

POSTGAME QUOTES

D A L L A S S T A R S C O M M U N I C A T I O N S

Friday, Jan. 12, 2024

Dallas Stars 3, Nashville Predators 6

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DALLAS STARS

Stars Head Coach Pete DeBoer

On his team's performance

"I loved our start. We took a bad penalty in the first period and lost momentum. Then, Nashville for the rest of the night pushed us to the outside. We didn't get to the inside at all. We didn't get pucks or bodies into the scoring areas. We played a soft perimeter game for the rest of the night."

On the lack of net-front presence

"You have to recognize that you're getting pushed out physically and stick your nose back in there. We're usually pretty good at that but tonight we didn't get there nearly enough."

Stars Goaltender Jake Oettinger

On returning after injury

"I have to get back in there. It was two good teams, and it was a close game. There were things I could definitely be better at and there were some good things I did. I have to move on and take the good and learn from the bad."

On being out of the lineup for an extended time

"I felt like I missed a whole season. It sucks. Anyone who's missed time during the season knows how that feels. I'm thankful for our physical therapist, Nick [Andreas]. Without him I wouldn't have gotten back as fast as I did. I wouldn't feel as confident as I do right now in my body. I'm happy to be here right now. I feel like there's some good stuff I can take from tonight."

Stars Center Wyatt Johnston

On breaking his goal drought

"It felt good. It's always good to see them go in. Just try to build on that, try to keep it rolling."

On the team's inability to get into the hard areas

"[The Predators] did a really good job. They blocked a lot of shots and that's on us. Just getting it through and getting to those hard areas. It's the cliché everyone says, 'Get to the net,' but we didn't do a good enough job of that in the first two periods."

Dallas Defenseman Jani Hakanpää

On Nashville's defense

"They were doing a good job boxing us up, keeping us on the perimeter and blocking a lot of shots. They defended really hard and we just couldn't find ways to get pucks or bodies in there. That was the biggest thing tonight."

On areas to improve

"We could probably execute a little better on breakouts to get more pucks in behind them and forecheck them to create offense out of that. Maybe a little detail here and there. We need to sharpen up."

On preparing for Saturday's game in Chicago

"I think the guys here want to get back at it as fast as we can and show what we can do. It's going to be good for us to get one tomorrow right away and use this one as motivation to make sure we come out buzzing tomorrow."

NASVILLE PREDATORS

Nashville Head Coach Andrew Brunette

On his team's performance

"I thought we were really good. Besides the first five minutes of the game, I thought we did all things we like to do. I don't think we gave them a lot of space. We nullified their rush game. In the third period, we made it a little harder on ourselves than needed, but it was a great 20-man effort. Everybody was pulling their own tonight."

On Roman Josi's performance

"He was great tonight. It's nice to see him get rewarded. He's been all over the puck and it hasn't gone in, so he was squeezing a little bit. To see him battle as hard as he did and then get rewarded with three assists tells you what kind of leader he is."

Predators Defenseman Roman Josi

On Ryan O'Reilly's impact on the team

"He's been awesome. He's been in the league for a long time, you hear a lot of things, he's played on different teams, and you hear certain things from other guys. His work ethic, the way he plays, and to have him on your team and see him firsthand, he's the hardest working guy. He's the first guy at the rink, last guy to leave. So much detail in his game, and he's scoring too so he does it all for us and he's been unbelievable."

On the season series against the Stars

"They've been hard. Every game is tough. They're one of the best teams in the league and we played really well against them this year. The first game we unfortunately lost towards the end, but I thought both games here we've played some of our best hockey. It's always easy to get up for a game against the Stars because they're such a good team and they're always hard games. I definitely like our games here."