POSTGAME NOTES & QUOTES
WINNIPEG JETS 7, COLORADO AVALANCHE 4
DECEMBER 31, 2019

First Star
Kyle Connor (3g)

Second Star
Nathan MacKinnon (2g)

Third Star
Connor Hellebuyck (39 svs)

TEAM STATS

Avalanche
Shots: 43
Power Play: 2-4
Penalty Kill: 0-1
Faceoffs: 54%

Winnipeg
Shots: 26
Power Play: 1-1
Penalty Kill: 2-4
Faceoffs: 46%

TEAM NOTES

The Avalanche is now 4-3-2 when playing at home on New Year’s Eve and 8-6-3 overall when playing on the last day of the calendar year.

Colorado finished the month of December with a 7-5-2 record.

Tonight was the second of four games between the Avs and the Jets this season. Colorado is now 1-1-0 against Winnipeg this season. Tonight’s loss snapped a six-game home winning streak at home versus the Jets.

The Avs finished 2-for-4 on the power play, the second time in four games they’ve scored multiple goals with the man advantage (also: Dec. 23 at Vegas, 2-for-5).

INDIVIDUAL NOTES

Nathan MacKinnon tallied his team-leading eighth power-play goal of the season. He now has 52 man-advantage tallies in his career, moving ahead of Valeri Kamensky to take sole possession of seventh place on the franchise’s all-time power-play goals list. His eight markers on the man advantage this season are sixth in the league.

MacKinnon now has 460 career points, surpassing Paul Stastny to take sole possession of ninth place in franchise history and fifth place in Avalanche history (since 1995-96) in scoring.

With two goals on the night, MacKinnon now has 179 career tallies, moving past Matt Duchene to take over fifth place in Avalanche history and eighth in franchise history in goals.

Samuel Girard’s two points matches a career high he’s reached nine times previously (last: Nov. 30 vs. Chicago).

Erik Johnson recorded his second multi-point game of the season (also: Nov. 7 vs. Nashville).

QUOTES

Colorado D Erik Johnson

On Tonight’s Game: “We were playing well and then 4-on-4, we give up an odd-man rush off a turnover and seven seconds into a penalty kill, we give one up there off a deflection. We turned another one over and it’s in the back of our net. So, two odd mans, a power play and turnovers. You know, it’s
tough to play from behind when we clawed back to get even and then give one up right after that is tough. So, we’re finding different ways to lose every night lately and it’s frustrating, so we got to figure our way out of it now.”

On The Avs’ Scoring Chances: “What was it, like two or three posts? So, chances were definitely there. It’s just going the wrong way for us right now and no one is happy about it, but you know, there’s ebbs and flows throughout the season and we’re not trying to peak in January, we’re trying to peak when it matters. So I mean, we want to get out of this funk as soon as we can, but there’s peaks and valleys to every year and every team goes through it and we’re going through it right now and sometimes that’s how it happens, but hopefully we’re better for it the long run.”

Colorado RW Mikko Rantanen
On The Avs’ Performance: “We keep shooting [ourselves] in our own leg, we do mistakes on our own, you know? Like you said, first period, we could have been up three goals or two goals and then we just give up some goals. 4-on-4, I don’t make the right play and it cost us. It’s costing us right now, so we just have to figure [it] out right now because like I said, it’s a tough division, tough conference and we can’t keep dropping these points.”

On The Power Play: “We had some meetings yesterday about it. We haven’t been good enough on that so we understand you have to switch it up when it’s not working and that’s what we did. And I think we found a way, as you could see right away, we were clicking, moving the puck and shooting more, so that’s how we got two goals.”

Winnipeg RW Blake Wheeler
On Tonight’s Game: “I thought we came out really well, really strong. First half of the first period we were really good, and then they got going there for a while and we just had to battle. It wasn’t always pretty, it wasn’t always us carrying the play by any means, but you don’t have to win in this league like that. You can just battle, and I think we had every guy invested in that battle. A lot of one-on-one battles we won tonight, and that was the difference.”

On Winnipeg LW Kyle Connor: “He’s dialed in. I mean, the kid’s got world-class hands on him and just works extremely hard. Since his recall a couple of years ago, he’s just really invested in working every single night. You know, you get a guy who is willing to work like that, playing with a couple of guys like Mark (Winnipeg C Mark Scheifele) and Patty (Winnipeg RW Patrick Laine), he’s going to get opportunities in tight and he’s lethal.”

Winnipeg LW Kyle Connor
On His Double-Minor Penalty: “I’ve got to control my stick a little better, but I was just trying to make a play and I ended up with four minutes. Especially watching them score too, it’s tough to sit there and watch that but, you know, we battled back, and everybody top to bottom, we got efforts from everybody, so it was a good one.”

On Winnipeg RW Blake Wheeler’s 900th Career Game: “I mean 900, that’s pretty special and still a ton of hockey to play for him. We get to watch it every night, he’s a pretty special player.”