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<https://www.nhl.com/jets/news/three-things-sharks-score-late-to-beat-jets>

THREE THINGS: Sharks score late to beat Jets

By Jamie Thomas

Will Smith scored the winning goal at 15:39 of the third period as the San Jose Sharks beat the Winnipeg Jets 2-1 at SAP Center on Friday night. Josh Morrissey scored the only goal for the Jets who lose back-to-back games for the first time this season. Connor Hellebuyck made 25 saves and saw his record drop to 6-5. The Jets will continue their six-game road trip Sunday in Anaheim against the Ducks.

800 GP FOR VLADDY

The Jets veteran forward Vladislav Namestnikov hit the 800 games played milestone Friday night in San Jose. Namestnikov's six goals were the most he has scored in the first 13 games of a season, and he is already over a quarter of the way to his career high 20 goals in a season. Namestnikov had three solid scoring chances in the game to push his goal total to seven, with the best of the three coming in the first period when Neal Pionk found him wide open at the left of the San Jose goal, but Alex Nedeljkovic slid over and robbed him. Namestnikov finished the night with five shots on goal, three blocks and three hits.

TRAVEL ISSUES

The Jets had some travel issues on their flight from Los Angeles to San Jose and arrived at their hotel early Friday morning. Certainly, Scott Arniel was not using that as an excuse following the loss to the Sharks. It's a good thing they had Connor Hellebuyck to allow them to get their legs under them especially when he was making saves like this one.

Per Natural Stat Trick, the Jets surrendered 13 high danger scoring chances to the Sharks at 5v5. Head coach Scott Arniel made some dramatic changes to his lines to start the third period hoping for a boost.

"We had some looks, we had some opportunities," said Scott Arniel.

"But it has to be when you're chasing in our end of the rink, like we were, getting beat on battles, making your goaltender make as many Grade A stops as he had to make, you're not getting rewarded when you do that."

CELEBRINI LEADS THE LEAGUE

The Sharks 19-year-old superstar started the night tied for the NHL scoring lead with 20 points. Celebrini continued his hot start in the first period, after Morrissey had given Winnipeg a 1-0 lead, Celebrini went in alone on Connor Hellebuyck and beat the Jets goaltender to tie the game at one. Celebrini added an assist on Smith's game winning goal in the third period to push his league leading totals to 23 points.

Winnipeg Free Press

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2025/11/08/jets-scoring-woes-continue-in-2-1-loss-to-sharks>

Jets' scoring woes continue in 2-1 loss to Sharks

By: Ken Wiebe

The Winnipeg Jets' offensive well has suddenly run a little dry.

After getting blanked 3-0 by the Los Angeles Kings on Tuesday, the Jets dropped a 2-1 decision to the San Jose Sharks on Friday night at SAP Center.

Jets defenceman Josh Morrissey was the lone player to score for the visitors, who slipped to 9-5-0 on the season.

Morrissey's goal came on a booming slapshot through traffic and was the lone puck to beat Sharks goalie Alex Nedeljkovic – who made a number of highlight-reel stops, including an amazing left skate save off Nino Niederreiter during a first period scramble.

Nedeljkovic was full value, but it's not often the Jets are held to just one goal over a two-game span and they'll need to get back to generating a bit more offensively as they continue this six-game road trip on Sunday night in Anaheim when they face the Ducks, who lead the Pacific Division with a record of 9-3-1.

Jets goalie Connor Hellebuyck was outstanding in this one as well, finishing with 25 saves in what was his 11th start of the campaign.

Let's take a closer look at what transpired in this one:

MR. 800 – Jets forward Vladislav Namestnikov suited up in his 800th NHL game on Friday night, hitting an impressive milestone against the team that traded him to Winnipeg after acquiring him from the Tampa Bay Lightning.

"He's a guy that is a true professional. A very detailed, smart player," Jets defenceman Dylan DeMelo told reporters in San Jose. "He's smooth and silky out there. Very reliable. I played with him in Ottawa a bit too, so I've known him over the years.

"He's a great guy off the ice. You guys might see him on the more quiet end, but we get to see him outside of everything and he's a fun guy to be around. He's really fit into our group on and off the ice. Eight hundred games is amazing, it's an amazing accomplishment for him."

Namestnikov has been an excellent fit with the Jets and generated multiple quality scoring chances in the contest, including a slapshot in the first period and a nifty setup in front from Jonathan Toews.

"He's been great," Jets left-winger Kyle Connor told reporters in San Jose. "He can do it all, score goals for us, kill penalties, so he's a big part of this team."

THE KEY PLAY

Sharks forward Will Smith finds a loose puck behind Connor Hellebuyck for the eventual game-winner with 4:21 to go.

THE THREE STARS

1. Macklin Celebrini, Sharks: Scored a goal, added an assist.
2. Connor Hellebuyck, Jets: Made 25 saves to keep his team in this one.
3. Will Smith, Sharks: Scored the game-winner.

BLENDER TIME – Clearly unhappy with what he saw from another sluggish second period, Jets head coach Scott Arniel shifted each of his four lines and two of his three pairings for the third period in Northern California.

Arniel separated all three members of the top line, which clearly caught the attention of everyone on the roster.

Kyle Connor moved to a line with captain Adam Lowry and Namestnikov, Gabe Vilardi was on the wing with Toews and Cole Koepke, Mark Scheifele moved to a unit with Alex Iafallo and Nino Niederreiter and Parker Ford was between Tanner Pearson and Nikita Chibrikov – who started the game with Lowry and Niederreiter.

The moves didn't immediately lead to goals, so it will be interesting to see what the combinations look like as the Jets prepare for Sunday's game with the Ducks.

THE CELEBRINI SHOW – Sharks centre Macklin Celebrini moved into sole possession of first place in NHL scoring by scoring a beautiful goal in the first period.

Celebrini saw an opening and got behind the Jets' defence, took a pass from Tyler Toffoli, went in on goalie Connor Hellebuyck and beat the reigning Hart Trophy winner with a backhand deke.

Celebrini added an assist to move to nine goals and 23 points, which is two more than Connor McDavid of the Edmonton Oilers and Jack Eichel of the Vegas Golden Knights.

There's been plenty of Canadian Olympic team buzz surrounding Celebrini early in the season and it's easy to see why.

Celebrini plays with a great blend of skill, speed and tenacity and while his birth certificate might only say 19 years old, there's a maturity to his game that suggests he's the type of player that could fill a role in Italy in February.

EXTRA, EXTRA – The Jets made a pair of lineup changes, inserting Chibrikov for Brad Lambert and defenceman Luke Schenn for Colin Miller. Chibrikov skated on a line with Jets captain Adam Lowry and Nino Niederreiter. Chibrikov is an energetic player, but he's had a propensity for taking too many minor penalties in his limited opportunities this season. By taking a double minor for high-sticking, Chibrikov is up to 12 penalty minutes in just six games.

Jets winger Cole Perfetti shed his yellow non-contact in favour of a regular jersey for Friday's morning skate, which is the next step in his recovery from a high ankle sprain. Perfetti will need to take some contact before he's ready for game action, but the tentative timetable of returning before the end of this road trip appears to be very much in play.

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/sports/2025/11/07/scheifele-should-be-shoo-in-for-olympic-team>

***Scheifele should be shoo-in for Olympic team
Jets forward off to blazing start, making early case for Canadian roster spot***

By: Ken Wiebe and Mike McIntyre

Mark Scheifele has put himself in prime position to realize his Olympic dreams. Now he just needs to maintain his high level for another seven weeks or so.

The Winnipeg Jets centre is off to one of the strongest starts of his NHL career, leading his team in scoring and providing strong two-way play going into Friday's date with the San Jose Sharks.

After dealing with the disappointment of being left off the roster for the 4 Nations Face-Off last February, Scheifele has made it his mission to be included with the group heading to Milan-Cortina, Italy, in a couple months.

Given the fact he was on call as an injury replacement in case one of Sidney Crosby or Anthony Cirelli couldn't play due to injury last February, we'll put Scheifele in the pole position when it comes to players helping their cause.

He could easily slide over to the wing and the combination of skill, hockey intelligence and puck protection skills make him someone that has the ability to move up the lineup to play with the likes of Connor McDavid or Nathan MacKinnon if the right opportunity presents itself.

The early indications are that Scheifele will join Jets defenceman and fellow alternate captain Josh Morrissey in the first Olympic Games involving NHLers since 2014.

With numerous roster projections coming out recently, Scheifele has been impressing most pundits as much or more as the folks making the final decisions for Team Canada.

Even with two more roster spots available for the Olympics, Canada's coaching staff and management team is going to be tasked with the difficult decision of paring things down to 22 skaters and three goalies.

Coming off a gold medal performance at the 4 Nations Face-Off, it's expected that the majority of the roster will return, but there will be some players at risk to be replaced when the final list is submitted on Dec. 31 and revealed on Jan. 1.

With that in mind, Dump & Chase takes a look at who is off to a good start and who will need to pick things up if they want to be wearing the Maple Leaf in a few months.

Stock Rising

G Logan Thompson, Washington Capitals: The former Brandon Wheat Kings puckstopper is off to a tremendous start to the campaign after he wasn't invited to the summer orientation camp in Calgary. The numbers themselves are staggering, including a league-best 1.45 goals-against average and .938 save percentage in nine starts. Thompson is lapping the field when it comes to Canadian goalies and is deserving of one of the three spots. Given how well he's playing right now, giving him an opportunity to claim the starting job is probably the safest — and smartest — choice.

C Macklin Celebrini, San Jose Sharks: The second-year pro and 2024 first overall pick went into Friday's action tied for the NHL scoring lead with McDavid and Vegas Golden Knights centre Jack Eichel. That's pretty heady company for someone that won't turn 20 until June. His offensive gifts are obvious and he's working diligently on his two-way game. His play-driving ability should be enough to get him on the roster.

C Nick Suzuki, Montreal Canadiens: The Canadiens captain recently put together a 12-game point streak and had five multi-point games during that stretch. He can be used in all situations and is a dependable two-way forward. The 13th overall pick in the 2017 NHL draft is on the bubble as of this moment but could force his way onto the roster with another strong stretch.

RW Tom Wilson, Washington Capitals: He garnered strong consideration for the 4 Nations Face-Off roster and not having him as a deterrent to the Tkachuk brothers is something Canada likely regretted. Although the fighting element won't be a factor in this tournament, Wilson isn't just someone that can impact the game with his fists. He had a career-high 33 goals and 65 points to go with his 100 penalty minutes last season. He's a Stanley Cup champion and has nearly 100 playoff games on his resumé, which matters to a management group that values experience. It would be surprising for Wilson to not make the grade at this point.

D Matthew Schaefer, New York Islanders: The first overall pick in 2025 has already shown that he's the real deal. His skating ability already prompted Jets head coach Scott Arniel to draw some parallels with Colorado Avalanche D-man and multiple Norris Trophy winner Cale Makar. That's high praise from someone who doesn't just throw it around lightly. Schaefer's offensive impact is obvious, with five goals and 11 points in 13 games while averaging just under 22 minutes of ice time per game. There's a defensive awareness to his game as well, even if there are plenty of lessons to be learned and mistakes to sift through. Even if it's as an extra defenceman, Schaefer is making it difficult to not push a veteran off the roster. From where we sit, he's already leapfrogged Edmonton Oilers blue-liner and playoff dynamo Evan Bouchard when it comes to those who were on the outside looking in.

Stock falling

G Adin Hill (Vegas Golden Knights), G Jordan Binnington (St. Louis Blues), G Sam Montembeault (Montreal Canadiens): Goaltending was always going to be the weak spot for Canada, and the three netminders who went to the 4 Nations are all off to tough starts. Hill is hurt, with the expectation that he could miss multiple months, so his status is up in the air. Binnington (3.34 GAA, .859 SV%) and Montembeault (3.67 GAA, .855 SV%) aren't exactly inspiring confidence. Binnington is the only one we'd call a sure thing to head to Italy at this point.

C Sam Bennett, Florida Panthers: The 29-year-old has just five points (3G, 2A) in 14 games for the back-to-back Stanley Cup champions and just hasn't looked like his usual powerful self. He's likely got a lot of rope, especially since he scored 15 times in the playoffs last spring and has proven to be a big-game performer. But the footsteps behind him are getting louder.

F Travis Konecny, Philadelphia Flyers: With just five goals through 14 games, Konecny could find himself on the outside looking in if he can't pick up the pace — and fast. He's still a solid player, but it's more about what others are doing and the fact he doesn't have the same championship pedigree to rely on.

D Drew Doughty, Los Angeles Kings: Father Time is undefeated, and perhaps it's starting to catch up with the 35-year-old. Doughty (2G, 3A in 15 games) no longer has the same game-breaking ability he once did and is in danger of being passed by younger, more dynamic players.

D Colton Parayko, St. Louis Blues: Like Binnington, Parayko's individual performance is likely being dragged down by the fact his team is off to a horrible start. We still like the player, but there's no question the 32-year-old (0G, 6A through 15 games) is very much on the bubble.

Around the glass

Puck pranks: Speaking of Binnington, the NHL's resident villain made headlines this week when he got caught red-handed by a linesman hiding Alex Ovechkin's 900th-goal puck in his pants.

Binnington later claimed it was all in good fun and he planned to give it to the league's all-time leading scorer — as opposed to trying to sell it on eBay, for example — but you can never be too sure with him.

The incident prompted former Jets 1.0 PR head Rich Nairn to share a funny story on social media about a similar incident following the final regular-season game at the old Winnipeg Arena on Apr. 12, 1996.

"Wayne Gretzky grabbed the historic game puck after the game and took it to the Kings dressing room. I was sent to retrieve it but the Kings staff said he didn't have it," Nairn wrote.

"The Jets owner, Barry Shenkarow, really wanted the puck and asked me to please run out to the Kings team bus to get it before they departed for the airport. After stopping the bus and begging for the puck, it was finally handed over."

Jerry World: It's great to see that the NHL Stadium Series is heading to AT&T Stadium — otherwise known as Jerry World — next season.

Having attended a Thanksgiving football game at the multi-billion dollar facility, it's easy to envision the spectacle that will follow in February of 2027.

The artist renderings are also fantastic and given how many NHL players are fans of the NFL, it will be a thrill for many that take part — and take in the festivities in Dallas as the Stars host a still to be unveiled opponent.

When it comes to games played outside of the regular NHL arenas, there continues to be a buzz that Winnipeg will host the next Heritage Classic as early as next season, as first reported by Elliotte Friedman of Hockey Night in Canada.

There are still details left to be worked out before the event is confirmed, but it's prompted plenty of thought about who the opponent should be.

Since the Jets have already hosted the Oilers at Princess Auto Stadium and the Calgary Flames at Mosaic Stadium in Regina, who would you like to see in the next outdoor game here?

The first thought was that the Jets would keep with the western Canadian theme and host the Vancouver Canucks — which would be a fine choice, especially when you consider the past

connection between the Manitoba Moose and Canucks as the primary affiliate in the American Hockey League.

But what about welcoming an Eastern Conference club for their one and only visit of the season? That opens the door for the Montreal Canadiens, Toronto Maple Leafs or Ottawa Senators to be up for consideration.

Fly-ing high: Former Jets winger Nikolaj Ehlers went 11 games without scoring a goal, but he's dented the twine in consecutive outings for the Carolina Hurricanes.

Both of those goals proved to be game-winners as the Hurricanes earned victories over the New York Rangers and Minnesota Wild this week.

Ehlers signed a seven-year deal with the Hurricanes as an unrestricted free agent on July 2 and, while it's true that the transition process didn't go as smoothly as possible, it's natural for it to take some time to adjust to a new system after spending the previous decade with the Jets.

The dynamic Danish forward is up to two goals and six points in 13 games.

Ehlers will be back in Winnipeg later this month when the Hurricanes visit the Jets on Nov. 21.

Winnipeg Sun

<https://winnipegsun.com/sports/hockey/nhl/winnipeg-jets/winnipeg-jets-bitten-by-the-san-jose-sharks-in-a-2-1-loss-on-friday-night>

Winnipeg Jets bitten by the San Jose Sharks in a 2-1 loss on Friday night

By Gordon Anderson

Will Smith scored the game-winner late in the third as the Winnipeg Jets lost 2-1 to the San Jose Sharks on Friday night

The winner came at 15:39 on a goalmouth scramble after Macklin Celebrini took the puck to the net, the puck bouncing off bodies before Smith came in from the left side and slammed the puck into the back of the net with Connor Hellebuyck lying on his back. Hellebuyck stopped 25 shots for his second consecutive loss.

The entire sequence was started when Dylan DeMelo turned the puck over in the defensive zone, his cross-ice pass failing to reach a teammate.

The Jets pulled Hellebuyck with 2:13 remaining in the game, but Alex Nedeljkovic closed the door with four saves in the final 35 seconds to preserve the win.

Josh Morrissey scored a first period goal for the Jets. They are tied with the Colorado Avalanche for the seventh most goals scored in the first period, both teams with 14. Winnipeg has lost two consecutive games for the first time this season. The Jets are 7-2-0 when they score the first goal of the game.

Celebrini also scored a first-period goal for the Sharks. San Jose is tied with the Carolina Hurricanes for the most goals scored in the first period, both teams with 18. Celebrini leads the league in scoring with 23 points heading into league action on Saturday.

According to Natural Stat Trick, the Jets allowed 13 high danger scoring chances to the Sharks at even strength. The Jets mustered seven high danger chances against San Jose at five-on-five.

The Jets powerplay has fallen on hard times lately. They misfired twice against the Sharks. The man advantage is 1-14 in the last five games. The Jets penalty kill was 4-for-4 versus San Jose.

The Jets are in Anaheim to play the Ducks on Sunday night.

Ice Chips

Colin Miller, Brad Lambert and Morgan Barron were scratches. At practice in San Jose on Friday, Cole Perfetti's practice jersey changed from yellow to white. Perfetti has missed 13 games with a high ankle sprain he suffered during the final pre-season game against the Calgary Flames. Dylan Samberg, who broke his wrist against the Flames in the pre-season, is still in a yellow practice jersey. On Monday, head coach Scot Arniel said there is 'a chance on this road trip, near the end of it' that both Perfetti and Samberg get some game action.

Nedeljkovic says 'No'

The Jets had four Grade 'A' scoring chances during the opening 20 minutes. The San Jose netminder turned away Adam Lowry on a short-handed breakaway. He then stopped Vladimir Namestnikov from point blank on the same penalty kill. Nino Niederreiter then fell victim to a stupendous down and out left toe save with the Jets on a power-play. Finally, Nedeljkovic turned away Gabe Vilardi with a right pad save and subsequent puck scramble at the right post at five-on-five. Nedeljkovic had a .936 save percentage in his last two games entering action on Friday night. Nedeljkovic turned aside 31 of 32 shots to earn the win on Friday at the SAP Center.

Number 800

Vlad Namestnikov reached the 800-game plateau on Friday night.

Namestnikov was drafted by the Tampa Bay Lightning in the seventh round of the 2011 entry draft. The 32-year-old has suited up for seven teams. The longest stayover was in Tampa for portions of seven seasons. He has played in 189 games over four seasons with the Jets. Namestnikov has 30 goals and 62 assists in his Jets career thus far.

Namestnikov had two or three high-quality chances to score but couldn't find the back of the net. After he was denied his first period chance by Nedeljkovic, Namestnikov had an excellent opportunity in the second period when Jonathan Toews put the puck on his stick in the slot, but Namestnikov wired the puck over the net.

Switching it up

Arniel mixed up the lines to start the third period to generate some much-needed offence.

Alex Iafallo, Mark Scheifele and Nino Niederreiter
Gabe Vilardi, Jonathan Toews
Cole Koepke; Vlad Namestnikov, Adam Lowry and Kyle Connor
Tanner Pearson, Parker Ford and Nikita Chibrikov.

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<https://www.nhl.com/news/winnipeg-jets-san-jose-sharks-game-recap-november-7-2025>

***Celebrini takes NHL scoring lead, Sharks defeat Jets
Smith gets go-ahead goal for San Jose, which has won 5 of 7; Winnipeg drops 2nd straight***

By Max Miller

SAN JOSE -- Macklin Celebrini took the NHL scoring lead with a goal and an assist in the San Jose Sharks' 2-1 win against the Winnipeg Jets at SAP Center on Friday.

The 19-year-old and No. 1 pick in the 2024 NHL Draft has 23 points (nine goals, 14 assists), one more than Chicago Blackhawks center Connor Bedard, who had a goal and three assists Friday. Celebrini tied Steve Yzerman (23 in 1984-85) and Wayne Gretzky (23 in 1980-81) for the most points by a teenager in NHL history through his first 15 games of a season.

"We see it on a nightly basis. We see it on a daily basis. What I love [is], he just drags guys into the fight," San Jose coach Ryan Warsofsky said. "That's how you start winning cultures. He's done a great job of that. Proud of him. He is one of the greatest kids, human beings. He cares. He's a great person. We are very fortunate."

Will Smith made it 2-1 at 15:39 of the third period. Philipp Kurashev passed the puck to Smith in front, and after Celebrini was stopped in close, the puck got behind Jets goalie Connor Hellebuyck for Smith to stuff in.

Alex Nedeljkovic made 31 saves for the Sharks (6-6-3), who are 5-1-1 in their past seven games.

"It was kind of an extended shift. We had a nice entry, and then [Kurashev] had a great forecheck," Smith said. "I saw [Celebrini] out of the corner of my eye. I honestly thought he scored, and then I just saw the puck laying there."

Josh Morrissey scored the only goal for the Jets (9-5-0), who have lost two straight and are 3-2-0 in their past five games. Hellebuyck made 25 saves.

"They were the better team for two periods, second and third," Winnipeg coach Scott Arniel said. "We turned pucks over. We didn't defend very well. We gave up lots of odd-man looks. Hellebuyck had to make some big stops."

Morrissey put the Jets up 1-0 at 12:34 of the first period, scoring on a slap shot from the left point.

"Good face-off win, and kind of came out to me on a tee," Morrissey said. "Saw there was traffic on the I guess for me, my left side, for the goalie, his right, and just tried to pick the far side of the net. I don't think he saw it."

Celebrini tied it 1-1 at 13:46. Tyler Toffoli sent Celebrini on a breakaway from center ice, and he beat Hellebuyck with a move to the backhand at the right post.

Nedeljkovic stopped all 12 shots he faced in the third. He has allowed two or fewer goals in each of his past three starts.

"Obviously, a top team in the League," Nedeljkovic said of the Jets. "A lot of firepower up front and [they're] very solid defensively. I thought it was great coming back from a big win like that in Seattle (6-1 at the Seattle Kraken on Wednesday) ... I think there might be a tendency to maybe take your foot off the gas a little bit, [but] I thought we stuck with it. We picked up right where we left off.

"We had a pretty solid first period; coming out with a 1-1 score, I think we'll take it. We just kept going, kept pressing. Couple of weird bounces, [but] we responded well every time. We just made the most of the opportunities that we got."

NOTES: Celebrini has 18 points (eight goals, 10 assists) in his past 10 games. He has factored into San Jose's first goal five times this season; only Dylan Larkin (Detroit Red Wings) and Logan Cooley (Utah Mammoth) have more in the NHL this season (six each). ... It was the 14th opening goal of Morrissey's career, which ranks second in Jets/Atlanta Thrashers history; Dustin Byfuglien leads with 18. ... Winnipeg forward Vladislav Namestnikov played his 800th NHL game.

Associated Press

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/article/will-smith-scores-tiebreaking-goal-late-in-third-period-as-sharks-beat-jets/>

Will Smith scores tiebreaking goal late in third period as Sharks beat Jets

By Associated Press

SAN JOSE, Calif. — Will Smith scored the tie-breaking goal late in the third period, and the San Jose Sharks beat the Winnipeg Jets 2-1 on Friday night.

Macklin Celebrini had a goal and an assist to move into the NHL scoring lead, and Alex Nedeljkovic finished with 32 saves for his third win in four starts. The Sharks extended their point streak to five games (4-0-1).

Josh Morrissey scored for Winnipeg, and Connor Hellebuyck stopped 25 shots. The Jets have lost two straight.

On a scramble in front of the net, Hellebuyck stopped Celebrini's attempt from the left side of the net. However, the puck sat in front of the line behind him, and Smith tapped it in from the right side with 4:21 remaining.

Celebrini's assist was his league-high 23rd point (nine goals, 14 assists) of the season.

The Sharks outshot the Jets 11-9 in a scoreless second period with no penalties.

Morrissey gave the Jets a 1-0 lead with 7:26 remaining in the opening period with a long slap shot from the left point.

Celebrini tied it 1:12 later on a breakaway as he skated in on Hellebuyck and tucked a backhand around his left pad.

Up next

Jets: At Anaheim on Sunday in the third of a six-game trip.

Sharks: Host Florida on Saturday to finish a two-game homestand.

Global Winnipeg

<https://globalnews.ca/news/11517660/winnipeg-jets-drop-second-straight-on-the-road-2-1-in-san-jose/>

Winnipeg Jets drop second straight on the road 2-1 in San Jose

By Christian Aumell Global News

It's hard to win hockey games when you aren't scoring many goals.

The Winnipeg Jets are seeing this happen right now as they dropped a 2-1 decision in San Jose Friday night, coming off the heels of being shutout in Los Angeles in their previous game.

Each team had an opportunity on the power play in the opening period and in both situations, it was Winnipeg with the best chance to score.

On the Jets' power play, a scramble in front resulted in Alex Nedeljkovic on his backside inside his own net as Nino Niederreiter got the puck at the side of the crease. But the Sharks' netminder got up just in time to deny Niederreiter with his left skate inches from the goal line.

A few minutes later, Nikita Chibrikov took a double-minor for high sticking, though again it was the Jets with a fantastic look as Adam Lowry got free on a shorthanded breakaway after blocking a shot. He tried to beat Nedeljkovic to the blocker-side but the San Jose goalie made the save to keep the game goalless.

The Jets broke through at the 12:34 mark of the first. A scramble at the faceoff dot ended when Niederreiter used his skate to kick the puck back to the point where Josh Morrissey blasted a one-timer that eluded Nedeljkovic through traffic.

Just 72 seconds later, the Sharks drew level thanks to their young superstar. Tyler Toffoli picked up a loose puck in the slot in his own end and spotted Macklin Celebrini flying the zone. Toffoli made a perfect pass to spring Celebrini who just narrowly beat Morrissey up the ice before putting a deke on Connor Hellebuyck and beating him to break a tie with Jack Eichel and Connor McDavid for the league lead in points.

Winnipeg wound up outshooting San Jose 12-8 in an eventful opening 20 minutes.

Neither team scored in a second period that was wide open and featured long stretches without any whistles. Between a faceoff with 10:23 left and a Nedeljkovic save with 52 seconds to go, there was only one whistle for icing as San Jose took the game over during the final minutes of the second.

Winnipeg had a great chance to take the lead just over seven minutes into the third as Gabriel Vilardi and Cole Koepke found themselves on a 2-on-1. Vilardi passed it across to Koepke who had to lunge for the puck and had an open net to shoot at but instead decided to try and pull the puck back across the crease, only to trip over Nedeljkovic. The Sharks' goalie was assessed a minor penalty for tripping, but it was nullified less than a minute later when Vilardi received a penalty for holding the stick.

The third period also featured several new line combinations for the Jets as Scott Arniel looked for a spark but to no avail as the Sharks took the lead for good with just over four minutes left.

Celebrini lost the puck as he entered the Winnipeg zone and it found its way to the stick of Pionk, who sent a pass to nobody in particular as it went to the boards near the faceoff dot to the left of Hellebuyck. Philipp Kurashev skated onto it for San Jose and took it behind the goal before feeding Will Smith in front. He slid it across to Celebrini who was denied by Hellebuyck but the rebound bounced off Pionk and rolled toward the goal line before Smith shoved it across for the eventual winner.

Winnipeg did pour on the pressure with the net empty in the final moments but were unable to cash in with an equalizer.

Hellebuyck made 25 saves in defeat while Nedeljkovic stopped 32 shots to give the Sharks their fourth win in their last five outings.

While Winnipeg managed to outshoot the Sharks, San Jose handily out-attempted the Jets 54-37 at 5-on-5 and 69-53 in all situations, according to Natural Stat Trick. Winnipeg blocked 28 shots in the loss compared to just 11 for the Sharks.

The Jets will try to snap this two-game slide when they visit Anaheim Sunday night. The puck drops just after 9 p.m. with pregame coverage on 680 CJOB beginning at 7 p.m.

<https://globalnews.ca/news/11516271/winnipeg-jets-olympics-analysis-shannon/>

ANALYSIS: Jets stars in the mix for Canada, U.S. Olympic squads

By John Shannon CJOB

Next week in Toronto, in conjunction with the NHL's general managers' meeting, both Canada and the USA will conduct sessions for their respective Olympic hockey teams.

Needless to say, both groups have to cut down the more than 40 names closer to the 25 that will play at the Olympic Winter Games.

The Winnipeg Jets' Connor Hellebuyck, Josh Morrissey, Kyle Connor and Mark Scheifele are sure to be part of the conversations for their countries, with Scheifele probably generating more conversation than the other three, considering that trio all made February's Four Nations rosters.

There is little doubt that No. 55's start this season has made him a dynamic candidate for Team Canada.

But here are some things to remember for Scheifele and any other players on the bubble for the Olympic team. Part of the discussion that will occur in those meetings is, how do stars like the Jets' leading scorer react to becoming role players?

No longer will you play 20 minutes per game, but you might play half that time. No longer are you a lock to be on the number one power play unit, and you might be lucky to be on the number two unit.

No longer is your roster spot guaranteed for every game; you might be a healthy scratch. Once a first-liner, and lucky to be a fourth-liner in Italy, you might not play your regular position.

And oh yeah, 50-second shifts are 35 seconds long.

In many ways, part of the measure of being on Team Canada will be how you handle the disappointment of being just another player on a team of superstars. How does one handle that and still be a great teammate?

It is sometimes difficult to accept that even though you want to contribute, you might not be given a chance to.

Scheifele deserves to be on Team Canada, no doubt about it. But there are other Canadian-born players in that boat — Tom Wilson, Robert Thomas, Wyatt Johnston, Nick Suzuki — who are still on the outside looking in.

The meetings next week will start to dig deeper into which stars can rethink their value to a team. Team chemistry is so vital in these short tournaments, those discussions are often as important as the ones about which player has more talent.