

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, May 25, 2024
2024 Western Conference Final – Game 2
Dallas Stars 3, Edmonton Oilers 1
[Game Summary](#) | [Event Summary](#)
Series tied 1-1

DALLAS STARS

Stars Head Coach Pete DeBoer

On the difference between the first period and the rest of the game

"I think the first period, for whatever reason, we were tentative. We'd talked about playing with a Game 7 mindset and I think our intentions were in the right place, but we looked like we were waiting for something to happen. I thought we kind of regrouped at the end of the first and decided to get to our game. I loved the second and third, I thought we were excellent."

On the play of Jamie Benn

"He's led the way all year and in particular in the playoffs I think he's found another level for us. He's been great. Those two big kids energize him. He's been a beast out there every series we've been in. He's changed the momentum of each of the series in different ways. A couple of huge hits in the Vegas series, in the Colorado series it was a huge goal here or a big play, a big block. Then tonight just getting that line going and getting some o-zone time because I felt we spent the entire first period in our own end. That was kind of setting the tone for the other forward lines. This is how we need to play."

On the Stars' play in the third period

"Obviously getting the lead was critical. That allows you to stay above them and manage the puck and not try to push outside your comfort zone trying to score. Since Game 1 against Colorado when we blew the 3-0 lead, I think we've been really locked in on those situations. We've done a really good job."

On the play of Jake Oettinger

"Solid. If he doesn't play the way he did in the first, we're in a big hole and we might not get out of it. He was our best player tonight and he allowed us to weather the storm in the first, get our legs under us and find a way to get control of that game."

On the play of Dallas' veteran players

"Those guys are leading the way. We got big blocks down the stretch from [Miro] Heiskanen, [Ryan] Suter, [Joe] Pavelski, [Chris] Tanev, some big blocks at key times. Those guys are laying it on the line every night. They're not just producing but they're committed to do whatever they have to do to help us win."

On Dallas' defense in the third period

"That's the details that you start on in training camp and you find a way to hold each other accountable all year. It hasn't been easy. We've had some blips. We blew a big lead in the Colorado series in Game 1 and in Game 2 we almost blew a 4-0 lead. It hasn't been all perfect, but I think we've learned from those situations and we seem to be really comfortable right now when we get in those spots."

Stars Captain Jamie Benn

On the first period and Jake Oettinger's performance

"It wasn't good at all. [Edmonton] came out strong and Jake was unbelievable. We don't win that game without Jake in net."

On the team's improvement through the second and third periods

"We started playing a little better in the second. We got to our game, and once we did that, we were a little better."

On the Stars' performance once they gained the lead in the third period

"It was pretty good. We have played a lot of games up a goal or two, and we're comfortable in those situations. We did another great job of that tonight."

Stars Forward Mason Marchment

On Benn's leadership and his goal in tonight's game

"He's our leader, so when he sets that kind of pace for us, everyone wants to step over the ice and follow that. He's an unbelievable leader and person. He's easy to follow."

On the differences between the first and second period

"We weren't good enough in the first. [Jake Oettinger] stood on his head and made some massive saves and allowed us to get our feet wet after the first period. After that, we took over and started playing our game, playing low and getting pucks in. For the rest of the game, we did a great job."

Stars Defenseman Ryan Suter

On the game-winning goal and the depth of this team

"All year someone different stepped up. That's the benefit of our team – the depth guys. Pete [DeBoer] trusts everybody. We were all working for it ... It works well because you have a system that everyone knows and everyone is on top of. We all try to play the same way. That helps."

On the goaltending for both teams

"[Jake Oettinger] saved us. He kept us in that game. We didn't have a lot going. We were turning a lot of pucks over. As the game went on, we got better playing better in their end. Their goalie played great. He had some big stops."

Stars Goaltender Jake Oettinger

On staying in rhythm with the intensity of the game

"You'd rather be getting work than just sitting there and all of the sudden, you get 2-on-1 breakaways. Sometimes those even are harder – the games you get 16 shots and 16 chances compared to 40 shots. You can never pick what type of workload you're going to get, but you just stay in it and feeling good. It depends – those are even easier than the ones with not a lot of work."

On bouncing back from playoff losses

"As a whole, that's what playoffs are all about. It's not always going to go your way every night. It's just about not letting it be two nights in a row, and everyone has got to respond not just me. It's the group in front of me and the leadership from the top down that starts that and knows how to bounce back after a loss in the playoffs."

EDMONTON OILERS

Oilers Head Coach Kris Knoblauch

On tonight's loss

"Anytime that you play fairly well and have your opportunities to score and then you don't – it would've been nice to come out here up 2-0, but Dallas has a lot to say about that. The story tonight was the play of the two goaltenders. We only had one goal, but with the chances we had and the chances [Dallas] had, it could've been very high scoring. We could have come out of here with two games, but it's just one."

On dominating the shot clock in the first period but only getting one goal

"More goals would've been nice. It would have set us up easier to go on from there, but they made their plays, and we can't dictate the entire story. Our start was really good."

On pulling the goalie late in the game and Dallas' empty net goal

"It was a couple things, but it's always difficult at the end of the game [to decide] when to pull the goalie. You want to get your best players out there and have it setup, but you also don't want to have too much time pass by without getting them out there. We probably would have liked to wait just a little bit longer. I see that we had possession of the puck on the entry, and right away they change it. We probably would have liked to have waited just a little bit longer."

Oilers Captain Connor McDavid

On playing a strong first period

"It was close all game long, really. We had a good start. It was a great response there by [Connor Brown] and his whole line. It was tight."

On Dallas' defensive performance in the game

"They're a good team, and they defend well. They've been doing a good job getting in passing lanes and shooting lanes. It's two good teams, and they defend well."

Oilers Forward Connor Brown

On the shot difference between the first and second period

"They might've out changed us. They [Stars] were getting fresh guys on and rolling. Even though we had some good looks in the second, I don't think we were getting dominated at any point. They're a good team. They're going to come with good pushes this series. I thought Stuart [Skinner] was great. I thought the game could've gone either way."

On drawing few power plays in this series

"It's early on. They [Stars] check with their feet. They're a disciplined club. We could do a better job at holding onto the puck and creating some momentum, so they have to chase us around. That's usually when you get your calls."

Oilers Defenseman Mattias Ekholm

On the first period compared to the second

"I liked our start. We knew that they weren't happy with the loss in Game 1. They were going to come out hot, and we took that away from them. It was a good first, but not a great first. We had a lot of shots. In the second, we took a penalty, and it gave them some momentum. They kept coming at us, but we had our looks in the second, too. It wasn't like we were dominated or anything. Going into the third you know it was going to be one of those. It's a shot from the blue line, it's a tip – it's a greasy goal. We couldn't capitalize towards the end. That's the playoffs."

On the number of blocked shots by the Stars

"They're obviously a good shot-blocking team. We had our looks. I hit the knob with four minutes to go. It's a 2-2 game at that point if we score. I'm not say it's just that one chance, but we had our looks. It's just a matter of bearing down. We got to keep bearing down there, keep getting our nose in the paint. We're going to get a tip at some point. We're playing well enough to win, but we still have another level to our game. We got the split, so we're going home to regroup and come out hot for Game 3."