

DALLAS STARS COMMUNICATIONS

# DAILY NEWS CLIPS

**DALLAS STARS AT EDMONTON OILERS**

SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 2024



**DallasStars.com**

## **On the brink: Stars focused on “winning one road game” to force Game 7**

By Mike Heika

June 1, 2024

The Stars are facing their second elimination game of the playoffs Sunday in Edmonton. But this one feels much heavier.

Dallas had to win a Game 7 against Vegas in the First Round and did so with a very strong performance at home. They have also faced “need-to-win” games on the road against the Golden Knights in Game 3 and 4, against Colorado in Game 3 of the Second Round, and at home against Edmonton in Game 2. Overcoming adversity has sort of been the trademark of the 2023-24 Stars.

“We’ve been in this situation before,” Stars forward [Matt Duchene](#) said. “We had a Game 7 already. This team, we’re never out of it. We have a great hockey team and a lot of character in this room, and there’ll be no quit.”

The Stars have a lot they can use to gain confidence back after consecutive losses. One, they are tied with Florida for the best road record in the playoffs at 6-2. Two, DeBoer is 8-0 in Game 7s if they can win on Sunday and shift the series back to Dallas. That’s helpful, but it’s also something they probably can’t think too much about.

“Everyone knows what’s going on, but it’s just another game,” said defenseman [Miro Heiskanen](#). “There’s no panic, just go out and play our best game.”

That’s important, because their past two games have not been their best. Dallas started Game 4 with a bang, taking a 2-0 lead early and seemingly headed for a 3-1 lead in the series. However, Edmonton came roaring back, suffocating the Dallas attack and giving goalie Stuart Skinner all the scoring support he needed. That led to a run of eight unanswered goals for the Oilers across Game 4 and 5 and a 3-2 lead in the series. DeBoer said he didn’t think the Stars were that far off. He said they created some good chances and just didn’t finish. Then, the Edmonton power play cashed in twice, and that was the difference in Game 5.

“I still think that’s a winnable game,” DeBoer said. “It’s a lot closer game than it felt. I know how it felt to everyone, there was frustration there, I get that, but it’s closer than that feels.”

One of the reasons for encouragement is the strong play away from home. Dallas is 6-2 on the road vs. 4-6 at home. It averages 3.13 goals per game vs. 2.60 at home. It allows 2.13 goals against on the road vs. 2.90 at home. It puts five more shots on goal per game on the road, and maybe most importantly for the current situation, the penalty kill is night and day. The Stars are at 57.1 percent on the penalty kill at home. On the road, the kill is 92.9 percent.

DeBoer was asked if it's easier to play on the road, because you don't worry about matching the opposition and just concentrate on your game.

"I think there is something to that, for sure," he said. "And it's not just that, it's the distractions. You're in the Conference Finals, there's a lot of people in town, a lot of friends and family want tickets, you're getting pulled in a lot of different directions. On the road, you're in a bubble in the hotel, and I think all of those things come into play."

To do that, there are some technical changes that can help. Edmonton has been effective at imposing its will, and Dallas needs to change that. The Stars would like to control the puck more, get it deep, and keep it in the offensive end of the ice. If it can do that, it will create more pressure on Skinner and also keep Connor McDavid and Leon Draisaitl from buzzing around the ice.

"We didn't set it up well enough in the O-zone," Duchene said after Game 5. "Give them credit. They're doing a good job. They blocked a lot of shots tonight, but we have to be better. We just have to trust ourselves and go after them. I think we've been a bit tentative at times. Obviously, they have some world-class talent and we can go after them a little more and trust our game." If they do, then momentum can surely change.

"We haven't had a full game yet where we have been happy with how we have played," said [Sam Steel](#).

So the task can be pretty simple.

"We're concentrating on winning one road game," DeBoer said. "We've been the best road team in the league all year and the best road team in the playoffs, so you have to go and win one road game."

DallasStars.com

## Game Day Guide: Stars at Oilers

By Stars Staff

June 2, 2024

**Western Conference Final:** [Game 6](#)

**When:** [Sunday, June 2 at 7:00 PM CT](#)

**Where:** [Rogers Place](#)

**TV:** [TNT](#), [truTV](#), [MAX](#)

**Radio:** [The Ticket 96.7-FM, 1310-AM](#)

**Live Stats:** [NHL Game Center](#)

**Watch Party:** [American Airlines Center](#)

|                     | Dallas Stars      | Edmonton Oilers   |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Record</b>       | 10-8 (6-2 Away)   | 11-6 (5-3 Home)   |
| <b>Power Play</b>   | 21.4% (9-for-42)  | 34.7% (17-for-49) |
| <b>Penalty Kill</b> | 71.4% (25-for-35) | 93.5% (43-for-46) |

### Five Points 5

- The Stars face the Edmonton Oilers for Game 6 of the 2024 Western Conference Final Friday night at Rogers Place. This series marks the ninth time the clubs have met in the playoffs in franchise history and the seventh time since the Stars relocated to Dallas in 1993.
- The Stars trail the Oilers, 3-2, through the first five games of the 2024 Western Conference Final. The Stars have gone 0-for-11 (0.0%) on the power play and 7-for-9 (77.8%) on the penalty kill.
- Captain [Jamie Benn](#) leads Stars skaters with 7 points (1-6—7) in the Western Conference Final. Benn leads the club with 11 assists and ranks fourth on the club with 15 points (4-11—15) in the 2024 Stanley Cup Playoffs, and he leads playoff faceoff leaders (skater takes >15% of draws) with a 62.3% faceoff win percentage (109-for-175).
- Forward [Logan Stankoven](#) tallied a point (0-1—1) in Game 5 against Edmonton. He leads league rookies with three goals and eight points (3-5—8) in the playoffs.
- Defenseman [Thomas Harley](#) recorded a point (0-1—1) on Friday night and has points (0-2—2) in consecutive games. He ranks second on the club and third in the league with 44 blocked shots, and he leads league defensemen with 14 takeaways in the postseason.

### Records vs Edmonton

#### All-time regular-season

79-48-23 Overall | 45-20-11 Home | 34-28-12 Road

#### All-time postseason

6-2 Series | 29-18 Overall | 15-10 Home | 14-8 Road

### Players To Watch

Forward [Wyatt Johnston](#) scored the Stars' lone goal (1-0—1) in Game 5 against Edmonton on Friday night, becoming the fifth active player to score 10 goals in a playoff year at age 21 or younger. He has recorded goals in three consecutive games (3-0—3) and points in four consecutive games (3-2—5), sharing the lead among Stars skaters with three goals and ranking

second with five points (3-2—5) in the 2024 Western Conference Final. Johnston leads the team and ranks second in the league with 10 goals and shares the team lead with 16 points (10-6—16) in the 2024 postseason

**NHL.com**

## **Oilers feel relaxed heading into Game 6 against Stars, McDavid says**

By Nick Cotsonika

June 2, 2024

**EDMONTON** -- [Connor McDavid](#) walked into the dressing room Sunday morning and cut through a crowd of reporters waiting in front of his locker.

The Edmonton Oilers can make the Stanley Cup Final for the first time since 2006 with a win in Game 6 of the Western Conference Final against the Dallas Stars at Rogers Place on Sunday (8 p.m. ET; TNT, truTV, MAX, SN, TVAS).

But the Oilers captain acted as if this were, say, a Tuesday in November.

"Everybody knows what's at stake, obviously," McDavid said. "But we're preparing like a normal game day. Things feel pretty regular around here."

McDavid leads the Stanley Cup Playoffs with 29 points (four goals, 25 assists) in 17 games, and he leads Edmonton in the conference final with eight points (two goals, six assists) in five games. The Stars took a 2-0 lead in the first period of Game 4 and had a chance to take a 3-1 lead in the best-of-7 series, but the Oilers have outscored them 8-1 since and can eliminate Dallas on Sunday.

"We've just been playing our best hockey," McDavid said. "We've been forechecking well. We haven't been giving up too much, which is good. They're a really good rush team. We've been doing a great job of limiting that, of limiting their chances as a whole. So, yeah, just been playing good hockey."

Edmonton has made key adjustments.

"Dallas plays a little bit of a different game," McDavid said. "They play maybe a little bit of a longer game than we've seen just in terms of stretching wingers out high. They rim a lot of pucks. They punt a lot of pucks out into the neutral zone, so we've got to adapt to that. I thought early on in the series they were maybe catching us maybe in between and getting some looks off the rush, but since then, I think we've done a good job of understanding what they're trying to do and limiting that."

McDavid said he isn't projecting confidence or setting an example by sticking to the routine. It's business as usual.

"Honestly, as a leader in the room or anyone that's part of the leadership group, you're always kind of taking the temperature of the room and seeing what the vibe is, and honestly, it does feel just like a regular game day," McDavid said. "If there was any sense of nerves or anxieties, maybe you would say something. But I'm not sensing anything."

The atmosphere should be awesome for Game 6.

After reaching the Cup Final in 2006, the Oilers lost to the Carolina Hurricanes in seven games. Then they missed the playoffs for 10 straight seasons.

Since 2016-17, McDavid's second season in the NHL, they have made the playoffs six times in eight seasons, including the past five. They reached the conference final in 2022 but got swept by the Colorado Avalanche.

Now they have a chance to win the conference final at home.

"It's exciting," McDavid said. "We love playing in front of our fans. Yeah, we're excited for the opportunity to bring them a little joy."

**NHL.com**

## **Panthers to play Stars or Oilers in Stanley Cup Final**

By David Satriano

June 2, 2024

The Florida Panthers will play the Dallas Stars or the Edmonton Oilers in the Stanley Cup Final. The Panthers advanced to the Cup Final for the second straight season by eliminating the New York Rangers in the Eastern Conference Final with a 2-1 win in Game 6 at Amerant Bank Arena in Sunrise, Florida, on Saturday. They also defeated the Tampa Bay Lightning in five games in the first round and advanced to the conference final with a six-game series win against the Boston Bruins.

Florida (52-24-6), which is the No. 1 seed in the Atlantic Division, would host Edmonton (49-27-6), but open on the road against Dallas (52-21-9), the top seed in the Western Conference. The Oilers lead that series 3-2 with Game 6 at Rogers Place in Edmonton on Sunday (8 p.m. ET; TNT, truTV, MAX, SN, TVAS).

"I think there's a lot of New York Rangers in both these teams," said Florida coach Paul Maurice. "Like, the brilliant speed and dynamic off the rush. That would be our sense, that the Boston Bruins series to the New York Rangers series is completely different. This would be more akin to what we've seen in our last series. We think we've seen three completely different styles in some ways."

The Panthers are 0-2 in the Final. They lost in five games to the Vegas Golden Knights last season and were swept by the Colorado Avalanche in 1996.

Forward [Matthew Tkachuk](#) leads the Panthers in the playoffs with 19 points (five goals, 14 assists), and forward [Carter Verhaeghe](#) (nine goals, eight assists) and center [Aleksander Barkov](#) (six goals, 11 assists) each has 17 points. Forward [Sam Reinhart](#) has 12 points (eight goals, four assists).

Goalie [Sergei Bobrovsky](#) has started every game, going 12-5 with a 2.20 goals-against average and .908 save percentage. Backup [Anthony Stolarz](#) has not played in the playoffs.

Dallas won the first round against the Golden Knights in seven games and defeated the Avalanche in six games in the second round. The Stars are looking to advance to the Cup final for the fourth time since relocating from Minnesota for the 1993-94 season and first time since 2020, when they lost to the Tampa Bay Lightning in six games. Dallas won the Stanley Cup in 1999, defeating the Buffalo Sabres in six games in the Final.

Edmonton defeated the Los Angeles Kings in five games in the first round and the Vancouver Canucks in seven games in the second round. The Oilers last advanced to the Cup Final in 2006,



losing to the Carolina Hurricanes in seven games. Edmonton has won the Stanley Cup five times, the last coming in 1990.

"We see them play, so we see that they're both unreal teams, unbelievable teams, really good players on both teams," said Barkov. "I'm not going to go into details about the teams right now, but, for sure, either of those teams you're going to be [playing] against is going to be a very tough matchup. So, obviously, rest right now, recover and then wait for the opponent and then get back to work."

Florida was 2-0-0 against Dallas this season, winning 5-4 at home on Dec. 6 and 4-3 on the road on March 12. Barkov had five points (three goals, two assists), and Reinhart and forward [Evan Rodrigues](#) each had two goals and two assists. Bobrovsky was 2-0-0 with a 3.50 GAA and .889 save percentage.

For Dallas, center [Wyatt Johnston](#) and forward [Mason Marchment](#) each had three points (one goal, two assists) against the Panthers in the regular season. Forwards [Jason Robertson](#) and [Joe Pavelski](#) and defenseman [Thomas Harley](#) each had a goal and an assist. Goalie [Jake Oettinger](#) started each game, going 0-2-0 with a 4.67 GAA and .852 save percentage. The Panthers were 2-0-0 against the Oilers, winning 5-3 at home on Nov. 20 and 5-1 on the road on Dec. 16. Verhaeghe had five points (three goals, two assists), center [Sam Bennett](#) had four points (two goals, two assists) and center [Kevin Stenlund](#) had three points (one goal, two assists). Bobrovsky was 2-0-0 with a 2.00 GAA and .941 save percentage.

For Edmonton, center [Connor McDavid](#) had three points (two goals, one assist) against the Panthers in the regular season. Forwards [Zach Hyman](#) and [Evander Kane](#) each had one goal. Starting goalie [Stuart Skinner](#) did not play against the Panthers in the regular season. Backup [Calvin Pickard](#) started each game, going 0-2-0 with a 4.59 GAA and .873 save percentage.

"Two really good teams," Bennett said of Dallas and Edmonton. "I think the final four were the four best teams. So now it's going to be another challenge, but we're ready for it."

## **The Dallas Morning News**

### **Mavrik Bourque in, Ty Dellandrea out for Dallas Stars in must-win Game 6 vs. Edmonton**

By SportsDay Staff

June 2, 2024

Pete DeBoer is making some adjustments ahead of a win-or-go-home Game 6 in Edmonton.

Mavrik Bourque will be making his NHL playoff debut Sunday night for the Dallas Stars, replacing forward Ty Dellandrea in the lineup against the Oilers. Trailing the series 3-2, the Stars need a victory to force a Game 7 back in Dallas.

Bourque, the MVP of the AHL, had a banner year for the Stars' AHL affiliate, amassing 77 points in 71 games this season, which earned him the AHL's John B. Sollenberger Trophy as the league's scoring champion.

Bourque made his NHL debut on Apr. 6 for the Dallas Stars in their 3-2 loss to the Chicago Blackhawks. He logged two shots in 10:56 minutes of ice time.

He was recalled earlier this postseason in the opening series against Vegas, but never saw the ice.

## The Dallas Morning News

### With backs against the wall, Stars keep faith in road ability entering Game 6 in Edmonton

By Calvin Watkins

June 2, 2024

The Stars' season is best described as the weather conditions on Saturday: stormy.

It's a season on the brink.

And things don't seem to be getting better.

On Friday night, coach Pete DeBoer got snippy when a reporter asked about lifeless play. The power play is nonexistent. The offense overall is also struggling.

This Stars team, a group with a Western Conference-best 113 points, must save its season on the road. Dallas will visit Edmonton for Game 6 Sunday night down 3-2 in the conference final series.

It's the third time in Edmonton's history it has gone into a Game 6 with the series lead. The Oilers have won both times.

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"Yeah, for us, we have to be a little desperate, we know the situation," defenseman Miro Heiskanen said. "We have to win that game and I hope we can get our best game tomorrow and get it back here."

Related: Stars coach Pete DeBoer seeks 'redo' after reaction to tough Game 5 loss vs. Oilers  
The Stars have history on their side, too. In the 1999 Stanley Cup playoffs, Dallas trailed Colorado, 3-2, heading into a Game 6 in Denver. Dallas not only forced a Game 7; it won the franchise's only Stanley Cup.

To repeat that history, the Stars must find a way to produce at Rogers Place to force a Game 7 at home. DeBoer pointed out Saturday, before his team departed Love Field for Edmonton with rain and hail coming down, his team produced the best road record in the NHL.

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Dallas tied with Florida for the most regular-season road victories (26) and has six road wins in the Stanley Cup playoffs, which includes a Game 6 double-overtime series clincher in a semifinal series at Colorado. In the opening round against Vegas, the Stars rallied to tie the series at 2-2 with consecutive road victories.

“We’ve put in a lot of work this year to get our game to a spot where home or on the road we can come in and be confident,” Stars center Sam Steel said, “and play a game that we don’t beat ourselves, especially on the road. We’re confident in our road record.”

Related: In back-and-forth series, Stars are now the team looking for a lifeline in Game 6. Scoring on the power play would help. Dallas is 0 for 11 on the power play in this series and Edmonton, which had its own struggles on the power play (0 for 6 going into Game 5), scored its first two goals Friday night on special teams.

The Stars’ offense is stagnant at times and it could be attributed to what the Oilers have done against them.

“I’m not sure we didn’t put in a full 60 minutes,” Steel said. “I think they did and that was the difference. Obviously small little details on the penalty kill and whatnot. We can definitely be better.”

The season isn’t over but after Friday night’s 3-1 loss in Game 5, it’s feeling like things are close to ending.

The good thing for the Stars, they’re going on the road to a place where they’ve seen success.

“No panic or anything,” Heiskanen said. “Just go out there and play our best game.”

## The Hockey News

### Long Time Coming: Three Stars Vets Shooting for First Stanley Cup

By Andre Leal

June 2, 2024

There is a strong veteran leadership group in Dallas, highlighted by three players who have never won a Stanley Cup.

The three players in question are Ryan Suter, Joe Pavelski and captain Jamie Benn. Despite combining for more than 4,300 NHL games played (regular season and playoffs), none of them know what it's like to hoist the Cup above their heads.

Here's a look at the NHL journeys for Suter, Benn and Pavelski:

#### Ryan Suter, D

The 39-year-old defenseman leads all active NHL D-men in games played with 1,444 regular-season appearances. However, for most of his career, there hasn't been much success in the post-season.

In the first 17 seasons of Suter's career, the furthest he travelled in the NHL playoffs was to Game 6 of the second round. He did it twice with the team that drafted him seventh overall in 2003, the [Nashville Predators](#), when he saw back-to-back second-round exits in 2011 and 2012.

After that, Suter and former teammate Zach Parise both signed contracts with the [Minnesota Wild](#) with a term of 13 years and an annual cap hit of \$7.5 million. With the Wild, along with a handful of first-round exits, Suter experienced two defeats in the second round in consecutive years again. On both occasions, it was to the mighty [Chicago Blackhawks](#) in 2014 and 2015. The Blackhawks went on to win the Stanley Cup in 2015.

Later, the Wild would buy out Suter and Parise and they became free agents. Then, the Stars signed Suter to a four-year deal at an annual value of \$3.65 million. Since then the native of Madison, Wis., has reached levels he'd never previously seen in the playoffs. Last season, the Stars lost in six games in the Western Conference final to the eventual Cup winners, the [Vegas Golden Knights](#). Suter had nine assists in 19 games in those playoffs.

As the Stars battle the Oilers in the Western Conference final this spring, it might be Suter's best – and last – chance to hoist the Stanley Cup.

### **Jamie Benn, LW**

Benn was picked 129th in the 2007 NHL draft and he's been a Star for life. Not only has he been a career-long member of the Stars for 15 seasons, he's served as captain for the past 10 years. Throughout that time, Benn has had some respectable playoff runs, but none longer than the one in 2020. Dallas was able to push all the way to the Stanley Cup final, but unfortunately for Benn and his teammates, they lost that series in six games to the [Tampa Bay Lightning](#). That was the first time that the club made an appearance in the Cup final since 2000.

While Benn is not a Stanley Cup champion, he still has accomplished some impressive achievements. He won the WHL title with the Kelowna Rockets in 2009, leading the team in goals that season. Later that year he won a gold medal for Canada at the World Junior Championship, scoring six points in six games. After turning pro, he won another gold medal for Canada, this time at the 2014 Olympics. Just one year later, Benn bagged himself the Art Ross Trophy with a league-leading 87 points, beating out Alexander Ovechkin and Sidney Crosby, pretty impressive.

While these are all great accomplishments, Benn would be the first to say that he wants that Cup more than anything else.

### **Joe Pavelski, C**

Of all the Cup-less veterans out there, Pavelski may have the most compelling story. Selected 205th overall in the seventh round of the 2003 draft, Pavelski is due for a Stanley Cup.

The native of Plover, Wis., is second among active NHLers for most playoff appearances, right behind the Oilers Corey Perry. But, he does lead active players in playoff goals with 74. Many of his opportunities come from right in front of the net, where he puts his crafty deflecting ability to the test.

In his entire career, the 39-year-old has only missed the playoffs twice. Pavelski is known for his time in San Jose with the Sharks, spending 13 of his 18 NHL seasons there. In that span between 2007 and 2019, the Sharks were a force to be reckoned with. On three occasions they fell short in the Western Conference final, and in 2016 they made it to the Cup final. However, Crosby and the [Pittsburgh Penguins](#) stood in the way and took the Cup in Game 6.

But that wouldn't be the last time Pavelski would experience a Stanley Cup final. In 2019, longtime GM of the Stars, Jim Nill, signed Pavelski to a three-year, \$21-million deal. Since then, he got another taste of what could've been his first Cup in 2020, but fell short to the Lightning.