

# 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

Thursday, May 23, 2024  
2024 Western Conference Final – Game 1  
**Dallas Stars 2, Edmonton Oilers 3 (2OT)**  
[Game Summary](#) | [Event Summary](#)  
*Oilers lead series 1-0*

## DALLAS STARS

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

#### *On Edmonton's style of play*

"It was the same things you saw in the previous rounds. I thought they were aggressive. When we made plays and got some looks, their goalie made some saves. I thought he was really good tonight for them."

#### *On Dallas' game*

"When I look at the game, we did some of the things we set out to do. We stayed out of the box for the most part and drew some penalties. You've got to score on a double minor. That was probably the game right there in overtime. I thought there was some back-and-forth. Both teams had good looks and both goalies played well. They were better – and you have to give them credit for this – [more credit] than we probably expected coming off Game 7 and travelling. They played a really good road game. They were engaged and we probably didn't take advantage of that situation like we should have."

#### *On falling behind 1-0 in a series again*

"In a perfect world we'd like to win Game 1. We'd like to win every series in four straight too but it doesn't happen. The main thing is you've got to find a way to survive and move on. We've got to park this game. We've been in this situation before. We're the best road team in the league. I'm not concerned about that. We need to find another level in home games and the wins will take care of themselves."

#### *On the team's slow start*

"I thought we got better as the game went on for sure. I didn't think we were great early but as the game went on we got a little bit better. We have another level we can get to and we're going to have to against that team. They're a good hockey team."

#### *On the team's top players*

"We were okay. I didn't think we were great. I didn't think we were poor. We're Game 1 in this series so I'm not going to start calling guys out. It's way too early for that, we're in a good spot. We've got to regroup and look at the film and find a way to score a couple of more goals."

#### *On overtime*

"The regular season overtime record doesn't count for me since it's three-on-three. We've talked about the slim margins and it's special teams, goaltending, winning in overtime and staying healthy, all those little things."

### **Stars Captain Jamie Benn**

#### *On tonight's game*

"Not the result we wanted. We had some looks and a lot of power plays. We just didn't get it done."

#### *On the Oilers' penalty kill*

"They work hard. They have some great killers, and their goalie made some great saves. We're just going to have to be better."

### **Stars Forward Tyler Seguin**

#### *On tonight's overtime loss*

"Disappointment. We played a good enough game to win, but so did [Edmonton]. It's inches out there. It was a great hockey game, and we've been here many times."

#### *On what led to Edmonton's penalty kill success tonight*

"They have a good penalty kill. We will look to probably have a few more shots. [We'll] look at some video and be ready to bounce back."

#### *On the closeness of the game*

"This time of year, you expect that. Two teams here in the West are here for a reason, so it's going to be little inches out there and little bounces. It will be a fun opportunity and we have to win the next one at home."

#### **Stars Forward Evgenii Dadonov**

##### *On tonight's overtime loss*

"It's always tough to lose. We played a pretty good game in general, but it didn't go our way."

##### *On his game*

"I had a couple of chances where I have to score. They are just not going in right now, but I am trying to do anything else and help the team in any way possible."

##### *On gaining momentum in overtime despite losing to start the second OT*

"It doesn't really matter if it's overtime or the first period. We just need to stay and play our structure and keep doing whatever we have been doing and believe in it."

### **EDMONTON OILERS**

#### **Oilers Head Coach Kris Knoblauch**

##### *On Stuart Skinner's performance*

"He was solid. He made some key saves throughout the night with confidence. His puck play was really good. A couple saves – the one in overtime on the penalty kill with the blocker, that reminded me of the one he made on the penalty kill 5-on-3 against Vancouver, just out of nowhere throws that blocker out. The game-tying goal late in the third period was off our skate, back-door – he's got no opportunity on that. He gets very high praise for his game tonight."

##### *On his team's resilience in tonight's game*

"We've talked about this through the season – how mature and responsible they are, how they handle adversity no matter what happens. Whether it's a bad call by an official, a bad break, a bad play we just move on and get ready for the next shift. That can be pretty tough, and we played a heck of a third period. We didn't give up very much. [They got] a little bit of a break off our skate that led to the goal. That can be hard for a team. That can be hard to regroup, but I didn't see any deflation from our guys. They just stuck with it. And another time – take a four-minute penalty kill to start overtime, and our guys knew what had to be done. It was almost like our penalty killers were excited to get out there. 'I have a job to do, and we're going to go do it.'"

#### **Oilers Forward Connor McDavid**

##### *On scoring the game-winning goal*

"It's always nice to score an overtime goal. Great goal and great play by [Evan Bouchard], as per usual."

##### *On his double-minor penalty*

"Long. Really long and miserable. I hated every second of it, but the guys did an amazing job, truthfully. The penalty kill has just been amazing, and to step in there for four minutes against a good powerplay, thankful for those guys."

#### **Oilers Forward Derek Ryan**

##### *On the Oilers' performance tonight and in the Stanley Cup Playoffs*

"Special teams are huge this time of year, and it's something that a lot of us take a lot of pride in. I think we've done a great job. Our work ethic has gone up, our structure and detail have gone up, and it has to at this time of year. Usually, your best penalty killer is your goaltender, and [Stuart Skinner] has done a great job of that, and the guys up front have done a good job as well."

##### *On the Oilers' approach to Game 2 given the Stars' history of losing Game 1s and coming back*

"The great thing about playoffs is that we are coming to Game 2 no matter what happened tonight. You have to have a short memory, you have to turn the page and learn and grow and adapt and make the changes you need to be successful. We won tonight. It's going to be a long series that's going to be hard fought. We're going to come back for Game 2 and address that."

#### **Oilers Defenseman Mattias Ekholm**

*On the penalty kill in tonight's overtime win*

"Throughout the playoffs we have had a good rhythm on it, and it's one of those things where you build momentum, and you build confidence on the unit. It's almost like we have some D-pairings and some forward pairings now that have done it and done it with success and has confidence on it. That being said, [Dallas] had one off the post, so it's not always going to work out the way you want, but the kill did a heck of a job tonight and killed off five penalties."

*On Connor McDavid scoring the game-winner after taking a four-minute penalty early in overtime*

"We are not surprised in here. He is the best in the world. To see him get that one – he works so hard, and he had a good look in the first overtime, too, to get it done. By my experience of being here, he does not get denied twice, and so again the case was tonight. It didn't really matter who got it tonight, but the important one was that somebody got it, and it was Connor. I am not shocked that it was him."

**Oilers Goaltender Stuart Skinner**

*On the Oilers' penalty kill*

"The biggest thing was being able to get kills at the right moments as well. It was a massive moment as the start of the first overtime period being able to not only kill two minutes but four minutes. That's a huge credit to the guys -- our work ethic and everything. There's so many details and little things that go into it. We just have to keep on taking steps."

*On viewing this series in the scope of the playoffs*

"I see it as another experience and another day where we get to go through something where it's a really special experience for all of us. Being able to get a win in double overtime is great for momentum. So, keeping this momentum moving forward is going to be massive. Obviously, it's very exciting to get a win, but we know there's little things we can do better and be a little bit sharper. It's another game where we get to look back and grow and be better the next game."