

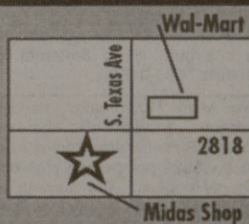
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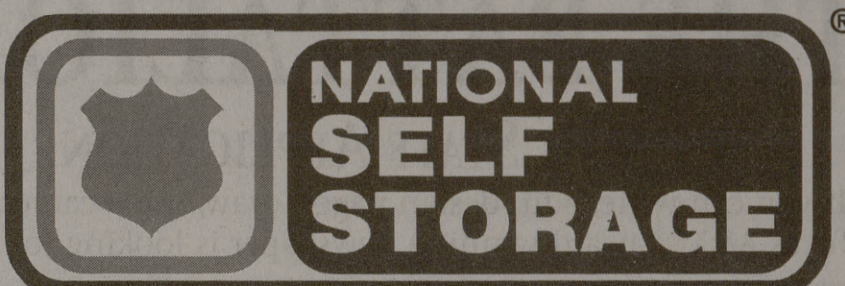


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Stars advance to face Ducks

By Jaime Aron
 THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DALLAS — Mike Modano and Sergei Zubov helped carry the Dallas Stars out of the first round. Now the top-seeded team in the Western Conference can look forward to some reinforcements.

Pierre Turgeon and Bill Guerin, two of the team's most skilled and most expensive players, could return from injuries during the second-round series against the Anaheim Mighty Ducks. The schedule for the series wasn't immediately announced.

Most teams would be undone by losing two players the caliber of Turgeon and Guerin. But with the Stars' depth — built with one of the league's highest payrolls — they were still able to get past Edmonton in the first round of the playoffs.

The Stars wrapped up the series by winning Game 6 on Saturday night. Modano scored with 6:52 left to put Dallas ahead 3-2, then goaltender Marty Turco did a great job protecting the lead in the final minutes.

"When the game was on the line, and he had the opportunity, he made the most of it," Turco said of Modano. "Mike can be a

Superman. He made the difference for us in this series."

Modano scored on a perfect cross-ice pass from Zubov. It was a fitting way to cap the series considering each had 10 points, tying them for the lead among post-season players. Each has four goals and six assists.



MODANO

"Mike is expected to step up, but so did others," Stars coach Dave Tippett said. "When you are missing key people, you have to make up the difference."

Guerin was lost in late February to a gruesome thigh injury, and Turgeon went out a week later with an ankle problem. Both underwent surgery.

Dallas struggled a bit without them — and with Turco also getting over an ankle problem — then recovered in time to earn the most points in the West.

Although Edmonton was the eighth seed, coach Craig MacTavish came into the series hoping the absences of Guerin and Turgeon would catch up to the Stars. Once the series ended, he admitted he'd seen flaws in their last four regular-season

games that he expected his team to exploit.

"I thought they would be venerable in this series," he said. "Game 1 down there proved that out. So did Game 3 here. We forced them to get better. That's a good team, and they responded to our challenge."

The Oilers led the series 2-0 but lost the next three. Dallas eliminated Edmonton for the first time in six years.

Next up is an Anaheim team that's coming off a stunning sweep of defending champion Detroit. The Stars are glad to know the Red Wings are out of the way — but they can't be too giddy about facing Mighty Ducks goaltender Jean-Sebastien Giguere, considering he allowed only five goals in four games.

That's where the extra score will be needed.

Turgeon and Guerin have been skating on their own and could return this series. Turgeon appears closest.

Dallas also expects to have back Jason Arnott, who was scratched from Game 6 after a pregame skate. He left Game 6 after two periods because of an undisclosed injury.

The Stars went 3-1-1 against the Mighty Ducks in the regular season.

Self visits Jayhawks' campus

By Doug Tucker
 THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LAWRENCE, Kan. — Bill Self arrived on Kansas' campus and joined basketball players for a meal Sunday amid reports that he agreed to leave Illinois and coach the Jayhawks.

Kansas scheduled a news conference for Monday at 1 p.m. CDT to "introduce its men's basketball coach."

Jessica Johansen, the Jayhawks' equipment manager, said Self ate on campus Sunday with players, boosters and athletic staff. "I met him briefly," said Johansen, who wouldn't say whether Self was introduced as Kansas' new coach during the meal at the school's athletic center.

Reporters were asked to leave the building, and Chancellor Robert Hemenway declined comment when he left.

An employee at Lawrence Municipal Airport said that Self and interim Athletic Director Doug Jennings were on a plane that landed at about 2:30 p.m. CDT.

Kansas received permission last week to speak with Self about replacing Roy Williams, who left to coach North Carolina.

ESPN.com and the Web sites for The Kansas City Star, The Lawrence Journal-World and The News-Gazette of Champaign, Ill. — all citing anonymous sources — reported that Self accepted the job.

Kansas Assistant Athletic Director Doug Van declined comment. Phone messages left by The Associated Press at Self's home and Illinois Sports Information Director Kent Brown's office and home were not immediately returned Sunday.

Self is 78-24 in three seasons at Illinois and led the team to the NCAA tournament each year.

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Matthew political a

In response to April 16 column

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