

## Vegas Defense Tough in Win

By Dave Lukow

Who are these guys?

NHL teams, it's been said, need scoring from defensemen to succeed. In the opening game of the 2018 Stanley Cup Final, the Vegas Golden Knights got plenty of offense from their blue line on the way to a 6-4 win over the Washington Capitals. In the contest, Vegas got a goal and three assists from its defensive corps.

Deryk Engelland led the way with a pair of assists, while Colin Miller had the first goal of the series in the opening period. Shea Theodore assisted on Tomas Nosek's third-period marker, which proved to be the game-winning goal.

Miller, who had 10 goals and 41 points during the regular season, has three goals and four points in 16 playoff games. Engelland's assists were his first of the postseason. The 36-year-old had 23 points during the season.

Theodore, after totaling six goals and 29 points in 61 games, has two goals and eight points in the playoffs.

While the offensive output was critical, the Vegas defense also did key things that don't normally cause celebrations in the stands.

Miller had two shots, two hits and blocked a shot. Engelland, playing more than 20 minutes, had five shots and two hits. Theodore, who led Vegas defensemen in minutes, registered one shot and blocked another.

Brayden McNabb, in more than 21 minutes on the ice, blocked four shots and had one hit. Minnesota native Nate Schmidt, also playing more than 21 minutes, had two shots, two hits and a block.

Luca Sbisa, who's played in 495 NHL games, blocked four shots and had three hits.

Perhaps most important, Vegas defensemen didn't take a penalty in the opener. That prevented Washington's power play - scoring at a 28.3 percent clip in the playoffs - from establishing a rhythm. The Caps failed to score in their only opportunity with a man advantage.