

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

Friday, March 22, 2024

Dallas Stars 4, Pittsburgh Penguins 2

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

DALLAS STARS

Stars Head Coach Pete DeBoer

On the recent string of successful results

"I like how we're playing. You know, the coach is never happy. There's always moments and spurts in the game where you think you can play better. Other than the New Jersey game, which stood out as an outlier to me and was probably our scheduling and fatigue catching up to us, I've liked our game. Even the games that we haven't won – the Florida game, as an example – we're playing some solid hockey."

On Oettinger's performances and the effect it has on the team

"It helps our team's psyche. We needed him tonight. The 2-on-1 save he made is a game changing save. If that goes in, they grab momentum. You saw how they pushed after they got the second goal in the third period. That momentum probably starts in the second period if they score on that play. Those are the saves you need. Those are the saves we're used to seeing from him. It's great to see."

Stars Captain Jamie Benn

On tonight's game

"They got the first one, but we bounced back. Joe [Pavelski] got us a big goal to get us going. After the first period, we played good hockey."

On the recent string of successful results

"It's important. Everyone else keeps winning, so it's important for us to take advantage of these home games and keep winning hockey games."

Stars Forward Sam Steel

On ending homestand with a win

"It's huge. You want to take advantage of when you're at home, and we did the last couple games. We're trying to create momentum all the way into the playoffs. The last couple games, we've done a lot of good things."

On his line's chemistry

"It's been little things that we've been trying to build all year – really grinding them in the offensive zone and working teams down. It seems like the last couple games we've been getting goals late in the game. That comes from us doing the little things right, grinding them down and capitalizing. It's been a nice little stretch, and we are looking to create momentum."

Stars Forward Jason Robertson

On ending the homestand with a win

"We finished off strong, and we're going on the road now with a little thing going."

On playoff-style hockey

"Our desperation levels and details are really heightened right now, especially at this time of year. It's a race to the finish line, so it's good we finished off the homestand strong."

PITTSBURGH PENGUINS

Penguins Head Coach Mike Sullivan

On pulling the goalie in third period

"There was a number of reasons of why I did it. I'm not going to get into why, but I thought it was the right decision at that particular time for the team."

On Pittsburgh's performance tonight

"Well, we're playing against a good team, so they're going to get some looks. I liked the way the team started. We came out with good energy. We got the first goal. There were instances where we needed to defend harder at our net front, and we had opportunities on the other end of the rink offensively where we simply had to execute and finish. We had a 3-on-1 and a 2-on-1. We had a number of different looks where we had opportunities that were not executed on. If we did execute, we'd have given ourselves a chance. It just changes the mindset of the group when you score a goal and you get yourself back into the game. It gives the team energy, and it helps to build momentum. We couldn't seem to get it. When we got the second goal in the third period, you saw a boost from the group. There was instant energy on the bench, and we had opportunities prior to that throughout the course of the game that we didn't execute that potentially could have given us an opportunity to feed off it. It's just an important aspect. Momentum is such a big part of this game."

Penguins Forward Michael Bunting

On tonight's game

"It was an even battle. They were good around our net. We knew that was going to be a tough area to defend, and they scored a few there. The second period hurt us. They looked on the rush, and they were good in transition. We could've done a better job at slowing them down."

On the team's last push during the third period

"I don't think any one of us quits. We had our effort there. We had some chances, but they didn't go in the net. [Rickard Rakell] got a big one for us. He got us close. We just couldn't find the next one."