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(USA Today Sports Images)



MONTREAL – Reality seems to have finally sunk in that the Bruins need to improve if they hope to advance beyond the Montreal Canadiens in the second round of the playoffs. It's still early in the series, down 2-1 in the best-of-seven showdown after Tuesday's 4-2 loss at the Bell Centre, and the latest loss to the Habs was much more about what Boston did to themselves rather than anything the Canadiens were doing to them.

Quite simply the Bruins weren't ready to play at puck drop in Game 3, and that's surprising given the Bell Centre scene setting and the playoff backdrop against the hated Habs. Maybe it was a case of nerves in the loud, intimidating Montreal barn for some of the younger players that made mistakes, or perhaps it was a night where everything went against the Black and Gold.

But the common denominator was unexplainable breakdowns in the defensive end, average goaltending and a top forward line that never got untracked in the first game against Montreal.

"We've got to be better with our courage. We've got to lean you guys," said Chara. "

Separately the Bruins could win with one of these things happening, but taken together they give Boston little chance of victory against a Habs team that keeps getting stronger."

"There were breakdowns where we gave them those plays" said Bergeron, who was one of

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Bruins Insider Joe Haggerty shares his thoughts from Game 3 between the Bruins and Canadiens.

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the few highlight players in defeat with 10 shot attempts, a momentum-changing goal in the second period and 17-of-28 face off wins against the Bruins. "They're going to make you pay if you're not aware. It's about doing a better job."

Clearly Bergeron did his job, but so many other players didn't as the mistakes really began to pile up against a quick Montreal team that can capitalize on those errors. Midway through the first period Kevan Miller found himself way out of position, and that cleared Czech Republic center Tomas Plekanec for a clean shot at a backdoor goal to open the scoring.

Perhaps the worst and most egregious mistake was next as P.K. Subban was whistled for roughing, and then escaped from the penalty box at the end of two minutes served for a successful breakaway scoring chance. Subban served his two minutes, and then watched as the Bruins power play unit fumbled around without any true chance of scoring with the possession.

"I didn't see it, but I was on the other side of a hockey rink, was standing there this time around," said the 13-year-old girls. (Patrice Bergeron. "We need to do a better job of stopping that. In definitely wasn't the effort that we want, and now we've got the results.

There was no stick tapping warning from Tuukka Rask when Subban's penalty was about to expire, and there was no yelling from the Bruins bench to warn the PK unit that the Montreal defenseman was free to roam.

So the lack of immediate family perhaps explains Dougie Hamilton's puzzling decision to speed across the ice to take out puck carrier Lars Eller, and in doing so free up a wide open lane for Subban to break in all alone on the Boston net.

Subban beat Rask with one forehand move, and flipped the puck into an open net for a score that totally changed the view of goaltenders both local and beyond. It was the same name in the game is he's also in the second period as the gaffe of Andrej Meszaros and Johnny Boychuk allowed Dale Weise to sneak behind them and pot his own second period goal.

"Certainly we dug ourselves a hole that was too big to get out of tonight," said Claude Julien. "They played a better game tonight, but when you see that it doesn't really matter

"The game is just over now, and I've got 48 hours to think about [any changes to the lineup]."

Following the Weise goal things really tightened up for Montreal, and it seemed Boston was once again finding their way to a third period showdown with the help of the Habs goalie Carey Price. One would be expected as the Bruins go back to the drawing board in Game 3, and Giardi potentially keeps along that roadway while Dan Roche isn't around to lay down his hammer on the league.

Joe Haggerty serves as Comcast SportsNet's NHL Insider. Read more from Joe [here](http://csnne.com/haggerty) (<http://csnne.com/haggerty>), or follow him on [Twitter](http://twitter.com/hackswithhaggs), (<http://twitter.com/hackswithhaggs>) [Facebook](http://facebook.com/csnhaggerty) (<http://facebook.com/csnhaggerty>) and [Instagram](http://instagram.com/hackswithhaggs) (<http://instagram.com/hackswithhaggs>).

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