

DALLAS STARS COMMUNICATIONS

DAILY NEWS CLIPS

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NHL.com (Dallas Stars)

2025-26 Player Profile: Radek Faksa

By Mike Heika

July 23, 2025

Name: Radek Faksa

Age: 31

Birthplace: Vitkov, Czech Republic

Height/Weight: 6-3, 215

2024-25 Regular-season Stats: 5 goals, 10 assists, 15 points, 13:01 avg. TOI in 70 games with St. Louis

2025 Stanley Cup Playoffs Stats: 1 goal, 4 assists, 5 points, 15:06 avg. TOI in 7 games

Contract: Signed as a free agent. In the first year of a three-year deal that averages \$2 million per season.

Performance Evaluation: After nine seasons with the Stars, Faksa was traded to St. Louis in the summer of 2024 and played 70 games with the Blues. He filled a similar role as he did with the Stars, serving as a physical and defensive bottom-six center. His minutes and role both increased under head coach Jim Montgomery, who previously coached Faksa in Dallas from 2018-2019. The veteran tallied 15 points (5 goals, 10 assists) and averaged 13:01 in time on ice. The big center has been a steady defensive presence for all of his career and also is one of the better faceoff men in the league. Faksa won 57.0 percent of 758 draws for the Blues, which was tied for the 11th best percentage in the NHL. Throughout his nine seasons with the Stars, only Tyler Seguin won more draws. He scored double-digit goals in four of his first five NHL seasons, but his recent output has been closer to the five he had last season with St. Louis.

Expectations for 2025-26: Because the Stars are under a new coaching staff, it's difficult to speculate how Faksa might fit in and impact the team. He is a big body at 6-3, 215, and the Stars would like to be "harder to play against." Faksa had 115 hits last season for the Blues, which would have placed him second on the light-hitting Stars. Dallas also saw its puck possession game slip last season and a reason for that could be their faceoff winning percentage that dropped from 54.0 percent (2nd) to 52.1 percent (7th). Faksa can definitely help in that area. By signing Matt Duchene to a four-year contract extension and trading Mason Marchment, the Stars are now heavy at center and lighter at wing. That means some centers will have to play wing. While Faksa has the body to do it, it will be interesting to see if Glen Gulutzan and his coaching staff look more to players like Wyatt Johnston or Sam Steel to be flexible. It sure looks like Roope Hintz and Duchene will start at center, and Faksa could be a good fit on the third or fourth line at the pivot. At 31 years old, Faksa still is in a great place in his professional career and can be helpful in a lot of different ways. In seven playoff games against Winnipeg last season, he had 5 points (1 goal, 4 assists) and was plus-7. Stars general manager Jim Nill mentioned that the team missed Faksa's physicality, faceoffs, penalty killing and defensive acumen. In addition, he's a homegrown player that fills a need for the team. He

gives Dallas calm experience with younger legs, and the reunion should be a beneficial one for both sides.

NHL.com (Dallas Stars)

Dallas Stars announce Ralph Strangis and Joe Nieuwendyk as 2025 inductees to the Dallas Stars Hall of Fame

By Dallas Stars Communications
July 23, 2025

FRISCO, Texas – The Dallas Stars Hall of Fame Selection Committee announced today their election of Ralph Strangis and Joe Nieuwendyk as the 2025 class of the Dallas Stars Hall of Fame. Strangis was selected as part of the Builder Category and Nieuwendyk was selected as part of the Player Category. Now in its fourth year, the Dallas Stars Hall of Fame seeks to recognize players and/or staff members who have positively impacted the Dallas Stars franchise in such a way that their contributions cannot be overlooked.

Strangis and Nieuwendyk will be officially inducted during the Dallas Stars Hall of Fame Weekend from Nov. 14-16. Both inductees will participate in a ceremonial puck drop prior to the Dallas Stars game against the Philadelphia Flyers on Saturday, Nov. 15 (7 p.m. CT). The weekend will conclude with the fourth annual Dallas Stars Hall of Fame Induction Gala presented by Truist at Gilley's Dallas South Side Ballroom on Sunday, Nov. 16, which will honor the inductees and feature a live concert performance presented by Grey Goose with a musical artist to be announced at a later date.

"On behalf of the Committee, I'd like to officially welcome Joe Nieuwendyk and Ralph Strangis into the 2025 class of the Dallas Stars Hall of Fame," said Dallas Stars President and CEO Brad Alberts. "Joe is not only one of the best players to ever wear a Dallas Stars sweater, but one of the greats in NHL history. He was known as a consistent playoff performer during his time with the club and is the only Conn Smythe trophy-winner in franchise history."

"Moving down to Texas with the franchise in 1993, Ralph quickly endeared himself to our fanbase and was a huge part of the fabric of our team for decades. His voice is connected to many of our club's biggest moments and his passion for the game has been invaluable in growing hockey in the Lone Star State."

All proceeds from the event will benefit the Dallas Stars Foundation. Tickets for the Dallas Stars Hall of Fame Induction Gala presented by Truist can be purchased [here](#).

About Ralph Strangis:

Strangis is the longest tenured play-by-play broadcaster in Dallas Stars franchise history, moving with the team when it relocated from Minnesota. Overall, he spent 25 years total with the organization, including 22 years in Dallas. During his time with the Stars, Ralph touched many areas of the organization and was key in numerous organizational initiatives. He took over as the lead play-by-play announcer during the 1995-96 season and was the voice of numerous iconic calls in team history including Brett Hull's goal in the third overtime to clinch the 1999 Stanley Cup, Mike Modano's US-born goals record breaking tally and Brenden Morrow's Cinco De Morrow goal. During his time with the team, the seven-time Lone Star Emmy Award-winner formed one of the best duos in the NHL broadcasting community alongside Daryl "Razor" Reaugh.

About Joe Nieuwendyk:

Acquired via trade from the Calgary Flames on December 19, 1995, Nieuwendyk spent nearly seven seasons with the Dallas Stars and recorded 340 points (178-162 —340) in 442 regular-season games. He recorded 21 points (11-10 —21) in 23 contests during the 1999 Stanley Cup Playoffs and captured the Conn Smythe Trophy, which is awarded annually to the most valuable player for his team in the playoffs. He finished the 1999 postseason ranked first in goals (11) and game-winning goals (6), while also ranking third in points (21) and ninth in assists (10). In total, he amassed 40 points (25-15—40) in 61 Stanley Cup Playoff games with the Stars. Among all-time franchise postseason leaders, he shares first in overtime goals (3) and second in game-winning goals (9). He also ranks 11th in goals (25) and 21st in points (40). After his playing career, Nieuwendyk served as the general manager of the club from May 2009 – April 2013.

About the Dallas Stars Hall of Fame:

The Dallas Stars Hall of Fame recognizes players and/or staff members who have positively impacted the Dallas Stars Hockey Club in such a way that their contributions cannot be overlooked. The two categories of the Dallas Stars Hall of Fame are Player (Skater/Goaltender) and Builder (Executive Level Staff or Coach). A maximum of one Player and one Builder are eligible for selection in any election period and there is no requirement that the maximum of either category is reached in any given election period.

Players must demonstrate exceptional attributes in the areas of playing ability, sportsmanship, character and contributions to the Dallas Stars Hockey Club, while builders are evaluated on their demonstration of exceptional attributes in coaching, managerial or executive ability, or ability in another significant off-ice role, sportsmanship, character and contributions to the Dallas Stars Hockey Club and to the game of hockey in general.

Any player who had their number retired by the Dallas Stars Hockey Club received immediate inclusion into the Dallas Stars Hall of Fame without consideration by the Selection Committee. Similarly, all owners of the Dallas Stars Hockey Club received automatic induction as Builders without consideration by the Selection Committee.

For a complete breakdown of Hall of Fame election procedures and additional information on the selection process, please visit DallasStars.com/HallofFame.

The Dallas Stars Hall of Fame Selection Committee includes Tom Gaglardi (Dallas Stars Owner and Governor), Brad Alberts (Dallas Stars President and CEO), Lia Assimakopoulos (Dallas Morning News), Taylor Baird (NHL.com), Matt Bowman (Dallas Stars Executive Vice President and Chief Revenue Officer), Tim Cowlshaw (Dallas Morning News), Elliotte Friedman (Sportsnet), Mike Heika (DallasStars.com), Bruce LeVine (The Ticket), Jim Lites (Dallas Stars HOF Member), Daryl Reaugh (Victory+), Rob Scichili (Tony Fay Public Relations) and Dan Stuchal (Dallas Stars Chief Operations Officer, StarCenters and Multisport).

NHL.com (Dallas Stars)

2025-26 Player Profile: Oskar Bäck

By Mike Heika
July 22, 2025

Name: Oskar Bäck

Age: 25

Birthplace: Karlstad, Sweden

Height/Weight: 6-4, 202

2024-25 Regular-season Stats: 4 goals, 12 assists, 16 points, 11:42 avg. TOI in 73 games

2025 Stanley Cup Playoffs Stats: 2 assists, 11:03 avg. TOI in 11 games

Contract: Entering first year of two-year extension signed on Jan. 2. Averages \$825,000 per season.

Performance evaluation: Bäck wasn't an overwhelming favorite to secure a roster spot going into the 2024-25 season. As a defense-first forward, his seven goals and 36 points with the Texas Stars (AHL) in 2023-24 didn't pop off the charts. Add in the fact that he had yet to make his NHL debut and Dallas already had a veteran-heavy roster and his chances didn't seem great. But after trading Radek Faksa and Ty Dellandrea and letting Craig Smith walk in free agency, the door was cracked open in the Stars' bottom-six. Bäck not only claimed a spot via an impressive showing in training camp, but held on to it for the entire season. He played 73 games in his NHL rookie campaign and was a valuable addition to the Stars' forward group. The Swedish forward was particularly strong in the faceoff circle (which is a challenge for many rookies), winning 52 percent of his draws and saw his minutes steadily increase from under 11 minutes per game before the Christmas break to over 12 in the 2025 calendar year. The rookie earned the trust of the coaching staff and only served as a healthy scratch in four of the final 60 games. Bäck scored four goals and added 12 assists for 16 points while primarily skating on the fourth line. He was also a mainstay on the penalty kill, averaging 1:30 shorthanded time on ice per game. That was the second-highest mark among NHL rookies and in the playoffs, that number rose to 2:50. He also chipped in two assists in six games against Colorado in the First Round before only playing five games in the final two rounds. Bäck became a reliable member of the Stars' attack and has turned into yet another impressive day-two draft selection by Dallas (75th overall in 2018).

Expectations for 2025-26: The arrival of a sophomore season can often bring more confidence with it for any NHL player, and that should hopefully help Bäck. His 44 shots last season were the fewest among Stars forwards (min. 10 games), and he only scored one goal on a true wrist shot (one tip, one deflection off skate, one poke). While 16 points is respectable for a rookie forward, Bäck has the skill and resources to reach for nearly 20. He posted at least 25 points in all three seasons at the AHL level. On top of that, he registered just 35 blocks and 28 hits throughout the year. New head coach Glen Gulutzan mentioned in his introductory press conference that he wanted to up the team's physicality level, and that seems to bode well for the

second-year Swede. With his 6-4 frame, there is plenty of room for the young forward to grow and build on his physical presence in the Stars' bottom six. His contributions on the penalty kill and in defensive situations should lock him into a regular spot in the Dallas lineup this season. The Stars currently have 12 forwards under contract, while Texas prospects like Justin Hryckowian and Arttu Hyry might challenge for a 13th spot. Bäck's chemistry with Colin Blackwell and Sam Steel can continue to grow in the season ahead, and he may even slot in next to Faksa on the wing. It will be interesting to see what other ways Bäck is utilized by the new coaching staff and what other roles he can fill on the ice. With his size, skills and two-way abilities, the potential seems present for another positive step forward in his sophomore season.

NHL.com

Mailbag: Potential Robertson trade from Stars; Panthers' cap space

By Dan Rosen
July 22, 2025

Here is the July 23 edition of the NHL.com mailbag, where we answer your questions asked on X. Send your questions to @drosennhl and tag it with #OvertheBoards.

What is the likelihood that Jason Robertson is not a Star this season? And for teams who are interested could we see a sign and trade like Mitch Marner? -- @punmasterrifkin

There have been plenty of rumors and discussion about Robertson's future with the Dallas Stars. It obviously leads to speculation about the 26-year-old forward potentially being on the move before this season even begins. So, what's the likelihood he is traded? Cop-out answer, but probably 50/50 at this point because it really depends on if the Stars and Robertson can or even want to try to get a new deal done sooner rather than later. Robertson has one season remaining on his contract at an average annual value of \$7.75 million against the NHL salary cap and can become a restricted free agent after this season. He scored 35 goals last season. He has 151 goals the past four seasons, 14th in the NHL in that span. The Stars certainly are weighing a lot of factors because this isn't a player you just up and trade. He's too valuable, but at what point is the price too high?

If you're looking at the short term, though it will be tight, Dallas can be cap compliant this season with Robertson's cap charge on the books. Looking further out, the cap will go up \$8.5 million to \$104 million for the 2026-27 season, when Tyler Seguin's \$9.85 AAV will be off the cap. Seguin could be re-signed, but likely to a contract with a much lower AAV, possibly similar to what the Stars did with forward Jamie Benn, who signed a one-year, \$1 million contract June 26 that has the potential for an additional \$3 million performance bonuses. Benn's AAV was \$9.5 million for the past eight seasons.

So, the Stars could make it work with Robertson depending on the financial terms of his next deal, but the roadblock could be defenseman Thomas Harley, who is also scheduled to become a restricted free agent after this season. Harley turns 24 on Aug. 19. If the Stars feel they have to choose between Harley and Robertson on who to re-sign, it'd be hard to argue against them choosing the rising star defenseman ahead of the 35-goal forward. But does it have to be a choice? What is Dallas sacrificing if it re-signs both? Those are the questions they're asking themselves now.

If Robertson is traded, the Stars would benefit from working out something similar to the Marner deal with the Vegas Golden Knights. Permitting the team acquiring Robertson the opportunity to work out a contract with him before the trade should increase the return to Dallas. It's also possible a team looking to acquire Robertson would be confident in its ability to eventually re-sign him that working out a deal right away isn't required. That can backfire too (see Mikko Rantanen and the Carolina Hurricanes).

All this is to say that Robertson's situation with Dallas is one of the more attractive storylines of the offseason.

Currently, the Panthers are \$3.725 million over the salary cap (per Puckpedia). How do you expect Bill Zito to make the team cap compliant by the start of the season? Any validity to the rumors of an Evan Rodrigues trade or putting Matthew Tkachuk on LTIR? -- @themoose0221

Rodrigues certainly is a trade candidate seeing that his contract has a reported \$3 million AAV. There's zero doubt here that teams already have, currently are, or soon will be inquiring about his availability. He's a valuable, versatile, veteran player the Panthers do not take for granted. Unfortunately, losing him might be the price Florida has to pay for re-signing Sam Bennett, Aaron Ekblad, Brad Marchand and Tomas Nosek. The other side of that is Tkachuk and the potential for a stint on LTIR depending on his rehab and the potential for surgery to repair the injuries he played through. He said after Game 6 of the Stanley Cup Final that he sustained a torn adductor muscle and a sports hernia injury on the same side, and that the adductor muscle was torn from the bone. The Panthers will be cap compliant to start the season if Tkachuk has to start on LTIR, but that's obviously not a long-term solution because he will be back at some point, and when he comes back they have to have the cap space to add him. But an LTIR stint for Tkachuk would allow Florida to punt the issue down the road a bit. The price for that is not having Tkachuk.

How do you think things shake out for Mike Matheson now that the Canadiens have added Noah Dobson and that Lane Hutson has emerged as a 1D? -- @kavanyoung

There are factors at play for Matheson and the Montreal Canadiens, none that should matter right now since the 31-year-old defenseman is signed through this season and remains an integral part of the blue line even with Hutson's emergence and the addition of Dobson. The Canadiens can get ahead of the situation with Matheson by signing him to a new contract. He can become an unrestricted free agent after this season.

Hutson will need a new contract after this season, too, and if he builds on his Calder Trophy-winning season it'll be a mega deal, likely exceeding Dobson's \$9.5 million AAV. That plus forward Ivan Demidov being two years away from a potential mega deal could impact Montreal's thinking with Matheson, who should be asking for more than his reported \$4.875 million AAV in his next contract.

The Canadiens certainly appear to be building toward a future top four of lefties Hutson and Kaiden Guhle, and righties Dobson and David Reinbacher, a 20-year-old chosen with the No. 5 pick in the 2023 NHL Draft. Alexandre Carrier, a righty, is signed through the 2026-27 season. Jayden Struble, a 23-year-old lefty, is a restricted free agent. Arber Xhekaj, 24, a left-handed shot, can be a RFA after this season.

There's no doubt Matheson is a big part of the Canadiens' current group. They could make room for him to be a part of the future top six on defense, too, but they'll have to weigh a lot of factors, including, perhaps most importantly, how Matheson is playing.

With the Islanders entering the season healthy, adding Maxim Shabanov and Jonathan Drouin into the top nine (most likely), do you think they can surprise some people? -- @IslesCave

Yes. The pressure shouldn't be too great on the Islanders, but the Metropolitan Division is wide open and making the Stanley Cup Playoffs is a realistic goal because of their forward depth and goaltending.

The Islanders added without subtracting on the back end. Bringing in Drouin and Shabanov, plus the return of a healthy Mathew Barzal, should give New York more of a dynamic element to the offense. Though it's hard to know how Shabanov's game will translate to the NHL, he did have 67 points (23 goals, 44 assists) in 65 games with Traktor Chelyabinsk in the Kontinental Hockey League last season. He scored 67 goals in 207 KHL games the past three seasons and had 31 points in 36 KHL playoff games. Simon Holmstrom's game should continue to grow; he had 25 points (15 goals, 10 assists) in 75 games two seasons ago and followed it up with 45 points (20 goals, 25 assists) in 75 games last season.

The area of concern is at defenseman, where the loss of Dobson looms large. Matthew Schaefer is obviously a wild card in all of this. If the No. 1 pick in the 2025 NHL Draft can emerge as a viable, productive option this season, the Islanders will be much better off. But it is asking a lot of Schaefer, who turns 18 on Sept. 5, after he played only 17 Ontario Hockey League games last season because of injury. The Islanders must do what's right for Schaefer's development, even if it means not having his obvious skill on their back end this season.

Regardless, the Metropolitan Division allows for the Islanders to be playoff contenders this season. There is not one dominant team in the division. The Washington Capitals, Carolina Hurricanes, New Jersey Devils, New York Rangers and Columbus Blue Jackets are all playoff contenders, but the Islanders are not far behind, and their goaltending might make them equal or ahead of some of those teams.

DLLS

Late nights & cherished memories: What Ralph Strangis means to me & the Dallas Stars

By Sam Nestler
July 23, 2025

On Wednesday, Joe Nieuwendyk and Ralph Strangis were inducted into the Dallas Stars Hall of Fame.

The two are synonymous with this franchise, Nieuwendyk winning the Stanley Cup in 1999 and serving as a GM, and Strangis spending 25 years as the longest tenured play-by-play announcer in the team's history. We talked a bunch about both on today's DLLS show, including some stories from Craig Ludwig about his former teammate and good buddies, so check that out if you missed it.

<https://youtu.be/Q28JiLwH1dk>

But I also wanted to write a little story about Ralph Strangis, and more specifically, what he means to me and the Stars.

Growing up in New Jersey, I didn't get to watch a lot of Stars games. Once I chose them as my favorite team around the millennium, I was mostly reading about their games or maybe seeing them in person once a year around the New York area.

Then, around the time I started middle school, came NHL radio. For multiple reasons, I was never able to get NHL Center Ice. It either wasn't available yet, wasn't available with our TV carrier, or was too expensive for my parents' liking. Whatever the reason, I was left with NHL radio or nothing at all.

Let me set the scene for you a bit...

It's 10:20 pm ET on a cold January Thursday night in Chatham, NJ, and I have just finished playing video games or doing homework (probably not). Maybe I am watching the end of the Rangers game or pretending to care about the Mets with my Dad. I go upstairs, put on my lucky Dallas Stars jersey — these ranged from Mike Modano, Mike Ribeiro, Marty Turco, and even Joel Lundqvist.

I walk downstairs into the kitchen, collect a few snacks and a big drink, and grab my Mom's very comfortable reading chair. I drag that chair across the kitchen floor, no doubt leaving marks, and pull it up to my Mom's computer just outside the living room. I log in to the NHL site, find the Stars vs San Jose Sharks game with a 10:38 puck drop (yes, Dallas was still in the Pacific Division), and click on the Dallas broadcast — this was NOT always available, by the way, so I often had to listen to home broadcasts and try to decipher when the Stars scored because of the nonchalant announcement.

For the next three plus hours, I sat in front of that computer, listening to Ralph Strangis and Daryl Reaugh break down the game. I would sometimes find NHL GameCenter, just so there would be something to look at, or other times I would scroll on Facebook or look up other scores

and stories around the league. Just me and the voices of the Dallas Stars coming through some crappy old Logitech speakers.

It was simple, it was far from ideal. But guess what? I freakin' loved it.

Sure, it would have been great to watch every game on a big screen TV. I absolutely would have enjoyed that more. But I made due. And because I was so limited, I both understood and followed the game even better.

I couldn't see the play develop, so I had to listen closely to Ralph and Daryl, trying to visualize the way it happened in my head. It took my imagination to new heights, new places. I can't imagine I am a writer today without that. It pushed me to ask more questions about the sport I loved and played every day. I began to draw up plays and tactics to use in my own game. I understood the strengths and weaknesses of the team because I wasn't bombarded with ads and lights and colors all across my screen.

It was simple. And I loved it.

That was how I followed this team for years. When the playoffs came around, I got to watch a lot of the games on Versus or NBC. But in the dog days of the regular season, I was there, right in front of that computer listening to NHL radio.

The fact that I was up until 1:30 in the morning before an early hockey practice or school didn't matter. I didn't care that I was missing out on sleep. I didn't care that I was not at the "parties" and hangouts with my friends on weekends. And somehow, my parents allowed me to do this.

And when NHL Center Ice finally became available, or I otherwise found ways to watch the games on TV, I was thankful and have always cherished those late nights with only the play-by-play, color, and my thoughts to keep me engaged.

So Ralph Strangis is important to me. Just like Daryl Reaugh and Mike Modano and Ed Belfour and Marty Turco. The list goes on. Just like all of the memories I have from these moments. And just like all of the people and moments since then will always be.

And I know I'm not alone. Stars fans around the world have their own stories. How they became a fan, the ways they took in games, and special moments with people around the organization. Many of these stories come back to people like Ralph.

I certainly never thought I'd have the chance to do a full interview with him like we did earlier this year at DLLS.

<https://youtu.be/y945Jatio40>

To the Dallas Stars, Ralph Strangis means the world. During that time of listening to games, the Stars had some wild and memorable moments.

From all of Modano's milestones, to "Cinco de Morrow," and many in between. I think of Turco putting on a show in the series loss to the Vancouver Canucks, Jamie Benn winning the Art Ross Trophy, or Rich Peverly's horrific scare. All backed by the voice of Ralph Strangis.

So, a BIG-TIME congratulations to Ralph and Joe on this tremendous honor. It is well deserved, and I can't wait to hear from them and many others at the Hall of Fame Gala on Nov. 16.

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DLLS Stars Podcast: Joe Nieuwendyk, Ralph Strangis Named To Dallas Stars Hall of Fame Class of 2025

By Sam Nestler
July 23, 2025

The 2025 Class of the Dallas Stars Hall of Fame was announced today, featuring former Stars player and general manager Joe Nieuwendyk and longtime Stars play-by-play broadcaster Ralph Strangis. The recent history of Dallas Stars president Brad Alberts' eyeball emoji tweets. Current NHL restricted free agents headed towards arbitration, plus lots of NHL News & Notes

<https://youtu.be/Q28JiLwH1dk>

Dallas Morning News

Dallas Stars to induct Joe Nieuwendyk, Ralph Strangis into team's Hall of Fame

By Lia Assimakopoulos
July 23, 2025

The Stars announced their 2025 Dallas Stars Hall of Fame class Wednesday, and it includes two legendary figures from the 1999 Stanley Cup run.

Former player and general manager Joe Nieuwendyk and former broadcaster Ralph Strangis are this year's inductees into the Hall of Fame. They will be formally inducted during the team's Hall of Fame Weekend Nov. 14-16.

Nieuwendyk and Strangis will be honored at the team's Hall of Fame induction gala Nov. 16 at Gilley's Dallas South Side Ballroom. They will also be honored with a ceremonial puck drop at the Stars' home game vs. the Philadelphia Flyers on Nov. 15.

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"On behalf of the Committee, I'd like to officially welcome Joe Nieuwendyk and Ralph Strangis into the 2025 class of the Dallas Stars Hall of Fame," Dallas Stars president and CEO Brad Alberts said in a statement. "Joe is not only one of the best players to ever wear a Dallas Stars sweater, but one of the greats in NHL history. He was known as a consistent playoff performer during his time with the club and is the only Conn Smythe trophy-winner in franchise history.

"Moving down to Texas with the franchise in 1993, Ralph quickly endeared himself to our fanbase and was a huge part of the fabric of our team for decades. His voice is connected to many of our club's biggest moments and his passion for the game has been invaluable in growing hockey in the Lone Star State."

Nieuwendyk spent seven seasons in Dallas from 1995-2002 and is most well-known for winning the Conn Smythe Trophy in the Stars' 1999 run to the Stanley Cup title. He recorded 11 goals and 10 assists in the 1999 playoff run, and six of his playoff goals were game-winners.

Nieuwendyk played more than 1,200 NHL games for five teams, totaling 1,126 points. He recorded 340 points in 442 regular-season games for the Stars, helping elevate the team to prominence in the late 1990s and early 2000s.

The centerman was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in 2011, and in 2017 he was named one of the 100 Greatest NHL Players of all time.

He went on to become the team's general manager in the early 2010s, when he and his staff were responsible for the team's resurgence by bringing in players such as John Klingberg, Jamie Oleksiak, Radek Faksa and Esa Lindell.

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Strangis spent 25 years with the Stars organization (22 in Dallas and three in Minnesota before the team relocated) as the longest tenured play-by-play broadcaster in team history.

He is the voice of many iconic calls in franchise history, including the 1999 Stanley Cup victory, Mike Modano's U.S.-born goals record and Brenden Morrow's "Cinco De Morrow" goal in the fourth overtime to beat the Sharks.

He and color commentator Daryl "Razor" Reaugh formed one of the top broadcasting duos in the sport.

Strangis won seven Lone Star Emmy Awards while calling more than 2,200 NHL games.

Nieuwendyk, this year's player honoree, and Strangis, this year's builder honoree, make up the fourth class of the Stars' Hall of Fame. Brenden Morrow and Jim Lites were inducted in 2024. Ed Belfour and Ken Hitchcock were inducted in 2023. Derian Hatcher and Bob Gainey were inducted in 2022.

Any player who had his number retired by the Stars received immediate inclusion into the Dallas Stars Hall of Fame. Similarly, all owners of the club received automatic induction as builders.

Dallas Morning News

Former Stars HC Pete DeBoer named as Team Canada assistant for 2026 Winter Olympic Games

By Kellen Bulger
July 22, 2025

Former Dallas Stars head coach Pete DeBoer is wasting no time in joining another hockey team's coaching staff.

On Monday morning, Team Canada announced its full staff that will serve under current Tampa Bay Lightning head coach Jon Cooper for the upcoming 2026 Winter Olympic Games, and the former Stars coach was included.

DeBoer was fired from his position as the Stars' head coach after the team lost for the third consecutive season in the NHL's Western Conference Finals. DeBoer was replaced by Glen Gulutzan as the Stars' head coach.

The 57-year-old was born and raised in Ontario, Canada. DeBoer will be joined by current Vegas Golden Knights head coach Bruce Cassidy, Philadelphia Flyers head coach Rick Tocchet and Misha Donskov as assistant coaches.

Team Canada begins its men's Olympic hockey tournament against Czechia on Feb. 12 at 10:40 a.m. ET.

Stars Thoughts

Wednesday Dallas Stars Roundup: Eyeball-Induced Speculation, Jersey Rankings, and Joe Nieuwendyk and Ralph Strangis to Enter Dallas Stars Hall of Fame

By Robert Tiffin
July 23, 2025

It is Wednesday, July 23, and if you fell asleep before midnight like I did, you missed Brad Alberts' latest little pre-announcement tease:

[https://substackcdn.com/image/fetch/\\$s !ttGo!.f_auto,q_auto:good,fl_progressive:steep/https%3A%2F%2Fsubstack-post-media.s3.amazonaws.com%2Fpublic%2Fimages%2Fdae580be-9191-49a7-bd4b-3b6fe5a0b9e0_1014x262.png](https://substackcdn.com/image/fetch/$s !ttGo!.f_auto,q_auto:good,fl_progressive:steep/https%3A%2F%2Fsubstack-post-media.s3.amazonaws.com%2Fpublic%2Fimages%2Fdae580be-9191-49a7-bd4b-3b6fe5a0b9e0_1014x262.png)

In the past, Alberts has posted this sort of thing as a precursor to Jim Nill's GM of the Year award, Jake Oettinger's extension, and other sorts of positive organizational news. This time around, the brief speculation centered on a few things, none of which turned out to be the right answer.

A new third jersey
A contract extension for Jason Robertson
An outdoor game
A contract extension for Thomas Harley

Well, always take the field, I guess:

[https://substackcdn.com/image/fetch/\\$s !sDC5!.f_auto,q_auto:good,fl_progressive:steep/https%3A%2F%2Fsubstack-post-media.s3.amazonaws.com%2Fpublic%2Fimages%2F9cc0be66-b520-499f-bc48-92ad31124dac_1196x1252.png](https://substackcdn.com/image/fetch/$s !sDC5!.f_auto,q_auto:good,fl_progressive:steep/https%3A%2F%2Fsubstack-post-media.s3.amazonaws.com%2Fpublic%2Fimages%2F9cc0be66-b520-499f-bc48-92ad31124dac_1196x1252.png)

More on these two in a moment, but given the sweater talk, I wanted to touch on that, first.

Speaking of Jerseys (Sweaters)

When it comes to jerseys, I'm a bit of a sucker for integrating classic design elements with avant-garde swings. So, as much as I love the aesthetic going on in fan-designed ideas like this one, which integrates striping from the mid-nineties Stars uniforms with the Winter Classic crest, I tend to like being surprised even more.

That's why the blackout sweaters were so cool, when they happened. After the drudgery of the college basketball uniforms of 2007-2013, I didn't expect the Stars to go back to a black uniform. But they did, and it was awesome.

Whatever comes next, whenever it does—remember, nothing has been officially announced yet—here's hoping it surprises in a good way, as has been the trend for Stars uniforms in the last decade-plus.

And, because you didn't ask for it, here are my Official Top-Five Jersey (sweater) Rankings:

1. Winter Classics. Everything in 2020 after this game was unfortunate, but these nailed the classic aesthetic of the Winter, uh, Classic perfectly, and they still pop out when you see them at the rink. With their historical ties to Texas hockey and clean, distinctive design, they accomplished exactly what special event jerseys should, while rising far above expectations. These are so well-designed that they could easily be a primary sweater, though that ship has probably sailed, for now. The ribbed shoulder yoke, felt numbers and letters, and the subtle silver glitter on the Texas arm patch are perfect complements to a really wonderful design, complete with the Outlaw font (or whatever it's called) used for the lettering.
2. 1999-2007 Star Design. The logo/wordmark was growing dated long before Reebok said they didn't know how to do corners on sleeves in 2007, but the sweater, in its time, was perfection. There are some good memories associated with those guys, too.
3. 1995-1999 Home Whites. The darker green bordering the black yoke and waist stripe may not have popped on TV, but it really is a beautiful combination that the green numbers and lettering set off wonderfully. I'd love to see some of these elements return in some fashion like they did for the Reverse Retro in 2022. Also, every year the league doesn't return to wearing white sweaters at home is a travesty.
4. 2013-2017 Home Greens. The Stars returned to the element that set them apart in a league full of primary colors: green. Specifically, Victory Green. The weird intersection of the two bottom star points and the corners of the black underside of the "D" logo still messes with me when I think about it too hard, but you could do much, much worse than to take the best elements of the Blackhawks sweater as a foundation for a return to your roots. Sadly, the Adidas collar got unnecessarily embiggened from the Reeboks with what friends of mine still call a "Pilgrim Collar" in 2017, but these are still very nice. The primary logo could use a small refresh after 12 years, for my money, but they really don't need much else. Despite my nitpicks, these are very, very good.
5. The Blackouts. As we've said before, these are the perfect sort of adventurous third jerseys. The striping kept them connected to the primaries, while the crazy Skyline Green and alternate logo on the chest set them apart. Black uniforms can easily become boring, but these never stopped doing exactly what a third jersey is supposed to do.

A Word on Ralph Strangis and Joe Nieuwendyk

We'll have much more to say when the Stars' Hall of Fame Gala approaches in November, but for now, it's worth pointing out how utterly deserving both these individuals are of recognition by the franchise.

When he was acquired by Dallas in 1995, Joe Nieuwendyk was the much-needed second-line center behind Mike Modano. After a prolonged contract holdout with Calgary that lingered into December—a real holdout, not the prolonged RFA situations of today's CBA—the Stars finally sent Jarome Iginla and Corey Millen to the Flames in exchange for the player who would end up winning a Conn Smythe Trophy in 1999.

Nieuwendyk, lest you forget, was a big-time scorer. Much as the media didn't love his holdout back in the day, remember that Nieuwendyk was someone who had twice scored 51 goals for

the Flames, led the team in scoring more times than that, and had smashed Calgary franchise records as a young player.

Oh, and he was also an integral part of Calgary's only (still) Cup-winning team in 1989-90—a loaded squad with players like Joey Mullen, Mike Vernon, Doug Gilmour, Gary Roberts, and the player who led the team in playoff scoring: defenseman Al MacInnis, who scored an almost unfathomable 31 points in 22 playoff games.

For Dallas, Nieuwendyk's acquisition was something Stars fans have seen multiple times over the years: a new owner, ready to spend, looking for an impact player from a team in a tough spot. Nieuwendyk was that player, and Tom Hicks got him—though I hear that Iginla kid turned out to do pretty well, too.

https://youtu.be/B-JKO9GN_eU

Nieuwendyk's regular seasons were hampered by injury, but his playoff scoring numbers more than made up for that. His 0.64 points-per-game average in the playoffs surpassed even clutch players like Joe Pavelski in Dallas history, but even if he had missed every single Stars playoff game after 1999, fans would still love him, as they should.

Nieuwendyk was traded to New Jersey in 2002 in what I recall to be a heartbreaking deal at the time, with Dallas sending Nieuwendyk and Jamie Langenbrunner to New Jersey for Jason Arnott (who scarred Stars fans forever with his Cup-clinching overtime goal in 2000), a first-round pick¹, and Randy McKay. I remember vividly talking with Brian, my friend's dad and also my first inline hockey coach, about that trade when it happened. His words: "Joe Nieuwendyk is one of the most underrated players in the NHL."

<https://youtu.be/obA8kAjRaNQ>

Nieuwendyk and (especially) Langenbrunner would be a significant part of the Devils' 2003 championship, with Langenbrunner in particular leading the Devils in scoring. Arnott, meanwhile, scored quite a bit for Dallas, but his playoff production left something to be desired, with just 10 points in 21 playoff games across three postseason runs (after Dallas missed the playoffs in 2002). Two of those postseasons also saw Dallas get knocked out 4-1 in the first round by Colorado—against whom Dallas continues to seek and find endless vengeance.

Nieuwendyk's GM tenure in Dallas was a mixed one during an impossible time in franchise history, but since he's going into the Stars Hall of Fame as a player, we can talk about that another time.

Ralph Strangis, whom I'm fortunate to have gotten to know a bit in recent years, is the voice the vast majority of Stars fans grew up listening to. His earnest style and creative calls were perfectly complemented by Daryl Reaugh, who joined him in the booth starting in 1996. "Ralph and Razor" were frequently atop lists of best broadcasting duos in the NHL, and it was a reputation well-earned.

<https://youtu.be/v-ph6gACFrY>

To keep this focused on Strangis, one of the most enjoyable parts of his calls was how artfully he would use different intonation to communicate surprise or mirth without getting too heavy-handed. He knew when to inject a bit of extra commentary and when to do it just with his tone,

and he also knew when to leave that for his partner. He never felt the need to downplay opposing goals for the sake of pleasing home fans, calling games honestly, enthusiastically, and intelligently. It's hard to ask for much more from any broadcaster than that.

Watching a game Ralph was calling meant you got not just information about the contest, but a real feel for the game. Strangis sharpened his craft without falling into the trap of being cynical, even during the dark days of bankruptcy. And whether it was a mammoth goal in the playoffs or a late-night game on the West Coast in January, Strangis always made the game worth listening to, as well as watching.

<https://youtu.be/02b-d-6U0lo>

Strangis's departure—which he's talked about before on his Substack—was a tough one for Stars fans, coming on the heels of his final call: Jamie Benn's Art Ross night in 2015. There was apparently more going on behind the scenes that led to Strangis leaving the team, but for the many years during which he was the voice of the Stars, fans had it as good as they could have asked for.

In the years following the Cinco de Morrow goal in 2008, I used to summon up the extended highlights of that game from DallasStars.com—before the NHL forced holdouts like them and the New York Rangers to standardize their websites and make them as boring as the other teams' were. And when I say "extended highlights," I mean extended. My recollection is that the four-overtime series clincher had been carefully edited into well over 20 minutes' worth of Strangis/Reaugh narrated plays. Strangis, if memory serves, called the Evgeni Nabokov save on Brad Richards "The best save I've ever seen," and that's stuck with me—it probably still is, too.

Sadly, I can't find those highlights these days, and who knows if the video file even exists. Instead, we have a decent consolation prize: Seven minutes of Chris Cuthbert's call.

Anyway, when Ralph Strangis was in the Stars' booth, there was nobody you'd rather hear calling a big game. It was a downright pleasure to hear a game called by a broadcaster who had known the team as long as Strangis, whether you were watching it live, the next morning, or years afterward. Great work stands the test of time, and Strangis's best calls met that standard, and then some.

(And please let me know if you can find those extended highlights.)

Stars Stack

2025 Report Card: Alex Petrovic earns yet another playoff promotion

By David Castillo
July 24, 2025

One sentence summary

When replacement-level is not the insult it sounds like.

A few good stats

Cap: \$775,000 (Year 2 of 2)
GP: 5
Goals: 0
Assists: 0
Points: 0
Postseason: 17 GP — 1 goal, 1 assist — 2 points
xSPAR: N/A

Without enough games played, there's unfortunately no tracking data for Alex Petrovic. Again, stuff like GAR doesn't help as a quick and easy piece of analysis, but I think we can make a few assumptions about Petrovic here: namely that his defense will never be high level nor is it expected of him, and offense isn't what he takes an NHL or AHL shift for. No disrespect to Petrovic, though. It could be a lot worse. Cough.

Thematically appropriate highlight

https://bsky.app/profile/did:plc:eddalhfkqwmcxlg44bn4p7hg/post/3lehx2numi226?ref_src=embed

Yes, Petrovic scored a playoff goal and that's a big deal. He also laid out Adam Lowry.

<https://youtu.be/8KXVKm6YS30>

And that too was a big deal. But this is who Petrovic is if he takes an NHL shift next season. He's gonna bust his arse in the AHL like usual, whether he ends up in the NHL or not.

Grade: A (weak) B-

For the second year in a row, Petrovic earned Pete DeBoer's trust in the playoffs. Only instead of replacing Nils Lundkvist, he replaced Ilya Lyubushkin and Matt Dumba. But we'll get back to that.

I don't know where to begin, here. For the past several years, Petrovic has been a mainstay for the Texas Stars. But we're not just talking any old ham andegger. Rather, Petrovic has become the defender version of Curtis McKenzie; not just putting in a strong shift for Dallas' AHL affiliate, but taking part in the mentoring process for the prospects coming through the pipeline. Thomas Harley, Lian Bichsel — Petrovic has been actively piloting the support of Dallas' prospect development. Because of that, Petrovic deserves a lot of credit there.

It's kind of odd. I sometimes wonder how Petrovic's career might have turned out had his prime and cups of coffee come during the era of the Big Defender, rather than when small puck moving defenders were all the rage. It's not like Petrovic is a bad defender. For a player his size, he moves relatively well. Over the last two seasons, it has inexplicably earned him complete trust in the playoffs, and zero trust in the regular season.

Speaking freely, I've never been comfortable with this logic. If you trust him to play the shifts that matter the most, wouldn't it behoove you to play him when it matters least (regular season)? So that maybe he's just a little more comfortable, has a little more experience, and can maybe leverage that familiarity into chemistries with others? It was downright bizarre, and it's something I don't believe I've ever seen — literally anywhere else. This is neither to call into question Petrovic's worth, nor to tag players like Lundkvist and Lyubushkin as better options. It's simply to call Pete DeBoer's logic into question. I realize there are cap constraints, and roster gymnastics to be done at times, but that seems like kind of a big deal. At minimum, the coach and GM should be on the same page.

Could we see this once more? I doubt it. I doubt Jim Nill wants to see Lyubushkin's three million set on fire once more, and I doubt somebody like Vladislav Kolyachonok won't at least get a look. The Stars still lack mobility on the blueline. Which theoretically leaves Petrovic out of the picture.

But that's Petrovic's value in a nutshell. He doesn't need to play a full season. He doesn't need the right partner. He doesn't even need the right team. Give him a shift, and he'll give you the work. It's something that can be easily replaced...but...you'd be surprised at how many players worth twice as much end up giving you exactly that and nothing more.

Stars Stack

2025 Report Card: Esa Lindell and the curse of the Cody Ceci

By David Castillo
July 23, 2025

One sentence summary

The art of the invisible man becomes the curse of the visibly wicked.

A few good stats

Cap: \$5.25 million (Year 1 of 5)
GP: 80
Goals: 5
Assists: 21
Points: 26
Postseason: 18 GP — 1 goals, 1 assist — 2 points
xSPAR: 2.5 extra points in the standings (Rank on the team: 7th of 26)

Esa Lindell really is a throwback. He gets the puck out of the defensive zone. And that's...kind of it. However, he does it at such a high level that his shot suppression ends up looking elite, even if the tracking data is a lot less kind to his overall assessment. What was true this year was also true the year before.

Lindell is what he is at this point: doesn't generate offense. But when he's on the ice, nobody does. That's pretty handy for a defenseman.

Thematically appropriate highlight

https://bsky.app/profile/did:plc:puwdi3kzppd6ekvrtw5advlh/post/3liflroinoc2o?ref_src=embed

I couldn't find any appropriate highlights, so this section is yet again a cheat (meaning I should probably just not call it this). Nonetheless, it was nice to see Lindell get on board for his countrymen. While a lot of us went into the Four Nations Face/Off or however it was awkwardly spelled as skeptics, the skeptics quickly realized how awesome the tournament was when the players treated it like a Stanley Cup Final. Lindell, historically, has a very good wrist shot. It's part of what made his prospect profile filled with descriptions like "needs to work on his defense." Which is hilarious in retrospect. Thanks to Micah Blake McCurdy, we finally have some clarity on his shot outcomes.

Lindell doesn't score, but his shots are a lot less likely to miss. It's no longer part of his game, but that's not what Lindell is asked to do.

Grade: An (atypical) C-

Anyone who's been following me for some time knows that I struggle with Lindell's game. Part of this is just like with Jason Robertson — that the aesthetic doesn't match. Elite shutdown defenders in the modern era are varying degrees of smooth skaters, like Jacob Slavin, Jonas

Brodin, and Devon Toews. Elite shutdown defenders in the modern era are varying degrees of outlet passers. Look at Jake Sanderson, Dylan Samberg, and Chris Tanev. Some of them tend to have varying degrees of a physical element too, like Matt Roy and Brayden McNabb. Lindell, by contrast, not only looks like none of these players, but these are all skills he actively lacks.

Of course, anyone who's been following me for some time knows that I've come to embrace him — however begrudgingly. That begs the question: why the tough grade? Two words (which paradoxically act as both an excuse and a reason): Cody Ceci.

On the one hand, it is not Lindell's fault that Ceci is an extremely poor defenseman who coaches get tricked into being shoehorned into their top four wherever he goes. It's certainly not his fault that Pete DeBoer paired them together and never looked back despite Ceci posting better numbers with Thomas Harley, and Lindell posting solid numbers with Miro Heiskanen. We've seen Lindell play well even with substandard teammates, whether it was the waning years of John Klingberg, or the fleeting year(s) with Jani Hakanpää.

However, Lindell is no longer just the silent partner, or the quiet man in the corner. Dallas has wedded themselves to Lindell as one of Dallas' three best defenders. Because of that, I don't think it's unreasonable to expect more from him. This is not a defender who needs to be 'babysat.' Edmonton had the edge in high danger chances 13-5 when Lindell and Ceci were on the ice. Surely that's not all Ceci's fault.

To address this, I figured I'd look at Ceci's other defense pairs in recent years. His three most common defense partners over the last two seasons are Darnell Nurse, Brett Kulak, and Jake Walman. Keep in mind, this is Ceci and Walman on last-place San Jose. All numbers are at even-strength, adjusted for minutes. In this case, their even-strength plus/minus in the following categories: goals, shots on net, unblocked shots, shot attempts, and expected goal differential.

That's just plain radioactive. The fact that Dallas was so brutal when both defenders were on the ice is a big part of why the Stars lost the Edmonton series. You can't get outshot 2-1 every time two players to take the ice, and not expect that control of territory to add up.

Again, this is not entirely on Lindell. But we see players rise above poor teammates all the time. Just look at Wyatt Johnston and Miro Heiskanen in his first few years. Because of that, criticizing Lindell is fair game. Lindell's reputation is that of an elite shutdown defender. Yet he couldn't elevate Ceci's defective game more than Brett Kulak. Right or wrong, it's not a good look.

None of this is to say that Lindell is bad. He obviously isn't. I think what Lindell's adventure with Ceci reveals is something very specific: namely that Lindell is not a portable player. Yes, he's a top four defenseman. But he's a top four defenseman that needs a specific partner. Treating him like an anchor just because he's very good defensively feels artificial, and the outcomes reflect that. But here's the thing. What is true of Lindell is true of all players: hockey is a team sport, which makes identifying chemistries, however small, vital.

This is why I advocate for someone like Rasmus Ristolainen over Rasmus Andersson. Because Ristolainen makes sense for Harley. And, IMO, separating Harley from Heiskanen makes the most sense for the team. Bringing in Andersson would just mean another round of Lindell being asked to pick up yet another player's defensive slack. There's a reason why Lindell worked with Tanev, and it's because Lindell could finally focus on total hockey rather than defensive zone hockey. Louis Boulet's xSPAR seems to agree.

However, we're getting ahead of ourselves by lounging around in Magic Christmas Land here.

Chances are, Lindell ends up next to Nils Lundkvist — a defense pair that was fine. Nothing earth-shattering. But fine. He could also end up next to Heiskanen, with Harley running his own pair. There's no reason to think Lindell will have a year anything like the 2024-2025 season, especially when you consider the team's abrupt decline in shot quality allowed even with Heiskanen on the ice.

In addition, all of this would be remiss if we didn't give Lindell credit for what he's been put on ice for: to run the penalty kill. Over the last three seasons, Dallas is 4th on the penalty kill in shot quality allowed per 60. While I'd like to see Heiskanen and Harley take a few more PK shifts (Harley's shorthanded numbers were dynamite when Heiskanen went down, so much so that Dallas rated as a tighter defensive team on the PK with him than without¹), it's Lindell's birthright at this point, and he wears it like a badge of honor.

I know. It's a harsh grade, affected by my personal biases perhaps. But it's also a harsh game. Thankfully, Lindell has proven his ability to handle it more often than not. Perhaps a new coach will have a fresh perspective on how to maximize the Finnish blueliner.

The Hockey News

Two Stars Legends Get Hall of Fame Nod

By Taylor Newby
July 23, 2025

Two more Dallas Stars icons of the past will be inducted into the Stars Hall of Fame this season, with Stanley Cup winner Joe Nieuwendyk and long-time play-by-play voice Ralph Strangis joining the elite few to have received the honor.

Nieuwendyk spent seven seasons in Dallas after a trade from Calgary in 1995, with the pinnacle of his Stars career coming in the Stanley Cup playoff run of 1999. He scored 21 points in 23 games and was awarded the Conn Smythe Trophy for being the best player of the postseason, but also got to lift a much more important trophy afterwards. Without Nieuwendyk, Dallas may not have had what it took to get over the hump and win that lone Stanley Cup in franchise history. He is still the favorite player of many a Stars fan, and his jersey can still be seen sprinkled through the crowd on any game night.

Strangis was the only voice of the Dallas Stars for a long time, moving with the team in 1993 and calling iconic moments for 22 years in Dallas. Still to this day, it's easy to say 'Ralph and Razor' to describe the broadcasting duo for the Stars because those two voices were so synonymous with Dallas Stars hockey for so long. Strangis moved on to call more NHL action, including for the Los Angeles Kings and for national radio and some television action as well, but his podcast work has brought him right back into the thick of Stars fandom. He could be seen at games throughout the playoffs rooting on the team that he covered for so long.

Hall of Fame weekend will take place Nov. 14-16 with Nieuwendyk and Strangis getting to drop the ceremonial puck at the Philadelphia Flyers game that weekend.

The Hockey News

Former Stars Coach Joins Canadian Olympic Staff

By Taylor Newby
July 23, 2025

Team Canada released their coaching staff for the 2026 Olympics in Milan, and former Dallas Stars head coach Pete DeBoer will once again act as an assistant coach.

DeBoer just completed a stint with Team Canada for the Four Nations Face-Off in February, winning the gold medal over Team USA in overtime.

DeBoer will work under head coach Jon Cooper and alongside other assistant coaches Rick Tocchet of the Philadelphia Flyers and Bruce Cassidy of the Vegas Golden Knights. Also coming back is assistant coach Misha Donskov, who was an assistant under DeBoer for the Stars until leaving this off-season to join Hockey Canada in a permanent role.

The Stars parted ways with DeBoer after a Western Conference Final loss to the Edmonton Oilers that involved DeBoer pulling starting goaltender Jake Oettinger mere minutes into an elimination game. Dallas exited the playoffs in the Western Conference Final each of DeBoer's three seasons at the helm and will now turn to Glen Gulutzan to lead the team moving forward.

With the announcement today, Team Canada officially keeps their coaching and management the same from the Four Nations Face-Off. The management team includes Stars General Manager Jim Nill, acting as an assistant general manager.

NBC DFW

Dallas Stars putting Ralph Strangis and Joe Nieuwendyk into team's Hall of Fame

By Alexis Garcia
July 23, 2025

The Dallas Stars Hall of Fame Selection Committee announced Wednesday that Ralph Strangis and Joe Nieuwendyk would be inducted into the 2025 Dallas Stars Hall of Fame class.

Strangis and Nieuwendyk will be officially inducted during the Dallas Stars Hall of Fame Weekend, which runs from Nov. 14 to 16. Both inductees will participate in a ceremonial puck drop prior to the Dallas Stars' game against the Philadelphia Flyers on Saturday, Nov. 15, at 7 p.m.

Strangis is the longest-tenured play-by-play broadcaster in Dallas Stars franchise history. He moved with the team when it relocated from Minnesota and spent 25 years with the organization, including 22 years in Dallas.

Acquired via trade from the Calgary Flames on Dec. 19, 1995, Nieuwendyk spent nearly seven seasons with the Dallas Stars and recorded 340 points (178-162 — 340) in 442 regular-season games. After playing, Nieuwendyk served as the club's general manager from May 2009 to April 2013.

Strangis was selected as part of the Builder Category and Nieuwendyk was selected as part of the Player Category.

The Hall of Fame weekend will conclude with the fourth annual Dallas Stars Hall of Fame Induction Gala, held on Sunday, Nov. 16, at Gilley's Dallas South Side Ballroom. It will honor the inductees and feature a live concert.

Now in its fourth year, the Dallas Stars Hall of Fame seeks to recognize players and/or staff members who have positively impacted the Dallas Stars franchise in a way that cannot be overlooked.

All proceeds from the event will benefit the Dallas Stars Foundation. Tickets for the Dallas Stars Hall of Fame Induction Gala can be purchased [here](#).

WFAA

Dallas Stars announce inductees to the franchise hall of fame

By Ben Sawyers
July 23, 2025

FRISCO, Texas — A Stanley Cup champion and the voice who called it are set to join the Dallas Stars Hall of Fame.

Former center Joe Nieuwendyk and broadcaster Ralph Strangis have been named to the 2025 Hall of Fame class, the team announced Wednesday.

The team's Hall of Fame honors one Player and one Builder each year for their lasting impact on the franchise. Players are recognized for their skill, character, and contributions on the ice, while Builders—such as coaches, executives, or broadcasters—are chosen for their off-ice leadership and influence.

Both Nieuwendyk and Strangis will be honored during Hall of Fame Weekend from Nov. 14–16, culminating with an induction gala at Gilley's Dallas. The pair will also take part in a ceremonial puck drop before the Stars' home game against the Philadelphia Flyers on Nov. 15.

Nieuwendyk, acquired via trade from Calgary in 1995, was a centerpiece of the Stars' 1999 Stanley Cup run, earning the Conn Smythe Trophy as playoff MVP. He scored 40 points in 61 postseason games with Dallas and later served as the team's general manager.

"Joe is not only one of the best players to ever wear a Dallas Stars sweater, but one of the greats in NHL history," said team president Brad Alberts.

Strangis became the voice of the franchise after it moved from Minnesota, calling games for 22 seasons. Known for his iconic calls—like Brett Hull's triple-overtime Cup winner—he was a key figure in building hockey's presence in North Texas and helped shape the team's identity on and off the ice.

"Ralph quickly endeared himself to our fanbase and was a huge part of the fabric of our team for decades," Alberts said. "His voice is connected to many of our club's biggest moments and his passion for the game has been invaluable in growing hockey in the Lone Star State."

Proceeds from the gala will benefit the Dallas Stars Foundation.