

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

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

Dallas Stars 3, Florida Panthers 4

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DALLAS STARS

Stars Head Coach Pete DeBoer

On tonight's game

"It was an interesting game. I liked big parts of our game tonight. We did a lot of things well. There was the third period, but when you look at the entire game, we had opportunities to really extend the lead and put them away. Their goalie let them hang around, and that's what that team does. They find ways to win games. They did it in the playoffs last year almost every night. We left the door open a crack in the third period, took a couple of penalties, and that's all they need."

On the Stars' penalty kill in the third period

"First off with a 3-1 lead you can't be taking penalties. We can't give up two power plays in the last ten minutes. That's a good learning experience for us. If you do take penalties, you've got to get the job done whether it's a big save or execution. The last one bounced off a skate, those are going to happen. There were a couple of plays before that where if we were a little sharper in our execution, maybe that doesn't happen. Our penalty kill has been good all year, but this is a good learning opportunity for our group."

On whether the third period can serve as a learning experience

"It's hard to view it that way when it's fresh and raw like this, but it absolutely is. That's a very good team over there, and we did a lot of good things and exposed them in a lot of areas tonight, but we just didn't finish off enough of the opportunities that we had. You have to credit their goalie – he had a handful of huge saves."

Stars Forward Joe Pavelski

On losing a 3-0 in tonight's game

"It's definitely a little disappointing to play with the lead and come out like that. We sat back a bit, didn't win enough one-on-one battles – everything that made us successful the first half of the game kind of slipped in our game a little bit. Didn't handle a couple key moments, but for us – this group – this might come at a good time. This is a great reminder of what's ahead of us. We're going to be in this situation again against good teams. In the playoffs, you're up by two, you're down by one – the game can't change. You've got to look to win periods, create momentum, keep moving the game forward. We didn't do a good enough job. We'll look at a few clips, I'm sure. Take this as a lesson. This won't be a low point for us for long. Look to right it and be better next time."

On the Stars' strong start

"We had a lot of good looks. Goalies played good. You're always trying to stick the next one in the net, and they made a few saves at times – kept us from breaking it open and extending the lead. At those moments, we did a good job to keep going and working for the next one. Just let it slip there in the third."

Stars Forward Jason Robertson

On the third period

"We didn't do much, and [Florida] did a lot."

On whether tonight's game had a playoff feel to it

"Yeah, it felt chippy, but we've got to close it out."

On key takeaways from tonight's loss

"I am sure there are a lot of details that will be visible in video. We will take a look and try to address it."

On Florida's pressure in the third period

"They were pushing and playing desperate. We just couldn't match it in the third."

FLORIDA PANTHERS

Panthers Head Coach Paul Maurice

On tonight's comeback win in the third period

"I would say that they would have learned something. We have a certain style of game that we play and it's hard, and there is no halfway to play that game. We went through the first thirty minutes, for sure, but possibly two periods of hockey, where we weren't anywhere near. We didn't look the way we were supposed to look, and it just wasn't right and it wasn't hard enough, and that's all we needed in the third. It wasn't about winning the game. I mean, the comeback is great for the players, and they get to enjoy it, but to not have anything going for two periods and then get to play hard and the way we need to play – that's a really important thing to carry with you, so you always know you are never out of the game, but it's not where you get one break. Our game changed and we played a different game in the third period, and I am sure at 3-0 they did, too, but we found a way to play our game."

On his team's biggest challenge in the first two periods

"Well, we were a half step behind everything, so we couldn't get to anyone. We couldn't play physical because we never got there, and they moved the puck very quickly. They were sharp and they were on it. They were moving into holes and had lots of speed. We are a team that really doesn't get much off the rush, and there was no proof of that in the first 20 [minutes], especially. They are a good team, so we weren't right, and when two good teams meet and one of them is not right – they dominated us early, but our goaltender was very strong, as always. The game is never over, and most importantly, you have to get to your game. You don't want to play 60 minutes like that, because then you can't sleep for two days."

Panthers Forward Matthew Tkachuk

On changes from second to third period

"A lot of thoughts of 'this is not us' and 'this is not good enough.' A lot of my line wasn't good enough but somehow, we are still in the game. I've actually played here a few times, and that's a similar game when you're down in third period and found a way to win it. I knew it was a game that was up for grabs if we came out and played well in the third period, and we definitely did that."

On coming back from a three-goal deficit

"We had the puck way more and were in their zone way more. We had more shots with more guys at the net. We had more time at the puck, and we had more confidence. I don't know what our problem was in the first two periods, but the third period was different."

Panthers Defenseman Gustav Forsling

On getting the win tonight

"Even though it wasn't our game tonight, we really stuck with it. [Sergei Bobrovsky] made some unreal saves at some keys moments in the game and kept us in."

On how the team worked

"Everything is not always going to go our way and that's how it's going to be in the playoffs every night. Not every night is going to be your best game. We learned a lot – we can still win in games like these."