

Rookie goalie gives Stars the Blues

□ The injury-plagued Dallas team struggles to earn a playoff spot.

DALLAS (AP) — Dallas goaltender Mike Torchia is a rookie. Tuesday night, he looked liked it.

St. Louis rookie Dave Roberts' goal 22 seconds into the third period snapped a 3-3 tie and triggered his team's five-goal outburst as the Blues spoiled the Stars' regular-season home finale and handed Torchia his first NHL defeat, 8-4.

The Blues set a season-high for goals scored, chasing Torchia from the nets after they'd piled up a 6-4 lead. Dallas coach Bob Gainey went to veteran Darcy Wakaluk, who fared no better as Brendan

Shanahan added his 16th and 17th goals of the season for the Stars' worst goals-against performance of the season.

"Bob may or may not have liked his goaltending," Blues coach Mike Keenan said. "I don't know if the score was a reflection of the goaltending or not. We certainly broke out in the third period."

The Blues rallied from a 3-1 first-period deficit and took the lead when Roberts snuck the puck by Torchia early in the third period, putting St. Louis in front 4-3. Steve Duchesne added a fluke goal from 50 feet 4:21 later, his eighth of the season, before Trent Klatt pulled Dallas to 5-4 with his third goal in as many games at 5:29.

St. Louis, 3-0-2 in its last five games, answered with Glenn

Anderson's 10th goal, driving Torchia from the nets. Torchia was 3-0-1 in his first four NHL appearances with a goals-against average of 1.92.

"You've got to put this behind you," Torchia said. "I gave up two bad ones early in the third and that can demoralize a team. They just kept coming at us."

The Blues scored five goals in eight third-period shots, connecting on the first four. Torchia was playing because of an injury to starter Andy Moog and because Wakaluk has been ineffective since returning from a hand injury.

"Nothing against Torch, but he's no Moog," said Brett Hull of the Blues. "And you can't blame Torch. What kind of help did he get? You can't stop point-blankers."

Baseball: Big bats key 7-4 triumph

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hit and scored on a Huffman double to make it a 5-0 game.

However, the Bearkats would come back in the sixth inning. Sam Houston scored all of their runs off junior reliever Tim Clarkson on base hits to make it a one-run ballgame.

"Clarkson struggled a little bit," Johnson said. "He's not really that good with the left-handed hitters and he stuck on that."

After the sixth inning, Sam Houston got on base just twice as Clarkson, Allen, and Barber shut the Bearkats down to seal the victory.

The Aggies would add two more runs in order to keep the game out of reach. In the sixth, Alexander hit a home run just left of the 400-foot sign in left-center field to make it a 6-4 A&M lead. In the eighth, Huffman started the inning with a triple off the centerfield fence and scored on a fielder's choice by Barber.

"The pitchers threw pretty good and we hit the ball," Curl said. "This was our last non-conference game and we wanted to win it. Every win is important

now for the regionals and we played this game like a conference game."

With the victory, A&M has now won 15 of its last 17 games. Johnson said it was crucial for his team to keep focus and continue to hit the ball.

"Hitting, you can not turn off and on," Johnson said. "You got to have the same mental attitude and emotional level regardless of who you are playing, or you will lose it."

"We got five out of last six on the road and if we want to be a championship team, we have to win those games on the road."

The Aggies will play their final regular season home game against the University of Texas on Friday at 7 p.m. Johnson said it will be a crucial game for the team and wants a big crowd for the game.

"Friday night will be special because it will be our final home game and our seniors will be recognized," Johnson said. "This game is also against Texas and I would be really disappointed if we didn't have over 7,000 at the game. It ought to be a packed house."

TEXAS A&M					SHSU				
ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi	
Alkxnder	5	2	2	1	Prhoda	4	0	1	0
Bailey	4	2	2	1	Flshnck	5	0	0	0
Alvarez	0	0	0	0	Rspck	5	1	2	0
Petru	0	0	0	0	Jenkins	4	0	0	0
Allen	4	0	1	0	Grobgr	4	1	1	0
Curl	4	2	3	1	Hurt	2	1	0	0
Stphens	4	0	1	2	Bailey	4	1	1	3
Huffman	4	1	2	1	Polk	3	0	1	0
Harris	3	0	0	0	White	4	0	1	1
Barber	3	0	0	1	Gesino	0	0	0	0
Shifflett	4	0	1	0	Davis	0	0	0	0
Sneed	0	0	0	0	Hermes	0	0	0	0
King	0	0	0	0	Hunt	0	0	0	0
Clarkson	0	0	0	0					
Totals	35	7	12	7	Totals	35	4	7	4

Texas A&M		202 011 010 — 07	
SHSU		000 004 000 — 04	

E - Barber, Stephens LOB - SHSU 8, A&M 6
2B - M. Bailey, Rosplock, Curl 2, Huffman.
3B - Alexander, Huffman HR - Alexander
SB - Polk, Barber CS - Alexander SH - Barber

Texas A&M	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Sneed	3.0	0	0	0	2	1
King	2.0	2	0	0	1	4
Clarkson	2.0	5	4	4	1	2
Allen	1.0	0	0	0	0	0
Barber	1.0	0	0	0	0	1

SHSU	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Gesino	3.0	7	4	4	1	1
Davis	3.0	4	2	2	0	0
Hermes	1.0	0	0	0	0	1
Hunt	1.0	1	1	1	0	0

Umpires-Williams, Hall, Smith
T-2:22, A-2:11.

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