

<https://www.nhl.com/jets/news/three-things-jets-third-period-push-comes-up-short>

***THREE THINGS: Jets third period push comes up short
The Jets outshoot the Red Wings 19-9 over the final two periods but fall 2-1 in Detroit***

By Jamie Thomas

WINNIPEG – The Winnipeg Jets made a desperate push in the third period but could not get the tying goal falling 2-1 to the Detroit Red Wings at Little Ceasars Arena for the seventh straight loss. For the second straight game, a former Jet scored the winning goal as Mason Appleton recorded the GWG Wednesday night. Logan Stanley scored his seventh of the season and Connor Hellebuyck made 17 saves, the Jets will get right back to work on New Years Day when they visit the Toronto Maple Leafs.

NOT SO GOOD BEGINNING

After six fantastic periods but without the results that they deserved, the Jets were hoping that their solid play would carry over into Detroit. After a solid first five minutes for Winnipeg, the Red Wings opened the scoring while on the power play, Dylan Larkin wired a shot over the shoulder of a screened Connor Hellebuyck at 8:22. Then an unfortunate bounce gave the Wings a 2-0 lead, Mason Appleton's shot was stopped by Hellebuyck, but the puck went off Luke Schenn and into the net. Winnipeg managed just five shots in the opening frame.

NO QUIT OVER THE FINAL 40

The little hiccup in the first period was quickly put behind the Jets as they started to roll outshooting Detroit 11-6 in the second. It was the third where Winnipeg really put the pedal to the medal as they dominated and were finally rewarded at 7:04 when Logan Stanley got them on the board.

Former Red Wing Gustav Nyquist had a phenomenal chance to tie the game late with Hellebuyck on the bench, the Swedish forward hit the goal post. Dylan DeMelo also had a massive opportunity late but couldn't get the shot to go. Overall, head coach Scott Arniel liked what he saw but recognized things have to start changing real soon.

"We cannot change in the sense of how we're playing and in the sense of how hard we're playing, how hard we're competing and the amount of opportunities that we're getting," said Arniel.

"But man oh man, we've got to find a way somehow. Maybe in 2026, we can find it. We'll move off of 2025 and maybe in 2026, we can start scoring some goals."

ANOTHER MILESTONE FOR JMO

Hours after being named to Canada's Olympic roster, Josh Morrissey skate in his 700th NHL game joining Toby Enstrom as the only two defencemen in franchise history to do so. Morrissey is on pace to pass Enstrom later this season as well, currently only 19 games behind his mark of 719. Morrissey is now also 13 points shy (403) of tying Dustin Byfuglien's franchise record for points by a defenceman (416). Morrissey played a team leading 23:43 and talked about becoming an Olympian in February.

"It's an incredible honor. And something that, like I said when I found out this morning it was, it was amazing," said Morrissey on CJOB postgame.

"So just really excited to have that opportunity, honored to have that opportunity. And obviously, can't wait to get there with those guys and with that group and go try and do something special."

NHL.com

<https://www.nhl.com/news/winnipeg-jets-detroit-red-wings-game-recap-december-31-2025>

Red Wings edge Jets, have won 5 of 6 Larkin, Appleton score for Detroit; Winnipeg loses 7th straight

By Dave Hogg

DETROIT -- Dylan Larkin and Mason Appleton scored first-period goals, and the Detroit Red Wings held on for a 2-1 win against the Winnipeg Jets at Little Caesars Arena on Wednesday.

John Gibson made 23 saves to win for the ninth time in 10 starts.

"I thought the guys did a great job of keeping (Winnipeg) to the outside, especially their top line," Gibson said. "They've got a lot of skill, but we took away a lot of their playmaking ability."

The Red Wings (24-14-3) won for the fifth time in their past six games and improved to 11-3-1 in December.

"I'm happy, because we obviously want to win as many games as possible every month," Red Wings coach Todd McLellan said. "The evolution of our team has obviously been a positive throughout December, but we still have a lot to do."

Logan Stanley scored for Winnipeg (15-19-4), which has lost seven straight (0-4-3). Connor Hellebuyck made 17 saves.

The Jets finished the month with a 2-8-4 record -- the fewest December wins in franchise history. The Atlanta Thrashers had three wins in December in their inaugural season of 1999-2000.

"There are definitely some positives to take away from this, but we need to take wins away from some games," said Jets defenseman Josh Morrissey, who was named to the Canadian Olympic team earlier in the day. "We're at a point where we need wins and we need to go on a run."

Larkin gave the Red Wings a 1-0 lead with a power-play goal at 8:22 of the first period, putting a shot through traffic over Hellebuyck's glove.

Appleton made it 2-0 at 14:48. Hellebuyck stopped his shot on a 2-on-1 break, but it went in off Jets defenseman Luke Schenn.

After a scoreless second period, Stanley beat Gibson five-hole at 7:04 of the third period with a wrist shot from the left circle.

Jets forward Gustav Nyquist came close to tying the game in the final moments against his former team. With 1:38 remaining and Hellebuyck on the bench, he found himself with the puck about 15 feet from the net. He aimed for the left side of the net, but Gibson turned the shot off the post.

"I'm just doing my job," Gibson said. "I was able to read it and get into position. It hit me, but sometimes you need a little luck."

Nyquist had a similar chance late in the second period, but Gibson deflected his shot off the crossbar.

"We created a lot of good chances tonight, but we have to start putting them away," Jets coach Scott Arniel said. "We've reached the point where we have to play a perfect game to end this. We need our goalie to steal one on the same night we finish our chances."

NOTES: The game was the first Patrick Kane and Jonathan Toews played against each other in the NHL after leading the Chicago Blackhawks to Stanley Cup championships in 2010, 2013 and 2015. ... The Jets play the Maple Leafs in Toronto on Thursday -- the first New Year's Eve/New Year's Day back-to-back in franchise history. The Red Wings are also doing it -- they travel to Pittsburgh for a road game against the Penguins on Thursday. ... Morrissey played his 700th NHL game.

https://www.nhl.com/news/jonathan-toews-patrick-kane-ready-for-strange-moment-as-opponents?utm_source=xdotcom&utm_medium=nhl_social&utm_campaign=media

***Toews, Kane ready for 'strange moment' as opponents
Jets, Red Wings forwards go head-to-head after years of success as Blackhawks teammates***

By Tracey Myers

Patrick Kane and Jonathan Toews played a lot of hockey together as cornerstones for the Chicago Blackhawks.

The forwards were roommates on the road and partners in helping rebuild the Blackhawks, who won the Stanley Cup in 2010, 2013 and 2015.

So, it'll probably feel a little strange when Kane and the Detroit Red Wings (23-14-3) host Toews and the Winnipeg Jets (15-18-4) at Little Caesars Arena in Detroit on Wednesday (6:30 p.m. ET; FSDNDET, SNP, SNW, SNO). The two have played against each other in international competition, including the 2010 Vancouver and 2014 Sochi Olympics (Kane for the United States; Toews for Canada), but this will be the first time in an NHL game.

"I mean, I think it's always strange when you have those moments when you're reminded of how different things are," Toews said. "For a long time, it was almost like this dream scenario that you couldn't draw up any better. Obviously, we were so blessed in so many ways.

"But yeah, it'll be a strange moment to kind of snap out of that and realize, 'Oh yeah, we're playing for different teams now. We're going up against each other.' That being said, we're both very competitive, so it'll be a lot of fun."

Toews returned to hockey this season after a two-year hiatus due to health issues, signing a one-year, \$2 million contract with his hometown Jets on July 1. He missed the entire 2020-21 season due to Chronic Inflammatory Response Syndrome and nearly two months of the 2022-23 season while dealing with the effects of long COVID-19. The 37-year-old has 893 points (375 goals, 518 assists) in 1,104 games with the Blackhawks and Jets, including 10 points (three goals, seven assists) in 37 games with Winnipeg this season.

Kane, who missed six straight games with an upper-body injury before returning for Detroit in its 3-2 overtime win against the Toronto Maple Leafs on Sunday, has 1,366 points (498 goals, 868 assists) in 1,327 games with the Blackhawks, New York Rangers and Red Wings. The 37-year-old, who is two goals from 500 in his career, has 23 points (six goals, 17 assists) in 25 games this season.

"Yeah, it wasn't just us, but we were the face of it, right? It was really fun to build it up with and it was great to play with Jonny too," Kane said of their time together in Chicago. "We obviously roomed together right off the bat, kind of got to bounce some things off each other, especially when we started and always had that competition too. Not where we wanted to really one-up each other, but I think we really pushed each other to reach his potential."

It's going to seem strange to their former Blackhawks teammates as well.

"'Weird' is the word that comes to my mind," said former forward Patrick Sharp, who played with Toews and Kane in Chicago from 2007-15 and 2017-18. "Hopefully they get a picture at center ice, one wearing a Jets uniform and one wearing a Red Wings uniform and we'll come to terms with it then."

"It reminds me of the greatness that they had in Chicago when I'll see them out there against each other."

Toews was the No. 3 pick by the Blackhawks at the 2006 NHL Draft, and Kane went No. 1 the following year. Each made his Chicago debut in 2007-08 and were there until 2022-23, when Kane was acquired by the Rangers before the Trade Deadline, and Toews wasn't re-signed at the end of that season.

Prior to that, there were a lot of winning seasons and a lot of great memories built up over the years. In addition to the championships, each also ranks in the top six in goals and points in Blackhawks history, and each was named one of the 100 Greatest NHL Players during the League's Centennial celebration in 2017.

"Hopefully when they play against each other, they don't do what they used to do (in Chicago), which is pass to each other and set each other up," said former forward Bryan Bickell, who was Toews' and Kane's teammate in Chicago from 2007-16. "It should be pretty fun. Obviously with Kane where he has been and where he's still going and then with Toews' return, it's super special to see him come back and, let's say, go out the way he wants to."

"I'm sure he has more years ahead of him, but to get back into the swing of things and going to his hometown of Winnipeg is super cool for him."

Toews and Kane spent a good part of their careers helping rebuild the Blackhawks. But their paths will converge again in a very different setting on Wednesday.

"It was such a blessing for me to come up with a guy like 'Kaner,' a guy with his talent and his drive and his dedication to the game because in so many ways it took the pressure off me. I think we complimented each other in a lot of ways," Toews said.

"It's fun, moments like this where you look back and say, 'Wow.' It's crazy how rare it is to have that success, how difficult it really is, too, in this league because you're always

focused on the present and where you are right now. And that's what you have to do to keep thriving in this league, too."

Winnipeg Free Press

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2025/12/31/maybe-in-2026-we-can-start-scoring-some-goals-jets-losing-streak-continues>

'Maybe in 2026, we can start scoring some goals': Jets' losing streak continues

By: Ken Wiebe

Another day, another one-goal loss for the Winnipeg Jets.

Despite a late push, the Jets were unable to overcome a sluggish first period and fell 2-1 to the Detroit Red Wings on Wednesday night at Little Caesars Arena, closing out 2025 on a seven-game losing skid (0-4-3).

Six of those seven defeats were one-goal losses, the lone exception coming on Monday when the Jets lost 3-1 to the Edmonton Oilers after a late empty-net goal from Zach Hyman.

The Jets drop to 15-19-4 for the season and they'll continue a three-game road trip on Thursday against the Toronto Maple Leafs.

Logan Stanley scored the lone goal for the Jets, while former Jets right-winger Mason Appleton delivered the game-winning goal for the Red Wings.

"It's just frustrating when the results aren't coming," Jets defenceman Josh Morrissey told CJOB on the post-game show. "We've got an opportunity here. I know we're not at all close to where we want to be, or feel that we could be with the type of team that we have.

"So, we can't dwell on the past at this point. It's just all about moving forward and trying to go on a run. We're going to need to go on a run here to fight back. But again, it's tight on the western side, into those wild card spots, and we still have a chance to make up ground and get into those, but we've got to find ways to win hockey games here."

The Jets gave up a pair of goals in the first period, one on the power play and another at even strength, leaving them in a 2-0 hole that was difficult to dig out of, especially for a team that is having trouble scoring goals and has found the back of the net just twice during the past two games.

"At the end of the day, it's such a fragile situation," Jets head coach Scott Arniel told CJOB. "You make a mistake and we're seeing what happens. That's been kind of the story here, especially recently here, when we have been playing good hockey.

“We cannot change in the sense of how we’re playing and in the sense of how hard we’re playing, how hard we’re competing and the amount of opportunities that we’re getting. But, man oh man, we’ve got to find a way somehow. We’ll move off of 2025 and maybe in 2026, we can start scoring some goals.”

The Jets are hoping their fortunes change in the new year, as they finished 2025 in 32nd place in the NHL in points (34) and points percentage (.447).

Let’s take a closer look at what happened on Wednesday:

A IS FOR APPLETON – Former Jets right-winger Mason Appleton scored a goal in his first game against his new team since signing as a free agent with the Red Wings on July 1.

Appleton went in on a two-on-rush with Mason Raymond during the first period and delivered his second goal in as many games.

The goal itself was somewhat emblematic of how things have been going for the Jets lately.

Jets defenceman Dylan DeMelo went to dump the puck in and his stick appeared to break, leaving the puck behind for the Red Wings to turn up ice in transition.

Jets defenceman Luke Schenn made a diving play to get a piece of the pass from Raymond, but he couldn’t get all of it, which allowed Appleton a good look in tight.

Appleton has been limited to 31 games after recently missing time with an injury, but he’s up to six goals and 11 points for the season.

At a time when the Jets have been starving for secondary scoring, this was the second time in as many games that a former Jets forward has delivered the game-winning goal — with Jack Roslovic doing the same on Monday.

Speaking of former Jets, forward Andrew Copp has four goals and 21 points in 41 games this season for the Red Wings, while defenceman Ben Chiarot has four goals, eight points and 84 hits in 41 games this season.

LOOKING SKYWARD – In the waning seconds, with the net empty and the goalie on the bench in favour of an extra attacker, Jets winger Gustav Nyquist took a pass from Gabe Vilardi and had a glorious scoring chance from the slot.

But Nyquist’s shot rattled off the post, leaving Nyquist to look skyward in disbelief.

Nyquist has now gone 29 games this season without scoring a goal, but he's had a number of quality looks during the past several games — including a beautiful goal on an individual effort that was erased by a coach's challenge for offside.

Nyquist has now rattled three shots off the iron during the past three games, including another one in the second period on Wednesday when he appeared to beat John Gibson with a wrister.

He's far from the only guy that's struggling to score, but it's clear Nyquist and several others need to get going.

THE MEETING – They broke into the NHL together as rookies back in the 2007-08 season, first-round draft picks who helped resurrect an Original Six franchise.

After winning three Stanley Cups together and each appearing in more than 1,000 games with the Chicago Blackhawks, Jonathan Toews and Patrick Kane suited up as opponents for the first time on Wednesday.

Toews was in uniform for Game 38 for his hometown team, while Kane is back for his second season with the Red Wings.

Thanks to an assist in the third period, Toews has points in consecutive games to give him 11 points this season.

Kane was limited to a hooking minor, but has six goals and 23 points in 26 games this season.

You can be sure this will be a moment that both players will remember and they posed for a pre-game photo for the archives.

THE KEY PLAY – Mason Appleton converts on a two-on-one rush for the game-winning goal.

THE THREE STARS

Mason Appleton, Red Wings, Scored the decisive goal.

John Gibson, Red Wings, Finished with 24 saves.

Logan Stanley, Jets, Scored the lone goal for the visitors.

EXTRA, EXTRA – Jets goalie Connor Hellebuyck made his eighth consecutive start since returning from arthroscopic knee surgery and he finished with 17 saves.

The Jets made no changes to their lineup, which left defencemen Haydn Fleury and Colin Miller and forward Cole Koepke as the healthy scratches.

Jets backup Eric Comrie figures to make his 16th start of the season on Thursday against the Toronto Maple Leafs. Comrie hasn't made a start since Dec. 11, when he allowed five goals on 23 shots on net.

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2025/12/31/jets-morrissey-among-manitobans-joining-team-canada>

Jets' Morrissey joins two Manitobans on Team Canada

By: Ken Wiebe

Josh Morrissey is getting another opportunity to represent his country.

Only this time, it will be on the grandest stage.

The Winnipeg Jets defenceman was among the 25 players unveiled by Hockey Canada on Wednesday morning at a press conference in Minnesota held to officially name the men's Olympic team that will compete in Italy in February.

Morrissey was a stalwart blue-liner for Canada at the 4 Nations Face-Off last February, though he was unable to suit up in the gold medal game owing to a nasty flu virus.

The Calgary product is having another outstanding season, chipping in six goals and 30 points in 37 games going into Wednesday's game against the Detroit Red Wings — which is the 700th of his NHL career.

Morrissey is currently tied with Quinn Hughes for sixth among NHL D-men in points and he continues to supply sound defensive play while averaging more than 24 minutes of ice time per game.

A Norris Trophy candidate in each of the past three seasons, including this one, Morrissey is someone who figures to play a prominent role, whether it's being reunited with Colton Parayko of the St. Louis Blues or skating alongside Shea Theodore of the Vegas Golden Knights.

"Josh is a player we obviously know very well from being in the (Central) Division. His game is getting stronger every year," Winter Olympic Games 2026 general manager Doug Armstrong said on a Zoom call, when asked by the Free Press. "What he went through at the 4 Nations and the pain he was in not being able to participate in that final game showed his love of country and his passion for the game.

"I just think he's a heck of a hockey player."

There is also some strong Manitoba flavour on this edition of Team Canada: Winnipegger Mark Stone and Elkhorn product Travis Sanheim were all named to the team.

Jets centre Mark Scheifele was not among the 14 forwards listed, though he is believed to be under consideration as an injury replacement should one be required.

Armstrong was asked about Scheifele during the press conference in Minnesota, but he told reporters he wasn't going to discuss players who weren't named to the team or the reasons why they weren't chosen.

What that means for the Jets will be interesting to monitor.

Scheifele enters Monday's game against the Detroit Red Wings tied for 10th in NHL scoring — and he's tied for fourth among Canadians with 18 goals and 45 points in 37 games.

There's little doubt that Scheifele won't feel some disappointment about the decision, but when he was overlooked last December, he responded by going on a tear, racking up nine goals and 17 points in 13 games after the 4 Nations Face-Off roster was announced.

During the calendar year, Scheifele produced 35 goals and 88 points, so you can see why he was one of the players in the mix for the final two spots on this roster.

Sanheim is a smooth-skating blue-liner and has the ability to play either the left or right side as a left-handed shooting D-man.

The Philadelphia Flyers defenceman has three goals and 17 points in 38 games and his mobility and ability to defend are key attributes for him.

After the news was made public, Sanheim told reporters on a Zoom call that the well-wishes have been pouring in from his town of roughly 500 people.

"They're super proud and supportive," Sanheim told reporters. "I've already received over 100 text messages that I haven't quite caught up on. Very proud to come from a community like that. I'm sure that when the games are on, they'll be watching every second and the town will be (wearing) red and white."

Stone is also among the players returning after helping Canada win gold at the 4 Nations Face-Off.

Despite missing some time due to injury, Stone has 10 goals and 31 points in 22 games this season.

He's a strong two-way player and his elite vision and passing ability gives him the versatility to play anywhere in the lineup and make a contribution.

His Stanley Cup pedigree and ability to deliver in clutch situations was also a consideration in Stone getting another chance to suit up for Canada.

There's also a local connection when it comes to goaltending: former Brandon Wheat Kings netminder Logan Thompson of the Washington Capitals was named to the team along with Jordan Binnington and Darcy Kuemper.

Winnipegger Seth Jarvis being one of five players on the 4 Nations Face-Off roster to be left off the Olympic team was a surprise, given the fact he's eclipsed 30 goals in each of his first two NHL seasons and already has 19 goals and 29 points in 34 games this season.

Jarvis is also sound defensively and plays with tenacity, but he's recently been sidelined with an upper-body injury.

Another notable omission is Strathclair's Morgan Geekie, a high-scoring forward who has 25 goals and 40 points in 40 games this season with the Boston Bruins.

Winnipeg Sun

https://www.winnipeg sun.com/sports/winnipeg_jets/jets-lose-7th-consecutive-game-a-2-1-loss-to-the-red-wings/article_b6fca407-b628-4266-b575-d038d5f9c9a1.html

Jets lose 7th consecutive game, a 2-1 loss to the Red Wings

By Gordon Anderson

Until things get sorted out and the team starts winning hockey games, it will not be a Happy New Year for the Jets.

Winnipeg dropped its seventh consecutive game, this time losing 2-1 to the Detroit Red Wings on Wednesday night in the Motor City.

After Logan Stanley cut the deficit to 2-1 with his seventh goal at 7:04 of the third period, the Jets removed Connor Hellebuyck from the net for the extra attacker with 2:28 remaining in the game with the faceoff in the Detroit end of the ice.

The best chance came off the stick of former Red Wing Gustav Nyquist, but his shot from the slot banged off the left post behind John Gibson.

Nyquist hasn't scored a goal in 29 games. He had a goal called back against the Edmonton Oilers on Monday night due to an offside.

"We played well and competed hard, it is just frustrating when the results aren't coming," defenceman Josh Morrissey told CJOB. "We just have to stick with more of what we have done in the last three games."

Prior to this loss, the locals dropped a 4-3 overtime decision to the Minnesota Wild last Saturday night and lost 3-1 to the Oilers.

The Jets outshot the Red Wings 8-3 in the third period and 24-19 overall. The club is 1-15-1 when trailing after two periods of play. Detroit is now 17-1-1 when leading after 40 minutes.

According to the NHL website, the shot attempts were 29-6 in the third period for the Jets.

"That is getting to be an old story," head coach Scott Arniel said. "This league is based on winning games and getting points. We are in such a fine state right here where we make a mistake, like we did in the first period and it is in the back of the net, and we are chasing the game again. We had a lot of opportunities and a lot of chances but at the end of the day until these (chances) start to go in the net, and we find a way to get more than one or two goals, we are going to make it tough on ourselves."

The goal Arniel referenced was the game winner by former Jet Mason Appleton at 14:48 of the first period after Luke Schenn pushed the puck over the goal line.

Prior to the goal, Dylan DeMelo fanned on pass in the neutral zone, sending J.T. Compher and Appleton into the Jets zone on a 2-on-1 against Schenn.

Six of the seven losses on this streak of futility have come by one goal.

In the two-goal loss to the Oilers, Zach Hyman's marker at 18:37 of the third period was of the empty net variety. Losses to the Ottawa Senators and the Utah Mammoth also came in overtime.

Hellebuyck turned aside 17 shots in the loss. Since returning to regular netminding duties on Dec. 13, Hellebuyck is 1-4-3.

Gibson stopped 23 shots to earn the victory.

The Jets are in Toronto to play the Maple Leafs on New Years Day.

Poor puck luck

Schenn played an unfortunate role in Larkin's goal at 8:22 of the first period. Larkin's shot from the high slot appeared to deflect off Schenn before the puck zinged over the trapper of a screened Hellebuyck. On Appleton's goal, the defender helped the puck into the net as Appleton's pass to the crease got through Hellebuyck and hit Schenn before crossing the goal line.

Scheifele comes up short

Jets forward Mark Scheifele was not included on the Team Canada 25-man roster for the 2026 Winter Olympics in Milano Cortina.

"I'm really disappointed and I really feel for Scheifele," Arniel said. "I really would have loved to see him get rewarded by being named to that team, as well."

The Canada roster was announced on Wednesday morning, approximately six hours prior to the game against the Red Wings.

Morrissey was named to the team heading for Italy in the first couple of weeks of February.

Three for 18

Three former Jets, with 18 full seasons combined in Winnipeg, suited up for the Red Wings on Wednesday night.

Andrew Kopp spent seven full seasons with the Jets before he was traded to the New York Rangers in March of 2022 for three draft picks and Morgan Barron. Ben Chiarot spent five seasons with the Jets before electing for free agency and signing with the Montreal Canadiens in July of 2019. Appleton signed with the Red Wings in July after six full seasons with the club, split over two stints.

https://www.winnipegssun.com/sports/jets-defender-josh-morrissey-makes-team-canada-olympic-team/article_6bcb1e14-7f8c-4d69-8b73-d5dca7ad20b5.html

Jets defender Josh Morrissey makes Team Canada Olympic team

By Gordon Anderson

On Wednesday morning Jets blue liner Josh Morrissey was among the 25 players selected to represent Canada at the upcoming Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026.

"Morrissey is a player that we know very well from being in the same division," Team Canada and St. Louis Blues general manager Doug Armstrong said. "His game is getting stronger every year and what he went through at the 4 Nations and the pain he was in not being able to participate in that final game showed his love of country and passion for the game. We played Winnipeg in the first round, and he was a phenomenal player. He is one heck of a hockey player."

The men's tournament begins on Feb. 11 when Slovakia takes on Finland. The gold medal game is scheduled for Feb. 22. Canada's first game is Feb. 12 against Czechia.

John Cooper is the head coach for Team Canada. Pete DeBoer, Rick Tocchet, Bruce Cassidy and Misha Donskov are the assistant coaches.

As Armstrong mentioned, Morrissey did not play in the 4 Nations championship game against the Americans due to flu-like symptoms. A few days after Connor McDavid scored the overtime winner, Morrissey talked to the Winnipeg media about his condition in the hours before game time.

"I felt fine at the morning skate. Maybe not perfect, but I felt fine. Then in the afternoon, I had my pre-game meal and sort of in the middle of the nap, it started to go sideways. I won't get into any more detail than that. But I tried to get things to subside," Morrissey said at the time. "The team doc, we did everything possible. To me, that was the biggest game of my life, and I didn't want to miss that game."

The Calgary native has six goals and 24 assists in 37 games this season. Heading into Wednesday's game against the Detroit Red Wings, Morrissey was sixth in league scoring among defencemen.

Mark Scheifele's name was among several forwards given serious consideration for the 25-man roster. Ultimately, he was left off the team with no answer forthcoming from the GM.

"I will hold my answers to questions of players that are on the team," Armstrong said. "There are so many players that are right on the cusp ... and no players played their way off this team. We just had to narrow this down to 25."

Scheifele has 18 goals and 27 assists in 37 games this season.

Armstrong said there is a stand-by list of players in case injuries occur before the final league game on Feb. 6. The GM gave some insight into how the selection process would work.

"It is not one player out or one player in," he said. "If this style of player gets hurt, we will have a list of players to look at, and if this style of player gets hurt, we will have another list of players to look at. We asked the players if they wanted to stay on that list, part of the requirement to being on that list, you have to continue with the testing that the Olympic committee does, and to a man that I talked to, they said they wanted to stay on the list."

Armstrong did not say how many players were on the list, nor did he identify any of the players on the list.

Of note, the eight defencemen selected to the roster are the same players who participated in the 4 Nations.

Cale Makar (Colorado Avalanche), Drew Doughty (Los Angeles Kings), Thomas Harley (Dallas Stars), Colton Parayko (St. Louis Blues) Travis Sanheim (Philadelphia Flyers),

Shea Theodore (Vegas Golden Knights) and Devon Toews (Colorado Avalanche) and Morrissey.

"We have a great skill level and we have a proper balance of players that have won at the NHL level, have won at the 4 Nations level and complement each other and that was a big decision when I talked to Cooper and DeBoer about the defence," Armstrong said.

One from Winnipeg

The lone Winnipeg native to make the roster was Mark Stone of the Las Vegas Golden Knights. A second Winnipeg native under consideration for possible inclusion was Carolina Hurricanes forward Seth Jarvis. He represented Canada at the 4 Nations. He recorded one assist in three games. Jarvis was having a strong season with 19 goals and 10 assists in 34 games played. However, Jarvis' chances of making the final roster were hampered when he crashed into the post during overtime in a game against the Florida Panthers on Dec. 19. Jarvis is considered week-to-week with an upper body injury.

The Team USA roster will be announced on Jan. 2. Connor Hellebuyck and Kyle Connor are expected to make the roster for the Olympic games.

Global Winnipeg

<https://globalnews.ca/news/11595921/winnipeg-jets-disastrous-december-ends-with-2-1-defeat-in-detroit/>

Winnipeg Jets' disastrous December ends with 2-1 defeat in Detroit

By Christian Aumell Global News

December 2025 is going to go down as perhaps the worst month in Winnipeg Jets 2.0 history.

The nail in the coffin came Wednesday night when they fell to the Red Wings 2-1 in Detroit for their seventh straight loss.

With the defeat, the Jets finish the month with a terrible 2-7-4 record, their fewest wins in a full calendar month of action since relocating from Atlanta.

The game got off to a fairly uneventful start before Josh Morrissey, playing in his 700th NHL game, was called for roughing just over seven minutes in, catching Detroit captain Dylan Larkin in the face.

It was Larkin who made the Jets pay on the power play when he ripped a wrist shot high over the left shoulder of a screened Connor Hellebuyck.

Things went from bad to worse for Winnipeg when Detroit doubled their lead thanks to a comedy of errors from the Jets.

The play began when Dylan DeMelo fanned on a dump-in at the centre red line, springing Detroit on a 3-on-1. J.T. Compher carried the puck deep into Winnipeg territory before sending a pass across to Mason Appleton. He was almost below the goal line when he sent a shot on goal that squeezed through Hellebuyck, banked off a sliding Luke Schenn and into the net for his first goal against his former team.

The goal made it 2-0, the seventh time in the last 11 games that the Jets had fallen behind by two or more goals.

Detroit nearly made it 3-0 moments later when another former Jet, Andrew Copp, got free for a short breakaway but Hellebuyck turned aside his chance with the blocker.

The Wings carried the 2-0 lead into the second after outshooting Winnipeg 10-5 in the first.

Detroit got another power play just over a minute into the second but the Jets got the kill and shortly thereafter picked up their first power play of the night.

But it was Detroit who had the best chance on Winnipeg's power play, with Gustav Nyquist disrupting a pass that would have resulted in a tap-in goal for Larkin.

Winnipeg wound up outshooting Detroit 11-6 in the second period but the Wings carried their 2-0 lead into the third.

The Jets finally broke through at the 7:04 mark of the third. Logan Stanley got the puck as he skated down the wall in the Detroit end and fired a shot along the ice that beat John Gibson five-hole for his seventh of the season, a shot Gibson should have stopped.

Jonathan Toews picked up an assist on the play for just his third point in his last 22 games.

Winnipeg had possession of the puck for the bulk of the period as they pushed hard for the equalizer, with their closest call coming with the goalie pulled when Nyquist hit the post during a net-front scramble.

But the clock ran out before Winnipeg could pull even, bringing their disastrous month to a merciful end.

Other than the Stanley goal, Gibson was solid in net for Detroit, turning aside 24 shots while Hellebuyck stopped 17.

Winnipeg will try to get 2026 started on a more positive note when they take on the Maple Leafs in Toronto at 6 p.m. New Year's Day.

Sportsnet.ca

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/video/morrissey-looks-forward-to-being-captained-again-by-incredible-crosby/>

Morrissey looking forward to playing with 'incredible' Crosby at Olympics (VIDEO)

Winnipeg Jets defenceman Josh Morrissey chats to the Hockey Central panel after being named to Team Canada, discussing why he's looking forward to playing with Colton Parayko again, Sidney Crosby's leadership, and much more.

Associated Press

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/article/jets-losing-streak-hits-seven-games-after-falling-to-red-wings/>

Jets' losing streak hits seven games after falling to Red Wings

By Associated Press

DETROIT — John Gibson kept up his hot December with 24 saves, Dylan Larkin and Mason Appleton scored goals, and the Detroit Red Wings beat the slumping Winnipeg Jets 2-1 on Wednesday night.

Gibson won for the ninth time in 10 starts as the Red Wings improved to 11-3-1 in December.

The Jets lost their seventh straight game (0-4-3) on a night where Connor Hellebuyck made 17 saves. Logan Stanley scored Winnipeg's goal.

The Red Wings took a 1-0 lead at 8:22 of the first period when Larkin ripped a shot through traffic over Hellebuyck's glove while on the power play. Larkin and Hellebuyck, who grew up a few miles apart in Detroit's western suburbs, are expected to be teammates on Team USA in the upcoming Olympics.

Appleton put the Red Wings ahead 2-0 with 5:12 left in the first, finishing off a two-on-one break with J.T. Compher. Hellebuyck made the initial save, but defenseman Luke Schenn knocked the puck into the net while trying to clear the crease.

Gustav Nyquist nearly made it 2-1 late in the second period against his former team, but hit the crossbar from a sharp angle.

Stanley made it 2-1 at 7:04 of the third with a shot along the ice that seemed to fool Gibson.

Up next

Jets: Visit the Toronto Maple Leafs on Thursday night.

Red Wings: Visit the Pittsburgh Penguins on Thursday night.

The Athletic

<https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/6929711/2026/01/01/jets-maple-leafs-struggles/>

Why the Jets and Maple Leafs have both fallen off so much this season

By Murat Ates and James Mirtle

The devastation is far-reaching in Canada, from the biggest hockey market in the world to the smallest rink in the NHL.

The Toronto Maple Leafs took the Stanley Cup champions to seven games in Round 2, but they're tracking for a 20-point drop from last season and an outright playoff miss. Auston Matthews isn't scoring nearly as much as he used to, Craig Berube has come under fire, Mitch Marner is out, and a dependence on older, slower defenders has let the air out of what was supposed to be a contending team.

The drop off is even worse in Winnipeg, where the Jets are on pace to become the first ever Presidents' Trophy winners to finish in last place. They're the oldest and slowest team in the league, their forecheck can't close down space to shut teams down, Nikolaj Ehlers is out, and three players — Mark Scheifele, Kyle Connor and Gabriel Vilardi — have scored 52 of the team's 107 goals.

Despite the difference in markets, there are a lot of similarities between the two teams' declines.

Why are two of Canada's top teams from last season on pace for heartbreak in 2025-26? James Mirtle and Murat Ates teamed up to dissect the devastation.

1. Roster changes

Toronto

Forwards in: Nicolas Roy, Easton Cowan, Matias Maccelli, Dakota Joshua

Forwards out: Mitch Marner, Max Pacioretty, Pontus Holmberg, Ryan Reaves, Alex Steeves

Defencemen in: Troy Stecher, Henry Thrun

Defencemen out: None

Goalies in: None

Goalies out: Matt Murray

Winnipeg

Forwards in: Jonathan Toews, Gustav Nyquist, Tanner Pearson, Cole Koepke

Forwards out: Nikolaj Ehlers, Mason Appleton, Rasmus Kupari, Brandon Tanev, Dominic Toninato

Winnipeg's roster on defence and in goal is the same as it was last season.

2. A big step back from a critical player

Miracle on the Leafs: Auston Matthews' falloff began last year, as he played through a season-long injury that limited him to 33 goals and 78 points in 67 games.

What few expected, however, was yet another statistical dip again this year, as he entered training camp declaring himself healthy and appeared set for a bounce back. Instead, he's dipped to a 62-point pace, which would be a career low and a dramatic falloff from his 69-goal, 107-point campaign just two years ago.

The reasons for Matthews' struggles go beyond just health at this point, however, as we laid out in-depth here recently. But the Leafs are built around their captain being an MVP-calibre player and don't have the personnel to fill the chasm if he's unable to get back to his typical 50-goal, 90-point self. So his struggles have hurt.

Murphy on the Jets: Most people outside of Winnipeg don't realize this, but Adam Lowry played an outsized role as the Jets' de facto No. 2 centre for the two seasons before this one.

Lowry's line — previously with Nino Niederreiter and Mason Appleton — has been responsible for Winnipeg's toughest shutdown assignments, hard-matched against the league's Matthews-caliber players by Rick Bowness and then Scott Arniel. Its ability to outscore players like that in head-to-head competition — Lowry's line was plus-18 over two seasons in that shutdown role — has been at least as important to Winnipeg's success as star scorers such as Kyle Connor and Mark Scheifele.

Lowry hasn't been able to deliver that performance as he pushes to find his game in the wake of offseason hip surgery.

His line isn't hemming great players in their own zone, he's not bulldozing through opponents with his typical frequency, and his lack of agility has been exposed by faster players. He's still defending well at five-on-five, but the biggest concern is an abject lack of offence: Lowry is on pace to score less than half of the points he averaged for three straight seasons before this one. NHL Edge data shows him getting almost nothing by way of scoring chances from the low and centre slot.

So, while everyone else is talking about the holes in Winnipeg's second line on paper, the line that usually plays the second-most minutes on the team has gone from a dominant force that wins its minutes every year to a net-zero, devoid of secondary scoring.

3. A run of injuries to key personnel

Mirtle on the Leafs: In addition to Matthews' ongoing issues — which include six missed games and a potential absence on Thursday against the Jets — the Leafs have had a few key people missing a lot this season.

Last year's MVP on defence (MVD?) Chris Tanev has played just 11 games after suffering multiple significant injuries, including at least one that appeared to be a concussion. Netminder Anthony Stolarz, the NHL's save percentage leader last season, has appeared in only 13 games and is out indefinitely with an undisclosed injury.

Add in a leave of absence for Joseph Woll for more than a month to start the year and both Brandon Carlo and centre Scott Laughton fracturing a foot, and it's been more than the depth-challenged Leafs have been able to overcome at times.

Overall, Toronto is outside the top 10 leaguewide in salary lost to injury, but missing both goalies for long stretches, their top-two right defencemen at the same time and multiple centres has made the ailments they've had hurt more than those numbers show.

Murat on the Jets: Winnipeg's nightmare scenario came to pass for most of a month this season, with Connor Hellebuyck playing through a minor knee ailment until it required a scope.

The four-week recovery period was the longest absence of the Hart Trophy-winning goalie's career — he'd previously missed a single game to attend the birth of his son in 2021, among one-offs for the flu. Eric Comrie won three of 11 games in Hellebuyck's absence while putting up some of the worst numbers in his career — an .886 save percentage that puts him on pace to give up an extra 15 goals if he finishes 2025-26 with the same number of starts as last season.

Equally concerning, Hellebuyck has been a sub-.900 goaltender while starting eight straight games since his return.

Other problematic injuries include Lowry's hip surgery — a decision made after multiple seasons' worth of playing through a nagging ailment pushed it over a threshold his doctors had set for him. Lowry has played 26 of Winnipeg's 38 games and has looked slow while doing so, outside of a great game against Edmonton earlier this week. Dylan Samberg is at his best again after breaking his wrist, but Cole Perfetti isn't generating nearly the offence he did a season ago after missing 14 games with a high ankle sprain.

4. The loss of a star forward not everyone believed in

Mirtle on the Leafs: Let's make one thing clear to start: Everyone believed in Mitch Marner's ability and talent level, especially in the regular season. But after so many failed attempts in the playoffs for the Leafs' Core Four, it was time for a change, something Marner himself instigated as he greenlit a sign-and-trade with the Vegas Golden Knights last summer.

The Leafs have missed Marner in a handful of ways, but his absence has been most evident in just how putrid Toronto's power play has been (27th in the NHL), how much the Leafs have struggled on their breakouts, and their lack of defensive acumen in general. Toronto remains a dangerous offensive team — eighth in goals per game — but it definitely lacks a 20-minute-a-night winger who can shut down opponents' top lines and be a threat the other way.

And Matthews certainly misses his pretty passes, too.

Murat on the Jets: Ehlers' absence looks like a driving force behind former linemates Cole Perfetti and Vladislav Namestnikov's offensive backslides.

The Jets used to play this line as a secondary scoring option, relying on Ehlers' speed to create offensive zone time and his erratic, confusing — but explosive — routes in the offensive zone to create scoring chances. In the three seasons before Ehlers' departure, he picked up the third most primary assists on the team (total) and led the Jets in five-on-five points per minute.

He'd make confusing giveaways and flatfoot his linemates and frustrate fans who wanted more consistency, but Ehlers was a star-calibre forward who helped Winnipeg win hockey games. In his one season on the Jets' top power-play unit, he led it in points per minute, too. The power-play regression from first in the NHL to average isn't nearly on Ehlers' departure alone, but it's projected to suck 18 goals out of Winnipeg's offence compared to last season.

5. The surprising usage of certain players

Mirtle on the Leafs: Every coach has their favourites, and Craig Berube's haven't been all that hard to discern in his year-and-a-half in Toronto. But an overreliance on big, slow defenders (Simon Benoit and Philippe Myers) hurt them early on. And some of the new forwards (namely Nicolas Roy and Matias Maccelli) haven't always received as much rope as the old favourites.

Max Domi, in particular, has been gifted a ton of opportunities, including on the top power-play unit and top line, but has been inconsistent (at best) for a second straight year.

The arrival of waiver claimant Troy Stecher has proven a huge help in this regard, however, and Berube deserves credit for leaning on the undersized defender at the expense of some of his underperforming vets. Toronto's improved play of late has coincided with this shift.

Murat on the Jets: Scott Arniel was speaking in praise of Jonathan Toews this summer, glowing about Toews' positive attitude, when he made what's become an infamous joke.

“Arnie, I don’t want anything given to me, I’ll start on the fourth line,” Arniel recalled Toews saying, before adding, “I don’t think that would go over very well — a month or two on the fourth line.”

Toews has struggled badly as Winnipeg’s second-line centre to start the season. He’s Winnipeg’s worst player in terms of plus-minus, on pace for the worst offensive season of his career, and on pace to post the worst season by a second-line centre in Jets 2.0 history. He’s brilliant at faceoffs, which earns extra ice time — and a faceoff win gave Toews his first point in December earlier this week. It’s also obvious that he has a great read of the game, befitting of his legendary career.

Toews’ road has been a long one, his comeback is worthy of respect, and the disconnect between his performance and his fourth-place spot in ice time among Jets forwards is a good indicator of what’s gone wrong in Winnipeg so far this season.

6. That one decision the coach can’t get enough of
own zone and giving up way too much defensively, and a lot of that comes back to Berube’s dump-and-chase style.

It worked to an extent last season as they won a lot of ugly games, in part because they had a better roster (with a healthy Tanev and Marner still in the fold), but they still relied far too heavily on goaltending to win a lot of one-goal games. This year, the Leafs are the second-worst possession team in the league (45.5 percent) and bottom 10 in expected goals against, taking a step back even from 2024-25.

Whether this group of players can play this style and be more effective is an open question. Berube hasn’t yet shown he’s been able to adapt his message to his personnel – as opposed to the other way around.

Murat on the Jets: The Jets keep losing and keep doubling down on the combination of Connor and Scheifele. They’re two of the only four players who’ve produced this season — add Josh Morrissey and Gabriel Vilardi to that list — so there’s an angle from which Arniel’s decision-making makes sense.

The one thing we still haven’t seen, despite the Jets winning four of their last 20 games and sitting in last place, is Connor and Scheifele playing apart from each other. They just might be so good that they can each drive a line. The Jets have yet to try it — no two forwards have played more together this season than Connor and Scheifele have — so we don’t know if Winnipeg is a single lineup move away from having two lines that can score instead of one.

For \$15.6 million this season (and \$20.5 million next season, when Connor’s \$12 million extension kicks in), you’d think Winnipeg would believe in them enough to find out if they can drive two separate lines. Arniel clearly doesn’t want to break up the one thing that’s working for him, but a growing collection of losses suggests it’s not working well enough to be untouchable.

No line, duo or pairing should be untouchable on the last-place team in the league.

Detroit News

<https://www.detroitnews.com/story/sports/nhl/red-wings/2025/12/31/red-wings-close-out-2025-with-2-1-victory-over-winnipeg/87969434007/>

'Just doing my job': Wings, Gibson close out 2025 with win over Jets

By Ted Kulfan

Detroit — The Red Wings closed out 2025 like they've done for most of the last three months — with a victory.

Before a festive New Year's Eve crowd Wednesday, which is usually the case in this annual tradition, the Wings defeated Winnipeg, 2-1.

Dylan Larkin (power play) and Mason Appleton scored first-period goals, and goaltender John Gibson stopped 24 shots.

The Wings (24-14-3, 51 points) moved back into first place in the Atlantic Division and are tied with Carolina for most points in the Eastern Conference. The Wings won for the fifth time in six games, and closed out December with a 11-3-1 record.

"We put ourselves in a good spot and we've showed we can do it," said Gibson, who won for the ninth time in his last 10 decisions. "It's about keeping it going and being consistent throughout the second half (of the season)."

Throughout the month, as the Wings kept adding victories, coach Todd McLellan talked about how there was a lot of "runway" remaining, and room for improvement.

Wednesday's victory proved McLellan's point was correct.

"We start the night well and we're playing a certain style or brand that we all believe in and will make us successful, and we get away from it a little bit," McLellan said. "We get a two-goal lead and we're not the same direct team. We slow things down and don't forecheck as much and the game starts coming back at us.

"We have to learn to handle that better. The evolution of the team has been a positive thing through December. But tonight was good for us because we it's pretty evident we still have work to do."

Winnipeg center Gabriel Vilardi can't get the puck past Detroit goaltender John Gibson during the second period of a game between the Detroit Red Wings and the Winnipeg Jets at Little Caesars Arena, in Detroit, December 31, 2025.

Winnipeg's Logan Stanley sliced the Wings' lead to 2-1 at 7:04 of the third period, Stanley's seventh goal on a feed from Jonathan Toews.

But the Wings killed Winnipeg's third power play of the game almost two minutes later, and Gibson preserved the victory down the stretch. Gibson made a big stop on former Wing Gustav Nyquist with under two minutes left, in the slot.

"Just doing my job," said Gibson of his strong December. "Sometimes you have a good read on it and sometimes you need a little bit of luck to be good too. I'll take the win."

Larkin scored his 21st goal at 8 minutes, 22 seconds, on the power play. Larkin took a pass from Moritz Seider and beat goaltender Connor Hellebuyck (Commerce) from above the hashmarks.

The Wings pushed the lead to 2-0 when Appleton scored against his former team. J.T. Compher found Appleton, who had eluded the Jets' defense, and Appleton lifted a shot that bounced off Hellebuyck and a defenseman, into the net, Appleton's fifth goal at 14:48.

"It feels good," said Appleton of scoring against his former team. "That was a funny goal, how it goes in, but it feels good to score against your old team."

Appleton liked the way the Wings stayed calm and didn't panic in the third period despite a determined Jets push.

"They had their chances a little late, but I didn't feel any panic, we were calm and we defended the right way," Appleton said. "They had a real good look at the end and sometimes you have to get a bounce, and we locked it in well. You give up a goal and probably play 50 good minutes of that hockey game, that's what we're proud of and getting that two points was important to us and to me."

The poised third period may have been an indication the Wings are maturing and understanding how to close out victories.

"You do grow into them, you have to experience them and to stay in them and be in them a lot," McLellan said. "When I was here last year, there were some (close games) we were in but not a lot of them. We're experiencing it more and we have more players that have been in those situations, App(leton) would be a prime example, and the more we experience it, hopefully the more we learn and the better we get."

The Wings play Thursday in Pittsburgh in another back-to-back set of games.