



RYAN REMIORZ/AP

Regher and Jordan Leopold in Stanley Cup Finals on Saturday.

Stanley Cup lead

STANLEY CUP FINALS

(Best-of-7)
Tuesday, May 25
 Calgary 4, Tampa Bay 1
Thursday, May 27
 Tampa Bay 4, Calgary 1
Saturday
 Calgary 3, Tampa Bay 0, Calgary leads series 2-1
Monday
 Tampa Bay at Calgary, 8 p.m.
Thursday, June 3
 Calgary at Tampa Bay, 8 p.m.
Saturday, June 5
 Tampa Bay at Calgary, 8 p.m., if necessary
Monday, June 7
 Calgary at Tampa Bay, 8 p.m., if necessary

looked dazed when he left the ice. With the Lightning's Brad Lukowich off for slashing, the Flames finally scored when Iginla skated down the right wing boards, hopped over defenseman Darryl Sydor and fed Simon for a wrist shot from the right circle that missed. Simon gathered his own rebound and stuffed it past Nikolai Khabibulin inside the near post at 13:53 of the second, then slammed into the boards to celebrate.

Battery sluggish in home loss to Atlanta

SILVERBACKS 4, BATTERY 2

BY ANDREW MOSIER
 Special to The Post and Courier

DANIEL ISLAND—Languishing in the middle of the field of the A-League's Eastern Conference standings, the Charleston Battery needed to come away from its game Saturday against Atlanta with a win and three crucial points.

It didn't happen. A flat Battery side fell to Atlanta, 4-2, on Saturday night at Blackbaud Stadium.

Missing central defender Mark Watson, who was called up by Canada to face Wales in an international friendly, didn't help much either.

In Watson's absence, Charleston's Ezra Hendrickson and Michael Green struggled in the middle of the Battery defense, failing to rein in the speedy and skilled Silverbacks front line.

Charleston surrendered three of the four Atlanta (3-3-1, 10 points) goals with little more than a cursory stab at the ball, as Silverbacks attackers ran through the mistake-prone Battery defense like the incoming tide.

Desperately in need of a good result after two less-than-inspired draws in their last two outings, Charleston (2-3-3, nine points) gave early signs that it had come out of its doldrums. An enlivened Battery squad tackled hard and made several strong runs at the goal early. But the runs ended before Charleston could get a quality shot, and the team's aggression left it vulnerable to Atlanta's counterattack.

After Charleston dominated possession for the first 20 minutes of the game, Atlanta's Alex Pineda-Chacon broke the scoreless tie when he hammered home a shot from close range after Battery goalkeeper Dusty Hudock failed to hold onto a shot off the foot of Gary Brook.

The speedy Brook gave the Battery's back line fits all night, nearly missing once before doubling the score in the 39th minute. Brook walked around his defender in the

penalty area before calmly chipping the ball over Hudock to make the score 2-0.

"We had a couple of mental lapses," said Battery defender Ivan McKinley. "Good teams will kill you when that happens, and they were a good team."

McKinley, a much-heralded addition to the team this season, got his first start of the season after injuries kept him out of the lineup for the first seven games.

The Charleston attack broke through in the 50th minute when newly acquired forward Wolde Harris scored one of the team's prettiest goals of the season. Harris beat his defender 30 yards from the net and blasted a right-footed shot into the far upper corner.

"We gave up some easy goals," Harris said. "We were working from behind the eight ball. We pulled a couple back, but it was too late."

Down a goal, the Battery saw its chance and began pushing forward with numbers. But as in the first half, possession and strong runs did not lead to good shots.

As Charleston's forward movement continued to stall, Atlanta pushed its lead to 3-1 when Adilson Liman scored on a 30-yard free kick in the 62nd minute.

Former Charleston forward Mac Cozier ended any thoughts of a comeback five minutes later when he scored to put Atlanta up, 4-1. The play typified the Battery's defensive performance: Cozier, who played with the Battery for three seasons, settled a long ball with his chest, touched it around an ineffective Green and drilled the ball past a helpless Hudock.

"It was a bit of an embarrassing debacle," said Battery head coach Chris Ramsey. "The players know in their hearts, individually who made mistakes and who didn't."

Chris Bagley, a late Charleston substitute, finished the scoring for the night when he skillfully slotted home a ball with his first touch inside the penalty area. He nearly found the net again in stoppage time, but was robbed by Silverbacks goalkeeper Joe Barton.

Ultimately, Ramsey took blame for the loss.

"It's my fault in the end," he said. "They make the mistakes, but I pick the team."