



AMALIE Arena Media Clips
Thursday, November 9, 2023

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Lightning deal defenseman Zach Bogosian to Wild for draft pick Eduardo Encina (Tampa Bay Times)

TAMPA — The Lightning dealt veteran defenseman Zach Bogosian to the Minnesota Wild on Wednesday, acquiring another draft pick to add to their late-round stockpile.

They received a seventh-round pick in 2025 for Bogosian, whose departure also clears \$850,000 in cap space. The Lightning now have five seventh-round picks in the upcoming two drafts.

Bogosian, in the final season of his three-year contract, had essentially become a blue-line depth piece. Any team could have added him when he went on waivers before the season opener, but he cleared and eventually returned to the active roster.

But Bogosian played in just four of the Lightning's first 13 games, averaging 11:57 of ice time, the lowest of his 16-year career.

The 33-year-old didn't record a point this season and though it was a short sample size, he hadn't shown his trademark physicality, with just two hits in four games. Also, just five of Bogosian's 15 shot attempts reached the net, his 33.3% shot-through percentage also the lowest of his career.

Given the lack of flexibility on the roster, the team might have had to place Bogosian on waivers again. Instead of potentially losing him, Tampa Bay gained an asset.

In recent years, the Lightning dealt many of their first-rounders to get trade-deadline upgrades. Their 2023 and 2024 first-rounders went to Chicago in the Brandon Hagel trade, and the 2025 first-rounder went to Nashville in the Tanner Jeannot trade.

But the Lightning brass has faith in drafting and developing late-round selections, and they have shed veteran contracts to stockpile more picks. This past offseason, they acquired a 2024 seventh-rounder from Chicago for Corey Perry's rights and a 2024 seventh-rounder from Minnesota for Pat Maroon.

Bogosian had a partial no-trade clause, able to submit a list of 21 teams the Lightning couldn't move him to. In Minnesota, he is not only reunited with his good friend Maroon, but also his brother, Aaron, who works in the Wild's front office.

Trying to make sense of the Lightning's inconsistency on the road **Eduardo Encina (Tampa Bay Times)**

TAMPA — Feeling nauseous from the roller-coaster ride the Lightning took you on throughout their just-completed four-game road trip?

Confused about what to make of this Tampa Bay team game-to-game and period-to-period just 13 contests into the regular season?

Wondering how a team can look so focused and resilient one moment, and so lackadaisical and lost the next?

Simply based on the results, you can't consider the latest trip unsuccessful. The Lightning earned five of a possible eight points and took points, including two wins, in all three games against division opponents. They woke up Wednesday sitting in second place in the Atlantic Division, trailing only the Bruins.

But taking into consideration how the Lightning could have come out of this road trip — netting just one point in two games in Columbus and Toronto, games in which they took leads into the third-period — the Lightning returned home knowing they left a lot on the table. If they had closed out both of those games, they would only be trailing Boston by two points instead of five.

It's the road where inconsistent play haunts a team, and the Lightning know that well.

Closing out games needs work

One of the key characteristics of the Lightning's Stanley Cup teams was that once they took a lead into the third period, they willed themselves to win. They clamped down in the defensive zone, blocked shots, closed off the front of the net and remained aggressive offensively.

This year's team hasn't shown that killer mentality, a flaw that goes back to last season, particularly in the playoffs. Some of it can be attributed to new personnel, but far too often, the players making mistakes that lead to the opposing team rallying are players who have been through deep playoffs runs in Tampa Bay.

Recently, there's been a big difference in the Lightning early in games and late. No team is better in the first period. Their plus-9 in the opening period leads the league, and they saw quick starts in Toronto and Montreal (outscoring opponents a combined 8-1 in those games).

Contrast that to the third period and overtime, where the Lightning are minus-10. The 20 goals they have allowed in the third are tied for most in the league, and no other team already has four OT losses.

On this road trip, the Lightning were outscored 12-4 in the third period and overtime. This is a trend, because the Lightning had positive plus-minus in the first and second periods (plus-3) and negative in the third and overtime (minus-5) last postseason against Toronto.

Urgency is a real thing, and while it can't be evaluated statistically, the Lightning's blown leads showed a lack of it. They were caught flat-footed too often. The Toronto game was the biggest example, as Auston Matthews' two goals came on blowing through the middle of the ice against Lightning players seemingly caught off guard.

And that's what made that game so baffling; the Lightning have seen that script play out before, and they've typically been a team that's good at not letting history repeat itself.

Players will tell you that the confidence with becoming a good closer is built over time. Getting that mojo back will be a major obstacle this team faces. Protecting the 4-0 lead in Montreal is a start, but the Lightning still gave up three goals in the third. That's not good enough.

More to show in 5-on-5 play

The Lightning's power-play unit continues to be one of the best in the league — ranked third entering Wednesday at a 34.1% success rate — as it should be given the firepower. And Tampa Bay's penalty kill, despite massive personnel changes, has performed well despite a recent dip; it ranked sixth in the league with an 87.2% success rate.

But in 5-on-5 play, the Lightning have actually allowed more goals than they have produced. On this road trip, their dependence on the power play was evident.

The Lightning did not score a power-play goal in their collapse in Columbus, but when you take away their 15-1 shot-attempt advantage on the power play, their 5-on-5 shot-attempts were pretty even (52-49 Tampa Bay); the Lightning allowed 20 5-on-5 shot attempts in the third. The Blue Jackets scored a pair of even-strength goals late, turning a one-goal Lightning lead into a one-goal deficit before an empty-netter made it a two-goal game.

The Lightning scored two power-play goals against both Toronto and Montreal. In Toronto, the Leafs had a 27-24 edge in shot attempts in the third, which was entirely played in 5-on-5; 20 of those attempts were on goal, as opposed to just 11 Tampa Bay attempts. The Lightning missed the net six times and had seven shots blocked. So one team was getting more opportunities to score late, and a team like Toronto will eventually take advantage of that kind of edge.

The Canadiens game became riddled with penalties, and both of the Lightning's power-play goals came at important times.

Alex Barre-Boulet gave the Lightning a 3-0 lead just before the midway point in the first. And Nick Paul's third-period goal gave Tampa Bay a 5-2 lead and quelled the Canadiens' mounting surge. But in total, Montreal had more 5-on-5 shot attempts, 41-38, and even in the first period that saw Tampa Bay go up 4-0, Montreal out-attempted the Lightning in 5-on-5 by a 12-11 margin.

Roster moves

The Lightning on Wednesday recalled forward Walteri Merela from AHL Syracuse. Merela will take an active roster spot for forward Conor Sheary, who is headed to injured reserve after leaving Tuesday's game in Montreal following just one shift with an upper-body injury. Merela was optioned to the Crunch on Monday to make roster space for forward Tyler Motte, who returned from an opening night injury that landed him on IR.

Nuts & Bolts: Lightning host Chicago on Military Appreciation Night **Chris Krenn (TampaBayLightning.com)**

Everything you need to know ahead of Tampa Bay's matchup against the Chicago Blackhawks on Thursday.

When: Thursday, November 9 - 7 p.m. ET

Where: AMALIE Arena - Tampa, FL

TV coverage: Bally Sports (check local listings)

Radio coverage: 102.5 MHz-FM, Lightning Radio 24/7

Where to stream it: BallySports.com

Lineup from Tuesday's game (subject to change)

Forwards

Brandon Hagel - Brayden Point - Nikita Kucherov

Steven Stamkos - Nick Paul - Conor Sheary

Tanner Jeannot - Anthony Cirelli - Mikey Eyssimont

Alex Barre-Boulet - Luke Glendening - Tyler Motte

Defensemen

Victor Hedman - Erik Cernak

Mikhail Sergachev - Darren Raddysh

Calvin de Haan - Nick Perbix

Goaltenders

Jonas Johansson

Matt Tomkins

Thursday's Matchup

The Lightning and Blackhawks are playing the first of two matchups this season and the only meeting at AMALIE Arena...The two teams will meet a week from today with a Nov. 16 contest at CHI...The Bolts posted a 2-0-0 record vs. CHI last season with a 4-1 victory Jan. 3 at United Center and a 3-1 win March 11 at AMALIE Arena...Brandon Hagel (2-1—3), Victor Hedman (0-3—3) and Brayden Point (2-1—3) led the Lightning in points vs. CHI last season, while Hagel and Point were tied for the team lead in goals...Since being traded to Tampa Bay from CHI in 2022, Hagel has played three games against his former team and scored a goal in each of the three contests (3-1—4) with a +6 rating...Point is riding a six-game point streak vs. CHI (5-5—10) and has found the scoresheet in 16 of his 19 career contests vs. CHI (11-14—25)...Hedman has pointed in 15 of his last 20 games vs. CHI (5-21—26) with nine multi-point efforts during that span...Nikita Kucherov has picked up points in 10 of his 15 career contests vs. CHI (5-11—16)...Steven Stamkos has found the scoresheet in nine of his last 11 games vs. CHI (5-9—14)...Stamkos has pointed in 11 of his 14 career home games vs. CHI (15-10—25)...Mikhail Sergachev has picked up points in six of his last eight contests vs. CHI (1-9—10)...The Lightning have scored three or more goals in 12 straight games vs. CHI (total: 55 goals) and have held CHI to two goals or fewer in 10 of the last 15 meetings...Tampa Bay is 9-1-0 in their last 10 home games vs. CHI and 9-0-1 in the last 10 meetings overall...The Bolts have won 14 of their last 15 home games vs. CHI...The Lightning are 34-15-4 with five ties all-time vs. CHI, including a home record of 19-5-1 with three ties...Stamkos (16-16—32) holds the Tampa Bay franchise records for career goals and points vs. CHI, while Hedman (6-24—30) leads the way in assists.

Injuries

Andrei Vasilevskiy - Back, out

Military Appreciation Night

The Tampa Bay Lightning will host their annual Military Appreciation Night, presented by USAA, Thursday, November 9, when the team takes on the Chicago Blackhawks at 7:00 p.m. The night serves to recognize and support the members of the United States Armed Forces and their families.

Local service members will have the opportunity to attend the game via the Lightning's Seats for Service program, which donates tickets purchased by local individuals and companies back to members of the Armed Forces. One dollar from every ticket purchased will benefit the Robert Irvine Foundation, a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit dedicated to the well being of military members, veterans and first responders.

Among the evening's highlights, US Marine Corps and other military vehicles will be present on Ford Thunder Alley; as will "Champa Boom", the new mascot of the 6th Air Refueling Wing and MacDill Air Force Base. The Freedom Brass Air Force Band of the West will perform prior to doors opening at 6:00pm.

The opening ceremonies will showcase a number of special guests. The ceremonial puck drop will be performed by USSOCOM Commander, General Bryan P. Fenton, US Army. The USCENTCOM Joint Service Honor Guard will present our nation's colors, while members of Blue Star Families will present a large American flag on the ice. The night's Anthem Guest is World War II veteran, former Army Private First Class Charles Pratt. Retired USAF Technical Sergeant Sonya Bryson-Kirksey will perform the National Anthem.

During the game, the Lightning will honor and showcase a number of active and retired military members, including Clay Hutmacher and the Special Operations Warrior Foundation as the evening's Community Heroes.

For the game on Thursday, camouflage-taped signed sticks and other signed camo merchandise will be placed up for auction online via the Lightning Foundation at bolts.givesmart.com. There will be a dedicated auction for signed camo jerseys benefiting local military charities at TBLmilitary.givesmart.com. The auctions will be live through November 19th. Camo jerseys and other military-themed Lightning merchandise will be available for purchase at the Tampa Bay Sports store inside AMALIE Arena. Military veterans will receive a 35% discount on merchandise at the team store.

Below is a list of the local commands participating in the events:

- ❑ USAF 6th Air Refueling Wing
- ❑ USAF 927th Air Refueling Wing
- ❑ US Joint Communications Support Element
- ❑ US Marine Corps Central Command
- ❑ US Central Command
- ❑ US Special Operations Command
- ❑ US Special Operations Command Central
- ❑ US Coast Guard – Station Clearwater
- ❑ US Coast Guard – Station St. Petersburg

- US Army Recruiting Station, Tampa
- University of South Florida ROTC
- 4th Amphibious Assault Battalion, Gandy

Tampa Bay Sports Item of the Game

Military Appreciation Collection

Check out our Military Appreciation Collection for the 2023-34 season. It's available while supplies last at AMALIE Arena and online at TampaBaySports.com.

The Road Ahead

Saturday, November 11 vs. Carolina Hurricanes

Tuesday, November 14 at St. Louis Blues

Thursday, November 16 at Chicago Blackhawks

The Backcheck: Bolts deliver bounce back win over Habs **Chris Krenn (TampaBayLightning.com)**

After scoring four first-period goals at Scotiabank Arena Monday night, the Tampa Bay Lightning let the Toronto Maple Leafs get back in the game and eventually lost 6-5 in overtime.

Tuesday night at Bell Centre, the Bolts came out and scored another four goals in the first period. But this time, they held the lead and left the building with two points and a 5-3 win over the Montreal Canadiens.

Entering Tuesday's game against the Habs, Nikita Kucherov was red hot, recording nine points over his previous two games with three goals and six assists. On the ice for the opening puck drop, he picked up right where he left off, kicking off the scoring just 22 seconds into the game.

After Brayden Point collected the puck in the neutral zone, he sent a pass over the Montreal blue line for Brandon Hagel, who found Kucherov across the offensive zone at the top of the right circle. Before anyone had time to react, Kucherov showcased his world-class release, rifling a quick one-timer over the glove of Jake Allen to give Tampa Bay the early 1-0 lead with his 10th goal of the season.

While his name didn't go on the scoresheet for the Lightning's second goal, Kucherov was right in the middle of the play once again. Winning the puck just inside the Montreal blue line, Kucherov warded off Alex Newhook and sent a pass to Victor Hedman at the top of the left circle. Surveying his options, Hedman found Steven Stamkos at the bottom of the circle before the Bolts captain fired a low shot on Allen, allowing a rebound to pop right out to Nick Paul, who buried his sixth goal of the year to make it 2-0 with 12:45 left in the opening period.

Playing in his home province for the first time in his NHL career, Alex Barré-Boulet scored his fourth goal of the season 1:54 later to put the Bolts up 3-0. Taking a pass at the left circle from Mikhail Sergachev, Hagel found Barré-Boulet on the opposite side of the offensive zone before he quickly threw the puck toward the net and under the right pad of Allen for his second power-play tally of the year.

Back in the lineup after sitting out Monday night, Mikey Eyssimont made it a 4-0 game at the 13:50 mark of the first, making a great play to win the puck at the Montreal blue line before streaking up the left side and beating Allen from a near-impossible angle with an incredible individual effort for his fourth goal of the year. That was the end of the night for Allen, marking the third-straight game that Tampa Bay forced their opponent to change goaltenders mid-game.

Following a scoreless second period, the Lightning surrendered back-to-back goals to the Canadiens with Nick Suzuki and Michael Pezzetta scoring at the 6:50 and 7:24 marks of the third to make it a 4-2 game.

But the Bolts regained control of the game, outshooting the Habs 15-13 in the final frame with Paul scoring his second goal of the night, a power-play tally, with 2:20 remaining in regulation. Kucherov and Stamkos recorded the helpers to cap off their multi-point nights.

Christian Dvorak added a late goal with less than 20 seconds remaining before the final horn sounded, giving the Lightning two points.

Beyond the two points, it was a special night for goaltender Matt Tomkins, who earned his first career NHL win at 29 years old. Stopping 23 of 26 shots, Tomkins was given the game puck from head coach Jon Cooper in the locker room after the game.

The Bolts moved to 6-3-4 on the season and sit in second place in the Atlantic Division, trailing only the Boston Bruins, who have a five-point lead and one game in hand.

Bolts by the Numbers

- The Lightning wrapped up their four-game road trip with five of a possible eight points.
- Matt Tomkins earned his first NHL win more than 11 years after being selected in the seventh round of the 2012 NHL Draft, becoming the fifth goaltender in NHL history to post his first win 11 or more years after being drafted. He is the 32nd goaltender in NHL history to earn his first career win at age 29 or older.
- Nikita Kucherov's goal 22 seconds into the game tied the fastest goal to open a game in the NHL this season. After adding an assist in the third period, Kucherov moved past Elias Pettersson and took sole possession of first place in points among all NHL skaters.
- The Lightning became the first team to score four or more goals in the first period on back-to-back days since the Los Angeles Kings did it in 1993-94.

Bolts Quotes

Jon Cooper: "There was a little determination to our game. There was desperation to our game. We were in our meal room today and I think from breakfast to lunch, we must've watched the highlights of the game on the big screen 30 times, so it was etched in the boys' heads what happened last night. We didn't need to show any of it. You talk about responses and there's many of them during an 82-game year, but this was certainly one. That first period, obviously a big one for us."

Matt Tomkins on his teammates celebrating his first win after the game: "That was really cool, obviously. They made the night really special right from the start and to do it here in Montreal is so cool. They've been amazing the whole way and really pulling for me, so it was really cool to celebrate that one with them. You feel genuine happiness from them and genuine congratulations. It's cool. It's a unique story, for sure. Obviously, all the guys know my path in getting here and I think it made them want it for me that much more, so really, really cool."

Jon Cooper on Matt Tomkins: "He's such a grounded kid. The fact that he's kept his dream alive all these years should be an inspiration for a lot of kids growing up. To see his dream come true, I truly believe it was probably meant to be, the way it played out for him to get to play in the hallowed ground of Montreal. There's no better place to come in as a visiting team and play. To have that under your belt and nobody can ever take it away from you is pretty cool."

Matt Tomkins: "At the end, it's nice to hear that horn and see the guys coming towards you to celebrate with big smiles. To come to the room and get the game puck and all that, all these little things just add up to making it one of the best days of my life. It's really, really special."

Jon Cooper on what Nick Paul has shown him playing on the top power-play unit: "That he wants to stay on it. He's been fantastic. He's a big body, but I think he's always had underrated stick skills. I don't think people have given him enough credit on how he can handle the puck. He really helps us get in on the breakout. That was something Alex Killorn could do really well, was help us get in the zone. Pauly's just picked up right where he left off. He's got great instincts down there. Like I said,

when he gets netfront, that's a big guy you have to look around. He's been a big part of why the power play's still humming the way it is.”

Krenner's Three Stars

1. Matt Tomkins
2. Nikita Kucherov
3. Nick Paul

Lightning Look Ahead

Thursday, November 9 vs. Chicago Blackhawks, 7 p.m. ET, AMALIE Arena

Saturday, November 11 vs. Carolina Hurricanes, 7 p.m. ET, AMALIE Arena

Tuesday, November 14 at St. Louis Blues, 8 p.m. ET, Enterprise Center

Crunch downed by Senators, 3-2, in shootout **Syracuse Crunch**

SYRACUSE, N.Y. – The Syracuse Crunch were downed by the Belleville Senators, 3-2, in a shootout tonight at CAA Arena.

Despite the loss, the Crunch continue to build a four-game points streak as they move to 5-2-0-2 on the season.

Crunch goaltender Hugo Alnefelt turned aside 24-of-26 shots and 2-of-3 shootout attempts. Mads Sogaard earned the win stopping 31-of-33 and all three shootout attempts in net for the Senators. Syracuse was held scoreless on five power play opportunities, while Belleville went 1-for-6.

Syracuse was first on the board 12:25 into the game. Jack Finley carried the puck down the right side and dropped a pass back for Max Groshev to score from the bottom of the right circle. Three minutes later, Belleville evened the score during a 5-on-3 advantage. After some quick passing, Angus Crookshank sent a feed out from along the goal line for Maxence Guenette to fire in with a one-timer.

The Senators stole the lead off a shorthanded breakaway by Zack Ostapchuk late in the middle frame.

The Crunch tied the game with a shorthanded goal of their own at the 12:48 mark of the third period to eventually send the game into overtime. Groshev forced a turnover behind the net and centered a feed for Emil Lilleberg to score his first AHL goal from the slot.

After a scoreless overtime period, the game went to a shootout where Josh Currie won it for Belleville in the third round.

The Crunch return home to host the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins on Friday.

Crunchables: This is the first Crunch game this season that has seen a lead change...The Crunch have scored a shorthanded goal in three consecutive games...The Crunch are 0-2 in shootouts this season.