

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, Dec. 9, 2023

Dallas Stars 1, Vegas Golden Knights 6

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DALLAS STARS

Dallas Head Coach Pete DeBoer

On the loss

"It's tough. It's a humbling loss. It's a tough scheduled game and knowing that you have to do a few things. You have to be a smarter team. You have to defend well and get the lead. We didn't do any of those things. We were soft around our net and didn't help Jake [Oettinger] out. We obviously didn't score enough. You look at the schedule, and they're waiting for you. We were a little fatigued. It's no excuse, but you've got to accomplish some of those things, and those were some of those things we talked about prior to the game. We didn't do enough of them for long enough."

On whether he's more concerned about conceding six goals or only scoring one

"They're both concerning, but the six for sure. We've seen when we've played that team, they're usually one goal games. We didn't do enough to create enough offense, and we definitely didn't do enough to around our net to defend hard enough."

Stars Forward Joe Pavelski

On the loss

"We're here, went through our meetings, felt like everyone was ready, then we go do that. To a guy, it wasn't good enough or anywhere near it. Time to regroup a little bit."

On Roope Hintz being out of the line up due to illness

"We know what Roope can do, and things get shifted around a little bit, but it's a long season. There are going to be nights like tonight where you don't have everyone in the line up. Guys can step in. We're more than capable, deep enough, so we're not going to use that as an excuse. But he's a big piece of this team. You miss the size up the middle, you miss the way lines slot up and down, the way the units are. He's a great player, so we definitely miss him, but what we did today – there's no excuse there."

Stars Defenseman Nils Lundkvist

On being back in the game

"Obviously a tough one today, tough loss for everyone and a tough game for me. I could've been a lot better than that. I felt better against Washington, but I learned from this game, and I'll be ready next time and be a lot better."

On defense overall

"Yeah, today has been tough with some tough bounces. It was a tough game for everyone. We're just going to learn from it, forget about it and be ready to play a heck of a game on Monday."

Stars Goaltender Jake Oettinger

On his recent performances

"A lot of goals going in. That's pretty much it."

On the factors influencing his recent difficulties

"Not one thing I can put my finger on. It's easy to say I haven't gotten the bounces, but I feel like I haven't, honestly. I could let in 10 goals a game for the next five games, and I'm never going to stop believing in myself that I can be a great goalie for this team. Toughest job in the world, being an NHL goalie. It doesn't always go the way you want it, even when you do stuff the right way. I wish [it was different] right now, and I'm not going to change anything about who I am or how I work or how I prepare for this job. I'm doing the right things, so it's going to come."

VEGAS GOLDEN KNIGHTS

Vegas Head Coach Bruce Cassidy

On his favorite part of the game

"Well, there was a lot to like. Our checking game was terrific. We didn't allow them a lot of time and space. Sometimes you get fortunate in the schedule. Let's face it this was their fourth game this week. They were on the road and in Florida and came back home. We've had a couple days off which was good. We had a good practice yesterday. We wanted to get the right start and we did. We checked well not to allow them to get back in the game. We started well by scoring early and getting an early lead. Those were the two biggest reasons why we were able to get two points."

On having 11 different goal scorers in two past games

"We're a good team. We use everybody, and we need everybody, but everyone doesn't have to score for us. Especially if you're a forward if you go that long without scoring, it's going to bother you. You're going to need to score sooner or later. Today was the later for Chandler Stephenson, and Paul Cotter got one late so he's happy about that. Zach Whitecloud scored. A lot of different guys can do it for us. I was happy with the guys tonight. It really helped us. Nicholas Roy had a big goal early and Whitecloud played through the neutral zone. Nic gets another one late. A lot of guys so called down in the lineup really helped us. Pavel Dorofeyev hadn't played in a long time, and it was good for him, too."

Vegas Forward Chandler Stephenson

On the best part of this road trip

"The dads being here – getting to enjoy it with them and for them to see it, day-to-day. You don't take things to seriously when they're around because they're having fun with one another. They all get along really well and have fun together. For them to experience what it's like is a dream for them, too. It's something you look forward to every year."

On having the dads to greet you after the game

"They're probably happier for us than we are. That's what it's all about, for them to be a part of it. They're having fun and watching their boys play in the NHL."