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Jets bomb Dallas, 8-2 Borders' error costs Astros win

With the win, Winnipeg took over sole possession of the final playoff spot in the West.

DALLAS (AP) — Keith Tkachuk had the first four-goal game of his career and Winnipeg took over sole possession of the eighth and final Western Conference playoff spot with an 8-2 win over Dallas on Tuesday night.



Tkachuk scored his first goal 26 seconds into the game and added three goals in the third period, including two during a 16-second burst.

Igor Korolev and Dallas Drake each scored two goals for the Jets, who were 1-6-1 in their previous eight games.

Korolev got both his goals during a 12-second span in the second period.

Winnipeg now has 67 points, two more than Anaheim, which didn't play Tuesday night.

Dallas fell eight points behind Winnipeg with eight goals left.

Jets goalie Nikolai Khabibulin had a shutout until Stars defenseman Craig Ludwig scored his first goal of the season with 15:24 remaining. Brent Fedyk added a goal for Dallas with 8:16 left.

The Jets converted their first two shots on goal for a 2-0 lead less than 3 1/2 minutes into the game.

Tkachuk cut between Kevin Hatcher and Ludwig, then completing his solo rush by putting the puck behind Stars goalie Andy Moog. Winnipeg made it 2-0 on Drake's power-play tip-in at the 3:20 mark.

Korolev scored on a wrist shot at 56 seconds of the second period, then converted a pass from Mike Eastwood at 1:11.

The second goal drove Moog from the nets after yielding four goals in 11 shots.

Backup Darcy Wakaluk went the rest of the way.

Korolev's two goals were not the fastest in club history. Deron Quint set the team mark and tied an NHL record earlier this season when he scored a pair of goals in four seconds in a 9-4 victory over Edmonton.

Dallas continued its futility on the power play.

The Stars failed on all five man-advantage situations, extending their scoreless streak to 40 opportunities.

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — An error by catcher Pat Borders allowed Houston to score three unearned runs Tuesday as the Astros beat the St. Louis Cardinals 4-2. Trailing 1-0 in the fourth, Houston loaded the bases



with one out on consecutive singles by Rick Wilkins, Mike Simms and James Mouton.

St. Louis starter Tom Urbani, who escaped a bases-loaded situation in the third, induced Ricky Gutierrez to hit a potential double-play ball back to the mound.

But Borders dropped the throw to the plate, allowing Wilkins to score.

Houston pitcher Darryl Kile followed with a sacrifice fly to score Simms with the second run.

John Cangelosi singled to drive in Mouton with the game-winner.

Simms gave the Astros an insurance run with a leadoff homer against T.J. Mathews in the sixth.

St. Louis scored its first run in the second. John Mabry drew a two-out walk from Kile and reached second on an infield hit by Borders. Royce Clayton's opposite-field single allowed Mabry to score.

Mabry doubled to lead off the seventh and scored on a two-out double by Willie McGee. Mabry has seven doubles in eight games.

Twins dump Rangers, 4-0

FORT MYERS, Fla. (AP) — Rich Robertson solidified his spot in the Minnesota Twins' starting rotation with six shutout innings Tuesday night in a 4-0 victory over the Texas Rangers.



Robertson, who pitched well after a late-season callup in 1995, gave up just two singles with seven strikeouts and no walks Tuesday, leaving with a 2-0 lead. Rich Becker drove Minnesota's first two runs with a third-inning single, and Chip Hale drove in two more with a

triple in the eighth.

Paul Molitor went 3-for-3 to raise his average to .356.

Texas starter Bobby Witt gave up two runs on six hits in six innings, striking out eight and walking one.

The Rangers, who lost for the first time in six games, managed only an infield single by Lou Frazier leading off the game and Mickey Tettleton's grounder up the middle in the fifth.

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