

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

Wednesday, April 3, 2024

Dallas Stars 5, Edmonton Oilers 0

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DALLAS STARS

Stars Head Coach Pete DeBoer

On tonight's game

"It starts with our goalie. He was our best player. He was fantastic, and he was fantastic early in the game when we were a little tentative in the first 10 minutes. A couple of huge saves, momentum shifting saves in the middle of the game where it could have got a lot closer. He was our best player, and then it was a really good team effort. We were playing McDavid and Draisaitl, so you don't have to pre-scout much. We worked away from the puck really well in order to take away time and space and not give them much. They still created some stuff, but we worked at defending hard tonight."

On the play of Jake Oettinger

"He's been very good. We've bent and given up some grade-A chances, but he's dialed in right now. He looks like he's in his zone. When he gets that way, he looks like you could shoot all night and not score on him. That's a good feeling for our group."

On the Stars' play heading toward the playoffs

"This is the right time. Forget the wins and the winning streak, I like the detail in our game. I like how we're playing for the most part. That's a good thing. Everyone wants to be doing that this time of year. The wins are a by-product of that. It's a great lesson that if you take care of those things, the results take care of themselves."

Stars Forward Wyatt Johnston

On tonight's performance

"We generated some really good chances throughout the game. It seemed in the first period that it was a matter of time before we broke through a little bit more. We were playing our game and playing forward. When you're playing against a team with so many great offensive guys like Edmonton, it's a lot better if you can play in the offensive zone and make them defend."

On scoring after penalty

"You never want to take a penalty, so when you're able to get out and get a chance right away, it feels good. We had a great goal leading up to that. [Thomas Harley] made a great play to me, and he faked it and gave it to me. Just trying to get it up."

Stars Forward Radek Faksa

On setting the franchise record for consecutive wins tonight

"We didn't talk about it in the dressing room, but most of the guys saw it on social media or something like that. We didn't have it in our head because you don't want to think about stuff like that. We saw it, but we didn't think about it."

On the play of his line tonight

"The first shift was a goal for us, so we played with more confidence. If you score on the first shift, you feel good about yourself the rest of the game."

On shutting down Edmonton's power play tonight

"The forwards were forechecking really hard, and defensive lines were blocking shots, and Jake [Oettinger] was making some huge saves, so everything together working for us. I don't think we gave them much on the power play, but they have one of the best players in the world, not just on the power play. We didn't take many penalties as well, which was nice."

Stars Goaltender Jake Oettinger

On having back-to-back shutouts

"It feels good. [The Oilers] are a great team, and we've been playing really well so we just wanted to keep that going. The guys did a great job defensively. We know what they have over there, so we were smart with the puck all over the ice and didn't let them do what they wanted to. It was a great all-around effort."

On the Stars record-breaking win streak

"It's cool. There have been a lot of great teams in this organization over the years, so to have the longest win streak is pretty cool. Hopefully we can grow that as much as we can. It's a great group of guys in here. It's a special group, and hopefully we can keep building and working on our game and getting it where we want it to be for the playoffs."

EDMONTON OILERS

Oilers Head Coach Kris Knoblauch

On tonight's loss

"In the first period, we had a lot of good chances to score. It's a different game if those go in. I know there were three goal posts, two in the first period and one early in the second period. That would've made a big difference. Our defensive details, whether it was getting beat up the ice when they were bringing the puck out or us just swinging for pucks in the defensive zone, we were just making it too easy to play against."

On the Dallas win streak and facing a hot opponent

"A lot of credit to the Dallas Stars. They are playing really good hockey. They are a really good team, and you can see why they are leading the Western Conference right now and playing well. For us to come in here was a challenge for us, and we came up short. It was a good test to see how good we are, and we still have some work to do to catch up to them."

On learning from tonight's loss

"Overall, we have defended well and played pretty good hockey. There will be some reminders on what we got away from and what we can't do against good teams. Maybe we can get away with that against a team that isn't as competitive and talented as Dallas is, but against those teams like Colorado, Vegas and Dallas – there is a lot of good teams in our conference where we cannot let that happen."

Oilers Forward Ryan Nugent-Hopkins

On tonight's 5-0 loss to the Stars

"That's not the way we play hockey. We were all pretty happy with our first period. We were skating well and created a lot of chances. Then they got that second [goal], and we completely lost the script. That's not our game. That's not how you're going to win at any point of the season, but especially not with nine games left against one of the best teams in the league. It's disappointing, but we've got a couple weeks here to figure that out and make sure that doesn't happen again. Should be a good learning lesson for us."

On the Oilers' weaknesses in tonight's game

"It was all over the ice. We were getting beat back – there were 4-on-1 breakaways, 2-on-1, completely leaving [Calvin Pickard] out to dry. At the end of the day, if you keep giving them chances like that, they're going to put some in. It was all over the ice, it's just managing pucks and getting beat back into high scoring chances."

Oilers Defenseman Mattias Ekholm

On what happened in the second period

"We let the second [goal] in, and after that, it seemed like we wanted to get going on our own and try sauce passes right through our own slot. We just got away from our game, and Dallas is one of those teams when they get those opportunities, they're going to capitalize, and they did it in a big way. It's something we'll have to learn from and be a lot better."

On the message during the game

"It's hard at that point because it happened so quick. If the goals were spread out, it's a different story. But they just kept coming, and we have to do a better job of managing. Shifts after goals have to be a lot better, where you just play simple and get in on the forecheck, but we weren't able to do that tonight."