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GAME RECAP

Sunday, Dec. 29, 2024 - Honda Center
14-17-4, 32 pts.

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	GOALS					SHOTS					POWER PLAYS	
	1	2	3	OT	TOTAL	1	2	3	OT	TOTAL	G-OPP	%
DUCKS	1	2	2	-	5	6	17	9	-	32	0-5	0.0
OILERS	2	1	0	-	3	5	8	10	-	23	2-3	66.7

ANAHEIM DUCKS POSTGAME NOTES

The Anaheim Ducks secured their fifth multi-goal comeback win in a 5-3 victory over the Edmonton Oilers to close a back-to-back on home ice Sunday afternoon at Honda Center. The Ducks scored four unanswered goals after trailing 3-1 at 9:10 of the second period. With the win, Anaheim improved to 4-3-0 its last seven games and 10-10-2 the last 22 games.

The trio of Mason McTavish, Cutter Gauthier and Robby Fabbri each scored a goal and added an assist, with **RYAN STROME** scoring the Duck's game-winning goal with 2:36 remaining in the third period.

With McTavish and Gauthier combining for two goals and two assists, Anaheim continues to pace the NHL with points by players 21 and younger (24-40=60).

CUTTER GAUTHIER opened the scoring with his fifth goal at 13:52 of the first period. He added an assist for his team-leading fifth multi-point outing (1-1=2) and four points his last four games (1-3=4, +5). Gauthier has 16 points on the campaign to rank sixth among NHL rookies in scoring (5-11=16).

MASON MCTAVISH tallied the Duck's insurance goal (ENG) at 19:08 of the third period and added an assist for his third multi-point outing of the campaign (1-1=2). He has four points his last four games (2-2=4, +6) to now rank fourth among Anaheim leaders in scoring (5-11=16) while tied second in assists. McTavish won 13-of-15 faceoffs, setting a single-game high in faceoff win percentage (86.7%, min. five faceoffs).

DREW HELLESON recorded his second goal and fifth point of the season at 12:19 of the second period (2-3=5).

ROBBY FABBRI tallied his fourth goal and added an assist for five points his last four games (3-2=5, +5) and seven points his last seven games (3-4=7).

JACKSON LACOMBE earned the primary assist on Gauthier's goal for his second assist in as many games (0-2=2) and seventh point his last seven games (2-5=7). LaCombe now leads Ducks defensemen in points (6-7=13) and assists.

TROY TERRY earned his team-leading 17th assist for his second point in as many games (1-1=2) and his sixth point his last seven contests (2-4=6).

LUKAS DOSTAL made 29 saves to earn his ninth win of the season in his 22nd appearance. Dostal ranks 10th among NHL goalies in save percentage (.913) and is 4-3-1 in eight December appearances.

The Ducks will conclude their 2024 calendar year and a three-game homestand on Tuesday, Dec. 31 vs. the New Jersey Devils at Honda Center (5 p.m.). The New Year's Eve contest will mark the ninth all-time at Honda Center.



ANAHEIM DUCKS POSTGAME QUOTES

CUTTER GAUTHIER

On the performance of his line with Mason McTavish and Robby Fabbri.

I think the biggest thing with us is communication, whether it is a good play or not so good play we continue to talk and keep our cool on the bench. We are never getting too high or too low on the bench. So, I think the biggest thing for us is that we have been communicating well with each other, reading off of each other well and we are just building that chemistry.

On his line reading plays well

I saw Mason (McTavish) make a great stick play and turn it over. I thought he was on a little mini breakaway so I kind of pushed the puck in the space for him and he tricked me too. I didn't see Fabs [Robby Fabbri] coming down the far side and he made a great pass so obviously a great finish from Robby.

RYAN STROME

On the changes from yesterday's game to today

I honestly think we did a lot of the same things. I think we stood here less than 24 hours ago and talked about timely scoring and we got it. I think there were really good contributions up and down the lineup. I think we had some D pitching offensively and (Mason McTavish's) line was great. I thought the kill was great, I thought at times our power play looked a little bit more threatening. I think at the end of the day, we are working just as hard as we did last game. We just got the timely scoring tonight. Some great plays at great times. I think the key thing for us is that every time we seem to play these good teams lately, I think last year we would've probably lost that game five [to] nothing or something like that, it feels like this year we are going toe to toe with these teams whether it is Colorado, Winnipeg, or now these guys. I know it is only December, but I think it is a really good sign that we are playing them straight up and down and competing.

On his goal

I told the ref I thought it was in, but the way it's been going for us right now I didn't want to celebrate or say anything because it seems like we are hitting crossbars and hitting posts. I had one go off my knee and it went over the net. So it seemed like everything was going the wrong way right now, so you never want to get ahead of yourself. But, it is nice to see it go in. Personal stuff aside for any individual, the team to get a win tonight, to get some results, to get rewarded offensively [with] just how hard we have been working and competing; it hopefully jolts the group a little bit because we got a good team, we work hard, and we do the right things. Just that scoring has been killing us, but tonight we got four and one with the empty netter.

HEAD COACH GREG CRONIN

On the team's shot total and overall performance

I don't remember what the shot total was against Philadelphia, I mean, some games we invite that style of play like the Philadelphia game was a totally different game, tight checking, it was a fighting for space game. Tonight, it was a little bit more of an open-ice game, quite frankly, that kind of scares me a bit against these guys. We were able to dig in, particularly when we got down, we didn't start off too well 2-0, but the bench was positive and we were fortunate to get into a rhythm. We were getting shots down and trying to get some loose puck recoveries off the blue line shots, I think in the second period particularly that kind of fed our momentum and our confidence.

On the team's ability to fight through adversity

The older guys, I think, have taken ownership of the young guys which is what you want. I think they've been able to take the messaging from the coaches and apply it to, not only the game, but the practices as well. To speak to your point, when the game could've gone the other direction, it was 2-0, the bench was real positive, guys were encouraging guys to stick to the game plan, which for us against a team like that, we've got to get the puck deep, we can't mess around with the puck around the blue line and turn it over. I just think they kept recycling the same things over and over again and I think it really calmed the bench down and obviously when Cutter [Gauthier] scored the first goal it gave us a sense of belief that we could compete with them.



EDMONTON OILERS POSTGAME QUOTES

LEON DRAISAITL

On the game

Not our best. I think we let off the gas a little bit after the first 10 to 13 minutes and gave them a chance to get back into it. Not our best.

On the group's overall performance compared to before the break

I think the defending and the little things like taking care of the puck, valuing the puck. If you have the puck you aren't going to value it as much. Just the little things that we can do better.

On Calvin Pickard

He deserved to get a win here and certainly gave us a chance to get it done. We let him down tonight.

HEAD COACH KRIS KNOBLAUCH

On Ryan Strome's game-winning goal

Yeah, we lost a battle in the corner, one of our players lost his stick to break up the play, and yeah they were doing that all night, taking pucks to the net and had a few wraps and they capitalized on that last one.

On the team giving up leads

Well, we had two two-goal leads. I think we put in a strong effort in the third period but we shouldn't have been in that situation to have that opportunity. When we're up two goals, that's a game that we have to continue playing hard and I don't think we did.