

Sports

# Bortuzzo, Blues blow past San Jose Sharks, even series

## Jones stopped 21 shots for the Sharks

**SAN JOSE:** The last time Robert Bortuzzo scored a playoff goal, he was in the first of his three seasons in the Ontario Hockey League. It was the spring of 2007, and he was 18 years old.

The emphatic celebration from the St. Louis defensive defenseman was more than understandable when he scored a jaw-dropping goal that ended up the game-winner Monday night in the Blues' 4-2 victory over the San Jose Sharks that tied the Western Conference finals at one win apiece.

"It's not really my game," said Bortuzzo, 30. "Jaden (Schwartz, a Blues teammate) will remember, I told him 'If I do score a playoff goal, you'll like the celebration.' You never plan what you're going to do, but it's a rush of emotion." Thanks to that emotion, and the victory that came with it, the Blues return home even in the series heading into Game 3 tomorrow.

With the score tied 2-2, Bortuzzo scored his surprising goal at 16:34 of the middle period. After bolting from his point position, he took a return feed while heading toward the goal and lifted a top-shelf backhand for his first tally in 31 career playoff games-and just the 15th in 366 regular-season and playoff NHL contests.

Bortuzzo was visible in a more familiar manner in the third period making a goal-saving block on a Kevin Labanc chance, but his goal was certainly the talking point of the night.

"I loved his celebration," Schwartz said. "He's got a lot of emotion. Right now, it's a big time of the year, and the intensity's high and everybody's doing a good job of embracing that and having fun with it."

Jordan Binnington made 24 saves for the Blues, 11 of them in the third period while the Sharks pushed for the

equalizer. San Jose's hopes were dashed when Oskar Sundqvist provided the much-needed insurance goal with 3:08 remaining in the third.

In all three postseason series this spring, the Sharks have won the opener but then lost the second game.

"We've been here before, and we know how to handle this," San Jose coach Pete DeBoer said. Jones stopped 21 shots for the Sharks. DeBoer took the defeat in stride, but he has the benefit of coaching a veteran-laden club that knows it wasn't up to snuff.

"One thing about our group is they're smart. Their self-analysis is very good," DeBoer said. "They know when they played well. There's games this year we played really well and lost, and tonight wasn't one of them. We have to find another level."

Curiously, the Sharks had all the momentum before the game-winning goal, having erased a 2-0 deficit.

After Schwartz put the visitors on the board first at 2:34 of the opening frame, ripping a glove-side wrist shot into the top corner, Vince Dunn doubled the St. Louis lead at 4:16 of the second period with a long wrist shot that beat screened Sharks goalie Martin Jones.

However, Logan Couture quickly tallied twice for the Sharks to even the count. Just 39 seconds after Dunn's goal, and with San Jose short-handed, Couture stole the puck at his own blue line to create his own break-away and finished it by tucking home the puck.

Couture tied the game with another breakaway goal two minutes later. This time, he was sent a long pass from Timo Meier and converted a five-hole shot for his 13th goal of the playoffs, most among all players this spring. — Reuters



**SAN JOSE:** Logan Couture #39 of the San Jose Sharks scores a goal against Jordan Binnington #50 of the St. Louis Blues in Game Two of the Western Conference Final during the 2019 NHL Stanley Cup Playoffs at SAP Center in San Jose, California. — FP

## Zain strategic partner of Rijeemy health program

**KUWAIT:** Zain, the leading digital service provider in Kuwait, announced its strategic partnership of the seventh edition of Rijeemy, Kuwait's biggest health and sports challenge during the Holy Month of Ramadan. The event, organized by Rijeemy Center and supported by Zain for the third year, is held during the first 20 days of Ramadan on Sundays through Thursdays from 4:45 - 6:00 pm at 360 Mall with aim of promoting a healthier and more active lifestyle during fasting.

Zain's strategic partnership of this health program is an extension of a series of partnerships the company is continuously adopting to serve its strategic and sustainable goals with the aim of contributing to the well-

being and health of the community. Zain's contribution falls under the company's Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility strategy, and shows its keenness in having a productive role in social and health activities, especially during the Holy Month of Ramadan.

Zain has prepared many special activities for Rijeemy participants, including the "Challenge Zain" activity that witnessed the participation of Kuwait National Football team Captain Bader Al Mutawa. In addition, the daily Walkathon, one of the event's most exciting main activities, will offer participants a chance to speed walk in 360 Mall alongside renowned Clinical and Sport Nutrition consultant Dr. Abdullah Al Mutawa, who offers daily live health and sports tips related to maintain an active and healthy lifestyle during fasting.

This year's edition of Rijeemy will witness the participation of many certified experts from Rijeemy Center, who will be providing health and nutrition advice to participants as they join the daily activities. In addition, Zain was keen on inviting its own employees to participate and volunteer in the program's activities to further affirm its commitment towards its own human



**Dr Abdullah Al Mutawa and Captain Bader Al Mutawa with Zain's team.**

resources.

Zain's solid Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility strategy primarily focuses on the wellbe-

ing of the entire nation. For that reason, the company has maintained its support to all kinds of initiatives that spread awareness and help make a difference.



**Rijeemy's daily activities.**



**Part of the tournament**

## KIB organizes 9th Ramadan football tourney for staff

**KUWAIT:** As part of its social responsibility program for the Holy Month of Ramadan, Kuwait International Bank (KIB) kicked off its 9th Ramadan Football Tournament for its staff. Held at Dasman Bilingual School, the one-day tournament saw the participation of 8 teams composed of KIB staff. Additionally, a large number of the Bank's staff cheered in the crowd - all within an exciting and encouraging atmosphere full of sporting spirit.

The tournament was also attended by Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of KIB, Raed Jawad Bukhamseen, who awarded first and second place winners at the tournament with valuable cash prizes and trophies. Additionally, all attendees of the tournament were given a chance to win one of two Apple Watches, as well as enjoy light snacks and refreshments during the game.

On his part, Senior Manager of the Corporate Communications Unit at KIB, Nawaf Najia, said: "We make sure to organize this event every year as part of KIB's Ramadan program. The annual



**Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of KIB awarding Bank's staff**

Ramadan program features a number of activities and initiatives for diverse segments of the community, including customers and employees as well as their families. Our leading social responsibility program aims at positively impacting all members of the community. For this reason, we believe that this sporting event provides numerous benefits for our employees, encouraging them to practice sports, strengthening teamwork and cooperation outside the workplace, and boosting their morale and productivity."

Najia also added that the tournament has become one of the most highly-anticipated sports events, bringing in an increasing number of participants every year to compete for the winning title. He also lauded the sporting spirit demon-

strated by all players in the tournament as well as the fans in the crowd.

It is worth noting that KIB always strives



**Part of the tournament**

to support youth-based initiatives and sports activities, particularly during the Holy Month of Ramadan, as part of its commit-

ment to promote the local sports scene and improve the physical fitness and skills of diverse segments of the community.



**Group picture**