

# 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 15, 2024  
2024 Western Conference Second Round – Game 5  
**Dallas Stars 3**, Colorado Avalanche 5  
[Game Summary](#) | [Event Summary](#)  
*Dallas leads series 3-2*

## DALLAS STARS

### **Stars Head Coach Pete DeBoer**

#### *On Game 5*

"You knew we were going to get their best game of the series and we did. Their big guys are all on the scoresheet tonight which you probably anticipated would happen. We still were right there in that game. I liked our second period. A couple of things happened that were really self-inflicted. This time of year, it makes it really hard to win. One is the goal at the end of the second period with .02 seconds – you've got to get out of the period there. Their power play goes 2-for-2. I know we had a penalty at the end, but that's kind of a moot point. It's tough to win when those type of things aren't in your favor."

#### *On the play of Jake Oettinger in the playoffs*

"He's a response guy. He has been in my entire time with him. This is a hard league to beat any team four times in a row, never mind the Colorado Avalanche when you're in the conference semi-finals and you're down to eight teams left in the league. It would have been a great thing to have accomplished it tonight. Our effort was in the right place, we did some things, but you have to give them credit – they played a real good road game. We've got to go down there and respond, and Jake is part of that. He and our group have to go in there and do what we did earlier in the series and win some road games."

#### *On the tenacity of Chris Tanev*

"It's that time of year. He's not the only one. There are lot of guys who are playing hurt or with different things. He doesn't have many teeth left. He didn't have many to begin with to lose any. From what I understand, it got pushed in and they had to pull it in order for him to come back. He didn't miss many shifts."

### **Stars Forward Joe Pavelski**

#### *On Colorado's strong push back*

"We expected it. They were good tonight. Give them a little bit of credit. At the end of the day, we'll look at it as a little bit of a missed opportunity. We were good in some areas, but there were definitely a few areas where we gave them a little bit more space there."

#### *On giving up two power-play goals*

"I'll have to go look at it, but that's a good [power play] unit over there. Our [penalty kill] guys have done a tremendous job up to this point, and [Colorado] found a little bit of traffic at times and got some pucks through. A couple things we'll look at."

#### *On being under .500 at home so far in the playoffs*

"We feel good here and like playing here. On the flipside, we have been really good on the road. There are certain things from the road that we can bring home and do a little bit better job at, but we have to take care of our opportunities here when we get them like this. Missed opportunity for us tonight."

### **Stars Forward Jason Robertson**

#### *On the loss*

"The fourth win is always the hardest. We expected a tough game, and we got one."

#### *On the difference between the Stars' record at home and their record on the road*

"Both teams are trying to win regardless of where you are. It's just one of those things. But we're confident on the road, and we're going to need that going into Game 6."

### *On creating scoring chances*

"We had good chances. We'd love to get a couple more on the power play, but it is what it is. They're doing their job killing, so we'll make adjustments accordingly and try to get more chances."

## **COLORADO AVALANCHE**

### **Avalanche Head Coach Jared Bednar**

#### *On the Avalanche's top players' performance*

"Your top guys have to be your top guys, but then in the same breath you don't want to just rely on your top guys all the time. They're put out in situations to help you produce offense, and they're hard on themselves when they don't. I like that because they're holding themselves to a high standard, it's still a group of five working for one another that helps create offensive opportunities for those guys and for other guys. It's not a one-man job or two-man job to create offense. We were more connected tonight as a group of five working at the same time instead of one or two guys working and a couple of guys watching. They come up and play their best game of the series, and they get rewarded on skill plays that start with hard work from the group. Their skills allow them to shine, and they were fantastic. Cale [Makar] was outstanding, creating scoring chances, not just for his linemates but for himself, beating guys one-on-one. [Nathan MacKinnon] was the same way. In the power play steps up, tough go for a handful of games, but we win the special teams. It's a huge response after goal one and after goal two. It was a great team effort. We were short a guy on the bench with [Yakov] Trenin leaving the game, so we were running three lines with a little bit of a mix, and the guys did a nice job. They got into the game and stayed in the game and stayed disciplined."

#### *On his team's response in Game 5*

"It was an evenly played game. It was a close game, and it's not the first one of the series. I know we haven't led, but Game 1 was a one-goal game, Game 2's a one-goal game, and this one is a one-goal game. I think there is four one-goal games if you take the empty nets out of it, and [Dallas] played a good hockey game. They made some mistakes that we capitalized on, and we had some unforced errors that they capitalized on, too. They still had a say in those goals against. We had the turnover, and the first one was bang-bang and in the back of the net. We had an option to rim that just to get out of trouble. We throw one over the glass, and their power play capitalizes, but it's after a handful of really good shifts from Dallas. So, it's a little bit back and forth, and you have to survive those situations. You have to bend and not break, and we broke a couple of times tonight, but so did they. I liked it because it was a really resilient game from us. We go down twice and just stay with it and don't give up on it. That's probably the thing I liked most from it. It took some of the stuff we showed over the past couple of days on the offensive side of it and you could see steps in the right direction. A little more confidence and not so uptight and scared to make plays like we were in the previous couple of games and trying to be perfect. We played our game, we played with skill, and we played with a little pace. I don't know if it ranks as my favorite game of the series, but it was certainly a huge win for us."

### **Avalanche Forward Nathan MacKinnon**

#### *On the Avalanche's mentality heading into the third period*

"It's huge. We're not chasing the game. The same thing after the second period – we're not chasing it. We just feel like we're hanging around and just not going away. That was the key tonight, just no quit."

#### *On leading in goals in Game 5*

"It was great. Just trying to get the mode of their structure a little bit. They didn't do much, but anytime we can get a lead it's important, not chasing it the whole series."

### **Avalanche Defenseman Cale Makar**

#### *On his and Nathan MacKinnon's performance*

"It's do-or-die game from here on out in this series, so we all feed off each other. At the end of the day, we have to be the best we can be. There were a couple of lapses in games. I felt like we were back to forcing their hand tonight and playing well."

#### *On the power-play performance*

"We were just moving feet and quick puck movement. It felt like once we were getting pucks, it was right off and on the stick. Just trying to avoid their pressure. Again, just having that that attack mentality and not trying to back down or trying to look for the perfect play."

### **Avalanche Goaltender Alexandar Georgiev**

#### *On the goal late into the first period*

"It was huge. We didn't want to be down 1-0 coming into the second period. We played so great in the first period and spent so much time in their zone and creating huge chances. It was a great feeling to capitalize on that and have energy coming into the second with that."

*On his mindset when playing with a lead*

"During the regular season and this playoffs, we've been finding good ways to come back when we were down in the game. I feel confident in our group, and we've got to take every game one shift at a time. You can't bring baggage with you from previous games. It's better to have a lead, and that changes the game for us and for them. You've got to play it as it comes, and I feel good if we play a full 60 minutes. It doesn't matter if we score first or if they do as long as we play from the start to the end."