

## Will Vegas Beat Odds?

By Dave Lukow

The Vegas Golden Knights have been down before.

Trailing the Washington Capitals 2-1 in the 2018 Stanley Cup Final, Vegas won't find it easy taking Game 4 and heading home with the series tied. But the Golden Knights have shown this postseason they can come from behind to win.

Vegas fell to Winnipeg 4-2 in the first game of the Western Conference Final, yet rebounded to eliminate the Jets in five games. While Winnipeg may not have a player like Alex Ovechkin - driven to capture a Stanley Cup after years of playoff frustration - leading the charge, the Jets did finish the regular season with 52 wins and 114 points. They topped the Nashville Predators, finalists in last year's playoffs, in seven games.

Getting by Winnipeg was a tall order, yet the Golden Knights, after that opening loss, did it in convincing fashion.

In Game 3 versus the Caps, Vegas was behind 2-0 after the second period. Vegas forward Tomas Nosek scored his fourth goal of the playoffs with more than 16 minutes left in the third, but the Golden Knights were held scoreless the rest of the way. Washington's Devante Smith-Pelly buried one late to make it 3-1, which turned out to be the final score.

Ovechkin was dominant, scoring the game's first goal in the second period - his 14th of the playoffs - and registering five shots, two hits and a pair of blocked shots. Of his more than 17 minutes on the ice, 6:09 was while the Caps were on the power play.

Washington had four power plays, while the Golden Knights failed to score in two attempts.

The story of the game, though, may be found by examining other numbers. Vegas won just 37 percent of faceoffs and blocked nine shots. The Caps blocked 26 shots and outhit the Golden Knights 38-31. In terms of overall shots, Washington had 26 on Marc-Andre Fleury. The Golden Knights finished with 22.

Game 4 will be in Washington June 4.