

Eastern Conference Final Post-Game 1 Quotes --

John Tortorella

STANLEY CUP PLAYOFFS

Eastern Conference Final

Philadelphia Flyers at Tampa Bay Lightning

St. Pete Times Forum

May 8, 2004

An Interview With:

COACH JOHN TORTORELLA

Q. Talk about Dave Andreychuk, he just seems to contribute at the right time, both sides, offensively, defensively. Tonight seemed like another perfect example.

JOHN TORTORELLA: Yeah, he fought it a bit in the faceoffs at times, but he does all the little things. He scores a huge goal for us, he does some things that I bet half the people here didn't even realize what he did in that game as far as those small little things that gets the puck out of the end zone, that let's us play in the neutral zone instead of in our end zone, so he continues.

You know, this is a Hall of Famer we are talking about, a Hall of Famer, because of goal scoring turned into a checker now. So I have a tremendous amount of respect for what he's doing for this club in really transforming his game to help this team continue to try to compete.

Q. Did he fight that in any way? Did he question it in any way when you came to him?

JOHN TORTORELLA: No. Dave and I talked about what we were looking for that summer before we signed him. Scorers, they don't want to -- they want to keep scoring. And David, you know, you've got to remember, I call him a checking center, and he scores 20 plus for us here the past three years. So he's still putting the puck in the net. But he does so many of the little things for this club on the ice, and the reason why he was brought in here was to take care of some stuff off the ice in the locker room.

That was the key to that transition, trying to get him in here, was to try to help out with such a young locker room and bring some leadership there.

Q. You mentioned little things; talk a little bit about the third goal?

JOHN TORTORELLA: Yeah, Eric Perrin with a little bit of effort has a good stick and gets us on our way in the transition. You know, that's two goals scored by our fourth line here in the playoffs. It was important. I mean, Eric, every time we put him on the ice, he's pretty responsible defensively, and that's what allows you to keep putting him back out there.

I'm concerned with some of the size of Philly, their centers, but we started out in camp and started since he's been back up here, our people, Billy Barber and

Patter, saw it in the American League, how hard he fought in the areas, and that's what's given him this opportunity.

This is something that he has fought for and has done very well.

Q. You mentioned Dave was brought in to take care of a few things in the locker room, as well as being a checking center; could you be civic about what it is and how he's done it?

JOHN TORTORELLA: Leadership. That's as specific as I'm going to get. It's leadership. It's a locker room that -- leadership is a very dangerous word. It's very easy to say. It's very easy to talk about, but that's something that is the most important thing for a young organization, a young core, that we have here; three years ago, we needed to get that straightened out. So that is the key thing, and that's leadership.

Q. Did you notice any effect from the long layoff, maybe early in the game at all?

JOHN TORTORELLA: I thought a bit in the first period, a little bit in the second at times, too. But that's to be expected.

But I thought our guys handled themselves very well and getting themselves settled. I thought both teams grinded. It was a battle around both nets, and both teams played very well around their nets.

So to have eight days, playing at home, that first one at home, it's a tough one for the home team. I think our guys found a way to get through some of the rust, if you want to call it that, and get their game together. I thought we played very well through the second half of that game as a team.

Eastern Conference Final Post-Game 1 Quotes – Lightning Quotes (Richards, Andreychuk)

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An Interview With:

BRAD RICHARDS

DAVE ANDREYCHUK

Q. Can you just talk about the importance of getting goals from the third and fourth lines?

DAVE ANDREYCHUK: Well, I think obviously we need a strong balance on our team. I believe that, you know, it's those third and fourth line guys that are going to keep plugging away and get some goals for us. Our top two lines have carried us most of the playoffs, so we are going to need everybody in that room. Tonight was one of those games.

Q. You guys have been winning, but were you feeling any of that pressure to contribute offensively?

DAVE ANDREYCHUK: Myself personally? Well, when you're winning, you're not feeling too much pressure, I guess. But obviously, I still have to contribute on the power play. That has to get better if we're going to win the series. For me, I have to try to get chances. First and foremost, I have to try to keep the puck in our own end, but other than that, it is nice to contribute offensively.

Q. The play that happened on the goal, it looked like you knocked it down or didn't touch it?

DAVE ANDREYCHUK: Hit the referee. I believe so.

Q. You were reaching for it?

DAVE ANDREYCHUK: I lost one of my 29 faceoffs that I lost and we got a lucky bounce and it hits the referee. I get position on a guy and just try to get the puck in there. It's one of those lucky breaks.

Q. Can you talk about the composure that this team was able to withstand first period and a half, looked like Philadelphia was dominating, you guys kept your heads and then finally took over?

DAVE ANDREYCHUK: Well, that's a good team over there. They are going to have some surges. They have some quality guys, quality veteran guys that are going to keep plugging away. We are going to be prepared for that. We've talked about it before in a room that we are not going to be dominated in games. They are going to come at us and we are just going to try to stay relaxed and try to keep the puck on the outside.

But they really come at us. That was a team that obviously, we're going to have to play a lot better to beat them in the series because they played pretty well tonight.

Q. How tough has it been for you to adjust to a checking role primarily?

DAVE ANDREYCHUK: I have to do what I have to do to help this team win. It's kind of a new challenge. Obviously, for me, I've been putting it in most of the year, but it is a new challenge, and like I said, we need depth in all four of our lines, and tonight helped.

Q. You talk about depth in all four lines, but can you talk about the play the fourth line made there and how much that means to a keep trying to win a Cup?

BRAD RICHARDS: Well, it's obviously a big goal again tonight. We had a big one to start the playoffs with Andre's goal. We don't expect them to go out and do that every night.

But it's a big lift for the bench and our team to see the guys score a goal and how they did it. It was a good play and that's what they have to do to be successful.

Q. Did you guys have a hard time getting your skating legs today after the long layoff?

BRAD RICHARDS: I think overall, if you ask a lot of guys, I don't think they felt as good as they thought they might.

But, at the same time, as the game went on, I think our game kind of calmed down and we played a little bit tighter. In the third period, our legs were under us and we really didn't give them that much with the lead. And that obviously can get a lot better after the playoff, but it wasn't as bad as some people thought.

Q. When you see a guy like Dave adjust his game, become a checker, he's always been a goal-scorer, do you start looking in the mirror yourself?

BRAD RICHARDS: Yeah, that's a prime example of why he's been chosen to captain and why he's played so long; 22 years, to try to be an offensive guy, year-in, year-out, it's going to be tough. He had to change and play different styles of game, and that's why he's here today. Let's not forget, he still scores 20 goals. It's a prime example and it's a great example for a lot of players here.