hedman took a pass at the point from Nikita Kucherov and hammered a heavy slap shot through a ton of traffic that beat Fleury and gave the Lightning a three-goal lead with 18 minutes remaining in regulation.

Former Bolts defenseman Zach Bogosian spoiled the shutout for Andrei Vasilevskiy when he scored with 4:25 remaining, but that would go down as the lone goal for Minnesota. Brandon Hagel added an empty-net goal at the 19:19 mark to make it a 4-1 game with his 11th goal of the season, snapping an 18-game goalless drought.

Declan Carlile was called up from the Syracuse Crunch and made his NHL debut on the Lightning back end. Vasilevskiy finished the night with 22 saves on 23 shots against for his third win of the season.

Bolts by the Numbers

- Darren Raddysh scored his first two goals of the season in a span of 2:29 and is up to 12 points on the season (2-10—12).
- Nikita Kucherov recorded one assist and is tied with Nathan MacKinnon for the most points in the NHL with 64. Kucherov has scored 27 goals and added 37 assists in 39 games.

- Kucherov's 64 points set a franchise record for the most points recorded by a Lightning player prior to their 40th game of a season. Kucherov held the previous record with 63 points in 39 games in 2018-19.
- Kucherov is one of just four active players to record 64 points prior to their 40th game of a season, joining Sidney Crosby, Nathan MacKinnon and Connor McDavid.
- Declan Carlile skated in his first career NHL game and logged 11:27 time on ice with a +1 rating, one hit and two blocked shots.
- Calvin de Haan fired a career-high seven shots on goal.

Bolts Quotes

- Jon Cooper on scoring from defensemen: "We've got to generate a little bit more offense, especially from the back end. That was in our game plan tonight and it worked out well for us."
- Darren Raddysh: "We've kind of been struggling to get goals on the back end and to get two tonight was awesome. We've just got to make sure we build off that and get ready for Boston on Saturday."
- Jon Cooper on Declan Carlile's debut: "The kid did great. Those are really exciting times for everyone when somebody gets to play in their first NHL game...I've coached damn near 800 of these games and he's played in one and we both have the same amount of wins in this building, so he's got something on me."
- Declan Carlile: "It was awesome. They booked it. They didn't know (if I was going to play) obviously. We didn't know. My dad's not one to do that stuff because he doesn't want to jinx anything. But I'm happy they were able to get here. It means a ton to me. They were with me every step of the way. Obviously undrafted and went to school and didn't really know where I'd end up. Now I'm here, so it's just a full circle moment."

Krenner's Three Stars

1. Darren Raddysh
2. Victor Hedman
3. Declan Carlile

Lightning Look Ahead

- Saturday, January 6 at Boston Bruins, 7 p.m. ET, TD Garden
- Tuesday, January 9 vs. Los Angeles Kings, 7 p.m. ET, AMALIE Arena
- Thursday, January 11 vs. New Jersey Devils, 7 p.m. ET, AMALIE Arena

Tampa Bay Lightning finally break the curse in Minnesota

Erik Erlendsson (Lightning Insider)

ST. PAUL, Minn. – The last time the Tampa Bay Lightning win a game in Minnesota, head coach Jon Cooper was a rookie bench boss in Norfolk.

The Curse of Dan Cloutier has prevented the Lightning from enjoying any sort of success at Xcel Energy Center. Heading into Thursday, the Lightning had played 16 games all-time in Minnesota with just two wins and six points earned in those 16 games.

Tampa Bay's last victory against the Wild at Xcel Energy Center came on April 2, 2011, in a 3-1 victory. Dwayne Roloson was in net for Tampa Bay that night and the goal scorers were Ryan Malone, Steve Downie and Sean Bergenheim. Mike Lundin lead the Lightning in ice time on defense.

And on Thursday, it was the defense that led the way for Tampa Bay to break **The Curse of Dan Cloutier**.

Here's what we're talking about after a victory the Lightning had to have.

ABOUT THE CURSE

You can fully read about the Dan Cloutier curse in the link above, but the gist of it goes like this.

In the first ever game Tampa Bay played in Minnesota during the Wild's inaugural season, after Minnesota started the season 0-4-1, the Lightning handed the expansion team their first victory. But it was how Tampa Bay lost the game the created the curse. Kevin Weekes started the game in net, allowing five goals as Tampa Bay trailed 5-4 late in the third period.

Head coach Steve Ludzik opted to swap Weekes with Cloutier, who they felt was a faster skater for when they brought on an extra attacker. Just after Cloutier was able to get to the bench, the wild scored an empty net goal. Then with 12 seconds left, Fredik Modin scored a goal to make it 6-5. But because Cloutier was the last goaltender in net when the Wild scored the empty net goal that turned out to be the game-winner, Cloutier was dealt with the loss despite logging 24 seconds of ice time and never facing a shot.

Normally, things tend to take a sideways turn in Minnesota. Starting goaltenders tend to get sick in the afternoon of the second half of a back-to-back. Shots going 10-feet wide somehow end up in the back of Tampa Bay's net. All Star centers take pucks off their foot.

In the 17th visit to Minnesota, nearly everything went right for the Lightning.

The Wild entered the game missing leading-scorer Kiril Kaprizov, Mats Zuccerello, top defencemen Jarod Spurgeon and Jonas Brodin along with goaltender Filip Gustavsson. The injuries led to three consecutive regulation losses after an 11-3 stretch since head coach John Hynes took over behind the bench.

With a depleted lineup, the Lightning were able to take advantage of the situation. They locked things down defensively, kept risk out of their game for the most part and put together a gameplan that paid off.

THE GAME PLAN

Tampa Bay is among the top scoring teams in the league among forwards, ranking fifth with 267 points and second in goals by forwards with 118 behind only Vancouver. But what they haven't received this season is consistent offensive production from the defense.

Tampa Bay's defensive corps has accounted for 25.6-percent of the offense which is 14th in the league. The defense has contributed just 9.2-percent of the goals. And that comes after Thursday's victory in which three of the four goals came from the defense.

Against the Wild, part of the game plan was to activate the defense more in the offensive zone. Making switch plays off the wall with forwards was near the top of the list, jumping into spaces down low was part of the plan.

It paid off on the first two goals of the game, both coming in the second period, both scored by Darren Raddysh. Both goals coming off plays were Raddysh cut down the wall and switched off with the forward.

Raddysh, who hadn't scored a regular season goal since April 5, was in front of the net two swat a backhand in off his own rebound. Raddysh cut down the right boards to close on Pat Maroon and snuff out a clearing attempt. Luke Glendening recognized Raddysh pinching the wall and took his place at the right point. Maroon's clearing attempt was deflected by Raddysh which allowed Glendening to glove it down, get the puck to his stick and send the puck toward the net.

Once Raddysh recognized Glendening covered his spot, he cut toward the slot to score his first of the night while Glendening registered his first assist.

"I thought we just learned from how they play defense and just tried to adapt to it," Raddysh said. "They're a man on man team, so we just tried to get everyone moving, trying to get them to be a little bit confused. And I found myself farther down on that first one."

His second was a little similar as he again cut down the right boards, as Conor Sheary dropped the pck to initiate the switch play, carried down low and stuffed in a wraparound.

"I just kind of saw (Sheary) had the puck and just tried to beat my man to the mat," Raddysh said. "I saw (Tyler Motte) was at the net and the goalie kind of came up high. So I just tried to throw a little fake and then I knew once I faked there that the wraparound probably was there. So I was lucky to get that in."

Victor Hedman, who has accounted for 39 points good for third in the league among defenseman, scored a power play goal two minutes into the third period. It marks the first time the Lightning registered three goals in a game by a defenseman since November 13, 2022, at Washington with two from Mikhail Sergachev and one from Nick Perbix.

"We've got to generate a little bit more offense, especially from the back end," Cooper said. "That was our game plan tonight. It worked out well for us."

SPEAKING OF DEFENSEMEN, HOW ABOUT THE NEW KID

With Tampa Bay short on healthy defensemen, the Lightning recalled D Declan Carlile along with Sean Day ahead of Thursday's game. It was Carlile who found his way into the lineup to make his NHL debut, getting the full rookie lap treatment ahead of pregame warmup.

The 23-year-old from Hartland, Michigan, is in his second year with the Lightning organization. Undrafted out of Merrimack College, Carlile signed a free agent contract with Tampa Bay. Prior to his

three years in college, where he 13 goals and 56 points in 83 games, the 6-foot-2, 190-pound defenseman spent a season in the USHL with Lincoln and Muskegon.

In his NHL debut, he logged 11:27 of ice time with one hit and one blocked shot to go with a plus-1 rating as he was on the ice for Raddysh's second goal. The destination was worth the journey.

"I didn't really know if hockey was going to be the thing for me, you never know," Carlile said. "I went to school and had some great coaches there that put a lot of confidence in me. (They) just let me play my game and helped me every way they could in pretty much everything. So in college I started to realize, 'Like, okay maybe I can make a career out of this and do this for a living'. So that was good."

Carlile played most of the night alongside Perbix as the pair logged 8:44 of ice time together, with 88-percent of the expected goals. The Wild did not have a shot on goal when the two were paired together.

"The kid did great," Cooper said. "That's really exciting times for everyone when somebody gets to play in their first NHL game."

In 110 games with Syracuse, Carlile is a plus-38 with 12 goals and 36 points. Seeing his first NHL action is something he'll never forget.

"The atmosphere, it's something I've never played in before with that many people in there," Carlile said. And seeing guys that I watched growing up and now I'm on the ice with them, I think it's really cool. It's something that it's hard to explain, but it's a good feeling."

A RARE FIRST

The last time Tampa Bay won in Minnesota, Jon Cooper was in his first year as a coach for a professional team. The last time the Lightning beat the Wild at Xcel Energy Center, Guy Boucher was behind the Tampa Bay bench.

So, as the final buzzer ended Thursday's game and the victory was secured, it marked Cooper's first victory in Minnesota since he took over at the end of the 2013 season. The moment wasn't lost on him when he was asked about Carlile's performance.

"It's a little bit of a pisser for me because I've coached damn near 800 NHL games, and he's played in one and we both have the same amount of wins in this building," Cooper said. "So he's got something on me, I guess."

NOTES

Tampa Bay officially placed D Mikhail Sergachev on long term injured reserve, retroactive to December 19, which means he must miss 10 games and 24 days. He has already missed seven games (including Thursday) and 17 days. He would be eligible to return no sooner than January 13 against Anaheim. ... D Haydn Fleury is also on LTI, retroactive to December 31. The earliest he could return is January 25 against Arizona. ... D Erik Cernak missed his second consecutive game with an upper-body injury. ... Tampa Bay scratched Alex Barre-Boulet, Sean Day (called up earlier in the day) and Cernak. ... Nikita Kucherov (27-37—64 in 39 GP) is one of just three active players with at least 64 points prior to their 40th game of a campaign. The others: Connor McDavid (73 in 2022-23 & 64 in 2020-21) and Sidney Crosby (65 in 2010-11 & 2006-07). ... Kucherov's 64 points are the most by a Lightning player prior to their 40th game of a season, besting his own mark set in 2018-19 (18-45—63 in 39 GP). ... Former Lightning Zach Bogosian scored the only goal for Minnesota. Both Bogosian and Maroon serves as alternate captains for the Wild with all the injuries affecting the roster. ... Brandon

Hagel scored an empty net goal to snap an 18-game scoring drought dating back to November 24 in Carolina.

MY THREE STARS

1. Lightning D Darren Raddysh – Two goals, plus-two four shots, two hits, 25:41 of ice time
2. Lightning D Victor Hedman – Goal, plus-1, four shot attempts, two blocks, 27:03 of ice time
3. Lightning G Andrei Vasilevskiy – Stopped 22 of 23 shots to snap a three-game losing streak