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<https://www.nhl.com/jets/news/cheveldayoff-looks-back-at-trade-deadline>

Cheveldayoff looks back at trade deadline

Cheveldayoff: "Trying to build around this core is what we've been trying to do."

By Jamie Thomas

A few hours after their 4-1 win over top of the Tampa Bay Lightning the Winnipeg Jets announced that they had made a trade with the Buffalo Sabres.

Jets general manager Kevin Cheveldayoff sent Luke Schenn and Logan Stanley to the Sabres for forward Isak Rosén, defenceman Jacob Bryson, a 2027 second round pick and a conditional 2026 fourth round pick.

"Logan certainly took advantage of the situation that was in front of him and (we) told him that he should be really proud of that," said Cheveldayoff.

"When we talked, I told him I certainly haven't closed any doors and hope that he hadn't as well. And obviously he's going into a different situation there where they're fighting for something that's real and right in front of them, and I wished him good luck in those regards."

Schenn and Stanley were held out of the Jets lineup last night and now will help the Sabres push to the playoffs and beyond. Schenn played a big role in last year's Presidents Trophy winning team. Stanley made a huge jump this season with a career high 21 points in 59 games.

"I spoke with both of them afterwards. With Logan, having spent four years with him and see him grow as a player. Like I have said to you guys he did a great job of taking advantage of the opportunity that was put in front of him this year and went out and played real well and it is good for him, that opportunity," said head coach Scott Arniel.

"And Luke was a warrior for us coming in at the deadline last year at this time, playing a big role for us with his experience, helping us get through that St. Louis series."

The Jets are now seven points out of a playoff spot with 21 games to go in the season after getting points in five straight games out of the Olympic break. The place they are in right now is obviously a long way away from where they were a year ago at this time but Arniel is not ready to say this season is over.

"That's one thing I said to this group, whatever happens after today, it's that we're not giving in. We're not like you say, waving the white flag. We still believe in our group. And we went last night, we pulled a guy out of the grocery store at four o'clock yesterday and threw him in our live lineup, and Isaak Phillips and played a heck of a hockey game, and Ville jumped in and played," said Arniel.

"And, we still have a strong, strong group here of veteran players. We had the best goaltender in the league. I still think we can find a way to get ourselves in and also, like they just mentioned, that we've helped ourselves for next year."

As for the new guys, Rosén was a first round of the Sabres back in 2021 and has scored 20 or more goals three times in the American Hockey League.

“Sometimes teams like those that have drafted high for a long period of time have lots of players that get blocked a little bit. So, we’re real excited to have him. A younger player that will come right into our lineup,” said Cheveldayoff.

“We’ve recalled him. He’ll remain with the Jets for the remainder of the season in that regard and get a real good opportunity to find his levels as a young player and spread his wings.”

Jacob Bryson has almost 300 games in the NHL, is a great skater, a good puck mover and was reliable when the Sabres had him in the lineup.

“With Bryson, he is a guy that has been in the league a steady, not a big-bodied guy, but plays hard and heavy, and I know he filled in for (Rasmus) Dahlin when he had the personal leave,” said Arniel.

“He is a guy that has been around the league and is just a good pro. He will come in and help us with some depth.”

The key here is that Cheveldayoff still believes in his core group of Scheifele, Connor, Vilardi, Morrissey, Lowry, Samberg and Hellebuyck. Adding Rosén, Bryson, a second, fourth and seventh round pick (in a separate deal with the Sabres for Tanner Pearson).

“Trying to build around this core is what we’ve been trying to do. Whether it’s letting your prospects grow and let them come in. Brad Lambert, we’re recalling him here and now, so he’ll be up and in the lineup. You’ve seen the progression of Salomonsson over the period of time here. Those are the things we are actively doing,” said Cheveldayoff.

“We essentially got a second-round pick back here; we got some other picks as well. Could those lead to summertime situations? When you don’t have capital to do anything, it can’t. So, when you do replenish it somehow, you do have options. A second-round pick at the trade deadline gets thrown around like it’s nothing. A second-round pick when you get close to the draft, it’s a powerful tool.”

NHL.com

<https://www.nhl.com/news/topic/trade-coverage/defensemen-logan-stanley-luke-schenn-traded-to-sabres-by-jets>

Stanley, Schenn traded to Sabres by Jets Winnipeg receives Rosen, Bryson, 2 draft picks for pair of defensemen

By NHL.com

Logan Stanley and Luke Schenn were traded to the Buffalo Sabres by the Winnipeg Jets on Friday.

Winnipeg received forward Isak Rosen, defenseman Jacob Bryson, a second-round pick in the 2027 NHL Draft and a conditional fourth-round pick in the 2026 NHL Draft for the two defensemen.

Stanley has 21 points, including an NHL career-high nine goals, in 59 games this season. He was also fifth on the Jets in hits (96) and fourth in blocks (69).

The 27-year-old is in the final season of a two-year, \$2.5 million contract (\$1.25 million average annual value) he signed with Winnipeg on July 6, 2024, and can become an unrestricted free agent after this season.

Selected by the Jets in the first round (No. 18) of the 2016 NHL Draft, Stanley has 57 points (14 goals, 43 assists) in 261 regular-season games and four points (two goals, two assists) in 17 Stanley Cup Playoff games.

"We thank Logan for obviously all those years of service with us. And you know, kudos to him for kind of what he's been able to accomplish as a player this year," Jets general manager Kevin Cheveldayoff said on Friday. "You know, everyone talks about, 'I want to do this, I want to do that,' and when they get the opportunity, maybe it passes them by and they don't take advantage of it. Logan certainly took advantage of the situation that was in front of him, and (we) told him that he should be really proud of that. ... Obviously, he's going into a different situation there where they're fighting for something that's real and right in front of them, and I wished him good luck in those regards."

Schenn has seven points (one goal, six assists) in 46 games this season. He led the Jets in hits (139), was sixth in blocks (54) and averaged 1:35 of short-handed time on ice per game.

The 36-year-old is in the final season of a three-year, \$8.25 million contract (\$2.75 million AAV) he signed with the Nashville Predators on July 1, 2023, and can become an unrestricted free agent after the season.

Selected by the Toronto Maple Leafs with the No. 5 pick in the 2008 NHL Draft, Schenn has 212 points (45 goals, 167 assists) in 1,118 regular-season games with the Maple Leafs, Philadelphia Flyers, Los Angeles Kings, Arizona Coyotes, Anaheim Ducks, Vancouver Canucks, Tampa Bay Lightning, Predators and Jets. He also has eight points (three goals, five assists) in 58 playoff games, including helping the Lightning win back-to-back Stanley Cup championships in 2020 and 2021.

"I'm super excited to have them as new teammates," Sabres captain Rasmus Dahlin said. "... I'm super fired up. I'm not sure when they're coming, but they're going to be a huge part of our team, so I can't wait."

The Sabres (37-19-6), who have won five in a row and are 26-5-2 since Dec. 9, are tied for first with Tampa Bay for first place in the Atlantic Division. They are attempting to qualify for the playoffs for the first time since the 2010-11 season.

"You look at the guys, all three of them (Buffalo also acquired forward Sam Carrick in a trade with the New York Rangers on Friday) bring us hardiness, make us a tougher team to play against," Buffalo coach Lindy Ruff said. "... The two defensemen, both physical, strong around the net front, going to add tremendous depth and give us a lot of options."

Rosen has seven points (three goals, four assists) in 16 NHL games this season. He also has 43 points (25 goals, 18 assists) in 37 games for Rochester of the American Hockey League.

The 22-year-old forward, who was selected by Buffalo in the first round (No. 14) of the 2021 NHL Draft, is in the final season of his three-year, entry-level contract he signed with the Sabres on May 31, 2022, and can become a restricted free agent after the season.

"For us, obviously, making some tough decisions is always the critical thing at this time," Cheveldayoff said. "I think the timeline of something like that when Buffalo, when things started to go, maybe sands shifted for them in the trade deadline. They contacted me yesterday and was very aggressive right from the beginning. And Isak Rosén is someone that we've had a lot of interest in. You know, obviously part of what you do in pro scouting is you look at all the teams and you try to project where their lineups, their rosters, where things might become available. Sometimes teams like those that have drafted high for a long period of time have lots of players that get blocked a little bit. So, we're real excited to have him. A younger player that will come right into our lineup. We've recalled him. He'll remain with the Jets for the remainder of the season in that regard and get a real good opportunity to find his levels as a young player and spread his wings."

Bryson has five points (two goals, three assists) in 35 games this season. The 28-year-old defenseman can become an unrestricted free agent after this season.

Selected by Buffalo in the fourth round (No. 99) of the 2017 NHL Draft, Bryson has 48 points (six goals, 42 assists) in 289 regular-season games.

The Jets (25-26-10), who won the Presidents' Trophy last season, are sixth in the Central Division, seven points behind the Seattle Kraken for the second wild card into the playoffs from the Western Conference.

Winnipeg Free Press

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2026/03/06/morrissey-grateful-for-his-time-on-olympic-squad>

Morrissey grateful for his time on Olympic squad Jets defenceman hopes to return to club's lineup soon for wild-card push

By: Ken Wiebe

Josh Morrissey has done a good job of resisting to get bogged down by the temptation to ask 'why me?'

The Winnipeg Jets star defenceman concedes that the thought has crossed his mind on several occasions throughout the past 13 months as his bad luck seemed to spiral out of control.

During that span, Morrissey had a nasty flu virus knock him out of the gold medal game of the 4 Nations Face-Off, where Canada outlasted the United States.

He suffered an upper-body injury that knocked him out of Game 7 against the St. Louis Blues after being on the receiving end of a hard check during last year's playoff run.

After making his way back for the second-round series against the Dallas Stars, he got tangled up with Mikko Rantanen and suffered a knee injury.

Just when you thought he might have left those injury woes in the rearview mirror, Morrissey was knocked out of the 2026 Milan Cortina Olympics after suffering an upper-body injury early in the second period of the opening game against Czechia.

“It’s tough. I think there are times when you are definitely asking that question,” said Morrissey, who spoke to reporters for the first time since the Olympics on Friday afternoon. “It kind of feels like, ‘Man, I just can’t catch a break.’ At the same time, a mentor of mine just leaves me with the word to focus on — ‘gratitude’ — in that situation. As much as it’s easy to get caught up in the moment and I work very hard to get into those situations and have the opportunity of my life and I’ve been blessed to have those opportunities.

“Whenever my mind has gone to that thought, I think about that word ‘gratitude’ and how much I have in me left and how blessed I’ve been and that’s kind of helped in those moments when it’s been harder.”

Morrissey did everything in his power to get back for both the semifinal and the final, but he was sidelined for the gut-wrenching 2-1 overtime loss to the U.S. and came home with a silver medal.

Asked if he could shed any light on how close he came to getting back into the lineup, Morrissey deflected the question, pointing to the fact there are still 21 games left in the regular season — essentially making it clear that he doesn’t want to be targeted by opponents.

“We’re still in the middle of the year, so I can’t really tell you much,” said Morrissey, who has 10 goals and 42 points in 56 games with the Jets this season. “It’s disappointing, obviously. I worked really hard to get that opportunity and I wanted to be out there helping the guys and representing your country.

“We tried to do whatever we could to try to play throughout the tournament and later on in the tournament and I just wasn’t able to do it. But it was still a great experience and it was something that I take a tremendous honour and pride in and just so proud of the guys for the effort they put in for the entire tournament and representing our country incredibly well. Like all Canadians, it was tough with the final result as well.”

Like all of the players on Team Canada, the loss hit Morrissey extremely hard, even though he wasn’t in uniform.

“In some ways, it hurts just as much knowing you weren’t out there to help the guys and maybe you could have done something to help and find a way to win,” said Morrissey.

“So yeah, it was disappointing. I think for all of us, just thinking about how much it means to everyone back home and to us and to our families and friends and all of the people that helped you get there... Just in those moments, that’s what I was thinking about — the people that have supported me my entire life and career, and the fans, and all Canadians, so it was tough. It was a tough moment for sure.”

Complicating those emotions was the fact two of his Jets' teammates — goalie Connor Hellebuyck and forward Kyle Connor — were on the other side of the handshake line, celebrating a gold medal victory.

"I think it's two separate things," said Morrissey. "You want the best for your friends and your teammates. Obviously, I'm happy for those guys. I think that's sportsmanship. That's friendship.

"That's part of sport: someone wins, someone loses. Especially when it's your friends and teammates, you can be happy for them and still be disappointed on your side of the coin. That's how I look at it."

Hellebuyck had checked in on Morrissey during the Olympics to see how he was holding up.

"Oh definitely. I reached out to him to make sure he was okay," said Hellebuyck. "In a tournament like that, you can't give too much information. He's such a big part of that team, too, it changes the dynamic of it. I would have really liked to see him at his full potential there. It's just unfortunate."

Morrissey was activated off injured reserve on Friday afternoon and is tracking to return to the Jets lineup on Saturday night against the Vancouver Canucks.

Seeing the Jets collect at least a point in five consecutive games, Morrissey is excited to try and keep hope alive with his teammates.

"Coming out of the Olympics, that's kind of been the focus for me, turning that page to looking forward to coming back and trying to contribute," said Morrissey. "To help us continue to push to get into the playoffs. Guys have been playing amazing, scratching and clawing and finding ways to get points and big wins and comebacks. I just want to be able to come back here and help the guys continue to do that.

"I'm really excited to get back and help what they've been doing. It's been fun to watch."

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2026/03/06/hellebuyck-has-no-regrets-over-how-he-handled-olympic-fallout>

***Hellebuyck has no regrets over how he handled Olympic fallout
Jets netminder just hopes to carry momentum from Milan into remainder of season***

By: Mike McIntyre

Connor Hellebuyck insists he didn't want to get political. But the Winnipeg Jets goaltender — fresh off leading the United States to a gold medal at the Olympics — finds himself at the centre of a storm for a series of events that have transpired since that magical moment in Milan.

Partying in the dressing room with FBI director Kash Patel. A controversial phone call with U.S. President Donald Trump. And then visiting the White House, where he was awarded the Medal of Freedom while cosying up with a government that has, at times, put Canada in its crosshairs.

"It's crazy. Politics are crazy. But we're hockey players. And we're there representing our country and playing hockey, and making the country proud. So who cares about all that," a fiery

Hellebuyck said Friday as he was made available to Winnipeg media for the first time since returning from Italy.

“We were there to have fun and play hockey and we did that.”

Hellebuyck and his teammates were caught on camera laughing when Trump seemingly took a shot at the women’s team, which also won gold by beating Canada in overtime, by saying he should probably invite them to Washington or face being impeached. Among critics were U.S. captain Hilary Knight, who called the whole thing “distasteful.”

The Free Press asked Hellebuyck if he has any regrets for how he handled that situation.

“I guess that’s what everyone really wants to write about, right?” he replied.

“We were close with the girls’ team. We had a blast with them. We celebrated hard with them. No one was more proud of them than us. If that’s not enough for everyone to be happy, then I don’t know what is. I don’t know how many of those people have been watching their games or even tuned into their gold medal (game). But we were there.”

Does Hellebuyck feel like he and his teammates were used by Trump and company as political pawns, as many critics have suggested?

“That’s probably a better question for guys that are on social media and kind of felt the brunt of it. But the blowback that my wife (Andrea) was getting is just not fair. I don’t understand how she can take so much heat for just being with me as a hockey player,” said Hellebuyck.

“We’ve done nothing wrong, she’s done nothing wrong, my kids have done nothing wrong and everyone in my family is happy. So, I’m just going to continue living and moving on with my life and let that just fizzle out, because it always will.”

There was plenty of chatter on social media in the days that followed suggesting Hellebuyck might have worn out his welcome in Winnipeg and perhaps might even be greeted by jeers in his first game back, which happened last Tuesday night.

The reality turned out to be much different for the Michigan product, who is the reigning Hart and Vezina Trophy winner in the NHL.

“It just goes back to I’m a hockey player. I didn’t get booed when I got back. That shows a lot from our fan base. The majority of the conversations I’ve had with people since being back have been, ‘You beat our team, but we’re so happy for you.’ And that’s kind of what I would expect,” said Hellebuyck.

“This fan base and I have grown so close over the years, and we’ve done so many great things together, they know that I’m doing everything that I can for them. And when I achieve some personal things along the way, it doesn’t have to just be, ‘Oh, look what you did.’ It’s, ‘We got to experience this all together.’”

Hellebuyck was certainly not going to apologize for receiving his nation’s highest civilian honour. He joins the likes of Babe Ruth, Tiger Woods, Michael Jordan and about 40 other athletes to have received the distinction from various presidents over the years.

“These moments are really going to make a lifetime and a career for me. And receiving that highest honour is something I’ll be so proud of,” said Hellebuyck.

“And as I get older I can show my kids this is where I was and this is what we achieved. And then I’m coming back here and I want to bring that same joy here, and I think everyone understands that. I think that’s why I didn’t get booed and I still got cheered. They know that I still care about the city and I want them to feel exactly how I just felt.”

Which brings us to the present. Hellebuyck is now hoping to carry the momentum from Milan into the stretch drive for the Jets, who head into action on Saturday night against Vancouver seven points back of the final Western Conference wild-card spot, which is held by Seattle. Both teams have 21 games left.

“We’ve been getting some points, winning some games, so it’s been fun,” said Hellebuyck, who stopped 26 shots in Thursday’s 4-1 victory over the Tampa Bay Lightning which gives Winnipeg points in all five games (3-0-2) since the Olympic break.

“When you’re at the Olympics, you’re kind of in a bubble. You really don’t see what’s going on in the outside world and the impact it’s having. But as it ended and time wore on, you could see the impact it was making. I felt very connected to my country. And then coming back here, I would love to bring that joy here. And I think that’s now my next goal, is make everyone here enjoy that same 72 hours that I had.”

Jets head coach Scott Arniel is banking on it while also applauding his MVP for the way he’s handled the past couple weeks.

“It got real personal, not just with him, but with his family, with his wife. And that’s the stuff that’s out of bounds for me, and that’s the part that really, really, really upset him. I think he’s handled it well,” said Arniel.

“We saw the reception the other night when he started the first game back. And I think that everybody in this city, in this province, deep down, that they know what he’s done and what he means to us, our ultimate goal is to still win the Stanley Cup. And we’re winning it with Connor Hellebuyck, that’s the answer.”

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2026/03/06/jets-pick-up-rosen-bryson-in-stanley-schenn-trade>

Jets pick up Rosen, Bryson in Stanley, Schenn trade Club also acquires Sabres’ 2026 and 2027 Draft picks

By: Ken Wiebe

Kevin Cheveldayoff did his best to straddle the fine line.

The Winnipeg Jets general manager went into Friday’s NHL trade deadline with a clear goal in mind: to try and recoup some assets while not subtracting too much from the active roster.

The Jets were in selling mode, though this wasn’t going to be a fire sale, not with a group that has collected points in five consecutive games (3-0-2) coming out of the Olympic break to keep their slim playoff hopes alive.

As the Jets continue an eight-game homestand on Saturday against the Vancouver Canucks, there will be two new players in the lineup, one of whom (defenceman Jacob Bryson) is getting a test drive before having the ability to become an unrestricted free agent and the other is a prized prospect (forward Isak Rosen) who should benefit from a change of scenery.

The door is also open for forward prospect Brad Lambert to leave a lasting impression and have another chance to push for full-time duty as he was recalled from the Manitoba Moose of the American Hockey League.

Cheveldayoff completed an important trade late Thursday night with the Buffalo Sabres, after the Jets earned a convincing 4-1 victory over the Tampa Bay Lightning.

He moved two veteran defencemen that were on expiring contracts, Logan Stanley and Luke Schenn, and brought back a return that should help fill a longer-term need.

“Everything starts with me. I have got to be better,” said Cheveldayoff, taking ownership of the Jets inability to live up to expectations so far. “We’re at a point here now where we need to embrace some of these younger players to come in and see what they have. This is going to be an opportunity for a lot of guys.”

No matter how you break it down, Cheveldayoff was able to get back similar draft picks that he shipped out to acquire Schenn at the deadline last year, adding a fourth rounder in 2026 and a second rounder in 2027 that will be the better pick of the two the Sabres own (their own or the one that previously belonged to the Edmonton Oilers).

In a separate deal that snuck in under the wire before the 2 p.m. CT deadline, the Jets shipped veteran forward Tanner Pearson to the Sabres for a seventh round pick in 2026.

Winnipeg now has seven picks in the 2026 NHL Draft (with none in the second round and two in the seventh).

The Jets also added an intriguing prospect in Rosen, who was chosen 14th overall by the Sabres in the 2021 NHL Draft, and Bryson.

Rosen has been a force in the American Hockey League, supplying three consecutive 20-plus goal seasons with the Rochester Americans – including 27 goals and 43 points in 37 games in 2025-26.

The Swedish winger was blocked in the Sabres system by a number of other skilled forwards, but he’s a dynamic player with good speed and an excellent shot.

He doesn’t bring much of a physical element and his defensive game still requires work, but that’s not uncommon for young prospects.

Rosen, 22, should integrate into the Jets middle-six immediately and will get an extended look during the stretch run here.

He’ll be a restricted free agent this summer and with just 31 NHL games on his resumé so far, Rosen will be looking at a bridge deal, which means the Jets should have ample cap space to pursue a second-line centre to play with him, either via trade or free agency.

Simply put, the Jets needed to get faster and increase the skill level in the middle-six forward group and this was an important step in that process.

Bryson is an undersized D-man who is a mobile puck mover. He has two goals and five points in 35 games this season – and has appeared in 289 NHL games.

“We’re not, like you say, waving the white flag. We still believe in our group,” said Jets head coach Scott Arniel. “We pulled a guy out of the grocery store at four o’clock (on Friday) and threw him in our live lineup, and Isaak Phillips and played a heck of a hockey game, and Ville (Heinola) jumped in and played. And, we still have a strong, strong group here of veteran players. We have the best goaltender in the league. I still think we can find a way to get ourselves in.”

As for who is moving on, the end of the Stanley era comes with mixed reviews and emotions for some.

Chosen 18th overall in the 2016 NHL Draft after the Jets made a trade with the Philadelphia Flyers to move up so they could choose Stanley, there were some expected growing pains over the years.

But Stanley’s timing was impeccable, as he’s delivered career bests in both goals (nine) and points (19) in 59 games this season, months before he’s scheduled to become an unrestricted free agent.

There’s been plenty of chatter about Stanley posting an unsustainable shooting percentage, but even if he’s not going to be a guy that challenges to hit double digits, he’s got an offensive flair to his game and an ability to get his shot through from the point.

When you consider Stanley’s size and ability to add toughness, you can understand why he was appealing to a team like the Sabres who could use some additional edge.

The Jets assigned forward Walker Duehr and Phillips to the Moose on Friday morning.

Cheveldayoff said that Heinola, who was chosen by the Jets 20th overall in the 2019 NHL Draft, will remain with the Jets for the remainder of the season — even though he’s scheduled to be a Group 6 UFA this summer.

Once the trade deadline passed, the Jets still had seven pending unrestricted free agents, including Winnipegger Jonathan Toews.

Cheveldayoff was asked about Toews’ desire to stick around rather than ask for a move to a contender.

“When we negotiated that contract, we negotiated a full no move,” said Cheveldayoff. “In a situation like that, that’s me saying to him, ‘I’m not coming to you unless you’re coming to me.’ And so that’s a situation where I totally respect the player and the individual there.

“If you know Jonathan, he’s a very loyal and serious person. Jonathan Toews has really never been traded in his life. So, those are maybe emotions that come in, as well. But I suspect he wants to help us to continue to push throughout the remainder of this year.”

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/sports/2026/03/06/stanley-hoping-to-make-a-difference-in-buffalo>

***Stanley hoping to make a difference in Buffalo
Breaking down the winners and losers of the NHL trade deadline***

By: Mike McIntyre and Ken Wiebe

A weekly lap around the NHL by Free Press hockey writers Mike McIntyre and Ken Wiebe

The calls and text messages were coming in fast and furious for Logan Stanley.

As he sat in the press box on Thursday night watching the Winnipeg Jets take on and eventually defeat the Tampa Bay Lightning 4-1, the towering defenceman was dealing with the rumour mill in real time and had a feeling his life was about to change — even if reality hadn't quite kicked in yet.

Once a pending unrestricted free agent is held out for roster related reasons, as Stanley was at the last minute on Thursday, a trade is often just a formality.

"I guess it got a little more real when I was told I wasn't playing when I got to the rink," Stanley said in a telephone interview before boarding a plane to upstate New York to meet his new teammates. "Obviously, I knew there was that possibility, but until you're told, you don't really believe it fully. At the rink, I had lots on my mind and the rumour mill was swirling. It was definitely unique and something that I'd never really dealt with before."

Once the move became official, Stanley was traded to the Buffalo Sabres along with Luke Schenn for a package that included forward prospect Isak Rosen, defenceman Jacob Bryson and draft picks.

"I spent a lot of time in Winnipeg and really enjoyed my time here."

"It was definitely emotional, being told I was moved and then coming down and seeing the boys come in after a big win, it got to me a little bit and I realized that I was no longer a part of that group of guys," said Stanley. "I spent a lot of time in Winnipeg and really enjoyed my time here."

Stanley, chosen 18th overall by the Jets in the 2016 NHL Draft, spent the past decade in the organization and worked his way through a number of ups and downs that included injuries and healthy scratches, a trade request a few years ago that wasn't granted and a pair of playoff goals on Hall of Fame goalie Carey Price.

Eventually, Stanley found his footing and worked his way through the most productive season of his career, contributing career-highs in goals (nine) and points (19) in 59 games before the trade.

"Definitely some good times, definitely some rough patches through it all but that's professional sports," said Stanley, who reiterated how well he and his family were treated during his time here. "I'm extremely happy that I got to spend a decade in the organization."

If Stanley had his way, he would have been sticking around with the Jets. He expressed his desire to do so in a recent interview with the Free Press and he didn't rule out a return at some point in his career, even though contract negotiations didn't lead to an extension this week.

"It's a great young team, they're playing really well right now and hopefully I can help them go on a deep run."

"I'll never close the door on returning to Winnipeg. I've loved my time here. (The Jets) had to make a business decision. Things pan out the way they do sometimes," said Stanley

"Definitely no hard feelings. I have nothing but great things about everyone in the organization."

Jets general manager Kevin Cheveldayoff thanked Stanley for his contributions and wished him well in his next stop, though also not ruling out a reunion.

"Kudos to him for what he's been able to accomplish as a player this year," said Cheveldayoff. "When we talked, I told him I certainly haven't closed any doors and hope that he hadn't (either)."

Stanley, 27, is going to a Sabres team that had a rough start to the campaign and was languishing near the bottom of the NHL standings before a remarkable run has them challenging for top spot in the Atlantic Division.

"It's a great young team, they're playing really well right now and hopefully I can help them go on a deep run," said Stanley.

AROUND THE GLASS:

The final buzzer has sounded and 32 general managers across the NHL can now safely step away from their phones. Another trade deadline has come and gone and plenty of household names find themselves with new hockey homes.

There's typically a rush to declare winners and losers before the dust has barely settled, and we here at Dump & Chase are guilty as charged. It's a risk we're willing to take. While patience may truly be a virtue, what fun is that? Let's get right to it as Mike gives his hot takes:

WINNERS:

— The Colorado Avalanche have proven themselves to be the top team in the NHL so far this season, and they showed no signs of slowing down with their work at the deadline. Adding centres Nazem Kadri and Nic Roy to go with the existing one-two punch of Nathan MacKinnon and Brock Nelson is quite something. That is incredible depth down the middle.

— The Minnesota Wild landed the biggest fish — but it happened way back in December. The blockbuster trade to acquire Quinn Hughes changed their DNA, and GM Bill Guerin added some nice complementary pieces this week in Nick Foligno, Michael McCarron and Bobby Brink. They are going to be a handful come playoff time.

— It says here the Winnipeg Jets did well to turn a trio of expiring contracts in Logan Stanley, Luke Schenn and Tanner Pearson into five assets (Isak Rosen, Jacob Bryson, a second, a fourth and a seventh round pick) from the Buffalo Sabres.

— The Tampa Bay Lightning only made one trade, but adding “The Rat” Corey Perry to an already potent lineup looks like a shrewd move. He’ll make sure there are no passengers once the playoffs get underway.

— The Anaheim Ducks are one of the most exciting young teams in the league, and bringing in a force like John Carlson — easily the most stunning trade this week — on what is already a rock-solid blue line will only help their cause.

— The New York Islanders landed Brayden Schenn, the St. Louis Blues captain, and you know he’ll drag that club into the playoff fight.

LOSERS:

— The Dallas Stars didn’t exactly load up in the arm’s race that is the Central Division. Tyler Myers is a decent add on the blue line, which Michael Bunting is a depth move up front. Frankly, we expected more.

— The Carolina Hurricanes were also strangely silent, only adding tough guy Nic Deslauriers. No question they are one of the favourites in the East, but it sure feels like they fell short.

— The Buffalo Sabres clearly had to pivot once Colton Parayko utilized his no-trade clause, but Stanley and Schenn are a significant step-down, especially for the price they ultimately paid.

— There was a lot of talk that the Detroit Red Wings were going to take a home run swing, but only adding Justin Faulk amounts to a single or, at best, a double.

— It sure feels like the Edmonton Oilers missed the boat by not upgrading their goaltending, especially since the likes of Jordan Binnington and Sergei Bobrovsky were potentially on the market. Connor Murphy and Jason Dickinson might help improve their ugly defensive play, but another crease crisis come the spring wouldn’t surprise us.

— Sure, the Vancouver Canucks sold off some assets, but the league’s worst team is headed for a long re-build. Was there really no market for Elias Pettersson or was the ask simply too high?

TSN.ca

<https://www.tsn.ca/nhl/video/2026/03/06/a-big-hit-for-kevin-cheveldayoff-bain-sawyer-react-to-jets-moves-prior-to-deadline/>

'A big hit for Kevin Cheveldayoff': Bain, Sawyer react to Jets' moves prior to deadline (VIDEO)

TSN Jets reporter Danielle Bain is joined by Jets analyst Kevin Sawyer to break down Winnipeg's trade on Thursday that saw defencemen Logan Stanley and Luke Schenn dealt to the Sabres, discuss the return they got from Buffalo, where the team goes from here and more.

The Athletic

<https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/7083350/2026/03/06/jets-2026-nhl-trade-deadline-grades/>

Winnipeg Jets 2026 trade deadline report card: Grading Kevin Cheveldayoff's moves

By Murat Ates

The Athletic has live coverage of the NHL trade deadline.

In: Isak Rosen, Jacob Bryson, second-round pick (2027), conditional fourth-round pick (2026), seventh-round pick (2026)

Out: Logan Stanley, Luke Schenn, Tanner Pearson

Grade: A

Winnipeg got four assets back for two pending free agents who it was not going to sign, closing their trade of popular defencemen Logan Stanley and Luke Schenn to Buffalo late on Thursday night. That's a win, especially with upside in 22-year old wing Isak Rosen's game and the fact he's under team control until 2030.

The Jets entered into contract talks with Stanley's representation but never reached a contract structure that fit into the Jets' long-term plans. Moving him would have been a difficult decision, particularly in the midst of a career year offensively. Winnipeg spent a decade investing in Stanley's development and valued the human being, his willingness to stand up for teammates, and his impact in the dressing room. He was close to a lot of people on the team.

It was still the right decision: Winnipeg was able to get assets back for a pending UFA who simply didn't fit into its salary structure. Stanley was not going to supplant Josh Morrissey or Dylan Samberg on their depth chart, so Winnipeg was right not to pay him like a top-four defenceman to be their No. 5 or No. 6. Schenn, 36, was less of a long-term priority and was the Jets' most obvious player to trade.

Moving Pearson was a solid decision, given the depth forward's UFA status and the need for Winnipeg to gain assets and increase their draft capital. The return is obviously not stunning, but getting anything at all for a depth UFA was wise by Winnipeg.

The Jets made it through the deadline without moving some of their other key UFAs, including Gustav Nyquist, Cole Koepke, Jonathan Toews, and Eric Comrie. This may be a mild long-term disappointment, given the prices we saw teams get for veteran players, while any efforts to add star power to Winnipeg's second line will have to wait until the offseason.

What they're saying

"It's a tough day ... Both Schenner and Stan are great friends of mine. Stan has been here a long time and we've spent a lot of time together. We're close friends. I'm proud of him and how much his game has grown and how much work he's put in to become the player he's showing now." — Josh Morrissey

"There are relationships there. Those guys, they have families. It's easy for people to just say trade that guy, trade this guy, move this guy. Well, there's some human aspect to it of family and kids, friendships — all of those things. It's very hard on everybody." — Scott Arniel

“It’s not a good feeling, especially when I’m pretty close with those two guys — more than most. It’s not a fun feeling.” — Mark Scheifele

What it means for the team’s lineup

Injuries to Morrissey and Neal Pionk had put Stanley on the Jets’ top pair — and onto the top power play, too — but Morrissey could return to the lineup as soon as Saturday against Vancouver.

In the short term, this will give Winnipeg its Morrissey-DeMelo top pair back, it will keep Dylan Samberg partnered with prospect Elias Salomonsson on the second pair, and it will give Jacob Bryson a shot at NHL minutes on the Jets’ third pairing with Haydn Fleury or Ville Heinola. Bryson is a 28-year-old, left-shot defenceman who’s set to become an unrestricted free agent this summer. If the fit is good, he may be given a shot at a similar depth role for Winnipeg next season — and likely at a similar low price.

Rosen is the more exciting player. He’d most recently been playing for the Sabres’ AHL affiliate in Rochester, where he’s scored 43 points in 37 games this season. The 22-year-old speedster will be eligible for Manitoba’s playoff run, but Winnipeg will start by trying to find him an opportunity at the NHL level. The long term hope is that he grows into a middle-six NHL contributor who can help a second-unit power play.

Meanwhile, the absence of Stanley and Schenn drastically reduces the physicality on Winnipeg’s back end. The Jets’ new-look defence played a strong transition game against Tampa Bay with Stanley and Schenn sitting out on Thursday, with Salomonsson, Heinola, and 24-year-old Isaak Phillips playing bigger roles than anyone would have guessed when the season began. Stanley’s offensive forays will be missed, as will his occasionally massive hits, even as the Jets’ puck movement gets a boost. It seems assured that Salomonsson continues to get NHL minutes down the stretch, which would have to be seen as a big win for the 21 year old right shot defenceman’s development.

Note that Winnipeg assigned Phillips and Walker Duehr to Manitoba on Friday, making them eligible for the AHL playoffs. The Jets also assigned Salomonsson to the Moose in what Cheveldayoff called a paper transaction, making him eligible for AHL playoffs but with the intention of recalling him to Winnipeg for NHL games. The Jets did not “paper” Heinola to the Moose; he’ll remain with the Jets until becoming a Group VI free agent this summer.

Trade grades

The trade: Forward Isak Rosen, defenseman Jacob Bryson, 2027 second-round pick, 2026 fourth-round pick from Buffalo for defencemen Logan Stanley and Luke Schenn (50 percent salary retained).*

**Winnipeg gets the better of Buffalo and Edmonton’s fourth-round picks*

Mark Lazerus’ grade: A-

Corey Pronman’s grade: B-

My grade: A

The return is impressive, given that Stanley and Schenn are each in the last year of their contract. The second- and fourth-round draft picks recoup their overpayment for Schenn last season, while Rosen is a viable NHL prospect with an intriguing combination of skills (and warts) in his game.

Scouts tell me that Rosen is an intelligent offensive player, whose speed and one-timer are a strength. He's scored enough at the AHL level for his age, posting 98 points in 98 games over the past two seasons, to imply he has a chance as a middle-six contributor in the NHL. Concerns are mostly about his battle level, whether along the boards or in an effort to drive the middle of the ice. He was an AHL All-Star this season — mostly on the back of his offensive exploits, but some close observers believe his compete level is trending upward.

The Jets gets an A from me because Rosen is a sensible gamble, acquired for players whose contracts and time in Winnipeg came to an end. He turns 23 on March 15, meaning it's time for him to establish himself as an NHL player if that's the arc his career is meant to take — but Rosen is just finishing his entry-level contract this season. He isn't UFA eligible until 2030, giving Winnipeg plenty of time to support his development.

You can add a shiny "plus" beside that A if the Jets' bet on Rosen pays off down the road. I give them credit for the investment, because the prospect and draft picks have way higher odds of helping Winnipeg down the road than a pair of unrestricted free agents — no matter how well-liked they were.

The trade: A seventh-round pick in 2026 from Buffalo for forward Tanner Pearson
My grade: C+

This was a smart trade to pull off, given Pearson's UFA status and the need for Winnipeg to gain assets and increase its draft capital. The return is obviously not stunning, but getting anything at all for a depth UFA was a sensible decision by Winnipeg.

<https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/7095189/2026/03/06/winnipeg-jets-trade-deadline-cheveldayoff-schenn-stanley-contenders/>

The Jets' trade deadline was a step toward sensible, but there's more to be done

By Murat Ates

The Winnipeg Jets' 2026 trade deadline was a step back toward good asset management for a team that missed the mark one year ago — and missed it again last summer, despite making several signings.

Jonathan Toews, Gustav Nyquist, Tanner Pearson and Cole Koepke were not enough to make up for a departing Nikolaj Ehlers, Connor Hellebuyck's month-long absence, or injuries to Adam Lowry, Dylan Samberg and Cole Perfetti. This season's Jets are old and slow and they are not playoff-bound.

The Jets did well to get prospect Isak Rosén, defenceman Jacob Bryson, a second-round draft pick and a fourth-round draft pick for pending UFA defencemen Logan Stanley and Luke Schenn. Their acquisition of a seventh-round pick for pending UFA forward Tanner Pearson was mediocre but sensible; Winnipeg wants to give younger players an extended audition down the stretch, Rosén included. The same opportunity applies to defence, where Elias Salomonsson could find himself playing with Josh Morrissey as soon as Saturday night.

Add it all up and it's a sensible strategy for a disappointing team, but there's a much bigger problem facing the Jets.

Even though Winnipeg took small steps in the right direction, they're still miles away from the Stanley Cup-contending team they want to become. Kevin Cheveldayoff and company have built the team with the sixth-worst record in the NHL and they've built it on an aging foundation. Hellebuyck (32), Mark Scheifele (32), Morrissey (30), Lowry (32), and Kyle Connor (29) will all be on the wrong side of 30 years old by this time next season.

There are reasons to believe the Jets are better than their record, but Winnipeg's problems go beyond injuries, absences and its horrible record in overtime games. Winnipeg's core is not nearly so good it can win the Stanley Cup without a brilliant supporting cast.

This is one version of Winnipeg's roster, based only on players signed or under team control for next season:

Draw the lines up however you like. There is always a gaping hole on the second line, where no one scores like Connor and Scheifele do or drives play like Lowry does when he's at his best. There's a gaping hole in the bottom six, too, based on this year's performance — although I expect Lowry to have a bounce-back year after a healthier offseason.

Jets management tends to talk as though Winnipeg is trying to go deep in the playoffs. I tend to think Cup-contending teams need star power spread throughout their top two lines and players who can win their minutes throughout their top nine. Meanwhile, their top four defencemen have to be able to play against elite forwards, get defensive stops and move the puck in the other direction.

Winnipeg has to find a way to achieve that level of quality before the 2027 Stanley Cup is awarded, because Hellebuyck, Scheifele and Lowry will turn 34 next spring.

That's the problem Cheveldayoff must set his sights on fixing this summer. It's also part of why getting a second-round pick and a fourth-round pick as part of the trade return for Stanley and Schenn was so important. The Jets have traded a lot of draft capital away in recent seasons and not always for players who have helped them win games. They're desperate for assets they could theoretically move at the draft in an effort to recoup players for the here and now.

"A second-round pick at the trade deadline gets thrown around like it's nothing. A second-round pick when you get close to the draft, it's a powerful tool," Cheveldayoff said on Friday.

So snap your fingers. Move a second-round pick. Imagine Cheveldayoff somehow turns it into a top-six forward. Don't the Jets need another one? And then another top-nine forward after that? Winnipeg has not and will not separate Connor and Scheifele on its top line; it thus needs to assemble a secondary scoring line out of the following group of players:

- Cole Perfetti, whose recent return to form implies a breakout season is still possible but who needs to provide that form for 82 games
- Isak Rosén, who was not an NHL player for Buffalo and who scouts say needs to improve his battle level to cement himself as a middle-six player
- Brad Lambert, who Cheveldayoff recalled on Friday but who has scored 13 points in 34 AHL games
- Adam Lowry, who can be an ideal third-line centre at his best but who has been far from that for most of this hip-surgery-addled year

It would be one thing if Winnipeg needed one of those players to take a step forward next season. Winnipeg would need three of them to do it — and then for Lowry, Nino Niederreiter, Alex Lafallo and Vladislav Namestnikov to reclaim peak form.

The same concept applies on defence, where Morrissey and Samberg give the Jets a tremendous starting point. Assuming immediate top-four success from Salomonsson seems like a reach, while Neal Pionk and Dylan DeMelo are capable but not dominant defencemen on the right side. The Jets quite simply don't have enough second-round picks, top prospects or UFA allure to assume a rebound via summer shopping spree.

Winnipeg's work at the trade deadline helps it recover in part from failed recent acquisitions; Cheveldayoff needs a return to form in his own right if he's meant to buy Winnipeg's way back into the playoffs. He said on Friday that he hasn't closed the door on trying to bring Stanley back as a free agent.

"When we talked, I told him that I certainly hadn't closed any doors and hoped that he hadn't as well," Cheveldayoff said.

I still don't expect that the Jets can afford Stanley's UFA price, given his third-pairing role in Winnipeg, but it's something to keep an eye on as we continue to evaluate Winnipeg's asset management. Stanley's offensive surge has earned him a raise. His fit with the team was exemplary. He does not defend well enough to warrant the roughly \$5 million I imagine he could get on the UFA market.

One thing Stanley (and Schenn) did that Winnipeg will try to replace is fight. Lowry is the only player on Winnipeg's roster likely to drop the gloves to stick up for a teammate, but he's a pure heavyweight and the Jets need him to play other roles. Be cautious about how they try to address that issue.

"One player that I do hope we can find an opportunity down the line is a guy that plays his heart and soul out for us all the time: Tyrel Bauer. You'd love to be able to get a guy an opportunity because he plays so hard for (AHL Manitoba)," Cheveldayoff said.

Bauer is a non-factor with the puck in the AHL, but the 6-foot-4 heart and soul player would immediately become Winnipeg's top fighter. At 23 years old, Bauer has scored 19 points in just over 200 AHL games. Time will tell if Cheveldayoff's endorsement is meant to get him his first NHL game by way of reward or become an audition to make next year's Jets team by way of his unique fighting skill.

It's difficult to find a surefire path to upgrades.

"Can it be a Rosén? Can it be, you know, a Lambert?" Cheveldayoff said with regards to second-line solutions. "Those are things now the coach gets to try and experiment with some new guys. Hopefully, there's a Brayden Yager that gets his chance to come up and play in a role like that, that gives you those kinds of options. But we have to embrace where we're at right now. We have to embrace the opportunity that is in front of us here to assess our organization. We've never been able to do that, and it's a testament to where we've been."

Cheveldayoff is referring to the opportunity to assess his team's youth, with the implication being that Winnipeg has been too deep in recent seasons for that to be realistic. The opportunity for this kind of assessment has been available to him all season long; prioritizing veterans like

Schenn and Nyquist over rookies like Salomonsson and Lambert is a choice he made (in concert with Scott Arniel).

Winnipeg is doing a smart thing now. The stretch run will create opportunities for Rosén, Lambert, Salomonsson and perhaps more Jets youth to feel like a part of the organization's plans. It will give them the opportunity to develop, making their reads at NHL pace instead of developing bad habits through spending too long in the AHL.

Just don't mistake progress for revolution; Winnipeg could have promoted its youth any time this season. It could have played its top young players like Perfetti and Salomonsson with its stars, like Scheifele and Morrissey, like Carolina did with Seth Jarvis and Sebastian Aho, or like Paul Maurice did with a young Morrissey and Dustin Byfuglien.

Integrating youth represents one of Winnipeg's opportunities to get better. Cheveldayoff left Friday's press conference to visit the University of North Dakota, where he'll get to see top defence prospect Keaton Verhoeff. Whether it's Verhoeff, Chase Reid, Carson Carels, or Albert Smits on defence, or forwards like Gavin McKenna or Ivar Stenberg, the Jets are fortunate to be heading toward a top draft pick. One hopes for Winnipeg's sake that the player they choose will be so good that the Jets can't help but promote him early in his career.

Did Cheveldayoff have a good trade deadline? Absolutely. Did he move his team closer to competitiveness heading into next season? Incrementally, yes.

But it would take an offseason beyond any in recent Jets history to restore Cup-winning faith to the Hellebuyck window.

Winnipeg Sun

https://www.winnipegsun.com/sports/winnipeg_jets/starts-with-me-gm-cheveldayoff-owns-jets-plummet/article_527f5867-80c9-46f3-82c6-cee7d47dc6a5.html

'Starts with me': GM Cheveldayoff owns Jets' plummet

By Paul Friesen

It wasn't exactly a blockbuster trade deadline for Winnipeg Jets GM Kevin Cheveldayoff.

Those looking for a wholesale retooling of his disappointing team would have been disappointed.

Those looking back at where this squad was 12 months ago remain perplexed, at best.

How the mighty Presidents' Trophy winner has fallen, and how little the man in charge has done to arrest the plunge.

"It's a lot more bluster than the results," Cheveldayoff said after making one more minor move on Friday. "I don't know if that's the social media age that we're in right now, that everybody's an insider for the last six to eight to 12 weeks. Everybody's got a scoop. Everybody's got a guy that's got a guy that's got a guy that's heard that they're looking at this person or that person."

“If there’s anything that brings some levity sometimes at difficult times, it’s seeing and reading who I have an interest in on some other team that I’ve really never talked to their general manager about.”

Who he did talk to: Buffalo GM Jarmo Kekalainen, the only colleague Cheveldayoff dealt with this week.

Kekalainen was the aggressor in the Thursday night deal that sent defenceman Logan Stanley to the Sabres, along with Luke Schenn.

On Friday the Buffalo boss accepted journeyman forward Tanner Pearson from the Jets for the low cost of a seventh-round draft pick.

So Cheveldayoff unloaded less than half of his pending unrestricted free agents and picked up another from the Sabres in defenceman Jacob Bryson, a one-goal-per-season player without the snarl of Stanley.

The only intriguing pickup for the Jets is prospect Isak Rosen, a soon-to-be 23-year-old who’d been with Buffalo’s AHL farm team but will immediately get the promotion to the NHL stage.

It’s about the future now, after all.

How is it, again, the Jets got here?

“Anything I say is going to sound like excuses,” Cheveldayoff said, before mentioning the early-season injury to goalie Connor Hellebuyck and the rash of overtime and shootout losses that seemed to go the other way the last two seasons.

“We’ve got the same amount of regulation wins, or within a couple, of a lot of those teams that are fighting for bigger and better things,” he said. “But your record’s your record and you have to deal with it. I don’t think we’ve played to our Jets identity that we played so much to for the last two years.”

So why is that?

Look no further than the GM who made this team older and slower last summer.

On the cusp of being a Stanley Cup contender, Cheveldayoff turned this into the senior’s residence, the oldest team in the league to start the season.

“There is no question the players that we ended up bringing in are older, maybe not in their prime when it comes to skating,” the GM said. “But you evaluate what is in front of you.”

Toss in scoring slumps from multiple players and some injuries that exposed a startling lack of depth, and you have a group that doesn’t even resemble the one that finished on top of the heap last year.

While head coach Scott Arniel has to wear some of it, he hasn’t exactly been well-equipped.

“Everything starts with me,” Cheveldayoff said. “I have got to be better. I can’t blame the coaches for some of the things I wasn’t able to accomplish.”

So what now?

For starters, play some kids down the stretch and see what they've got.

"One of the things that you want to be judicial about is putting a young player in a situation where they are not ready to succeed and then you chew them up and spit them out, because the NHL is notorious for doing that," Cheveldayoff said. "We were hoping our young guys would force us to make decisions earlier, but now they are going to get their opportunities."

Beyond that, he can start planning for a summer do-over, with an important second-round draft pick back in the cupboard from the Stanley-Schenn trade and the hope that he's learned a lesson and doesn't mess up again.

"We have to embrace where we're at right now," the boss said. "We have to embrace the opportunity that is in front of us here to assess our organization. We've never been able to do that, and it's a testament to where we've been."

Barring a miracle that only gained longer odds this week, this season will mark just the second time in the last nine seasons that Cheveldayoff's team misses the playoffs.

So give him that about where they've been.

Where they're going is another story.

https://www.winnipeg.sun.com/sports/winnipeg_jets/jets-get-younger-quicker-at-deadline-arniel/article_3b0d2ee0-b55d-49c9-983e-6924b564e563.html

Jets get 'younger, quicker' at deadline: Arniel

By Paul Friesen

Winnipeg Jets GM Kevin Cheveldayoff made one more minor move before Friday's mid-afternoon trade deadline, sending veteran forward Tanner Pearson to Buffalo for a seventh-round draft pick.

The 33-year-old Pearson is a pending unrestricted free agent, signed by the Jets last summer to a one-year deal worth not much more than the NHL minimum.

Buffalo will be his seventh team in 13 years.

In 52 games with the Jets this season, Pearson produced seven goals, six assists, 25 penalty minutes and a plus-7 rating, playing mostly on the fourth line.

The move comes on the heels of Cheveldayoff trading defencemen Logan Stanley and Luke Schenn to the Sabres late Thursday.

"Those are tough conversations," head coach Scott Arniel said on Friday. "I spoke with both of them afterwards. With Logan, having spent four years with him and seeing him grow as a player... he did a great job of taking advantage of the opportunity that was put in front of him this

year. And Luke was a warrior for us coming in at the deadline last year at this time, playing a big role for us with his experience, helping us get through that St. Louis series.

“When you move guys out of the room that are part of the makeup, part of the character... those are two good people.

Coming back to the Jets in that deal were 28-year-old defenceman Jacob Bryson, also a pending UFA, and 22-year-old forward Isak Rosen, who'd been with Buffalo's farm team in the AHL.

Rosen will join the Jets, rather than the Manitoba Moose.

“Top-end skill, top-end speed and a big shot,” is how Arniel described him. “He is a heady kid and... there are a lot of similar players in Buffalo's organization. They changed their season, and he became a guy that was available.

“He is the type of guy who can play in a top-6 role, so it is a good opportunity for a young player and for us to be younger and quicker.”

Bryson has six goals in six NHL seasons.

“A steady (defenceman). Not a big-bodied guy, but plays hard and heavy,” Arniel said. “He will come in and help us with some depth.”

Cheveldayoff also recouped second- and fourth-round draft picks in his first swap with the Sabres, the second-round pick not coming until next year.

The moves don't dramatically alter the Jets as they continue the long-odds chase of a wildcard playoff spot in the Western Conference.

They are getting defenceman Josh Morrissey back, likely on Saturday, for the first time since his injury at the Olympics.

Coming off a 4-1 win over Tampa Bay on Thursday, they have seven points to make up and four teams to catch, with 21 games left.

https://www.winnipeg.sun.com/sports/winnipeg_jets/leave-my-family-alone-jets-hellebuyck-on-olympic-fallout/article_b66c27e4-d4d3-46d8-b8bd-dc458aa6b527.html

Leave my family alone: Jets' Hellebuyck on Olympic fallout

By Paul Friesen

For the first time since his gold-medal Olympic moment, Winnipeg Jet goalie Connor Hellebuyck parked himself in front of the local media on Friday.

While he wasn't peppered quite like he had been by Team Canada in the Olympic final, he did absorb and blocker aside a wide range of questions, from his stellar performance in Italy to the political fallout Team USA found itself embroiled in.

What concerned him most about the latter was how it ensnared his family, through social media.

“The blowback that my wife was getting is just not fair,” Hellebuyck said. “I don’t understand how she can take so much heat for just being with me as a hockey player. We’ve done nothing wrong, she’s done nothing wrong, my kids have done nothing wrong, and everyone in my family is happy.

“So I’m just going to continue living and moving on with my life and let that just fizzle out, because it always will.”

After giving up five goals in his first game back, last season’s winner of the Vezina and Hart Trophies as the NHL’s top goalie and most valuable player seems right back in his groove, allowing five goals in the last three games, combined, producing two wins and overtime loss.

“He’s handled it tremendously,” head coach Scott Arniel said. “It was an awful lot thrown at him when the game turns political for somebody like that, for all those guys. That’s a tough one that puts them all in a real tough situation. I really feel for him, that it got real personal... and that’s the stuff that’s out of bounds for me.

“That’s the part that really, really upset him.”

Much of the backlash was for the way players reacted during a post-game phone call from President Trump, in which he joked that he’d have to invite the U.S. women’s team to the White House, too, or else face impeachment.

“We were close with the girls team,” Hellebuyck said. “We had a blast with them. We celebrated hard with them. No one was more proud of them than us. If that’s not enough for everyone to be happy, then I don’t know what is.”

Invited to the White House to meet President Trump — where Trump told the goalie he was getting the Presidential Medal of Freedom — then to his State of the Union address, Team USA was widely seen as political pawns of the most divisive and controversial president in U.S. History.

Their star goalie says that’s for others to worry about.

“It’s crazy,” Hellebuyck said. “Politics are crazy. But we’re hockey players. And we’re there representing our country and playing hockey, and making the country proud. So who cares about all that. We were there to have fun and play hockey and we did that.”

Based on the reaction Hellebuyck got from Winnipeg fans since his return, he figures his Manitoba fans have moved on, too.

Even if their country took a big hit in the gold-medal game.

“I didn’t get booed when I got back,” he said. “That shows a lot from our fan base. The majority of the conversations I’ve had with people since being back have been, ‘You beat our team, but we’re so happy for you.’ And that’s kind of what I would expect.”

For the 32-year-old from Michigan, it was the experience of a lifetime, creating a treasure trove of memories and bonds that will last forever.

Among them, the paddle save on Devon Toews in the gold-medal game that preserved a 1-1, third-period tie in an eventual 2-1 overtime win for the U.S..

Hellebuyck wasn't downplaying that.

"I don't know if there is a single save bigger than that one, let alone my own," he said. "The guy who got the picture just nailed it. He might have made a career off of that one picture alone. It's pretty surreal."

Hellebuyck still has the goalie stick from the game, with the mark on it showing where the puck hit.

"It's going to be one of the main pieces of memorabilia that I keep from my career. I haven't been super attached to all of my gear, but that's one that I'll never let go."

https://www.winnipegssun.com/sports/jets-morrissey-s-mental-makeup-worthy-of-olympic-gold-medal/article_6004dbb7-8599-438e-9ec1-8f76a9a3e63e.html

Jets' Morrissey's mental makeup worthy of Olympic gold medal

By Gordon Anderson

Given his ill-timed fortune and experiences under the Hockey Canada umbrella, Josh Morrissey's mental makeup is undeniably made of gold medal stuff.

"A mentor of mine left me with (a) word to focus on: 'gratitude,'" Morrissey said in his first public appearance since his return to Winnipeg, via Milan. "As much as it's easy to get caught up in the moment, and I worked very hard to get into those situations, I've been blessed to have those opportunities."

Missing both games against the Americans, the final game of the 4 Nations last February and the gold-medal game, Morrissey has every right to assume a woe is me pose, but he chooses not to direct his energies into the dark corners of his mind.

"Whenever my mind has gone to that thought, I think about how much I have in my life, and how blessed I've been and that's kind of helped in those moments when it's been harder," he said.

The Jets rearguard was injured in Canada's opening game of the Olympics against Czechia. When he left the ice early in the 5-0 win, little did he know that he would never see the ice in a competitive game.

"I worked hard to get that opportunity, and I wanted to be out there helping the guys and obviously, representing your country," Morrissey said. "So, it was disappointing."

The Calgary native did all he could to get back into the lineup--at one point indications were positive he would participate in the quarterfinal against Czechia--but somewhere along the way he took a step backwards and was downgraded to observer status only.

"We tried to do what we could do to play throughout the tournament, but I wasn't able to do it," Morrissey said. "But it was still a great experience, and it was something that I take a

tremendous honour and pride in, and just so proud of the guys for the effort they put in for the entire tournament and representing our country incredibly well.”

Morrissey had a lot riding in the final game against the U.S., torn between rooting for our ‘home and native land,’ and his American teammates. Naturally, he was upset when Jack Hughes scored the winner early in the overtime, but he was also happy for his teammates.

Ahh, the juxtaposition.

“You want the best for your friends and your teammates,” he said. “I’m happy for Hellebuyck and Connor. That’s sportsmanship. That’s friendship. That’s part of sport as someone wins and someone loses. When it’s your friends and teammates, you can be happy for them and still be disappointed on your side of the coin. That’s how I look at it and, as I said, just overall it’s a tough situation.”

Moving the needle forward, the 30-year-old Calgary native is ecstatic to be back and happy to be caught up in the playoff race as the Jets try to pull themselves up by the bootstraps and chase down the second wildcard holder in the Western Conference in the Seattle Kraken.

Heading into league action on Friday night, the Jets were seven points behind Seattle. Both teams have 21 games remaining on the schedule.

The Jets are 3-0-2 in Morrissey’s absence, with six more home games coming up between March 6 and March 17.

“Coming out of the Olympics that’s kind of been the focus for me, turning that page to looking forward to coming back and trying to contribute, to help us continue to push to get into the playoffs,” Morrissey said. “Guys have been playing amazing, scratching and clawing and finding ways to get points and big wins and comebacks. I just want to be able to come back here and help the guys continue to do that.

Jets head coach Scott Arniel wasn’t 100 per cent committed to Morrissey’s insertion into the lineup when the Vancouver Canucks come to town for a Saturday night matchup at the downtown hanger.

But what is 100 per cent clear is Morrissey’s excitement to pick up the pieces of his Olympic experience and channel it into some good for the Jets.

Again, with that gold-medal mindset.

“I’m really excited to get back and help with what they’ve been doing,” he said. “It’s been fun to watch.”

The Jets activated Morrissey from injured reserve on Friday afternoon.