

# 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

Saturday, April 13, 2024

**Dallas Stars 3, Seattle Kraken 1**

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## DALLAS STARS

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

#### *On clinching the Central Division*

"It's obviously not what we're after, but it's definitely a step. You can't minimize the work put in to doing that. Six months ago, starting in training camp in a really good division with a lot of good teams and a lot of adversity along the way. It's a great step for our group. I'm proud of the accomplishment. We're looking for more than that."

#### *On the victory*

"It was a great game for us to get ready for the playoffs. I credit Seattle for that. They played hard and didn't give us much. We talked at the end of the first period about how this is going to be like a playoff game. The rushes dried up; they're not giving you easy rush goals. You have to earn your goals and find your ice in the offensive zone. You got to grind a little bit. They made us do that tonight, and from a coaching perspective, that's great heading into the playoffs."

### **Stars Forward Craig Smith**

#### *On winning the Central Division*

"It's the first step. It represents the work that has been done in this room and how the group has progressed over the season. We're proud of it ... You want to win as many [games] as you can, no matter what. Throughout the course of the season, you win games in different ways, and it builds confidence. At this point we've done that and gone through those games, so we should be in a good place physically and mentally."

#### *On potentially clinching the Western Conference*

"We'll see how it shakes out. We have some time off here to get ready to go, heal up, and recharge. Whatever it is, we'll go with it."

### **Stars Defenseman Miro Heiskanen**

#### *On winning the Central Division*

"It's crazy to win it, but the job is far from done. It's just the first step. We have a long way to go still."

#### *On having this be the first step*

"It's great. We've been really good in the regular season. It's always a good thing. It's good to take this step, but like I said, it's far from done."

#### *On what's been working for the defense*

"We are defending really well right now. We don't give much and [Jake Oettinger] and [Scott Wedgewood] have playing really good in the net. Defensively, we've been really good. We've scored some goals too and played some good offense. Our defense has been a lot better lately."

### **Stars Goaltender Jake Oettinger**

#### *On getting into a rhythm*

"Yeah, I think the whole team feels good with where their game is at. It's just nice to win the division and keep it going."

#### *On winning the division*

"Yeah, we want to play as many home games here as we can in the playoffs, so that's just a full year of hard work and consistency. We want to hang more important banners than that, but I'm proud of the guys. The body of work over the last six months have been really impressive, and we should be feeling good about ourselves."

## **SEATTLE KRAKEN**

### **Kraken Head Coach Dave Hakstol**

#### *On Seattle's performance in the first period*

"Our first period was an excellent road period. We gave one up with a second and half to go, and that took away from what was a really good first period. We did a pretty good job overall today – a little bit too much against us in the second period. What would probably be the difference in the game offensively would be not being able to capitalize on the number of outnumbered rushes we had. It was probably an uncharacteristic number of outnumbered rushes to be able to generate against them, and in the second period, we had a really good look from Jared [McCann] that we did execute and made a really good play on. Oettinger made a good save on that one. In the third period we hit a couple of posts, we executed well on those outnumbered rushes that we generated, but we just didn't find the back of the net."

#### *On Seattle Goalie Phillip Grubauer's performance*

"It's not just recent, he's been good coming right off the long injury that he had, he's been rock solid since then. Look at his numbers and the saves he's been making at the right time, he's been rock solid, and he was that again tonight. You're going to need that on the road, especially against quality teams like these guys. He did a great job for us in the second period. He's consistently been doing that for our hockey team."

### **Kraken Forward Kailer Yamamoto**

#### *On changes between the first and second periods*

"Honestly, I thought we played a good game all around. Obviously, that goal at the end was a great tip. Nothing you can really do about that one, but it was a great tip. That gave them a little bit of life. The second they came out playing and take a 5-on-3 and score it's another tough one. The last goal was a weird bounce, and no one really knew where it was besides Heiskanen. He walks around and [Phillipp Grubauer] basically has it, but it was just a bad bounce off his shoulder. We played well tonight, honestly."

#### *On motivation with the season wrapping up*

"Just putting your best foot forward. Guys are working for contracts and for next year to move up the lineup. There's a lot of things guys are playing for right now. And we want to win as a team. It's not fun when you lose. We want to win every game."

### **Kraken Goaltender Philipp Grubauer**

#### *On the importance of getting on a roll to finish the season*

"It's easier and better for a goalie if he keeps playing in the groove. But we were switching back and forth there for a little bit, so it's good. But we need to win the last couple [games] for our fans and city. Today wasn't it, and we have a chance for tomorrow."

#### *On the common detonator on why he is playing well*

"Nothing really. One game at a time, one puck at a time. If they leave the zone, take a breath. Just trying to give the team a chance to win every night, and I'm just trying to do my job."