



WASHINGTON CAPITALS POSTGAME NOTES & QUOTES

Verizon Center, December 30, 2011

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final
Buffalo Sabres	0	1	0	1
Washington Capitals	1	1	1	3

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Team Notes:

- Washington is now 5-1-0 in its last six home games.
- The Capitals have not surrendered a power play goal in their last eight home games (22-22).
- Washington has now won back-to-back games for the first time since Dec. 7-9.
- Tonight's attendance was 18,506, the Capitals 125th consecutive sellout at Verizon Center.

Player Notes:

- Nicklas Backstrom scored his 100th career goal and is now tied with Jason Chimera for the team lead in goals. He becomes the 25th player to score 100 goals in a Capitals uniform. He also added an assist for his 14th multi-point game of the season.
- Alex Ovechkin scored twice for his third multi-goal game of the season and now has a five-game point streak (four goals, three assists).
- Tomas Vokoun collected his second assist of the season and recorded his 14th win of the campaign. This marks the first time Vokoun has recorded two or more assists in a season since the 2009-10 season. Vokoun now has six multi-assist seasons and 21 career assists. His career-high for assists in a single campaign is 6 (2007-08). This is the first time a Capitals goaltender has recorded two or more assists in a season since Jose Theodore in 2009-10.
- Alexander Semin added two assists and now has eight points (four goals, four assists) in his last six games.
- Roman Hamrlík added his first assist since Dec. 20 vs. Nashville.
- Ovechkin led the Capitals with four shots on goal.
- Matt Hendricks and Alex Ovechkin paced the team with four hits each.

Post-Game Audio:

Audio file for Capitals head coach Dale Hunter

http://downloads.capitals.nhl.com/podcasts/123011_HunterPostgame.mp3

Audio file for Caps Alex Ovechkin, Nicklas Backstrom and Tomas Vokoun

http://downloads.capitals.nhl.com/podcasts/123011_capitals.mp3

Audio file for Buffalo head coach Lindy Ruff, Jason Pominville and Jochen Hecht

http://downloads.capitals.nhl.com/podcasts/123011_buffalo.mp3

Post-Game Quotes:

Capitals head coach Dale Hunter on winning their second consecutive game...

"The players came out and played hard and played smart and created some good chances and didn't give up much."

Capitals head coach Dale Hunter on reuniting their top line [Ovechkin-Backstrom-Semin]...

"Their very good players and they've played together before and we put back a checking line [Hendricks-Beagle-Knuble] together and we put a scoring line together. So it's just that combination I guess. "

Capitals head coach Dale Hunter on Alex Ovechkin ...

"Since I've been here he's been taking the body, he has one of the top hits. He hits and plays hard and that's his game. By doing the right thing the scoring chances are coming."

Capitals head coach Dale Hunter on Tomas Vokoun ...

"It's hard for a goalie who didn't get much work early, but he's a pro and he was ready in the second [period] when they put the surge on there. He made some big stops for us [tonight]."

Washington Capitals forward Alex Ovechkin on playing simple tonight...

"We just have to play it simple. We made pretty plays by our simple plays. We just have to continue what we do right now. It's nice when you make some pretty plays and when you score the goals. Especially when the team needs it. It's pretty good."

Washington Capitals forward Alex Ovechkin on the play of the Capitals...

"We have to have a pretty good start. I think we had a great start and the second period they just changed the game on their side, but what can you do? Unbelievable job again, Vouky [Tomas Vokoun] kept us in the game, [he] made some big saves and we scored goals."

Washington Capitals forward Nicklas Backstrom on playing with Alex Ovechkin and Alexander Semin...

"We have been struggling a little bit and finally we get the stuff going and we're moving the puck pretty good, we're shooting and I think we are creating a lot of good chances. That's what we got to do. Then you have to make sure you play good defense and I think we are all doing that the last two games."

Washington Capitals forward Nicklas Backstrom on coming out strong...

"Very important, especially when we played them last time, they had a 4-0 lead in the first period, so we knew we had to come out hard and make sure that we did the right things out there. I think we did a good job with that today."

Washington Capitals goalie Tomas Vokoun on the play of the Buffalo Sabres...

"They are a good team. And when they are a good team, they don't shoot unnecessary, even when they get the puck on the blue line, they wait for guys to drive to the net. They are, to me, one of the toughest teams to play against because they do these little plays and shot; you have all these guys bottling towards the net."

Buffalo Sabres head coach Lindy Ruff on the start of the game...

"I thought after a slow start, our passing was back on the tape and we started to dominate play. Some plays in the neutral zone and even our power play were slow and passes weren't on the tape."

Buffalo Sabres head coach Lindy Ruff on specifically what was off at the beginning...

"You start by taking a penalty. I don't think it was that bad a hit. That gets you behind the eight ball right off the bat. It's hard not to tell a guy not to finish his check."

Buffalo Sabres forward Jason Pominville on not capitalizing on scoring opportunities...

"I thought over all we probably played one pretty bad period but two pretty good periods. We generated some opportunities and probably could've had two or three and weren't able to score on them. It makes it tough to win games when you score one goal."

Buffalo Sabres forward Jason Pominville on the missed chances...

"It's a good sign when you're creating but it comes down to bearing down on the opportunities you got, hopefully getting some bounces... We just got to keep working, keep battling and good things are going to come."

Buffalo Sabres forward Jochen Hecht on the game...

"You have to stay focused. We can't dwell on the past – especially with a game coming up tomorrow. We have to stay positive. We got those chances from hard work. That's the way we have to keep playing. If we put the work in, success will come."

Buffalo Sabres forward Jochen Hecht on the Caps' second goal...

"Yeah, against those guys [Ovechkin, Backstrom, Semin] – they don't need a lot of chances. You got to get the puck out and get it deep."

Team Schedule:

- The Capitals will hold an optional morning skate tomorrow at First Niagara Center in Buffalo, N.Y. at 11:30 a.m.

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