

**Winnipegjets.com**

<https://www.nhl.com/jets/news/three-things-vilardi-scores-twice-jets-lose-to-caps>

***THREE THINGS: Vilardi scores twice, Jets lose to Caps  
Vilardi now has 100 career goals, Jets have dropped three straight***

By Jamie Thomas

The Winnipeg Jets came close to completing the comeback at the end of the third period but fell 4-3 to the Washington Capitals at Capital One Arena. Kyle Connor had three assists, Gabe Vilardi had two goals, and Mark Scheifele scored the other goal for the Jets who are now 12-10 on the season. Josh Morrissey had an assist and now has 21 points (5G, 16A) in his last 15 games. Eric Comrie made 30 saves. The Jets will travel to Raleigh, North Carolina and will face the Carolina Hurricanes on Friday.

***TOP LINE PROVIDING THE OFFENCE***

Gabe Vilardi had two glorious scoring chances on Sunday during the Jets 3-0 loss to Minnesota but just had no puck luck. That changed on Wednesday with Winnipeg trailing 2-0 in the first period when Kyle Connor picked off a John Carlson pass and sent the puck out front to Vilardi and he tapped in his ninth of the season.

Winnipeg's power play went to work in the early part of the second period, and it was Vilardi getting his 10th of the season and 100th of his career. The Jets power play has at least one power play goal in six of their last seven games.

With the Jets down 4-2 in the third, they pulled to within one as Mark Scheifele, who had numerous scoring chances earlier in the game, got his team leading 12th of the season.

***SECONDARY SCORING***

In an effort to get some offence from somewhere other than the top line, Scott Arniel juggled his lines moving Vlad Namestnikov to the middle with Cole Perfetti and Tanner Pearson. Jonathan Toews centred Morgan Barron and Gustav Nyquist and Adam Lowry was with Nino Niederreiter and Alex Iafallo. According to Natural Stat Trick, with scoring chances for and against for those three lines, it was 12-7 in favour of Washington.

"We battle right to the end. Got to find a way to get some secondary scoring. And we were obviously Scheif's line did it again tonight, and we need other people to step up," said Scott Arniel.

And it's not being it's not about being pretty now. It's about, I don't care how it goes in, off your head, off your leg, however, it might be rebounds, whatever deflections. We got to find a way."

***SALOMONSSON DEBUT***

The Jets had high hopes for Elias Salomonsson when they selected him in the second round of the 2022 NHL Draft. With Neal Pionk being out day-to-day with a lower body injury, Salomonsson was recalled and made his NHL debut this evening. Salomonsson was paired with Dylan Samberg on the Jets second pairing and had 16:18 of ice time, with 1 block and two hits.

"Yeah, there was a lot of nerves, of course," said Salomonsson.

"But you settle in as the game went on there. It was a lot of fun."

<https://www.nhl.com/jets/news/prospect-report-thomas-milic>

**PROSPECT REPORT: Thomas Milic**

**Milic: "I am trying to stay grounded and enjoy every second."**

By Jamie Thomas

November has been a month to remember for Thomas Milic.

Milic's AHL numbers for the Manitoba Moose are impressive, posting a 5-2-2 record, 2.14 goals against average and a .921 save percentage. In his last start with Manitoba, Milic made 28 saves to preserve a 2-1 victory. The most impressive part of the performance was the fact that the Chicago Wolves outshot the Moose 13-0 in the third period.

"Funny enough, I had no clue we had no shots in the third period until after the game. It was brought to me," said Milic.

"That just speaks volumes to our team and even if we weren't generating, offence we were able to shut it down and that is what winning hockey is playing with the lead and being able to shut it down late in the game."

Not only was that a huge night for Milic on the ice, but he also found out later that he was being recalled by the Jets because of the news that Connor Hellebuyck was going to miss four-to-six weeks after knee surgery.

"It was super special, right after our game the other night with the Moose, getting called into the coach's (Mark Morrison's) office and hearing the news then," said Milic last Saturday.

"It was a shock, but I am excited and I couldn't stop myself from smiling. I am trying to stay grounded and enjoy every second."

The 22-year-old has won at every level he has played at. From the Seattle Thunderbirds of the WHL, Canada at the World Juniors, Norfolk of the ECHL and Manitoba. The previous two seasons, Milic has gone back and forth between the East Coast and American leagues learning valuable lessons along the way.

"I think, just, learning how important and every little thing you do is," said Milic.

"I think, a big thing I am focusing on this year, is taking nothing for granted, whether that is every single start I had with the Moose, or every day that I have here, being able to do what I can every day and improve myself and help the team win and not taking anything for granted."

Every goaltender within the Jets organization is blessed with the guidance of Drew MacIntyre and Wade Flaharty. MacIntyre guides the goalies in the ECHL and AHL, Flaharty takes over in the NHL.

"Super cool to have those voices in my ear. Drew with the Moose is awesome, we have got a good relationship the last few years and I think he has helped me out with a lot with the mental

side of the game. As well as everything we look at, watching video after games or pre-scouting teams, it all comes together nicely and helps you become the most prepared guy on the ice,” said Milic.

“And up here with Wade it is awesome and he is the man and you can see with the results with the other guys (Hellebuyck and Comrie).”

Eric Comrie has taken over the number one goaltender position in the absence of Hellebuyck. The expectation is that he will carry the load of the games without the Hart and Vezina Trophy winner, but Milic will get his chance.

“I don’t think Eric can go all those games. Milic is going to have to play and how we are going to lay the schedule out for as it gets busy when we head out on the road,” said Scott Arniel back on November 21.

“I know it is different with goaltending but at the end of the day it is next man up, it really is. We are not replacing Connor but, at the end of the day our group has to be really good in front of Comrie and good in front of Milic, as well.”

Looking at the Jets schedule this weekend; it appears that Saturday in Nashville will be the night that Milic could make his NHL debut.

“I am taking a look at it and, obviously, with a condensed schedule they have it is a lot of games in a short amount of time,” said Milic.

“So, the way it is, Comrie is going to hold down the fort, but I will be ready when I get my chance and I am just excited for it.”

### **NHL.com**

<https://www.nhl.com/news/winnipeg-jets-washington-capitals-game-recap-november-26-2025>

### ***Ovechkin scores 908th NHL goal, Capitals edge Jets Chyhrun pushes goal streak to 4 for Washington, which has won 5 of 6***

By Harvey Valentine

WASHINGTON -- Alex Ovechkin scored his 908th NHL goal in the Washington Capitals’ 4-3 win against the Winnipeg Jets on Wednesday.

The NHL’s all-time leading goal-scorer was honored in a pregame ceremony for reaching 900 goals and playing 1,500 NHL games. He gave the Capitals a 3-2 lead at 5:22 of the second period when he got to a rolling puck at the point, turned around and floated a wrist shot past Jets goalie Eric Comrie for his eighth goal in his past nine games.

“What a special ceremony it was and for him to score is just ... you could’ve called that for sure,” Washington coach Spencer Carbery said. “Those things happen. He always finds ways to have an impact on the game when it’s a big night or important moment and tonight was no different.”

Jakob Chychrun extended his goal streak to four games (five goals) for the Capitals (13-9-2), who have won five of six after losing eight of 10 (2-6-2). Charlie Lindgren made 18 saves.

"We're figuring out who we are," Lindgren said. "At the start of the year, it felt like we were back and forth trying to figure out ... wins were maybe a little tougher to come by but now we're playing with more consistency, and it's been fun to watch us."

Gabriel Vilardi scored twice, and Kyle Connor had three assists for the Jets (12-10-0), who have lost three straight and seven of 10 (3-7-0). Comrie made 30 saves.

"We're in a funk right now and we've got to find ways," Jets coach Scott Arniel said. "We're doing a lot of good things. Our mistakes, if they happen, are going in our net but we battled right to the end."

John Carlson gave the Capitals a 1-0 lead at 6:38 of the first period, scoring on a one-timer from the high slot off a pass from Tom Wilson.

Chychrun made it 2-0 at 14:21 when his snap shot from the point went off the crossbar and in. The defenseman has 12 points (six goals, six assists) on a nine-game point streak.

Vilardi pulled the Jets within 2-1 at 19:38. Carlson's pass from behind the Washington net was intercepted by Connor, who fed in front to Vilardi for the tip-in.

Vilardi tied it 2-2 when he tipped Josh Morrissey's shot past Lindgren during a power play at 1:24 of the second period.

"No one's quitting here," Vilardi said. "We're going to keep showing up, keep playing. [I] think we've made progressions in our game, but it is a results driven business and we need to start winning."

After Ovechkin gave the Capitals the lead, Connor McMichael made 4-2 at 5:25 of the third period. Winnipeg's Elias Salomonsson couldn't control a pass at the Capitals blue line and McMichael scored on a breakaway, deking past Comrie and sliding a backhand shot home.

"I just saw the 'D' bobble it and then the opportunity just kind of presented itself for a breakaway," McMichael said. "I think I was just coming in with so much speed I was able to beat him to that back post and, thankfully, I was able to put it in."

Mark Scheifele pulled the Jets within 4-3 at 15:11. Dylan DeMelo's shot deflected off Connor in front and Scheifele popped the loose puck past Lindgren.

"Obviously, [Scheifele's] line did it again tonight and we need other people to step up," Arniel said of the Connor-Scheifele-Vilardi trio. "It's not about being pretty now. I don't care how it goes in, off your head, off your leg, however it might be. Rebounds, deflections whatever."

*NOTES:* Ovechkin passed Steve Yzerman (1,514) for the seventh-most games played with one franchise in NHL history. ... Ovechkin tied Gordie Howe (348) for the most home games with a goal in NHL history. ... Ovechkin's nine goals this month are tied with Howe (nine in March 1969) for the third most in a single calendar month by a player age 40 or older in NHL history behind Johnny Bucyk (10 in January 1976) and Howe (11 in February 1969). ... McMichael has eight points (two goals, six assists) in his past seven games. ... The Capitals have a 13-game

home point streak (12-0-1) against the Jets dating to April 23, 2013. ... Vilardi has 100 goals in 292 NHL games. ... Salomonsson played 16:18 and was minus-2 in his NHL debut.

### **Associated Press**

[https://www.thecanadianpressnews.ca/sports/alex-ovechkin-stays-hot-to-lift-capitals-4-3-over-jets/article\\_7f60f932-d67e-5bfc-a5c6-87300394d758.html](https://www.thecanadianpressnews.ca/sports/alex-ovechkin-stays-hot-to-lift-capitals-4-3-over-jets/article_7f60f932-d67e-5bfc-a5c6-87300394d758.html)

### ***Alex Ovechkin stays hot to lift Capitals 4-3 over Jets***

Sammi Silber The Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Alex Ovechkin scored his 908th career NHL goal and the Washington Capitals beat the Winnipeg Jets 4-3 on Wednesday night.

John Carlson, Jakob Chychrun and Connor McMichael also scored for the Capitals, winners of five of the last six. Charlie Lindgren had 18 saves in the win.

Gabriel Vilardi struck twice and Mark Scheifele also scored for the Jets, who have dropped three straight, and Eric Comrie stopped 30 shots.

Carlson opened the scoring off a one-time feed from Tom Wilson 6:38 into the first period. Chychrun fired a point shot, hitting the bar and in, past Comrie to extend his goal-scoring streak to four games and point streak to nine. He's now tied with Cale Makar for the NHL lead in goals by a defenceman.

With 22 seconds left in the first, the Jets got one back as Gabriel Vilardi got to the crease and buried a front-door pass from Kyle Connor. To open the second, Vilardi scored his second off a deflection on the power play for his fourth goal in the last three games.

After getting the puck at the point, Ovechkin turned and lobbed the puck toward the net, and it beat Comrie to give Washington a 3-2 lead. Comrie is the 186th different goaltender Ovechkin has scored on in his NHL career. Ovechkin has six goals in his last six games.

The 40-year-old was honoured for his 900-goal and 1,500-game milestones in a pre-game ceremony.

### ***Up next***

Jets: Visit the Hurricanes on Friday.

Capitals: Host the Maple Leafs on Friday.

## **Global Winnipeg**

<https://globalnews.ca/news/11545778/ovechkin-scores-908th-goal-as-capitals-down-winnipeg-jets-4-3/>

### ***Ovechkin scores 908th goal as Capitals down Winnipeg Jets 4-3***

By Christian Aumell & Russ Hobson Global News

The Winnipeg Jets are struggling.

After following up a poor road swing with a disappointing homestand, the Jets began a five-game trip with a 4-3 loss to the Capitals in Washington, D.C. on Wednesday night.

The Jets fell behind by two goals in the opening period, battled back to tie the game, only for the Capitals to score the next two goals as the Jets suffered a third straight loss.

Gabriel Vilardi scored twice in the defeat, while Mark Scheifele notched their only other marker. Kyle Connor registered three assists.

"There was a lot of good things that happened out there," said Jets head coach Scott Arniel. "We're in a funk right now. We got to find ways. We're doing a lot of good things. Our mistakes, if they happen, they're going in our net. But we battled right to the end."

The Jets have just three wins in their last 10 games and are having trouble finding secondary scoring from outside their top line.

"We need other people to step up," Arniel said. "It's not about being pretty now. It's about, 'I don't care how it goes in, off your head, off your leg', however it might be. Rebounds, whatever, deflections. We('ve) got to find a way."

The Jets' bottom three forward lines haven't scored a single goal during their three-game losing skid.

With Neal Pionk out of the lineup with a lower-body injury, Elias Salomonsson made his NHL debut after being called up from the Manitoba Moose and he got the traditional solo lap in the pre-game warm-ups.

"That was actually the first thing I thought of — don't fall," said Salomonsson. "But, yeah, it was amazing. Of course, a lot of emotions. You just do that once, so yeah it was a lot of fun."

But Salomonsson was a minus-2 in 16 minutes of ice time in his first NHL game, and the Caps' fourth goal came on a breakaway after the puck got away from him.

"It was unfortunate," he said. "I think the puck bounced a little bit or something. But yeah, take that. It is what it is."

"The guys came and said don't worry and stuff like that, so that felt good, and continue the game the right way."

The home team got on the board first thanks to their red-hot blue line. After a misplayed pass by the Jets in the Washington zone, Tom Wilson broke up the ice with the puck. He skated into the Winnipeg end before dropping the puck to a trailing John Carlson, who blasted a shot past Eric Comrie to open the scoring at the 6:38 mark.

Later in the first, another Washington blueliner got on the scoreboard. Sonny Milano beat Gustav Nyquist to a loose puck and sent it back to the point where Jakob Chychrun whipped a perfect shot off the crossbar and in, making it the fourth straight game in which he scored a goal.

It looked like Washington would take the two-goal lead into the intermission, but Winnipeg struck in the final seconds. After the Capitals won a faceoff in their own end, Carlson made a terrible play, passing the puck to Connor before he sent a quick pass in front that Vilardi steered into the goal at the 19:38 mark.

Winnipeg began the second period on the power play and took full advantage when Vilardi deftly redirected a shot that Josh Morrissey had intentionally sent wide of the goal. Officials briefly reviewed the goal to confirm that Vilardi's stick was below the crossbar when it made contact with the puck, which it was, giving Vilardi his 100th career NHL goal.

But just a few minutes later, the legendary Alex Ovechkin added another goal to his incredible career total, though this one would not be described as a beauty. After the Jets couldn't quite clear the puck, it wound up along the boards where Ovechkin turned and fired a blind shot from distance that somehow knuckled its way through some traffic and past Comrie for his 908th NHL goal.

It stayed 3-2 heading to the third period as Washington outshot Winnipeg 15-7 in the middle frame. The two-period total in shots was 26-13 in the Capitals' favour.

The Jets killed off a penalty to start the third but Connor McMichael made Winnipeg pay for a mistake at even strength at the 5:15 mark of the period.

The Jets transitioned up the ice and into the Capitals' end before Cole Perfetti tried to drop a pass back to the point for Salomonsson. But the pass went into the rookie's skates, he fell down, and McMichael was off to the races, skating in alone and putting a nice deke on Comrie before scoring to make it 4-2.

Winnipeg cut the lead back to one with just under five minutes to go in regulation. Scheifele took a high stick to the face off a draw in the offensive end, dropping to the ice as no call was made. Scheifele eventually gathered himself as play continued, with Dylan DeMelo sending a shot on goal that hit a body and went right to Scheifele in front of the net. The Capitals seemed to have forgotten about him as he deposited the puck into the net for his 12th goal of the season.

Winnipeg pulled Comrie for an extra attacker with just under two minutes left but couldn't find the equalizer as the final horn sounded on a third straight defeat.

Comrie turned aside 30 shots as the Jets have lost all three games now since the news came out that Connor Hellebuyck would be missing time for knee surgery. Charlie Lindgren only had to make 18 saves in the win as the Capitals outshot Winnipeg 34-21.

The Jets will look to snap out of their losing ways Friday in Carolina in a Black Friday matinee affair against the Hurricanes. The puck drops just after 4 p.m. with pregame coverage beginning at 2 p.m. on 680 CJOB.

## **The Guardian**

<https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2025/nov/21/jonathan-toews-india-ayurveda-winnipeg-jets-nhl-comeback>

### ***'Like a kid again': Jonathan Toews' long road from NHL stardom to India and back***

By Joseph D'Hippolito

Stepping on the ice for this season's opening game signified far more than a return to routine for one of the NHL's most decorated players.

Jonathan Toews – the former Chicago Blackhawks captain who led the club to three Stanley Cups in six seasons – was not only making his debut for his hometown Winnipeg Jets. He was playing his first NHL game in two and a half years.

"You want to soak it in," he said. "It was more just trying to enjoy the surreal journey of being away from hockey for so long – the most time I've ever taken off since I was a kid playing – and then having the chance to do it not only in my hometown but in the NHL again."

Two stops in India provided firm direction on Toews' journey. For two one-month stretches, in 2023 and 2024, the 37-year-old center undertook a rigorous detoxification program designed to help him recover from chronic respiratory problems and to quiet the relentless self-criticism that had dominated his career.

Toews made an immediate impact in the NHL. In 2007-08, he led all rookies in goals. The next season, Chicago named him captain at just 20. By his third, he had led the Blackhawks to the first of three titles and won the Conn Smythe Trophy as the most valuable player in the playoffs.

He added the Frank J Selke Trophy as the league's best defensive forward in 2015, four NHL All-Star appearances and two Olympic gold medals with Canada in 2010 and 2014. Toews' impact became so significant that the NHL named him one of its 100 greatest players in 2017, the league's centennial year. But success was taking a toll.

Since his teens, Toews had battled digestive and immunity issues that affected his sleep. At 21 he began a rigorous program that reflected his nickname "Captain Serious".

"I was doing all sorts of different things and taking supplements," he said. "My daily routine of recovery and performance was just nonstop, and I was overdoing a lot of different things."

His production began to wane. After career highs of 35 goals and 46 assists in 2018–19, he scored just 18 goals the following season. He missed the entire 2020–21 campaign with chronic inflammatory response syndrome, the result of contracting Covid-19. His trademark intensity, once an asset, had begun to work against him.

"I was making myself miserable," Toews said, "letting that anger and frustration pour over until I finally got the result I wanted."



In his final season in Chicago, 2022–23, Toews finished with a career-low 16 assists, a year after posting a career-worst 12 goals. When the Blackhawks chose not to renew his contract, Toews reached a crossroads.

“I was really exhausted and unwell,” he said. “I needed some time to create space in my life, let my body heal, let my mind heal, and just let the dust settle. When you’re living at a fast pace for a long time, there are parts of you that are in survival mode. You learn how to do things a certain way, and you stick to what works.

“But what brings you to a certain place isn’t necessarily what’s going to take you to the next level. I had some learning and growing up to do. I needed to reassess why I was doing what I was doing, to find my love for hockey again and get back to a place where I was enjoying life and not putting so much pressure on myself.”

In summer 2023, Toews turned to Ayurveda, a traditional Indian medical practice incorporating herbal remedies, a vegetarian diet, meditation and cleansing treatments. After changing his diet and taking herbal tinctures, he travelled to India in September 2023 for a month-long detox program called panchakarma.

The first two weeks involved yoga, prayer, enemas, painful massage and mud baths designed to draw toxins from the body. Then five days of consuming a ghee-based herbal tonic. Next came the most extreme stage: vomiting induced by drinking four liters of milk, four liters of salt water and four liters of an herbal decoction.

“It’s definitely a rollercoaster ride,” Toews said. “You feel like you’re just depressed and down in the dumps. Then the next thing you know, you’re pushing a lot of toxins out of your cells and tissue. You can feel it. Then suddenly you’re feeling this lightness and clarity and energy.

“It was remembering what it felt like to be a 13-year-old kid again, where you just have this complete clarity and natural energy. It was nice to feel that and have some tangible evidence that you’re moving in the right direction.”

He returned to India for a five-week session last autumn, signed an incentive-laden deal with a \$2m base salary on 1 July, and made his Jets debut on 9 October before a capacity crowd of 15,225 at Winnipeg’s Canada Life Centre.

“It was electric,” said Paul Edmonds, the Jets’ play-by-play radio broadcaster. “There was a lot of anticipation. He left at 14 to go to school play in Minnesota (at a boarding school) and never came back to play again. Fans across the province wondered if this dream would ever come true.”

The dream came with a dose of reality. With centers Adam Lowry (hip surgery) and Nikolaj Ehlers (free agency) unavailable, the Jets installed Toews as their de facto No 2 center. In the first 12 games without Lowry, he contributed two goals and five assists while averaging 16min 16sec of ice time.

“We were going to be thin through the middle, but Jonathan has stabilised things,” said Winnipeg’s coach, Scott Arniel. “He’s allowed us to get some secondary scoring while getting himself back up and running – getting back to NHL pace, a new team, different teammates.”

His reputation eased the transition. "He's been seamless in the dressing room," Arniel said. "He's part of our leadership group and right in the middle of everything. When he speaks, the guys listen because of all he's encountered in his career."

Toews also adjusted quickly on the ice. "It's been fun playing with him," said winger Alex Iafallo, who started the season on Toews' line. "He fit right in. He's done a great job understanding our structure and how we play. For him to come in and play the way he has is pretty spectacular."

Mark Scheifele, the franchise's all-time scoring leader, explained how watching Toews helped his own game.

"He has such a wealth of knowledge, so much experience," Scheifele said. "He's so good at faceoffs, so good at being in the right area, strong on the puck. The little details of the game that people don't notice are the things I've learned."

For Toews, the lessons from India have softened an edge that once cut too sharply.

"I used to be the type of person who drove myself constantly," he said. "Now it's more of a gentle process – being patient, finding the fun and creative process of working on your game, and just being in the present moment."

Arniel put it simply: "He's done a great job. He's like a little kid again."

### **Winnipeg Sun**

'It 'It sucks right now': Jets' slide continues against Ovechkin, Caps

By Paul Friesen

Eric Comrie, join the club.

Going into Wednesday's game in Washington, the Winnipeg Jets goalie had never faced the NHL's career leading goal-scorer, Alex Ovechkin.

That was probably a good thing for him, as no team has felt Ovechkin's offensive wrath more than the Jets: Of his 907 career goals before Wednesday, a whopping 57 had come in 75 games against Winnipeg.

Make that 58 in 76 – and a first against the 30-year-old Comrie.

Ovechkin's blind, long-range wrister broke a 2-2 tie in the second period and the Capitals went on to beat the Jets, 4-3, Winnipeg's third straight loss.

The Jets' record falls to 12-10 on the season, 3-7 in their last 10 games.

Their mood?

"It's not great," Gabe Vilardi told media in Washington. "It sucks to lose. But nobody's quitting here. We're just going to keep showing up, keep playing. We've talked about it ... we've made progression in different areas of our game. But at the end of the day it is a results-driven business and we need to start winning. And it sucks right now."

“There’s a lot of good things that happened out there,” head coach Scott Arniel added. “We’re in a funk right now and we’ve got to find ways. Our mistakes are going in our net but we battle right to the end.”

Washington’s winning goal came some five minutes into the third period, when Jets defenceman Elias Salomonsson, playing his first career NHL game, couldn’t handle a pass at the Washington blue line, springing Connor McMichael on a breakaway that made it 4-2.

With just under five minutes left, Mark Scheifele closed the gap with his 12th goal of the season on a rebound.

The Jets pulled Comrie with 1:40 to go and came close on a goal-mouth scramble in the dying seconds, but couldn’t bang it home.

Vilardi scored twice for Winnipeg, reaching 100 for his career, making it all three goals from the same line.

“We’ve got to find a way to get some secondary scoring,” Arniel said. “We need other people to step up. It’s not about being pretty now. I don’t care how it goes in. Off your head, off your leg, however it might be.

“The guys that aren’t scoring, find a way to get some offence.”

The evening brought a roller-coaster of emotions for Salomonsson, starting with the thrill of the traditional pre-game solo lap, which he was determined to pull off without stepping on the puck.

“That was actually the first thing I thought of – don’t fall,” the 21-year-old said. “It was amazing. There was a lot of emotions. You just do that once.”

While his parents didn’t make it from Sweden, Salomonsson’s girlfriend was there to see it.

She would have wanted to shield her eyes when he missed the pass that produced Washington’s fourth goal.

“It was unfortunate,” Salomonsson said. “The puck bounced a little bit or something. But take that as experience, try to put it behind you. The guys came and said, ‘Don’t worry,’ and stuff like that. So that felt good, and continued the game in the right way.”

After a lengthy, pre-game ceremony to honour Ovechkin passing 900 goals and 1,700 games, it took the Jets more than three minutes to get their first shot on Caps goalie Charlie Lindgren.

Their early sluggishness cost them.

Before the first period was half over, Washington defenceman John Carlson joined a rush and blasted a shot from the high slot past Comrie for the first goal.

It got worse when defenceman Jakob Chychrun’s wrist shot from the point found its way through traffic and past Comrie with 5:39 left in the first.

That made it 21 goals from the blue line for Washington this season, the top mark in the NHL – and the envy of the Jets, who have 10.

“Our D have to find a way to get pucks to that net front,” Arniel said. “I think we had three shots on net from our D and that’s something that we as a group have to get better at. You can’t go into games with one line running.”

Winnipeg’s top line broke the ice with 22 seconds left in the first period, Kyle Connor taking advantage of a Carlson giveaway to set up Vilardi for his ninth of the season.

Vilardi doubled down early in the second, tipping a Josh Morrissey shot past Lindgren on a Jets power play, tying it at 2-2 and hitting the century mark for career goals.

Ovechkin’s 908th career marker was next, the Russian sniper turning to fire a long wrister from near the side boards past a surprised Comrie and restoring his team’s lead.

Final shots favoured the Caps, 34-21, as Comrie, playing his fourth straight game in place of injured star Connor Hellebuyck, saw his record fall to 1-3 in that stretch, 4-4 on the season.

The Jets play the second game of this five-game road trip in Carolina on Friday, followed by a Saturday stop in Nashville.

### **Winnipeg Sun**

<https://winnipeg.sun.com/sports/hockey/nhl/winnipeg-jets/it-sucks-right-now-jets-slide-continues-against-ovechkin-caps>

#### ***“It sucks right now’: Jets’ slide continues against Ovechkin, Caps***

By Paul Friesen

Eric Comrie, join the club.

Going into Wednesday’s game in Washington, the Winnipeg Jets goalie had never faced the NHL’s career leading goal-scorer, Alex Ovechkin.

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The Jets’ record falls to 12-10 on the season, 3-7 in their last 10 games.

Their mood?

“It’s not great,” Gabe Vilardi told media in Washington. “It sucks to lose. But nobody’s quitting here. We’re just going to keep showing up, keep playing. We’ve talked about it ... we’ve made

progression in different areas of our game. But at the end of the day it is a results-driven business and we need to start winning. And it sucks right now.”

“There’s a lot of good things that happened out there,” head coach Scott Arniel added. “We’re in a funk right now and we’ve got to find ways. Our mistakes are going in our net but we battle right to the end.”

Washington’s winning goal came some five minutes into the third period, when Jets defenceman Elias Salomonsson, playing his first career NHL game, couldn’t handle a pass at the Washington blue line, springing Connor McMichael on a breakaway that made it 4-2.

With just under five minutes left, Mark Scheifele closed the gap with his 12th goal of the season on a rebound.

The Jets pulled Comrie with 1:40 to go and came close on a goal-mouth scramble in the dying seconds, but couldn’t bang it home.

Vilardi scored twice for Winnipeg, reaching 100 for his career, making it all three goals from the same line.

“We’ve got to find a way to get some secondary scoring,” Arniel said. “We need other people to step up. It’s not about being pretty now. I don’t care how it goes in. Off your head, off your leg, however it might be.

“The guys that aren’t scoring, find a way to get some offence.”

The evening brought a roller-coaster of emotions for Salomonsson, starting with the thrill of the traditional pre-game solo lap, which he was determined to pull off without stepping on the puck.

“That was actually the first thing I thought of – don’t fall,” the 21-year-old said. “It was amazing. There was a lot of emotions. You just do that once.”

While his parents didn’t make it from Sweden, Salomonsson’s girlfriend was there to see it.

She would have wanted to shield her eyes when he missed the pass that produced Washington’s fourth goal.

“It was unfortunate,” Salomonsson said. “The puck bounced a little bit or something. But take that as experience, try to put it behind you. The guys came and said, ‘Don’t worry,’ and stuff like that. So that felt good, and continued the game in the right way.”

After a lengthy, pre-game ceremony to honour Ovechkin passing 900 goals and 1,700 games, it took the Jets more than three minutes to get their first shot on Caps goalie Charlie Lindgren.

Their early sluggishness cost them.

Before the first period was half over, Washington defenceman John Carlson joined a rush and blasted a shot from the high slot past Comrie for the first goal.

It got worse when defenceman Jakob Chychrun’s wrist shot from the point found its way through traffic and past Comrie with 5:39 left in the first.

That made it 21 goals from the blue line for Washington this season, the top mark in the NHL – and the envy of the Jets, who have 10.

“Our D have to find a way to get pucks to that net front,” Arniel said. “I think we had three shots on net from our D and that’s something that we as a group have to get better at. You can’t go into games with one line running.”

Winnipeg’s top line broke the ice with 22 seconds left in the first period, Kyle Connor taking advantage of a Carlson giveaway to set up Vilardi for his ninth of the season.

Vilardi doubled down early in the second, tipping a Josh Morrissey shot past Lindgren on a Jets power play, tying it at 2-2 and hitting the century mark for career goals.

Ovechkin’s 908th career marker was next, the Russian sniper turning to fire a long wrister from near the side boards past a surprised Comrie and restoring his team’s lead.

Final shots favoured the Caps, 34-21, as Comrie, playing his fourth straight game in place of injured star Connor Hellebuyck, saw his record fall to 1-3 in that stretch, 4-4 on the season.

The Jets play the second game of this five-game road trip in Carolina on Friday, followed by a Saturday stop in Nashville.

### **Winnipeg Free Press**

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2025/11/26/lack-of-depth-sinks-jets>

#### ***Lack of depth sinks Jets***

***‘We need other people to step up,’ says frustrated head coach Arniel***

By: Mike McIntyre

WASHINGTON — What does a one-line hockey team look like?

We present to you the Winnipeg Jets in their current form: deadly when the trio of Mark Scheifele, Kyle Connor and Gabe Vilardi are on the ice; doormats when the other nine forwards are doing cardio up and down the ice with nothing but burned calories to show for it.

It’s not a winning formula, as Wednesday’s game in Washington once again proved. A 4-3 loss to the Capitals to start a five-game road trip included a handful of familiar play-drivers — Vilardi scored twice, Scheifele had the other and Connor set up all three — and plenty of passengers.

That had coach Scott Arniel shaking his head in frustration as he spoke to the Free Press outside the team’s locker room at Capital One Arena.

“We need other people to step up,” Arniel fumed.

“It’s not about being pretty now. It’s about... I don’t care how it goes in. Off your head, off your leg, however it might be. Rebounds, whatever. Deflections, we’ve got to find a way. The guys that aren’t scoring, find a way to get some offence.”

Winnipeg has now lost three consecutive games, and seven of its last 10, to fall to 12-10-0. Washington improves to 13-9-2.

"It's not great," Vilardi said when asked to describe the mood of a team that only lost 22 times in regulation a year ago en route to the Presidents' Trophy, yet now finds itself outside of even a wild-card playoff spot.

"Sucks to lose. We know it, but there's no quit in here. We're just gonna keep showing up, keep playing. We've talked about it, and I'm not sure Arnie's talked about it to you guys, but I feel like we've made progressions in different areas of our game, but at the end of the day, it is a results-driven business, and we need to start winning."

He wouldn't throw any of his teammates under the bus, of course, but no doubt a little help right now could go a long way for these fragile Jets — especially considering they are without MVP goaltender Connor Hellebuyck until at least Christmas and can no longer rely on the reigning Hart and Vezina Trophy winner to steal them some games.

Might it be time to consider breaking up Scheifele, Connor and Vilardi in an attempt to spread the wealth?

"It's something we've thought about, but you have to challenge the other group here, to have other players step up and do (their) part of it," said Arniel, who shook up his second, third and fourth lines for a second game in a row.

You have to go back to Nov. 18 — now four games ago — to find the last time the Jets scored a goal that didn't involve Scheifele, Connor or Vilardi. Perhaps not coincidentally, that's the last time the Jets tasted victory.

"Like I've said in the past there, if you want to score goals, don't get farther away from the net, get close to the net," Arniel continued.

"This is the time now, for us. We've got to go find some greasy goals, rebounds, deflections, those types of goals. If they get one, hopefully it spreads throughout our team."

Let's break this one down further:

*EMOTIONAL DEBUT:* Talk about a wave of emotions for Elias Salomonsson.

The 21-year-old defenceman made his NHL debut on Wednesday, a huge smile on his face as he took the traditional pre-game "hot lap" — which was actually three twirls around the rink while the rest of his teammates looked on from the bench.

"The first thing I thought of (was) don't fall," Salomonsson joked afterwards. "It was amazing. There was a lot of emotions. You just do that once. It was a lot of fun."

Once the game started, Salomonsson looked poised as he efficiently moved the puck, with several smart, crisp passes that helped his team exit the zone. He also had some nifty offensive zone plays, including one where he found Scheifele all alone in the slot and would have registered his first point if not for a great defensive play which stole a goal from Connor.

The dream scenario turned into a nightmare in the third period when Cole Perfetti fed him a pass at the Washington blue line. Unfortunately he overskated the puck, which led to Connor McMichael getting a clear-cut breakaway and beating Eric Comrie with a deke.

It made the score 4-2 at the time — there was just under 15 minutes left in regulation — and ultimately stood up to the game-winner

“It was unfortunate. The puck bounced a little bit or something,” said Salomonsson. “But take that as experience, try to put it behind you.”

Plenty of teammates offered encouraging words of support at the time, as did Arniel on the bench.

“I just went down and told him to suck it up and move on,” said Arniel.

“That’s the one thing about good players. You can’t do anything about the past play. I thought he showed a lot of maturity at times. There were some real nice plays, he had some real nice breakouts and nice plays offensively. This is a tough building, that’s a tough team, that’s a tough game to come into and I thought he held his own.”

Salomonsson finished with 16:18 of ice time, registering two hits, one block and going minus-two while paired with Dylan Samberg.

*GREAT EIGHT:* Alex Ovechkin loves scoring goals. And his heart likely grows three sizes every time he sees the Jets lining up against him.

He entered play Wednesday having scored 57 times against the franchise, dating back to their days as the Atlanta Thrashers. That’s the most among any opponent, with the Carolina Hurricanes in second at 53

Well, you can make it 58.

On a night the NHL’s all-time leading goal scorer was honoured with a lavish pre-game ceremony which included his two sons joining him on the ice for warmup, every fan in attendance being given a cardboard cutout of his giant head on a stick and a celebration of surpassing 900 goals and 1,500 games played, the Great Eight rose to the occasion.

With the score tied 2-2 early in the second, Ovechkin spun around and fired a wrist shot towards the Winnipeg net. Comrie, who was being screened by teammate Logan Stanley, ducked down to try and get a view only to see it go right over his shoulder. It’s his 11th of the year and 908th of his incredible career.

It’s an example of good things happening when you put pucks on net — something the Capitals did in spades and the Jets, to Arniel’s chagrin, did not.

*KEY PLAY:* McMichael’s breakaway goal was the dagger.

*THREE STARS:*

1. Jets, Gabe Vilardi: 2G
2. Caps, Connor McMichael: Game-winning goal
3. Jets, Kyle Connor: 3A



**EXTRA EXTRA:** Comrie stopped 30 of 34 shots he faced, while Charlie Lindgren (18 of 21) wasn't nearly as busy at the other end of the rink.

The Jets went one-for-two on the power play and killed off both minors they took.

Defenceman Luke Schenn and forward Cole Koepke were the two healthy scratches for the Jets, while Hellebuyck (knee surgery) Neal Pionk (lower-body) and Haydn Fleury (concussion protocol) remain sidelined with injuries.

Winnipegger Dylan McIlrath drew into the lineup for the Caps and played just his third game of the season. He took the spot of former Jets defenceman Declan Chisholm, who was a healthy scratch.

Speaking of former Jets, old friend Pierre-Luc Dubois is sidelined for three to four months after recently undergoing surgery for an abdominal injury which occurred on a routine faceoff play. He was off to a tough start with no points through six games.

The Jets flew to Raleigh after the game and will practise there on Thursday afternoon. They'll face the Carolina Hurricanes in a Black Friday matinee.

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2025/11/26/its-miller-time-again-for-the-jets>

***It's Miller time again for the Jets  
Journeyman defenceman grateful for every opportunity on the ice***

By: Mike McIntyre

WASHINGTON — It was a rare sight Wednesday morning: Colin Miller, sweat still dripping from his forehead, sitting at his locker stall alongside most of his Winnipeg Jets teammates.

For only the seventh time this season, the 33-year-old wasn't required to remain on the ice long after the official morning skate had ended, grinding through extra work with the other healthy scratches and rehabilitating players and catching the late bus back to the hotel.

Instead, he was slated to be in the lineup later that evening against the Washington Capitals. So we wandered over to chat with the veteran defenceman, looking to better understand what hockey life is like when — more often than not — you're on the outside looking in.

"It's mental. Its super mental," said Miller, tapping his head.

"You have to make sure you're not overthinking things. Make sure you're ready to go when you get the chance. There's been more out than in, so it's a lot of time to think and overthink things. But just making sure that when you do get in, stick to the things that you know you've always been good at and the game slows down after that."

Wednesday's game will officially be the 579th of Miller's NHL career, which began a decade ago in Boston and has also included stops in Vegas, Buffalo, Dallas and New Jersey. He no longer takes the next one for granted, realizing his days as a full-time player might well be over.

The role of a journeyman depth defenceman who has to scratch and claw his way into the lineup is one Miller admits a younger version of himself probably wouldn't have embraced quite so smoothly.

"I think so. I've had my fair share of healthy scratches throughout the course of my career at different ages," he said with a laugh.

"You learn. You learn how to handle it differently, how to prepare when you go back into a game. Like, maybe it's been a week since you played the last game and maybe you're not going to feel 100 per cent comfortable the first shift but know that it's going to come. That's just part of it, right? I think that's going to be something that's inevitable when you're not in a steady routine."

Sitting out is one thing. But you also have to be a good teammate, keeping any pouting or self-pity private.

"That's sometimes kind of how it goes, but that's part of being a professional. It's part of being part of a team," said Miller. "It's not necessarily about you, it's about the team and what's working best for the team. And you want the best for them."

That's something Miller and fellow veteran blue-liner Luke Schenn — who is set to be relegated to the press box Wednesday against the Capitals — have done very well, according to their head coach.

"I think that's where our group is good. I think they recognize that whatever lineup goes in, it's to have team success," said Scott Arniel.

"We talk to those guys. They recognize and they know their roles. Those guys recognize that when they do come in, they have to bring what they do best to the game."

The Jets began the year with eight NHL defencemen on one-way contracts, although Dylan Samberg started on the injured list. He's now returned, but Haydn Fleury (concussion protocol) and Neal Pionk (lower body) are both currently sidelined.

That has now opened the door for the team's top blue-line prospect, Elias Salomonsson, to make his NHL debut. The 21-year-old will be in the lineup Wednesday against Washington, which had Miller taking a trip down memory lane.

"For him, it's a culmination of a lot of hard work," said Miller.

"I just remember from mine, just being so excited to be there. It kind of seems like the lights are a little brighter in an NHL rink. Everything just sounds fresh. A lot of excitement I'm sure for him."

Miller's first game came at the historic Bell Centre in Montreal. He was a member of the Bruins at the time, which added some extra sizzle given their storied rivalry.

"There's so much excitement. It's something you push for your whole life. Something you'll never forget," said Miller, who has produced 181 points (43 goals, 138 assists) over his career.

He may no longer be the same wide-eyed kid looking at those bright lights, but Miller said he's thankful for every opportunity he still gets to suit up in the best league in the world, even if it requires plenty of patience.

Wednesday's game marks his second straight appearance — only the second time that's happened all season — and he hopes to keep building some personal momentum while also helping his team get things turned around following an extended rough patch of play.

“(Playing consecutive games) things just roll into the next one and it doesn't take that first shift or two to kind of get into it,” he said.

“For our group, I don't think there's panic. We know what we have in this room. We know this group that we have is a resilient group. A composed group. But this is definitely an important road trip.”