

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, April 9, 2024

Dallas Stars 3, Buffalo Sabres 2
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DALLAS STARS

Stars Head Coach Pete DeBoer

On the Stars' first period performance

"The first period was probably a result of our traveling schedule. We anticipated we might have a tough first period and we did. We settled down, and we were much better in the second and third and found a way... I didn't have a lot of good things about the first period. The last forty minutes, we got back to our game and played much better in all areas. We got rewarded for that over the last forty minutes."

On the Stars' goal scoring

"There's a saying that it's a race to three goals, and with our group, we can get to three goals pretty quickly if there is a missed assignment or a turnover or things like that. We score a lot easier than teams we've had here in the past, so it's a great luxury to have that."

On the Stars' franchise record for most come-from-behind wins in a season

"It probably says two things. It's a testament to our character and our leadership that we can recover, but it also is a little bit of a red flag that we're behind in games early. It feels like we give up the first goal quite a bit, so that is something that we have to fix come playoff time."

Stars Forward Jason Robertson

On the team's response after giving up the first goal

"We knew they had a lot of skill on their end, and they're still a dangerous team. It was a good response after they scored the first one, and we just built off that."

On the Stars' disallowed goal in the first period

"Goals are going to be taken away. I'm sure everyone in this room has had a goal taken away, but we responded well, trying to get the next one. Guys are sticking with it, and when we get a break the other way, we try to take that momentum and capitalize."

Stars Forward Mason Marchment

On fighting for the win

"Jake [Oettinger] played great back there with a couple huge saves. It's tough when you come home – no excuses, but tough travel the last couple of days. But as the game went on, we started playing our game, and when we do it's hard to play against us."

On keeping disallowed goals from being a moment shift for opposing teams

"We had one there, too. Sometimes the challenge rule goes the wrong way, and sometimes it goes the right way. You just brush them off and keep playing."

Stars Forward Joe Pavelski

On fighting to get the win

"The crowd was great. It feels nice to be back. The first [period] was alright there. The dangerous teams start turning pucks over, which we got in trouble a little bit here and there. As the game went on, we got better, but it felt like we were getting better, making better decisions so it was a big win."

On first period play

"When there was a break down or something, there seemed to be somebody in the area helping out and supporting. So the support was pretty good, and the commitment seems to be there. That's number one right now for us, the commitment. You throw some details in there and you put together a pretty good stretch of hockey."

BUFFALO SABRES

Sabres Head Coach Don Granato

On tonight's power-play opportunities

"We worked really hard 5-on-5, but we didn't work hard enough 5-on-4."

On the Star's deflecting pucks

"They are exceptional at it, as you saw tonight. Two of the three goals and the goal that was disallowed were sticks, and they get sticks on pucks. They are very good at that. That was the difference against us – their ability to tip pucks, even pucks that were going wide of the net."

Sabres Forward Alex Tuch

On the outcome of the game and not going to overtime

"We have the same amount of wins – if not more – than certain teams ahead of us. Those teams were able to lock it down a little better defensively and force games into overtime and get that point. Every point matters, and if you wait until too late in the season to make your push, it's going to catch up with you at the end, and it did this year. It sucks."

On what could have been better this season

"Power Play could have been better and penalty kill could have been better. We could have won more two or three games in a row at a time. Could have played better shift after shift. Could have done a lot of things better, and we've got to look upon ourselves. There was no one else besides the guys in this room that put us in the position that we're in now, myself definitely included. I just need to be better going forward. I can't start off the season like I did this year. I can't wait 10 or 15 games to get into it and then start playing the way I know I should, the way I know how to play. So I take it really personal, put a lot of minutes in this game, I get a lot of opportunity on this team, and wasn't good enough this year. "

Sabres Defenseman Rasmus Dahlin

On not reaching the playoffs

"It sucks. We have to get better. We have to make sure this doesn't happen again. We have some work to do, and the group is all in for it."

On the progress the team has made towards making the playoffs

"We're a young team. That shouldn't be an excuse anymore. We are looking ourselves in the mirror, and we have to be better. This is something we have to learn from this season and make sure it doesn't happen again."