

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, Jan. 4, 2024

Dallas Stars 4, Colorado Avalanche 5 (OT)

[Game Summary](#) | [Event Summary](#)

DALLAS STARS

Stars Head Coach Pete DeBoer

On tonight's overtime loss

"We did a lot of good things to win that game. We had the game on our stick a bunch of times down the stretch, including with the empty net to finish it off, and we didn't. It bit us in the end, so you've got to learn from it. The big lesson is that their best players and their best line had all five goals. We have to find a way to make sure we do a better job containing them, and in games like this, your best players have to be your best players. Their guys were better than ours tonight."

On a potential playoff matchup between the Stars and Avalanche

"There's a lot of good teams in our division. There's no easy playoff rounds, but that's a great hockey team."

Stars Forward Joe Pavelski

On this season's performance against the Avalanche

"The games have been tight. They got a good team over there. They're experienced, and we knew that going in. We had them in a good spot. We just missed a few plays there and didn't finish them off. They hung around."

On missing Miro Heiskanen in the third period

"He's a huge piece of the team, we know that. You see a team tonight that definitely has a little bit more speed around the league. It's no secret there with some of those players. Guys were getting the job done and handling it well. We had our looks and chances. You want to shut it down when you have that one goal lead at the end and go from there. We'll take a look at it, see what happened and move on."

Stars Forward Matt Duchene

On tonight's loss

"They're a good team. That's two games in a row where we've had control of the game, and they found a way back in. Obviously, it's a tough bounce for us on the game-tyer, and a rolling puck costs us in overtime. It's a frustrating loss, but we played a good game tonight."

On the Avalanche style of play

"They want to open it up and use their speed. They're a dynamic fast team from top to bottom. You're going to give up chances against that team. It's just about not shooting yourself in the foot and trying to limit them as much as possible. We have a two-goal lead there with 10 minutes to go, and they get one back right away. Last time we played them there's some fluky goals that went in against us. Tonight's is too bad to lose that way. We probably deserved to win. But that team can sting you at any point because they're so dynamic."

Stars Goaltender Scott Wedgewood

On the recent string of tight games

"It's a tight league. There are good hockey teams throughout the league. It would have been nice to put them away – up two goals – but we just didn't get it done."

On the game-tying goal

"I could see it from the replay on the jumbotron. I just didn't know where it was. Everyone yelled 'behind,' so I jumped to my left post because that's where the tip was. I didn't realize it went off my pad and back over by head somehow. That maybe could have had a read. I maybe could have just laid flat. I just thought it was somewhere to my left side, and unfortunately, the ref could see it under my shoulder."

COLORADO AVALANCHE

Avalanche Head Coach Jared Bednar

On tonight's game

"I like the game. It was well played and hard fought by both teams. We had great goaltending at times throughout the game. We were opportunistic at times, as were they. Then some teams created good scoring chances off hard work and creating turnovers. They did, and we did early in the game. In the second period we lost a little steam. We took three penalties and were shorthanded for five minutes and gave up the power-play goal. We fought back with a timely goal at the end of the period on the power play to give ourselves a chance. I didn't like falling behind two goals in the third period, but I did like the way our guys responded. They just kept playing their game with a little bit more intensity as the game went on which led to some scoring chances. We started putting some pucks in the net, and we got rewarded for it. Good hard-fought game by both teams."

On Colorado's confidence to make comeback wins

"They have confidence as a group, and you've got nothing to lose when you're down in the third period, so you're going to press and you're going to push. Sometimes it goes your way and sometimes it doesn't, but we got some playmakers and started getting five guys involved in our attack, and good things happen if you're executing. You're bound to give up a couple of chances, which we did tonight. We got some timely saves from [Alexandar Georgiev] especially late in the game."

Avalanche Forward Mikko Rantanen

On tonight's comeback win

"We played a really good game against a really good team on the road. It's not an easy building to play in. That first period was really good. The second had a lot of penalties, and that made it harder, but a big goal on the power play at the end to make it a one goal game. Just fought all the way to the end in the third period, and a great job by Nate [Mackinnon] to finish it off."

On leading the league in third-period comebacks

"No quit. That's our mentality. We know we can come back from two goals. We never quit. It's a pretty simple answer, and it shows the mental toughness on the team and the experience we have."

Avalanche Forward Jonathan Drouin

On the comeback win

"We're just trusting what we're doing right now. We don't really look at the score. We trust our process. We trust our game. We were playing well, but we were down two in the third. There's no frustration. No panic. It's about keeping the puck in their end and keep the way we were playing. We did a good job of that for sixty."

On scoring two goals

"When you get one you feel good and you're finding more leg than you have. I've been feeling good lately, and the bounces have been coming my way as well. It goes back to the way we're playing. We trust the process. Trust our system and been doing a good job of that for sixty."