

# 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, Nov. 24, 2023

**Dallas Stars 4, Calgary Flames 7**

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## DALLAS STARS

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

#### *On tonight's loss*

"We got what we deserved. The score was flattering for us in our favor at different points. Unfortunately, you have to win in all kinds of ways, and we couldn't put together 20 minutes to find a way to win a game. We weren't great. We weren't perfect by any means. But we had a chance to win that game in the third period and just couldn't put it together for 20 minutes. It's disappointing."

#### *On the role of the defense in tonight's game*

"Everyone has blood on their hands."

#### *On the recent home performances*

"We're disappointed at 1-2-1. We're a better team than that. If you look at the grouping, the Colorado game we we're up, and this game we're up. If you find a way to play 60 minutes and close those two games out, you're happy with yourself. Those are all lessons you have to learn over a long season and hopefully pay off come playoff time."

### **Stars Forward Wyatt Johnston**

#### *On losing a two-goal lead*

"We let our foot off the pedal a little bit. Once you're up two goals, you should be able to close those games out. It was not a great start to the third. That's on us for not coming out great."

#### *On the second lopsided loss during this homestand*

"A little bit of beating ourselves. When we're up, teams are going to come out hard, especially at the starts of periods. They're going to want to get back in the game. We also want to try to close out the game and not give them any life. There was definitely a little bit of comparison [to Saturday's game] losing some two goal leads. It's all on us, we have to tighten it up."

### **Stars Defenseman Miro Heiskanen**

#### *On the causes of two consecutive losses*

"It's hard to say. We started pretty well but it's not enough if we play 20-40 minutes well but not playing in that last one [period.] We have to play the whole game. We have to be good the whole 60 minutes. We weren't tonight."

#### *On trends in the losses*

"Every game is important, but we didn't play well enough to win tonight. We have to be a lot better. Better than that. We played 20-40 minutes well but after that we stopped playing and they capitalized on those chances. We have to play the full 60 minutes and try to win the games."

### **Stars Defenseman Jani Hakanpää**

#### *On any big issues in third period*

"Not at all. It's a little here and there. We weren't as sharp as we should've been. [Calgary] came out hard, and we just didn't match that. It's something we need to figure out as a group going forward. A lot of games are going to be decided in the third. We need to find a way to be better at them more consistently. Just find ways to win games."

#### *On whether the Stars are better at playing from behind than protecting a lead*

"Every night is a little different. You have different things going on out there. Obviously, if you're back a few, it lights a fire under you. We need to have that same mentality if we're up a goal, two goals or whatever it is. Yeah, have that more often."

## **CALGARY FLAMES**

### **Flames Head Coach Ryan Huska**

#### *On the team rising to the occasion to win the game*

"Resilience. We're down 4-2 again, and we found a way to come back and play our best period in the third. When you see a 7-4 game and the coach says they like the defense probably doesn't make a lot of sense, but our guys on the back end made some plays with composure tonight. That was a big part of our game, which allowed us to have some success off the rush ... Even the rush chances that we got were opportunities because we moved the puck better out of our own zone. So there was more poise and more composure from our defensemen tonight."

#### *On winning tonight with a tough stretch of games ahead*

"There were stretches where they opened us up through the neutral zone, but we stuck with it. [Elias Lindholm's] goal, we haven't gotten a lot of those this year, so it was nice to see one actually go in for us. It's a big win, but we have to turn the page pretty quickly."

### **Flames Forward Mikael Backlund**

#### *On finding a way to win*

"We stuck with it. It was a game that went back and forth all night. We showed some character again coming back in the third. The boys rallied and showed some resilience again. It was a huge win for us."

#### *On the third period*

"We came out with a good jump. We wanted to dictate right away and get that next goal. Everyone chipped in. All lines and pairings were involved in scoring and played well on both ends. It was really a big third."

### **Flames Forward Connor Zary**

#### *On the Flames' third period comeback*

"Right from the end of the second, we knew we were starting to take over. We knew if we stayed consistent, it was going to be our kind of game, and that's how we wanted to play. Being down isn't too uncomfortable for us. We've been pretty resilient over the last couple weeks playing from behind. We came out there with our mindset and our consistency, just rolling four lines, and that helped us quite a bit."

#### *On returning to the lineup*

"It always sucks when you miss a game, no matter what. You want to be out there. It's sometimes good to watch and learn, but it always sucks not being in the game. When you're watching, it gets a little boring. You just want to get out there on the ice, so it was awesome to come back, and we played a pretty good team game."

### **Flames Forward Blake Coleman**

#### *On tonight's win*

"It felt good. It was a big win for us. The Nashville game was a setback for us, and we didn't feel good about our effort. It was important that we found a way to dig for this one. It's a good team on home ice, and it's another comeback. It speaks to how our group feels about ourselves right now."

#### *On the performance in third period*

"It just a quiet confidence. Guys are making plays, it's up and down the lineup. It's not relying on one guy to do the job. We know that's our recipe, and we're sticking with it. Guys had timely goals, got the saves when we needed them, and we're going to sneak out of here with two points."