



# POSTGAME NOTES & QUOTES

## COLORADO AVALANCHE 5, CALGARY FLAMES 3

### OCTOBER 3, 2019

#### First Star

Mikko Rantanen (2g)

#### Second Star

Gabriel Landeskog (1a)

#### Third Star

Joonas Donskoi (2g)

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#### TEAM STATS

##### Avalanche

Shots: 32

Power Play: 2-6

Penalty Kill: 2-4

Faceoffs: 46%

##### Calgary

Shots: 30

Power Play: 2-4

Penalty Kill: 4-6

Faceoffs: 54%

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#### Next Practice

Friday

October 4, 2019 — 12 p.m.

Family Sports

#### TEAM NOTES

The Avalanche/Nordiques franchise is 23-10-7 (.663) all-time on Opening Night, the second-best record in the NHL behind the Tampa Bay Lightning (18-7-2, .704). The Avs are 16-5-3 (.729) in home openers since moving to Denver, which includes a 14-4-2 (.750) record at Pepsi Center. Only the Minnesota Wild (13-1-4, .833) has a higher points percentage in home openers.

Colorado is 4-0-0 in season openers under head coach Jared Bednar.

The Avalanche has won seven straight regular-season games at home dating back to the 2018-19 campaign.

The Avalanche is tied with the Columbus Blue Jackets, 9) for the most countries represented on its opening night roster: Canada – 9; United States – 4; Russia – 3; Finland – 2; Austria – 1; Czech Republic – 1; Germany – 1; France – 1; Sweden – 1.

#### INDIVIDUAL NOTES

Mikko Rantanen registered the ninth regular-season, multi-goal game of his career and first since Jan. 19, 2019 vs. Los Angeles (2g). Going back to Game 2 of last year's Stanley Cup Playoffs first-round series against Calgary, Rantanen has five straight multi-point games against the Flames (7g, 4a). He has three consecutive multi-goal outings against Calgary going back to Game 4.

Rantanen's second goal stood as the game winner, the 10th game-deciding tally of his career.

Gabriel Landeskog has points in five straight games against Calgary going back to Game 2 of last year's first-round series (1g, 4a), and Nathan MacKinnon also has points in five consecutive outings versus the Flames (3g, 6a).

MacKinnon now has 26 points (11g, 15a) in 22 games (including postseason) against the Flames.

Joonas Donskoi recorded two goals, his first in an Avalanche sweater, matching a career high for goals in a game (6x - last: Jan. 8, 2019 vs. Edmonton). He has 17 points (10g, 7a) in 16 games against Calgary, his most goals and points versus any opponent.



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Philipp Grubauer made the first Opening Night start of his career, becoming the eighth different goaltender to start a season opener for the Avalanche in 24 seasons since relocating from Quebec and the first other than Semyon Varlamov since Oct. 7, 2010 (Craig Anderson vs. Chicago).

Cale Makar made his NHL regular-season debut and finished with an assist, his first regular-season NHL point.

Conor Timmins made his NHL debut.

Andre Burakovsky registered his first point as a member of the Avalanche.

## QUOTES

### Colorado RW Mikko Rantanen

*On His Line's Chemistry:* "Like I said before, we've played so many games together so it's pretty easy. The chemistry is there even though we didn't see each other for four or five months. The game is always similar, so it was a good start."

*On The Avs' Depth:* "It's big. Every situation, like defending the lead, we have all four lines that can play, so I think it tells of our depth. You can roll four lines all of the time. Every line can score and every line can defend, so that's what winning teams have."

### Colorado D Conor Timmins

*On Getting The Win:* "That's huge. I think we just want to try and build off of that. Obviously, we got off to a really fast start last year and we want to continue to do the same this year and keep going."

*On His First NHL Game:* "I felt good. I think there was some times where I tried to do too much, kind of need to adjust to the pace and simplify my game. Overall, it was a great experience and I felt pretty good out there."

### Colorado RW Joonas Donskoi

*On His Two Goals Tonight:* "The last one was an empty net and the first one I was able to get my stick a little bit on (Colorado D Samuel) Girard's shot, so that was good but overall, I don't think I played my best game tonight even though I scored two goals. And as a team too, I think we can be better five-on-five. Great win, but there's a lot of things we can improve and that was the first game."

*On Getting Off To A Fast Start:* "It was huge. As a team, that's what we were looking for – get a first lead and then get us going, get the confidence for us right away off the bat. So, it felt good and of course, it's always nice to get some goals personally too."

### Calgary LW Matthew Tkachuk

*On Tonight's Game:* "Just too many penalties we took. It's pretty simple. It was hard to get into the groove of the game for everybody and then when your penalty killers are out there, you know, they're working their tail off so they're pretty tired. And then guys who aren't the penalty kill have a hard time getting in the game but, you know, whether you think they were penalties or not, it was kind of similar for both teams, I guess you could say, in the first two periods. The whistles seemed to go away in the third, but you can't make excuses for that. You just have to stay disciplined because that's a power play that can hurt you – and it did. It did."



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*On Even-Strength Play:* “I thought once they made it 4-2, we dominated the rest of the game. I mean Gio (Calgary D Mark Giordano) had the big goal before the third and I thought in the third period we took it to them pretty good. So, you know, to keep it 5-on-5, that’s when we’re at our best.”

#### **Calgary D Mark Giordano**

*On The Penalties:* “Yeah, what did we have – I think we had a few in the first 10 minutes that gave them some real momentum. But again, we got to try, that’s a pretty good unit over there. I thought they made good plays and they made us pay a couple times. But we got to work on our discipline, but we got a few, too, on our power play. So it was one of those things, you’d like to get that one more kill than them and it didn’t work out. I thought after the first period, maybe the second, it was pretty even. But I thought the third was our best. So, yeah, I thought the third was our best when it was five-on-five hockey.”

*On Tonight’s Game:* “The first 10 minutes in any team’s building on their opener is always going to be that atmosphere that we had tonight. They got a lot of momentum. Their top players got a lot of touches early, and when you’re on the power play a lot early, you touch the puck, you field the puck and it sort of carries on the rest of the game. But after, for sure the midway point of the game, I thought we did a better job, and really 5-on-5 I thought we were pretty good.”