

Winnipeg Sun

<https://winnipeg.sun.com/sports/scott-arniel-lays-out-expectations-to-each-jets-player-after-second-road-loss-in-a-row>

Scott Arniel lays out expectations to each Jets player after second road loss in a row

By Gordon Anderson

It was a sweltering Saturday afternoon in Anaheim, with a slight wrinkle in the day-to-day for the Jets.

After a 30-minute optional skate at the Honda Center, head coach Scott Arniel held court with every player who logged minutes in a 2-1 loss to the San Jose Sharks on Friday night

That followed a 3-0 loss to the L.A. Kings on Tuesday night — an underwhelming start to a six-game, 13-day road trip — and Arniel felt it was time to lay out his expectations.

“I had 1-on-1 (meetings) with the players,” Arniel told reporters in Anaheim. “Because we have a large number of new guys, we have been teaching them as we go, but we never really got a chance since training camp to say: ‘This is what I expect from you.’ “Review with our players that were here last year, touching on things I expect from them every night. I think that was more what today was about. Each guy knows his role, what I expect, what the coaches expect and (know that it’s time) to go out and do it as a whole.”

The main impetus behind the meeting was to chart a flight plan for the remainder of the trip, and if all goes well, for the remainder of the season.

“I don’t think I’ve ever done it where all 24 guys got it,” Arniel said. “OK this is what I have watched you do when you are at your best and this is what the consistency, the way you go about things, that is really what I was trying to say to them.”

The only players excused from the meetings were Dylan Samberg and Cole Perfetti as both players continue their recovery from pre-season injuries. Samberg has a broken wrist. Perfetti is nursing a high ankle sprain. Both practised with the team on Saturday — Perfetti now in a white jersey, Samberg still wearing yellow.

Veteran defenceman Luke Schenn wasn’t asked for his takeaway regarding the meetings, but he was more than happy to share his point of view in regard to the outcome against the Sharks.

“It wasn’t our best effort,” he said. “And in saying that, we get another chance to get after it on Sunday night against the Ducks.

“It is a condensed schedule with a lot of action here and we have to move on to the next one. There are a lot of things we can learn from Friday night and a lot of things we did not execute on. Our game is still (a work) in progress, and we have a ways to go, for sure, and we are going to work at it.”

Josh Morrissey scored the lone goal for the Jets in the first period. Macklin Celebrini tied it 72 seconds later and then set up Will Smith’s winner with 4:21 left in the game.

Clearly, Arniel's frustration with the inconsistent play hit the boiling point entering the third as he took a butcher knife to his forward lines and defensive pairings.

Suddenly, what was once familiar became unfamiliar in the forward ranks with Niino Niederreiter, Mark Scheifele and Alex Iafallo making up the top line. Kyle Connor was dropped on to a line with Adam Lowry and Vlad Namestnikov and Cole Koepke was on the wing with Jonathan Toews and Gabe Vilardi. The only forward line to remain intact was Nikita Chibrikov, Parker Ford and Tanner Pearson.

"We talked about it earlier in the year where we were good for a couple of periods and then off for a period," Arniel said. "We started to build it and got going again, as we were sharper, crisper, with each line going out and doing it. Last night, we had so many turnovers in that second period and gave a young team lots of great looks and Connor Hellebuyck had to stand on his head. It was more of a falling back, taking a step back, and that was more where my frustration came from."

According to Natural Stat Trick, the Sharks out chanced the Jets 15-5 in the second period.

Winnipegjets.com

<https://www.nhl.com/jets/news/blog-resetting-in-anaheim>

BLOG: Resetting in Anaheim Perfetti 'getting closer'; Jets preparing for the Ducks

By Mitchell Clinton

ANAHEIM – While the Winnipeg Jets were disappointed with the final result on Friday night in San Jose, the great thing about the National Hockey league schedule is it always offers another opportunity.

That next opportunity for the Jets comes on Sunday against the Anaheim Ducks, but before that, they made sure Saturday was a productive day.

For 30 minutes, the team held an optional practice on the ice at Honda Center. Off the ice, head coach Scott Arniel met with every player – except for Dylan Samberg and Cole Perfetti, who have yet to play in the regular season – as a way of checking in with his group.

"I never really got a chance since training camp to say 'this is what I expect from you.' Review with our players that were here last year, touching on things I expect from them," Arniel said. "Each guy knows their role, what I expect, what the coaches expect. Now let's go out and do it as a whole."

As the Jets (9-5-0) prepare for the Ducks (9-3-1), the focus is on that elusive full 60-minute consistent performance. Arniel felt his team had taken steps toward that over the three-game win streak leading into this six-game road trip.

In fact, he liked Winnipeg's opening period against San Jose. The score was 1-1, Natural Stat Trick had the five-on-five stats at pretty much an even split, and the Jets had multiple shifts grinding away in the Sharks end – forcing them to defend.

“We just didn’t come back and do it in the second,” said Arniel. “We had so many turnovers in that second period and gave a young team lots of great looks. (Connor Hellebuyck) had to stand on his head. It was more of a falling back, taking a step back, so that was probably where the frustration came from.”

Even though the formal practice was optional, there were some small advancements in terms of the injured players trying to make their way back.

Morgan Barron (week-to-week) was on the ice in a non-contact jersey, marking the first time he’d been on the ice since the injury he sustained against Pittsburgh. Gustav Nyquist (day-to-day) also had his second skate in non-contact. Dylan Samberg remained in non-contact yellow as well.

As for Cole Perfetti, Saturday’s session was his second in a regular jersey, though his season debut is still a bit away yet.

“He’s getting there. He hasn’t really got a real practice yet,” said Arniel. “He had an optional today and a morning skate yesterday, then a morning skate tomorrow. For me, I haven’t heard yet how it went today. Maybe a little bit of bump and grind this week, but he’s getting closer.”

When the Jets take the ice against the Ducks, they’ll be going up against a team on the back half of a back-to-back (the Ducks are in Vegas taking on the Golden Knights on Saturday), but also one of the highest scoring teams in the league.

Heading into Saturday’s action, Anaheim’s 54 goals in 13 games were tied for the most in the NHL.

“They’re buzzing right now,” said Luke Schenn. “They’re one of the hottest teams in the league and a lot of high-end firepower, young guys that are producing, and a good mix of veteran guys.

“We’ve got a lot of things we want to focus on ourselves too and clean up. We’ll have to be ready to rock tomorrow.”