

POST-GAME RECAP

DAL @ GSV

Final: DAL 70 - GSV 78

Chase Center - San Francisco, CA - Monday, August 17, 2026

Golden State's Second-Quarter Avalanche Buried Dallas, Sealed the Sweep and a Franchise-Record Season

Golden State didn't beat Dallas with better shooting Monday night – the Wings actually outshot them, 44.8 percent to 37.5 percent. The Valkyries won with a second quarter so one-sided that the final 24 minutes were mostly formalities. A 24-9 avalanche – fueled by Veronica Burton's deep barrage and a Dallas giveaway spree – turned a one-point game into a 44-28 half time chasm, and despite a 24-16 Wings push in the fourth that clawed to within six, Golden State closed out a 78-70 win at home.

The result did more than extend a win streak. It completed a 3-0 season-series sweep of Dallas, Golden State's sixth straight victory in the head-to-head dating to Jul 25, 2025, and clinched a franchise-record 25-win season. Gabby Williams led the way with a game-high 23 points and 4 steals; the Wings countered with 21 from Paige Bueckers and 17 from Arike Ogunbowale – a career milestone night for the latter – but Dallas' cleanest-offense-in-the-league pedigree crumbled into 16 turnovers that Golden State turned into a 20-point edge in points off giveaways.

Quarter	DAL	GSV
Q1	19	20
Q2	9	24
Q3	18	18
Q4	24	16
Final	70	78

The quarter that decided it: a 24-9 second

Dallas won the opening frame despite trailing – the Wings shot 56.2 percent to Golden State's 38.9, Alanna Smith piling up 9 points on 4-of-5 against the league's stingiest paint defense, and Dallas led 15-8 before a 12-4 Golden State close flipped it to 20-19. Tiffany Hayes' 33-foot pull-up buzzer-beater at the end of Q1 swung the quarter and set the table.

Then the floor dropped out. In the second, Dallas went 3-of-14 (21.4 percent) and 1-of-5 from three for just 9 points – the Wings' worst frame of the night and their 25 through 16 minutes put them on pace for a season-low half. Golden State shot 10-of-18 (55.6 percent) with four threes, and the engine was Burton: back-to-back 25-foot makes at 2:06 and 1:38 turned a 28-25 game into a 42-28 lead, the night's largest margin. The 15-point swing was the biggest single-frame gap of the game.

The context made it sting more. Dallas entered as the WNBA's cleanest offense (league-best 14.7 percent turnover rate, second-fewest giveaways per game), yet committed nine turnovers in the first half – roughly three-quarters of a full-game average – by the time Golden State called for a timeout at Q2 4:23. Every point of a 7-0 run off the Q1 timeout came off a Wings giveaway. The damage showed up exactly where it should: 20 points off turnovers for Golden State to 13 for Dallas.

Stars

Player	Team	PTS	REB	AST	STL	TO	FG
Gabby Williams	GSV	23	7	3	4	5	8-20
Paige Bueckers	DAL	21	2	3	1	7	8-18
Arike Ogunbowale	DAL	17	4	3	2	1	5-13
Veronica Burton	GSV	16	4	5	2	1	5-11
Alanna Smith	DAL	13	5	2	2	2	6-9

Player	Team	PTS	REB	AST	STL	TO	FG
Tiffany Hayes	GSV	10	4	1	1	1	4-11
Janelle Salaun	GSV	10	3	2	0	1	3-10

Gabby Williams was the game's best player, clearing her 14.9-point season average by eight. Her 23 points were her second-most ever against Dallas – behind the 25 she dropped on Jun 17, 2026 – and her 4 steals tied her 2026 season high. She scored 11 in the first half and carried Golden State's creation load at a 27.9 percent usage clip, the frame-capping 15-foot step-back at Q2 5:29 answering a Dallas push. Her only blemish: 5 turnovers, including a bad pass and an offensive foul.

Veronica Burton was the Q2 firestarter and, with 3-of-6 from deep, pushed her season three-point total to 49 – one shy of 50, atop the WNBA's made-threes leaderboard where she entered the night. Her 16 points came well off her career-best 25 against Dallas on Aug 24, 2025, but no player mattered more at the moment the game flipped.

The Dallas story: brilliance wrapped in giveaways

Paige Bueckers matched Williams in the scoring column but spent the night fighting herself. Her 21 points – 9 of them in a third-quarter revival capped by a 28-foot three at Q3 4:04 – were her best in three 2026 meetings with Golden State, though below her career-best 27 against the Valkyries on Sep 4, 2025. She also committed a game-high 7 turnovers, a career high vs Golden State (her prior best in the series was 3) and a match of her 2026 season high, in a season where she'd never previously topped 5 giveaways. She stretched her run of 15-plus-point games to six straight, but the Wings' 5-of-22 team three-point night couldn't sustain the comeback against the league's No. 1 defense.

Arike Ogunbowale was the franchise's story within the loss. Her 17 points (5-of-13, a perfect 6-of-6 at the line) marked a bounce-back after back-to-back 5-point outings, and her single turnover beat her season average. She also crossed a career threshold: in the fourth quarter she dished career regular-season assist No. 1,000, entering the night at 997 and finishing with 3 dimes. The assist milestone came in a game where her lone three – a 26-footer at Q2 3:02 off an Alanna Smith feed – was one of just five Dallas deep makes all night. Her 17 was shy of her career high of 21 vs Golden State, set on Jun 17, 2026.

Alanna Smith was the quiet efficiency engine, 6-of-9 for 13 points with a 72.2 percent true-shooting night – the best among high-usage players – and her paint work topped both prior GSV meetings this season (5 on Jun 17, 11 on Aug 7).

How the shot diet actually broke down

Dallas won every efficiency category that didn't carry the "attempts" label and still lost on volume. The Wings' 49.1 eFG percent and perfect 8-of-8 at the rim (their 16 rim-plus-paint makes beat Golden State's 11, and their 32 paint points beat the Valkyries' 22) didn't matter because Golden State generated 14 more field-goal attempts – 72 to 58 – with half its attempts coming from three.

Metric	DAL	GSV
eFG%	49.1%	45.8%
FG%	44.8%	37.5%
3 P	5-22 (22.7%)	12-36 (33.3%)
FT	13-15	12-14
Paint points	32	22
Points off TO	13	20
Fast-break points	9	2
2nd-chance points	2	7
Turnovers	16	11

The decisive weapon was the arc: Golden State's 12-of-36 marked the **third straight game in this season series in which the Valkyries hit exactly 12 threes** (12-of-25 on Jun 17, 12-of-34 on Aug 7). Dallas' deep attack, mean while, was 5-of-22, with Ogunbowale 1-of-7, Bueckers 1-of-5, and Awak Kuier and Odyssey Sims a combined 0-of-4. Only Alysha Clark (1-of-1) and Maddy Siegrist (1-of-2) converted efficiently from range.

The rims told a different story in the defensive column. **Awak Kuier led all players with 3 blocks**, including a Q2 rejection of Janelle Salaun's 4-foot floater, and Maddy Siegrist's Q4 2:20 swat of a Williams layup was the game's most consequential defensive play – stalling a Golden State

answer right after Bueckers' pull-up cut the lead to 59-69. Golden State managed just one block as a team (Kiah Stokes swatting a Shepard layup at Q2 0:08) and won instead with ball pressure and a 10-4 edge in offensive rebounds, which produced 7 second-chance points to Dallas' 2.

The one place Dallas won cleanly was in transition: 9 fast-break points to Golden State's 2. It just wasn't enough to generate the halfcourt attempts the deficit demanded.

Historical rarities & context

- **First 3-0 season-series blanking between the clubs.** The 2025 series finished 3-1 in Golden State's favor (GSV won Jul 25, Aug 24 and Sep 4, 2025; Dallas took the opener). This season's sweep margins: 11, 18 and 8, with Golden State outscoring Dallas 263-226 across the three.
- **Six straight wins in the head-to-head.** Golden State's streak vs Dallas dates to Jul 25, 2025; the Valkyries now lead the all-time series 6-1 across seven meetings. Dallas' only head-to-head win came in the first-ever meeting, an 80-71 home win on Jun 17, 2025; the Wings are 0-6 since.
- **Franchise-record 25-win season.** The win moved Golden State to 25-9 and marked a club-best regular-season record, coming on a sixth straight victory after a 5-game streak entering the night.
- **Janelle Salaun posted the game's best plus-minus at +11** in just 18:49 off the bench, with Kayla Thornton close behind at +10 while fighting foul trouble through 32:57 minutes.
- **Dallas' 70 points sat one above its season low of 69** (May 22 at Atlanta) against the league's No. 1 defense.

What it means next

Golden State (25-9) enters the final stretch of the regular season as the WNBA's No. 2 seed on a six-game heater, its franchise-record season already secured and the depth of its deep-ball attack – Burton at 49 made threes and counting – a legitimate playoff variable. The Valkyries close the year having solved Dallas twice at home and once on the road, and no team in the league has beaten them in this matchup since the 2025 season opener.

Dallas (20-16, now L2) is in the opposite kind of playoff picture: the No. 8 seed on a 3-7 slide over its last 10, needing to steady the turnover problem that cost it Monday. The Wings entered as the league's cleanest offensive team and handed Golden State 20 points off 16 giveaways, with Bueckers' 7 turnovers the loudest symptom. The talent to out-efficiency anyone was on display – a perfect 8-of-8 at the rim, a 24-16 fourth – but a team that takes 14 fewer shots than its opponent doesn't survive that in April, and it didn't survive it Monday.