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Nuts & Bolts: A first look at the Bruins Chris Krenn (TampaBayLightning.com)

Everything you need to know ahead of Tampa Bay's matchup against the Boston Bruins on Monday.

When: Monday, November 21 - 7 p.m. ET Where: AMALIE Arena - Tampa, FL TV coverage: Bally Sports (check local listings) Radio coverage: 102.5 MHz-FM, Lightning Radio 24/7 Where to stream it: BallySports.com

Lines from Sunday's Practice (subject to change)

Forwards Brandon Hagel - Brayden Point - Nikita Kucherov Steven Stamkos - Anthony Cirelli - Nick Paul Tanner Jeannot - Tyler Motte - Mikey Eyssimont Cole Koepke - Alex Barre-Boulet - Austin Watson

Defensemen Victor Hedman - Nick Perbix Mikhail Sergachev - Erik Cernak Calvin de Haan - Darren Raddysh

Goaltenders Jonas Johansson Matt Tomkins

Monday's Matchup

The Lightning and Bruins are playing the first of four matchups this season and the first of two meetings at AMALIE Arena...The Bolts posted a 1-3-0 record vs. BOS last season, going 1-1-0 at home and 0-2-0 on the road...Nikita Kucherov (0-4—4) and Brayden Point (1-3—4) led Tampa Bay in points vs. BOS last season, while Victor Hedman (2-1—3) and Nick Paul (2-0—2) were tied for the team lead in goals...Steven Stamkos has pointed in nine of his last 12 contests vs. BOS (8-5—13)...Point has picked up points in seven of his last 11 games vs. BOS (4-6—10)...Kucherov has found the scoresheet in five of his last 10 contests vs. BOS (1-7—8)...Nine of the last 14 games between Tampa Bay and BOS have been decided by one goal...The Bolts are 5-4-1 in their last 10 home games vs. BOS and 3-6-1 in the last 10 meetings overall...The Lightning are 34-61-10 with nine ties all-time vs. BOS, including a home record of 23-24-6 with three ties...Vincent Lecavalier (20-29—49) holds the Tampa Bay franchise records for career assists and points vs. BOS, while Stamkos (26-13—39) leads the way in goals.

Injuries

Anthony Cirelli - Day-to-day Conor Sheary - Upper-body, out Andrei Vasilevskiy - Back, out

Tampa Bay Sports Item of the Game

Holiday Collection Launch

The holidays are offically here, and Tampa Bay Sports is launching a new holiday collection to kick off the season. Available in store at Amalie Arena and online at TampaBaySports.com, while supplies last.

The Road Ahead

Wednesday, November 22 vs. Winnipeg Jets Friday, November 24 at Carolina Hurricanes Monday, November 27 at Colorado Avalanche

Anthony Cirelli practices after missing Saturday's Lightning win Kristie Ackert (Tampa Bay Times)

TAMPA — Anthony Cirelli was back on the ice Sunday with the rest of the Lightning. A scratch for Saturday's win over the Oilers, Cirelli said he felt good and hoped to be back Monday against the Bruins at Amalie Arena.

"I'll talk to the training staff here in a little bit and see, but I felt pretty good in practice," Cirelli said. "I was full practice, doing pretty much everything."

As Cirelli watched the 6-4 win Saturday, he was able to appreciate how the Lightning battled back to win.

Cirelli saw a lot of things on which Tampa Bay, which has been struggling to get on track, can build when it faces the Bruins.

Saturday was the first time this season the Lightning had trailed after two periods and won. Their four goals in the third were the most they had scored in the final period all season and something they have done only four times in team history.

For a team that has had what coach Jon Cooper called "catastrophic" breakdowns in the past, it was a solid win.

"We were down there early on, but I thought we did a good job of battling back a couple of times when the lead kind of flipped a little bit," Cirelli said.

The Lightning tied the Oilers three times before pulling ahead for good in the third.

"And the guys kind of just stuck with it and kept playing the same way and really took care of it in that third period," Cirelli said. "So it was nice to see, to kind of close the game out like that."

The absence of Cirelli, who left Thursday's win at Chicago after getting hit in the hand with the puck, left a big hole in the penalty kill. Tanner Jeannot, however, stepped up and Tampa Bay killed off all five of Edmonton's power plays.

Cirelli liked what he saw but wasn't surprised.

"Unbelievable," Cirelli said. "Obviously that's a really good power play over there (Edmonton). (The penalty kill) was a huge part of the success of winning that game.

"But we have so many gamers in this room that go out there and eat pucks continuously and battle to get pucks. Obviously, (goaltender Jonas Johansson) made some huge saves (43) as well. That was just a great team effort from everyone."

That's what Cirelli hopes to see more of. With a second straight win Saturday, the Lightning have won back-to-back games only twice this season.

Cirelli sees a chance to build momentum on this short three-game homestand, capped by Wednesday's game against Winnipeg.

"Whenever you get a win and you're playing at home, you want to try to win as many games as you can, obviously, and that was a step in the right direction," Cirelli said. "Coming off of a good game as

well in Chicago ... so we're just kind of building each and every day. We're practicing hard, working on things that we've got to get better at, and just continue getting better."

Injury updates

Andrei Vasilevskiy participated in practice again. The goaltender, who had back surgery in September, is nearing his return. While the initial team timeline had been for him to return around Thanksgiving, Cooper ruled out a return during this homestand.

Vasilevskiy, who will reach the eight-week post-operation mark Thursday, said he feels good on the ice and the only milestone he has left in his rehabilitation is to be cleared by team doctors.

"I hope soon," Vasilevskiy said.

Forward Luke Glendening, who had the winning goal Saturday, missed practice, but the team said that it was a rest day.

3 things to like from the Lightning's comeback win over the Oilers Kristie Ackert (Tampa Bay Times)

TAMPA — Could the Lightning be turning the corner?

It hasn't been an easy season for them, but with their first third-period comeback win, to beat the Oilers 6-4 on Saturday at Amalie Arena the Lightning have to hope it's a step toward righting the ship. Tampa Bay (8-6-4) scored four third-period goals in rallying.

The Lightning have won two in a row for just the second time this season. They also snapped a threegame losing streak at Amalie Arena.

"We are so far away from playing good right now," said forward Nikita Kucherov, who scored twice and finished with three points.

But there were things the Lightning could be optimistic about:

They showed up in the third period

Going into the game, Tampa Bay was 0-5-2 when trailing after two periods. After a dramatically slow start in the first, spotting Edmonton a 2-0 lead, the Lightning tied the score three times from there before forward Luke Glendening put them ahead for good midway through the third.

"We get to a lead there and I think maybe earlier in the year we might find a way to get that to overtime or actually lose the game," coach Jon Cooper said. "And I just liked the way the guys dug in."

Goaltender Jonas Johansson, who allowed four goals on 43 shots, faced 15 shots in the third and made some terrific saves, but the defense was sharper in front of him as well. It pushed into the Lightning offense, which is how the team has won in the past.

Forward Tanner Jeannot, who scored his third goal of the season 3:54 into the third to tie it at 3, said the Lightning had a different mindset than they had had in past third periods.

"We've had a couple of games that we had the lead going into the third, and this one, we were going into the third down (3-2), so we knew we just wanted to work hard and play our game," Jeannot said. "We knew we have a lot of goals in this room, and we just played the right way and ... we did not turn the puck over."

Their stars shone

Kucherov kept the Lightning in the game early. He scored on a power play in the last minute of the first period. It was his 80th power-play goal, making him the fourth Lightning player to reach that mark. He joined Steven Stamkos (197), Vinny Lecavalier (112) and Marty St. Louis (96). He scored an even-strength goal in the second period for his fifth multigoal game of the season.

Kucherov has been one of the Lightning's most consistent players, but Tampa Bay also got a goal from Stamkos, who has had a slow start.

Stamkos' power-play goal 9:28 into the third tied the score, at 4, for the final time. It was his first goal in four games and his second in the last eight.

Tampa Bay's success has been built on stars such as Kucherov and Stamkos playing big roles, and on Saturday they led the way.

The secondary scoring they got from Jeannot, Glendening and defenseman Mikhail Sergachev (empty-netter at the end), who also had two assists, pushed the Lightning over the top. They even had forward Cole Koepke, who was called up to replace injured Anthony Cirelli and played in his first NHL game in nearly a year, getting an assist on the winner.

Their penalty kill was deadly

With Tampa Bay leading for the first time at 5-4 after Glendening scored, forward Austin Watson took a slashing penalty with just over five minutes to play.

Fans in Amalie Arena seemed to be holding their collective breath. The Lightning weren't.

They were 5-for-5 on the penalty kill against the Oilers, whose power play entered the game eighth best in the NHL with a 25% success rate. The Lightning went into the final penalty kill with their confidence rolling.

"We're just going to do it again," Johansson said. "We did it before in the game. So there are still those big moments that you've just got to try to battle and be our best. So we did a great job with that. The (penalty kill) was huge. So that was good."

The Lightning's penalty kill was ranked eighth in the NHL with an 85.2% success rate.

Quick strikes from Stamkos, Glendening lift Lightning past Oilers Associated Press

TAMPA — Steven Stamkos and Luke Glendening scored 39 seconds apart midway through the third period, and the Lightning rallied for a 6-4 victory over the Edmonton Oilers on Saturday night.

Stamkos tied it on his 197th career power-play goal, which tied Jarome Iginla for 21st place all-time, before Glendening put Tampa Bay up 5-4. Mikhail Sergachev added an empty-netter in the final minute.

Nikita Kucherov had two goals and an assist, and Tanner Jeannot and also scored for the Lightning. Jonas Johansson made 39 saves as Tampa Bay improved to 1-5-2 when trailing after two period.

Derek Ryan had two goals, and James Hamblin and Evan Bouchard also scored for Edmonton. Stuart Skinner stopped 18 shots. Kris Knoblauch dropped to 2-1 as Edmonton coach since replacing the fired Jay Woodcroft.

Johansson is filling in for Andrei Vasilevskiy, who hasn't played this season following back surgery. Lightning coach Jon Cooper said Vasilevskiy, who is practicing, won't play before Thanksgiving.

Edmonton star Connor McDavid took a high stick to to the face from Sergachev late in the first period but stayed in the game. McDavid was held pointless.

Hamblin, an Edmonton native, scored his first NHL goal in his 16th career game to make it 2-0 midway through the first.

Ryan opened the scoring on a short-handed goal and put the Oilers up 3-2 in the second after Kucherov scored twice. Ryan stopped a 17-game goal drought.

Oilers right wing Connor Brown returned after missing six games with a lower-body injury.

The Backcheck: Bolts rally three times, defeat Oilers Chris Krenn (TampaBayLightning.com)

The Tampa Bay Lightning came from behind on multiple occasions and skated to a second-consecutive win Saturday night in a 6-4 victory over the Edmonton Oilers at AMALIE Arena.

The Bolts moved to 8-6-4 on the season with a home record of 5-2-2, as Jonas Johansson collected his seventh win of the campaign with 39 saves on 43 shots against.

Edmonton opened the scoring just 3:39 into the first period when Derek Ryan got a partial breakaway shorthanded and managed to sneak the puck through the five hole of Johansson for his first goal of the season.

The Bolts fell into a 2-0 hole just 4:52 later with James Hamblin jumping on a loose puck and firing a shot top shelf for his first goal of the year.

Goals in the last minute of a period can be huge and Nikita Kucherov got one to make it a one-goal game just before the end of the opening frame. With the Lightning on the power play, Kucherov took a pass from Steven Stamkos at the right circle and quickly flung the puck towards the slot, where Nick Paul was crashing the net. But before the puck could get to Paul, it ricocheted off the skate of Mattias Ekholm and past Stuart Skinner with 50.6 seconds remaining in the period.

Kucherov was right back at it in the second period and got the game tied up at the 12:56 mark with his 13th goal of the season. After Mikhail Sergachev made a diving effort to poke the puck away from Evan Bouchard, Kucherov gained possession near the Tampa Bay blue line and skated downhill on a 2-on-1 with Brayden Point.

Looking to find Point, Kucherov attempted a pass that was blocked by Ekholm, but he quickly jumped on the puck and fired it through the five hole of Skinner for his second goal of the contest, evening the score with 7:05 remaining in the middle frame.

The Oilers got a quick response when Ryan answered with his second goal of the game, jumping on a loose puck in front and giving Edmonton a 3-2 lead with 4:05 to go in the second.

The Bolts entered Thursday's contest with a record of 0-5-2 in games that they trailed after two periods. But on this night, Tampa Bay would walk away with a win in regulation.

Tanner Jeannot got the game tied at three just 3:54 into the third period when Sergachev made a nice pass up the ice to Mikey Eyssimont, who sent the puck across the neutral zone for Jeannot to hammer a one-timer past Skinner for his third goal of the season.

As it looked like the Lightning were gaining control of the game, Bouchard gave the Oilers a 4-3 lead 4:10 after the Jeannot goal, stepping into the offensive zone and firing a shot from the top of the right circle that beat Johansson for his fourth goal of the year.

But, once again, the Bolts had a response as Stamkos found the back of the net with his sixth goal of the season just 1:24 after Bouchard's go-ahead goal. In one of the prettiest power-play goals of the year, Kucherov and Point exchanged multiple passes before Kucherov wired a pass across the zone to Stamkos, who rifled a one-timer past Skinner for the 197th power-play goal of his career, tying him with Jarome Iginla for 21st all-time in NHL history.

Before Edmonton had time to blink, Luke Glendening gave Tampa Bay their first lead of the game just 39 seconds after the Stamkos goal, redirecting a pass from Cole Koepke past Skinner for his second tally of the campaign. The assist was the first of Koepke's NHL career in his first game with the Bolts this season.

The Lightning got a big penalty kill against an elite Oilers power play with 5:07 remaining in the game, completing a 5-for-5 performance by the PK on the game. Sergachev put the game on ice at the 19:05 mark of the third when he sent a shot from behind his own goal line all the way into the empty net to make it 6-4 with his second goal in as many games.

Anthony Cirelli missed the game with an injury, but practiced Sunday morning and was labeled as day-to-day by head coach Jon Cooper before Saturday's game.

Bolts by the Numbers

- Mikhail Sergachev (1-2—3) recorded his sixth career three-point game and surpassed Pavel Kubina (5x) for sole possession of the third most among Lightning defensemen behind Victor Hedman (38x) and Dan Boyle (8x).
- The Lightning scored four times in the final frame en route to a 6-4 victory. The only times they have scored more goals in a third period were on December 19, 1995 (6 vs. WIN), March 30, 2018 (5 at NYR) and April 29, 2022 (5 at NYI).
- The Lightning scored three tying goals today. They've tallied more in a single contest only three other times (4 on Nov. 18, 2010, Dec. 13, 2007 & March 9, 2006).
- Mikhail Sergachev has recorded a multi-point effort in back-to-back games.
- Nikita Kucherov recorded his 71stcareer three-point game, the third-most in Lightning history behind Marty St. Louis (73) and Steven Stamkos (97).
- Cole Koepke recorded his first NHL assist and his second NHL point in his first game with the Lightning this season after being recalled from AHL Syracuse.
- Darren Raddysh recorded two assists for his first multi-point game of the season.

Bolts Quotes

- Jon Cooper: "I think maybe earlier in the year, we might find a way to only get that to overtime or actually lose the game. I just liked the way the guys dug in."
- Tanner Jeannot: "We've had a couple of games that we had the lead going into the third, and this one, we were going into the third down, so we knew we just wanted to work hard and play our game. We knew we have a lot of goals in this room and we just played the right way."
- Jon Cooper: "The season's still fairly new, but we've not been a great third period team this year. So, for us to come out and be behind and pull it out and push the way we did, it's great for our morale."

Krenner's Three Stars

- 1. Nikita Kucherov
- 2. Mikhail Sergachev

3. Luke Glendening

Lightning Look Ahead

Monday, November 20 vs. Boston Bruins, 7 p.m. ET, AMALIE Arena Wednesday, November 22 vs. Winnipeg Jets, 7 p.m. ET, AMALIE Arena Friday, November 24 at Carolina Hurricanes, 8 p.m. ET, PNC Arena

Tampa Bay Lightning overcome three different deficits, add another brick in their building process

Erik Erlendsson (Lightning Insider)

TAMPA – The early stages of any season are about building the team concept.

That's always been the case for the Tampa Bay Lightning under head coach Jon Cooper. The key in the opening stretch is to make sure the team is gaining points while sorting things out.

Because historically, the Lightning tend to have things figured out by December. In the past five seasons (not counting the 2021 COVID season), Tampa Bay's combined record in December is 52-11-3. The record in November is 39-20-6.

This season has been a bit more of a construction project with all the influx of new faces on the roster and the absence of goaltender Andrei Vasilevskiy since training camp. Heading into Tampa Bay's matinee against Edmonton on Saturday, the November record was 3-4-1, which includes two games in which the Lightning had the lead heading into the third period and failed to pick up a victory.

So coming off a victory on <u>Thursday in Chicago</u> there was an emphasis on building off that victory against the Oilers on Saturday. It wasn't pretty, but the Lightning put another brick in the building process.

Three times the Lightning erased a deficit, including down by two goals in the first period. Goals 39 seconds apart by Steven Stamkos and Luke Glendening allowed Tampa Bay to pick up a victory for the first time this season when trailing entering the third period.

After trailing 3-2 entering the third, Tampa Bay got goals from Tanner Jeannot, Mikhail Sergachev, Stamkos and Glendening to improve to 1-5-2 on the season when trailing after two periods.

"The season is still fairly new, but we've not had been a great third period team this year," Lightning head coach Jon Cooper said. "So for us to come out and be behind and pull it out and push the way we did, it's great for our morale."

Morale has been a bit of a challenge for Tampa Bay, which has been on the other side of third-period blown three times already on the young season. And while the Lightning entered Saturday a combined plus-8 goal differential in the first and second period, they were minus-8 in the third.

The Lightning outscored the Oilers 4-1 in the final period.

"It's just the mindset of the team," Jeannot said. "We've had a couple games that we had to lead going into the third and this one we were down going into the third. So we knew we just wanted to work hard and play our game. We have a lot of goals in this room (so) just play the right way don't turn the puck over and just play the right way. We were rewarded tonight."

As the Lightning dropped three consecutive games prior to Thursday, it erodes on team confidence for a team that continues to have high expectations. The key during times like that is to not let it tear down the walls.

On Thursday, they were able to stop the walls from starting to crack. On Saturday, the Lightning managed to add another brick to try and solidify the foundation.

"We just have to keep building game by game," Jeannot said. "We just want to play the game that we know we can play. Be smart with the puck, support each other out there, and just keep building on it."

The start was not the confidence building kind.

Tampa Bay had a power play at 3:27 as Mikey Eyssimont got in on the forecheck and drew a hooking call. But despite winning the faceoff to start the power play, Derek Ryan put the Oilers in front on a play where he never got a shot off. Stamkos had Ryan's stick tied up preventing the shot, but Jonas Johansson was unable to read the play and the puck slipped right under his pads at 3:39.

"You have to (put it behind you), It's a long game," Johansson said. "You never know where the game is going to go and you never know what save is going to be the next big one. So you just have to leave it behind you and move on. Keep battling."

That's exactly what Tampa Bay did. While the fell behind 2-0, Kucherov cut the deficit in half with a fortunate bounce for a power play goal that caromed off the skate of Mattias Ekholm and took a funny bounce past Stuart Skinner with 50.6 seconds left in the period.

Kucherov tied the game in the second after picking up a puck that Sergachev swiped away from Evan Bouchard into the neutral zone. Kucherov skated in and after his pass was again disrupted by Ekholm, collected the puck and was able to quickly snap it through the five-hole at 12:56.

Ryan regained the lead for Edmonton and the Lightning trailed again at 15:55 despite a much better period as a whole than the first. After allowing 19 shots on goal and looking like they were going to get caught up in a run-and-gun game, Tampa Bay reigned in the game as the second period featured just 11 combined shots, eight by Edmonton.

Then came the third period, which is Tampa Bay's second nemesis (next to overtime) on the season.

But Sergachev had another great play, stretching a pass up to Eyssimont along the left wing boards before Eyssimont zipped a pass across the ice to Jeannot for a one-timer 3:54 into the period.

"We knew we (forced the turnover) in the D-zone there," Jeannot said. "I saw (Eyssimont) going and just tried to kind of get open for him. He made a great pass over to me and I had a wide open to put it in. So it's a great play."

Ah, but the Lighting fell behind for a third time in the game during 4-on-4 play from Evan Bouchard at 8:04. With how things have gone to this point on the season, it had that deflating, game-over feeling. And the crowd had that same sense.

"We were down, we tie it, they come back, go ahead. We tie it again," Cooper said. "Then we get the lead and I think maybe earlier in the year we might find a way only to get that to overtime or actually lose the game. I just liked the way the guys dug in."

The Lightning responded in earnest. Just 1:24 after falling behind, Stamkos finished off a crisp passing play from Victor Hedman to Kucherov to Brayden Point to Kucherov over to Stamkos for a one-timer.

Then, in the middle of Paul Porter announcing the Stamkos tying goal, the Lightning jumped in front for the first time. Darren Raddysh found Cole Koepke up ice where Koepke protected the puck and turned into the zone. Koepke backhanded a pass to Glendening making a net drive. Glendening got the backhand of his blade on the puck to tipped it over Skinner for the eventual game-winning goal.

But the final test came on with 5:07 left when Austin Watson took a slashing call to give Edmonton its fifth power play chance of the game. Tampa Bay had done a tremendous job in keeping the Oilers off the scoreboard with the man advantage.

So surely this would be the time the Lightning would get burned, as they have a handful of times on the season. But the penalty kill came through and Sergachev would score a empty net goal from 198 feet away to ice the game.

"The coaches made some really good adjustments (on the PK) and the guy's gamed it out," Cooper said. "But you can't take five penalties, especially against those guys. But that one in the third they killed off late, and they really didn't even give them a sniff, which I thought was big for us. And, big for everyone on the bench. So it was a huge penalty kill."

And a microcosm of how things are going for Tampa Bay as they build through the process.

"To string a couple in a row here. Just kind of doing it the right way," Cooper said. "Was our game perfect? No. It was not. That first period was tough for us. But the last time we touched the ice was when we left the ice in Chicago a couple nights ago. So you get these late travels, and these early start games, I think it took a little bit for us to get going. But second and third, I thought we were fine."

Just another brick in the wall.

NOTES

C Anthony Cirelli missed the game due to injury after taking a puck off his left arm on Thursday in Chicago but is considered day to day. ... Tampa Bay recalled LW Cole Koepke from Syracuse before the game for his first NHL game since November 29, 2022. ... The Lightning scratched D Haydn Fleury and Cirelli. ... Nikita Kucherov scored his league-leading eighth first-period goal of the season. Tampa Bay now has 24 goals in the first frame – tied with Philadelphia for the most in the league. ... Kucherov recorded his 80th career power play goal to become the fourth player in franchise history to record 80-or-more power play goals, joining Steven Stamkos (196), Vincent Lecavalier (112) and Martin St. Louis (96). ... Kucherov recorded his 212th career multi-point game and tied Vincent Lecavalier for the third most in Lightning history behind Steven Stamkos (292) and Martin St. Louis (257). ... D Mikhail Sergachev recorded his sixth career three-point game and surpassed Pavel Kubina (5) for sole possession of the third most among Lightning defensemen behind Victor Hedman (38) and Dan Boyle (8).

MY THREE STARS

- 1. Lightning RW Nikita Kucherov Two goals, assist, six shots, 13 shot attempts
- 2. Lightning D Mikhail Sergachev Goal, two assists, four blocked shots
- 3. Oilers C Derek Ryan Two goals (one SHG), plus-2