

TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING POST-GAME NOTES
Lightning 5 vs. Predators 3 from AMALIE Arena

	1ST	2ND	3RD	FINAL	PP
Tampa Bay	1	0	4	5	2-5
Nashville	0	1	2	3	1-4

Post-game audio from Brandon Hagel, Nick Paul, Brayden Point and head coach Jon Cooper can be found on soundcloud.com/tblightning

Post-Game Notes

- The Tampa Bay Lightning opened the 2023-24 season with a 5-3 win over the Nashville Predators.
- The Lightning improved to 20-9-2 in 31 season-opening games. Entering the game, the Bolts .667 point percentage in season-opening games was the highest among all NHL franchises (min. 10 GP).
- The Lightning improved to 11-7-1 with two ties all-time at home against Nashville and to 23-15-3 with two ties all-time against the Predators.
- Brayden Point skated in his 500th career NHL game and became the 13th skater in Lightning history to play 500 games with the franchise.
- The Lightning outshot the Predators 34-31, including a 12-2 shot advantage in the first period.
- Tampa Bay was outshot in six of the seven preseason games it played in.
- Nikita Kucherov took five shots on goal, the most of any Lightning skater and converted on two of those shots.
- Erik Cernak dished out a game-high six hits.
- Victor Hedman led the Lightning in ice time, skating in 26 minutes and 55 seconds of game time. Hedman only had more ice time in five regular season games in 2022-23.
- Connor Sheary blocked a game-high three shots.
- Lightning goaltender Jonas Johansson stopped 28 of the 31 shots he faced to earn his first victory in a Lightning sweater.

- Johansson finished the preseason with a 3-0-0 record, a .979 save percentage and 0.67 goals against average.
- Nikita Kucherov was the first goal scorer of the 2023-24 NHL season, firing a one timer from above the right circle to give the Lightning a 1-0 lead at 9:48 of the first period.
- Victor Hedman tallied the primary assist, marking his sixth point over his last six contests against Nashville (1-5—6 pts.).
- Brayden Point also added an assist on Kucherov's game-opening goal.
- Ryan O'Reilly scored his first goal as a Predator to tie the game 1-1 at 16:15 of the second period.
- Eleven seconds into the third period, Juuso Parssinen capitalized on a Lightning turnover and gave the Predators a 2-1 lead.
- After allowing a goal 11 seconds into the third period, the Lightning responded with two goals in 47 seconds to take the lead.
- Nick Paul tied the game back up with a power-play goal, jamming at a loose puck in a net mouth scramble at 2:25 of the third period.
- Brayden Point notched his second point of the game with the primary assist on Paul's game-tying goal.
- Steven Stamkos notched his first point of the season with the secondary assist on Paul's goal.
- Stamkos extended his point streak against Nashville to 13 games (10-12—22 pts.). He also has pointed in eight consecutive home games against the Predators, tallying 12 points (5-7—12 pts.).
- Brandon Hagel was awarded a penalty shot after being held while on a breakaway at 3:07 of the third period.
- Hagel was able to convert on the penalty shot attempt and give the Lightning a 3-2 lead at 3:07 of the third period.
- Hagel became the first Bolt to score on a penalty shot since the 2020-21 season when Blake Coleman scored a penalty shot against Jake Oettinger and the Dallas Stars. The Lightning did not have any penalty shot attempts in 2022-23 and failed to score on two attempts in 2021-22.

- Hagel became the 7th player in NHL history to score on a penalty shot in a season opener.
- Tommy Novak scored short-side high on a shot from the left circle to tie the game 3-3 for Nashville at 8:46 of the third period.
- Nick Paul scored his second power-play goal of the third period at 10:52 to give Tampa Bay a 4-3 lead.
- Mikhail Sergachev notched his first point of the season with the primary assist on Paul's second goal of the night.
- Sergachev has pointed in four straight games against the Predators (0-4—4 pts.) and in 12 of the last 14 contests (0-15—15 pts.).
- Brayden Point tallied his third assist of the night with the secondary assist on Paul's goal.
- Point extended his point streak against the Predators to seven games (4-7—11 pts.). Point was tied with Nikita Kucherov for the team lead in points against Nashville last season (2-2—4 pts.).
- Nikita Kucherov deposited the puck into an empty net to give the Bolts a 5-3 lead with one second remaining in regulation.
- Kucherov has pointed in eight straight games against the Predators (7-8—15 pts.) and in four consecutive home games against Nashville (3-4—7 pts.).
- Nick Paul picked up an assist on the goal to tally his third point of the night (2-1—3 pts.).
- Paul recorded the third three-point game of his career. His last three-point game came on April 1, 2022 against the Blackhawks when he tallied three assists.
- The Lightning will return to action on Saturday in Detroit to take on the Red Wings. Puck drop is scheduled for 7:00pm.
- Tampa Bay is 38-33-3 with two ties all-time against Detroit.