

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

Wednesday, May 1, 2024
2024 Western Conference First Round – Game 5
Dallas Stars 3, Vegas Golden Knights 2
[Game Summary](#) | [Event Summary](#)
Dallas leads series 3-2

DALLAS STARS

Stars Head Coach Pete DeBoer

On the importance of winning Game 5

“It was critical. We’re a good home team, and we’ve taken pride in playing at home all year. We have the best crowds in the league as you saw tonight, and the building is electric. It’s a little uncharacteristic for us to lose the first two at home. I’m not even sure we deserved to lose the first two, but we did. But credit to our group, there weren’t a lot of believers at that point, but we went on the road into a tough environment, rolled up our sleeves and went to work. You look up and six days later, you’ve got a 3-2 lead and a chance to close out the Stanley Cup Champions. Our work is not done yet. We have some heavy lifting to do yet, but I’m just proud of our group.”

On the Stars’ third period effort

“We talked about not sitting back too much. It’s tough with that mindset because they’ve got some dangerous players. When you’re playing from behind like that, you just start to take more chances and your defenseman jumps in and activate a little bit more, and that creates some problems. They got a few good looks, but it was the best twenty minutes in the playoffs for Jake [Oettinger] in the third when we needed him. That’s all part of it. I talked at the beginning of the playoffs that you need goaltending, you need special teams, you need heroes from different parts of your roster to step up with a big play or a big goal and right now we’re getting contributions from all those things.”

Stars Forward Tyler Seguin

On tonight’s game

“Every game is tight. These two teams, there’s no room. It’s one mistake here, one mistake there, sometimes a five-on-five game, sometimes your power play has got to come through. They’re a great team. It’s hard to do.”

On physicality during the game

“Every game is physical, and playoffs is a different type of game. You want to be engaged and physical, but in regard to that hit you’re talking about, there’s no intention by me. I don’t see myself as a dirty player. I haven’t seen the replay, but I definitely wasn’t trying to hit his head or anything.”

Stars Forward Wyatt Johnston

On the Stars third period performance

“Obviously finishing off – that’s the most important part. We knew they were going to come out really hard in the third. It’s up to us to do our best to push back and try to play as forward as we can without being reckless.”

On playing a more balanced game tonight

"Yeah, obviously you get a lot more experiences as the playoffs get on, and we've been that situation a couple of times. Just try to learn from each time it happens and adjust from that."

Stars Forward Logan Stankoven

On his first five games of playoff experience

"I had more legs tonight than game 4. I wouldn't say it gets any easier. The competition level gets higher and higher. It was nice to get the win tonight."

On playing against defensemen much larger than him

"It's hard sometimes, especially down the wall, trying to get pucks out. You got to find where the puck is, plus you got a big defenseman coming down on you. Just make heads-up plays. Don't try to do anything too fancy."

Stars Forward Matt Duchene

On scoring his first goal of this playoff series

"I've had some looks so far, a few in Game 3 there and the last game. Our power play unit has been doing a good job, and [Tyler Seguin] made a great play to [Wyatt Johnston], and he had a good tip. It was just one of those ones you fire at the net, and it finds its way in. If you're in the right places and going to the net, every now and then you get one of those."

On Chandler Stephenson's late breakaway chance and Jake Oettinger's save

"I was the guy deep there, and that was an unbelievable save. You need those in the playoffs, and [Jake Oettinger] has been really solid the last few games. He's getting better and better as the series is going, and we needed it. If you look at Game 3, [Logan] Thompson made some huge saves to keep [Vegas] in it, and they come back and send it to overtime. In this series, every game has been a one goal game, so you need your goalies to come up big, and he sure did that."

VEGAS GOLDEN KNIGHTS

Golden Knights Head Coach Bruce Cassidy

On Alex Pietrangolo receiving roughing penalties in last two games

"Veteran guys should know better. We didn't like the hit on [Shea] Theodore by [Tyler] Seguin, quite obviously left his feet and targeted the head. You're going to be upset, but that's playoff hockey. You've got to find a way to channel it and just control the aggression out there all over the ice in every series. That's an area you got to take a number and try to get those things squared away. Dallas went through it last year. [Jamie] Benn got thrown out, so there's a little bit of a learning curve that goes into it. We should know better, but it happens. One more game opposite should get us squared away because margins are too thin right now, especially their power plays going well – the way they operate their power play. We're going to have to make some adjustments on how we kill. As the game went on, we did a better job. The last goal, Jason Robertson made a nice play to find space, but we have to take care of our discipline. We just have to. It's that simple."

On making line changes

"I like Nic Roy's line a lot. William Carrier had a lot of juice tonight. The puck was finding him, and he scored a goal. That's his game, where he drives it wide and creates havoc. They're always a line you can rely on. Whether [Keegan Kolesar] is on it or if it's [Ivan Barbashev]. I like that line. Hertel had the puck

more with Jack [Eichel] to get involved in the game. Obviously, [Pavel Dorofeyev] didn't get the minutes. It was a heavy game for him, and we weren't sure how that would play out. We knew we could double shift a guy in there if it wasn't going to work out. We gave Jonathan [Marchessault] more minutes. Especially, since he wasn't on the penalty kill. We did a good job creating offense. They're a good hockey team. You still have to check, and that's how you're going to win the game. If we check well, we feel like we're as good as anybody. Even though we shuffled lines, the message was still getting our offense from good neutral zone defense, create loose pucks and put some anxiety in their game to get it going the other way. At the end of the day, I'll have to look at it closer. We didn't win, so we have to do something different. You're going to look at yourself in the mirror and wonder if it was the right thing to do. Obviously, there was some good and some that didn't work."

Golden Knights Defenseman Noah Hanifin

On the shifting momentum in this series

"It's been a tight series. Back and forth a lot. That was a tough one. We had some chances to tie it in the third but couldn't really finish. It's been tight. Every game is a battle. Our focus has shift to getting the win at home. We can't lose three in a row at home. We have to push it to a Game 7. That's where our mindset is."

On the push in the third period

"We had some looks that we have to watch over again. We carried most of the play in the third. We had some opportunities and got a lot of offensive zone time. They're good in front of their nets. They got into the that simple game where they're chipping pucks out and trying to chase it. Like I said, it's been a tight series. We got to fight. Our backs are against the wall now. We have to win at home and push to Game 7."

Golden Knights Defenseman Alec Martinez

On the second period

"There's going to be momentum shifts throughout games and throughout series, and you've got to handle that with composure. We let our emotions get the best of us in the second period. There was penalty trouble, and we got away from our game. We had a little bit too much panic in our game, and it was like a fire drill. We just have to handle the emotional side of it."

On Alex Pietrangelo's penalty tonight leading to a Dallas power-play goal

"He's a leader on this team. Playoffs are an emotional time, and it's a revved-up environment. You can't win without emotion either, but you have to keep it in check."

On getting through this stretch of adversity

"It's a couple of different things. You rely on experience. It's not the first adversity that this team has faced. To expect to get to a Stanley Cup Final or win a Stanley Cup and not have your back against the wall is fairly unrealistic. This is what the playoffs are all about. We'll learn from this game, go home and see what we are made of. Put our best foot forward and get a win at home."