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<https://www.nhl.com/jets/news/blog-jets-closing-in-on-fully-healthy-roster>

***BLOG: Jets closing in on fully healthy roster
Jets open three-game homestand Tuesday against Columbus***

By Jamie Thomas

WINNIPEG – After being away for two weeks, the Winnipeg Jets got back to work at Canada Life Centre as they begin preparations for an important three-game homestand.

Dylan Samberg returned in Seattle after missing the first 16 games of the season and is starting to get into a comfort zone after playing over 23 minutes in Seattle and Calgary.

“Yeah, feeling good. I mean, obviously still trying to work on that conditioning,” said Samberg.

“Obviously takes a little bit of time, but obviously excited to be back and excited to be a part of it and especially get a win.”

The win he’s referring to is the 4-3 shootout win in Calgary, where the Flames tied the game late in the third period and Gabe Vilardi made sure it wasn’t back-to-back contests where the Jets blew third period leads.

“I thought that we battled throughout the entire game, obviously had huge kill there in the overtime, ended up taking us to the shootout,” said Samberg.

“So that was massive, to get a couple points there. And, yeah, I just like the way the guys finished the road trip, even though it wasn’t one of our better road trips.”

Samberg’s importance to the Jets has been well documented especially during his long absence last season. Winnipeg held the fort without the 26-year-old this time thanks to a steady performance from Logan Stanley. But Jets head coach Scott Arniel dug into what it means to have Samberg back.

“Because of every team having two really good lines, being able to go head-to-head with one of the top two lines with (Neal) Pionk and then you have Mel (DeMelo) and J-Mo (Morrissey) against the other group. Being able to log those big minutes. His size. His footwork,” said Arniel.

“Obviously, the penalty kill is a big part of it but at the end of the day, just him being able to log big minutes helps J-Mo’s ice time to be able to drop in the heavy category in that way. So just his all-around game. I think that each game, he got better and better. He’s got some rust off him and now he looks more like the guy we need.”

Although the Jets went 2-4 on their road trip, they added Samberg, Adam Lowry and Cole Perfetti to their roster. Morgan Barron and Cole Koepke are one step closer to coming back as well after they have officially come off the IR list. It seems the team could be the healthiest it has been since the beginning of training camp and ahead of facing the Columbus Blue Jackets.

“Well, obviously, we want to get off to a good start at home and hopefully get the first one with a win and keep building from there. And we have it in this group,” said Samberg.

"We know we do, obviously, it's early in the season, but a lot of teams, especially in our division, are getting off to good starts. We want to kind of continue to follow them."

Winnipeg Free Press

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2025/11/17/sambergs-hockey-smarts-a-welcome-addition-to-winnipeg-jets-blue-line>

Samberg's return seamless

D-man's hockey smarts a welcome addition to Jets blue line

By: Ken Wiebe

As awkward as it felt at the time, Dylan Samberg was quick to admit that getting on the ice without being able to touch the puck was a critical element to speeding up his recovery.

"It obviously stunk that I wasn't able to stick handle or shoot or anything like that," said Samberg, the Winnipeg Jets defenceman who returned to the lineup during the past two games after his broken wrist finally healed. "But, those things come back pretty quickly at least. But whereas conditioning is kind of the harder one to get into."

The rust was minimal for Samberg in games against the Calgary Flames and Seattle Kraken and conditioning certainly wasn't an issue as he was just north of 23 minutes in his season debut and then just above 24 minutes of ice time in Saturday's tilt that required a shootout for the Jets to win.

You can expect Samberg to remain in that range as the Jets open a three-game homestand against the Columbus Blue Jackets on Tuesday.

Being without Samberg on the back end for the first 16 games of the season was a significant blow for the Jets, who have endured some unexpected defensive issues during the first quarter of the campaign.

Now that he's reunited with Neal Pionk on the second pairing, the expectation is the zone exits should be a little cleaner and the Jets should end up spending a bit less time in the defensive zone.

"He's got good mobility and he gets back quick," said Jets head coach Scott Arniel. "His retrievals are good, his first pass is good. He closes, he ends plays fast because of his feet. He's got some size, physicality, he can go through bodies. It kind of starts there."

Samberg's return should also help lighten the load, even if slightly, on Jets the top pairing of Dylan DeMelo and Josh Morrissey. Morrissey is riding a five-game point streak that has him up to 19 points, which had him second in the NHL among defencemen behind Cale Makar going into Monday's action.

"It's kind of crazy. I have all that padding, and it always seems to find that one little spot."

Samberg had an early scare as he blocked a shot off his foot against the Kraken, but was fortunate to come away with minimal damage.

"I feel like it never hits a good spot. It never feels good," said Samberg, who recorded five blocked shots and three hits in his first two games. "But, yeah, it's, it's kind of crazy. I have all that padding, and it always seems to find that one little spot. But, yeah, nothing serious, just a couple bumps and bruises."

Samberg is no stranger to sacrificing his body and one of the career-high 91 shots he blocked last season — a one-timer from Steven Stamkos — left him sidelined for 21 games with a broken foot.

Another underrated element of Samberg's game is his hockey sense, which is something he uses effectively to break up plays in the defensive zone.

Making those reads in real time isn't easy, but Samberg quickly got himself up to speed on that front.

"Especially that first period, you're just trying to get the timing back of things," said Samberg. "Guys have had a month on you playing games. So, just trying to find the timing of things again. But then, everything else kind of falls back into place once you get that."

Arniel saw plenty of positive signs from Samberg in his return to the lineup.

"When you're playing in a top-four situation as a defenceman, that has to be part of your DNA, your hockey IQ," said Jets head coach Scott Arniel. "He's got great feet and great mobility, but he's also anticipating. He anticipates real well. That's why I think he's a good penalty killer."

"He seems to stay one step ahead of the next play and, if you look at guys in this league that are in that top four, that's what they do well. It's not just trying to get in foot races, it's not just trying to be physical. It's anticipating, both offensively and defensively. (Samberg) has really grown in that area the last couple of years."

Samberg's mobility is something that helps him in the defensive zone, but it's also helped him offensively, as it allows him to join the rush and provide a second wave of the offensive attack.

By recording six goals and 20 points in 60 games last season, Samberg provided a glimpse of his offensive upside and the expectation is that those totals could climb.

On Monday afternoon, the Jets activated forwards Morgan Barron and Cole Koepke off injured reserve and assigned forwards Parker Ford, Brad Lambert and Nikita Chibrikov to the Manitoba Moose of the American Hockey League.

The roster moves leaves defenceman Haydn Fleury (concussion protocol) as the only injured player for the Jets at the time being.

All of Ford, Lambert and Chibrikov saw great benefits to being on the NHL roster for the bulk of the first quarter of the season, but Lambert (four games) and Chibrikov (eight games) have been used sparingly, so it's important for them to get more ice time.

Ford, who had one assist in 11 games while recording 20 hits and 11 blocked shots while averaging just under 10 minutes of ice time per game, did the best job of adapting to the role he

was asked to play as the Jets' fourth-line centre. Expect each of those players to be solid recall options the next time a forward is needed.

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2025/11/17/weak-link-or-menace-lowry-finding-his-game-after-lengthy-absence-to-start-season>

Weak link or menace? Lowry finding his game after lengthy absence to start season

By: Ken Wiebe

CALGARY — When Adam Lowry was searching for solutions, he was quick to point the finger directly at himself — even if the critical self-assessment was probably harsher than it needed to be.

While the Winnipeg Jets captain would have been well within his right to grant himself a bit of grace as he makes his way back from a lengthy absence and long road to recovery after enduring off-season hip surgery in late May, there was Lowry standing in the middle of the room on Saturday referring to himself as the weak link on his line during his first few games of the season.

During the past three games, the Lowry trio with Nino Niederreiter and Alex Lafallo has been a driving force at both ends of the ice.

"A big part of that is the reads that I'm making are so much better. In the first three games, I was slow," Lowry said before the Jets earned a 4-3 shootout victory over the Calgary Flames to close out a six-game road trip. "I was maybe a little tentative, maybe getting used to contact, the chaos. You can only do so much of that in practice or when you're skating by yourself. Nino and Al, they're such consistent performers. They're so steady, you know what you're going to get from them every night.

"If you have a weak link on the line, sometimes you don't look how you envision it. The last (few) games we've certainly done a better job of getting the puck below the goal line. A lot of our offence comes off the forecheck, creating turnovers, cycle plays, hemming them in and that's something we're going to try and keep building, trying to get better at. We still have a lot of room for improvement from our line and that's what the exciting part is."

The Jets have returned a number of players over the course of the season-long six-game road trip that ended with a 2-4 record leading into a three-game homestand that opens on Tuesday against the Columbus Blue Jackets.

Having Lowry back anchoring the checking line and looking more like himself is an important development as the Jets look to forge their identity and clamp down defensively.

On Saturday, Lowry was a major factor, recording two shots on goal, six shot attempts, five hits and going seven-for-12 (58 per cent) in the faceoff circle.

His 26 shifts for 17:21 represented a season-high in ice time, including 1:11 in overtime.

"He is a force out there," said Jets defenceman Josh Morrissey, who extended his point streak to five games by chipping in two assists on Saturday and is up to 19 points in 18 games this season. "I have never played an NHL game against him and I hope I never do. He is a menace.

He is all over the ice, 200-feet and he makes the job of the defenceman a lot easier and the guys around him.

“He is smart and plays under the puck. I think he has been playing really well and he is only going to continue to get better.”

When Lowry is at his best, he’s the kind of guy that gets a lot accomplished, both in terms of being responsible defensively, delivering important minutes on the penalty kill and doing his part to provide secondary scoring.

“I just wanted him to get up to speed,” said Jets head coach Scott Arniel, who smirked when Lowry’s self-criticism was relayed to him. “It’s five months that he’s been out, it isn’t easy to jump right back in. He’s the one that said he feels like he’s the bicycle in a NASCAR race. That’s what it’s going to be. He’s starting to feel better each and every game.”

With the ability to often force offensive players on the opposition to play in the defensive zone, the Lowry line is the one that sets the table.

“They’re a luxury to have as a coach because you can throw them out to help change the tide in a game,” said Arniel. “If you need a good forecheck, you need some heavy hitting, also to start in our end of the rink, start with faceoffs and get out of there — don’t spend the time in there.

“It’s the hard work they put in that helps. The other guys recognize that. (Lowry) always likes to lead by example. That’s playing his game, a big, heavy, hard game. When he does it as the captain, not only can other players follow, but when he speaks in the room the other players recognize he’s doing his job.”

Having Lowry’s leadership and rugged style of play will be welcome as the Jets close out a busy month of November with six more games.

“Well, every line is going to look different. As long as they’re trying to accomplish a similar end goal, but within the structure,” said Lowry. “Ours is a little more straight lines off the forecheck, trying to be as responsible defensively as we can. But if you can bring the consistency from your line every night, you can expect that out of the other three lines.

“We want to be a strong defensive team. A team that plays fast, competes hard and that’s probably what our identity looks like. But the way we accomplish it is going to be different. As long as the results are the same, that’s the most important thing.”

Global Winnipeg

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/article/jets-still-searching-for-identity-as-adam-lowry-battles-back-from-injury/>

Winnipeg Jets activate Barron & Koepke, send trio to Manitoba Moose

By Russ Hobson Global News

With the Winnipeg Jets starting to get healthy, the Manitoba Moose roster is getting an injection of talent.

The Jets activated both Morgan Barron and Cole Koepke from injured reserve on Monday, while sending forwards Nikita Chibrikov, Parker Ford, and Brad Lambert to their AHL affiliate. All three had been healthy scratches the last two contests.

The trio started the season with the Jets after playing the majority of last season with the Moose. Barron missed their last six games with an injury, while Koepke sat out the final four games of their six-game road trip.

Chibrikov was without a point in eight games this season. Ford had one assist in 11 appearances, and Lambert scored one goal in only four games this season.

Barron and Koepke are expected to be available for the start of a three-game homestand on Tuesday against the Columbus Blue Jackets.

Defenceman Haydn Fleury remains sidelined, but the Jets have already gotten four players back from injury in recent games with Adam Lowry, Cole Perfetti, Gustav Nyquist and Dylan Samberg all back with the team.

After four straight victories the Moose will start a six-game homestand on Thursday against the Chicago Wolves.

Winnipeg Sun

<https://winnipeg.sun.com/sports/hockey/nhl/winnipeg-jets/back-on-the-blue-line-samberg-to-make-home-debut-as-jets-face-blue-jackets>

Back on the blue line: Samberg to make home debut as Jets face Blue Jackets

By Gordon Anderson

After a sub-par road trip, the Jets are hoping to get cleared for a straight shot down a runway laden with potential victories.

The Jets kick off a three-game homestand on Tuesday night against the Columbus Blue Jackets at Canada Life Centre.

“We want to get off to a good start at home and hopefully get the first win and keep building from there,” defenceman Dylan Samberg said. “It is early in the season, but a lot of teams, especially in our division, are getting off to good starts. We want to kind of continue to follow them.”

Samberg has a point. Technically, it’s still early in the season, but getting later with every game knocked off the schedule.

Heading into league play on Monday night, the Jets were nine points behind the Colorado Avalanche for top spot in the Central and five behind the Dallas Stars for second. The locals are in a three-way tie for third with the Chicago Blackhawks and Minnesota Wild at 22 points.

The Jets will also play Nikolaj Ehlers and the Carolina Hurricanes and the Wild on this brief homestand.

For the first time this season, Winnipeg fans will get an opportunity to witness, in person, the defensive details of Samberg.

He was on the sidelines after breaking his wrist against the Calgary Flames on Sept. 27. The original diagnosis was six to eight weeks.

The Saginaw, Minn., native received his first taste of league action against the Kraken last Thursday night. He logged 23:04 of ice time, with 4:42 coming at five-on-four. In Calgary on Saturday, Samberg logged 24:01 and 3:50 on the penalty kill.

“Obviously, the penalty kill is a big part of it, but at the end of the day, just him being able to log big minutes helps (reduce) Josh Morrissey’s ice time,” head coach Scott Arniel said. “So, it’s just his all-around game, and with each game he got better. He’s got some rust off him, and he looks more like the guy we need.”

Every head coach in the league can throw a decent group of top six forwards onto the ice at a moment’s notice. Arniel takes comfort knowing he now has two sets of defenceman that can handle the minutes and, more importantly, reduce the effect talented offensive players can have on a game.

“With every team having two good lines, being able to go head-to-head with one of the top two lines with Samberg and Neal Pionk and then you have Dylan DeMelo and Morrissey against the other group,” Arniel said.

When Adam Lowry returned to the lineup against the Kings on Nov. 4, the captain admitted patience would play a factor in getting built back up to speed. Cole Perfetti echoed Lowry’s sentiments when he returned against the Anaheim Ducks on Nov. 9.

And Samberg is no different. He has his own checklist of priorities.

“The first thing is conditioning, and then once you feel good with that, then it gets into battles,” Samberg said. “And obviously that’s the second part of conditioning, where it’s a different kind, different form, but you get into a lot of those corner battles, especially as a defenseman during a game.”

Samberg is no stranger to returning from long-term injuries. Last season, he was out for nearly two months after breaking his foot in a game against the Nashville Predators in late November. He didn’t return until a mid-January home game against the Los Angeles Kings.

He tried to take what he could from that previous experience and apply it directly to his current situation.

“It definitely helps (having that experience),” Samberg said. “I went through it last year, and that was unfortunate as well. But I’ve had some injuries throughout my career, and there’s only so much you can do about it. I (became) mentally tough, and just came into the same attitude every day, that you know you’re trying to get that one per cent better. That’s all you can do at the end of the day.”

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2025/11/13/jets-samberg-back-in-action>

Jets defenceman Samberg's hockey IQ helps him be a trusted penalty-killer

By Gordon Anderson

At times, Dylan Samberg brings more brains than necessary brawn in his mainly defensive roles with the Winnipeg Jets.

"When you're playing in the top four situations as a defenceman, that has to be part of your DNA, your hockey IQ," Jets head coach Scott Arniel said. "I think Samberg does such a good job. He's got great feet and great mobility, but he's also anticipating. He anticipates well."

The Jets open a three-game home stand when the Columbus Blue Jackets come to town on Tuesday. Puck drop is scheduled for a dash after 7 p.m.

Since Samberg's numerical track record this season is limited, last season only illustrates Arniel's faith in the Saginaw, Minn., native.

In 2024-25, Samberg led the team in overall short-handed time on ice at 2:30 per game. According to the NHL stats page, Samberg was on the ice for 62 per cent of the team's short-handed situations, again leading the team. Dylan DeMelo was second at 50.8 per cent.

In two games this season, Samberg has logged 8:14 of ice time when the team was at a numerical disadvantage.

Obviously, the coach puts him on the ice for a reason.

"(His smarts are) why I think he's a good penalty-killer," Arniel said. "He seems to stay one step ahead of the next play, and if you look at guys in this league that are in the top four, that's what they do well."

In a previous interview with The Winnipeg Sun, Jets defenceman Josh Morrissey said the penalty kill is a voyage into the silent arts, a lot of the success coming from non-verbal communication and having faith that your defensive partner will be where he is supposed to be, and more importantly, at the right time.

"The PK is a lot more silent reads off one another, kind of knowing where your penalty kill partner is, or where all four guys are on the ice," Morrissey said.

Apparently, Samberg checks all the boxes in these areas.

"It's not just trying to get in foot races, and it's not just trying to be physical," Arniel said. "It's anticipating both offensively and defensively. Samberg has really grown in that area in the last couple of years."