

**WinnipegJets.com**

<https://www.nhl.com/jets/news/rosen-gets-first-goal-as-a-jet-in-6-3-loss>

***Rosén gets first goal as a Jet in 6-3 loss  
Rosén, Connor and Vilardi scored for the Jets in loss to Rangers***

By Jamie Thomas

WINNIPEG - The New York Rangers scored four times in the third period to beat the Winnipeg Jets 6-3 at Canada Life Centre. Isak Rosén, Kyle Connor and Gabe Vilardi scored for the Jets who have dropped back-to-back games in regulation. Connor Hellebuyck who was making his seventh straight start, made 11 saves. The Jets will continue their homestand Saturday afternoon when they welcome the Colorado Avalanche.

***ROSÉN AND BRYSON FIRST POINTS AS JETS***

With the Jets trailing 1-0 at the beginning of the second period, recently acquired Isak Rosén and Jacob Bryson recorded their first points as Jets. Bryson snapped a shot for the point that Rosén tipped over the pad of Igor Shesterkin at 2:21.

"I was trying to go there, and if you want to score goals, you have to be there," said Rosén.

"Sometimes it's tips, maybe next time a rebound. I think that's where you have to be if you want to score goals."

***NO QUIT IN THIS GROUP***

The Rangers took back their one goal lead at 7:36 courtesy of the Alexis Lafrenière, just over 10 minutes later Mark Scheifele gave the puck to Kyle Connor, and he went by Adam Fox and finished off the play by getting around a lunging Shesterkin and putting home his 29th of the season.

New York took their third one goal lead 1:15 into the third period, but it took Winnipeg all of three minutes to tie it again. Adam Lowry's initial shot was stopped by Shesterkin but Gabe Vilardi was there to find the rebound and went from his forehand to his backhand to beat the Rangers goaltender.

Unfortunately for the Jets, they gave up three straight goals including the game winner to Gabe Perreault, who scored 2:38 after Vilardi had tied it.

***700 GAMES FOR MELO***

Tonight marked the 700th career game for Jets defenceman Dylan DeMelo, (441 with the Jets, 133 with San Jose and 126 with Ottawa). Following the morning skate, DeMelo was asked what the key was for him to get to this milestone.

"I think probably just my steadiness. I kind of knew early on what was going to get me into the league and get me to be an everyday player, and I feel like each year I've tried to evolve in all aspects," said DeMelo.

"I think just being that steady presence on the back end, a calming influence, a guy that takes care of his own end and can pitch in on the offence when it's called upon. I just like to pride

myself on being a hard-working player and a guy that tries to do whatever he can to help the team win.”

## **NHL.com**

<https://www.nhl.com/news/new-york-rangers-winnipeg-jets-game-recap-march-12-2026>

### ***Lafreniere extends goal streak to 3, Rangers defeat Jets for 3rd straight win Perreault has 3rd straight multipoint game for New York; Winnipeg drops 2nd in row after winning 3 straight***

By Darrin Bauming

WINNIPEG -- Alexis Lafreniere extended his goal streak to three games and had an assist, and the New York Rangers won their third straight game, 6-3 against the Winnipeg Jets at Canada Life Centre on Thursday.

Lafreniere, who had a hat trick in a 4-0 win against the Calgary Flames on Tuesday, has nine goals in his past 10 games, after scoring six in his previous 37 games.

“Right now, we go to the net, we play with speed, with everything, and we believe right now in each other,” New York goalie Igor Shesterkin said. “I think it's pretty good for confidence, for the future, of course. We love our game play right now, like [Alexis Lafreniere] steps up, so it's pretty good for us.”

Gabe Perreault and Tye Kartye each had a goal and an assist for the Rangers (27-30-8), who have won three straight and are 5-1-2 in their past eight games. Vincent Trocheck and Braden Schneider each had two assists. Shesterkin made 23 saves.

“(The vibe is) much better,” Schneider said. “When you're winning games and getting points in games it's a lot better feeling than when you're on a skid, so it's awesome to get some wins here and it definitely creates a much better vibe in the room.

“I think it's important. We have to keep competing and we have to keep building something that we feel good about. And I think after the (Olympic) break I think we've done a really good job at sticking together, playing hard, playing simple, and we're playing for each other, and I think we're being rewarded for it. It's a good feeling.”

Isak Rosen, Kyle Connor, and Gabriel Vilardi scored for the Jets (26-28-10), who have lost two in a row following a three-game winning streak. Connor Hellebuyck made 11 saves.

“We gave up nine 5-on-5 scoring chances, and they scored four goals off coverage,” Winnipeg coach Scott Arniel said. “It was all coverage. Those tip-in and deflections and getting beat to the net front, those were coverage goals that we just have to get better at.”

The Rangers scored on their first shot of the game while on the power play at 1:08 of the first period. Adam Fox took a pass from Mika Zibanejad and beat Hellebuyck through traffic with a slap shot from the blue line.

“That was tough tonight. Obviously that penalty right away and a turnover, very quickly it’s 1-0,” Arniel said. “I don’t care how it goes if we start slow and get ourselves back into it. At the end of the day, we need to find a way to get two points. Tonight it was D-zone coverage that kicked us.”

Rosen tied it 1-1 at 2:21 of the second period, tipping Jacob Bryson's wrist shot from the blue line as he battled in front of the net. It was the first point for Bryson and first goal for Rosen since both were acquired in a trade with the Buffalo Sabres on March 6.

“(I am) getting to know the system more and how we want to play here, more comfortable,” Rosen said. “I was trying to go (to the net front), and if you want to score goals, you have to be there. Sometimes it’s tips, maybe next time a rebound. I think that’s where you have to be if you want to score goals.”

Lafreniere put New York up 2-1 at 7:36 with his fifth goal in three games, tipping Will Borgen's point shot from in front to the blocker side on Hellebuyck.

“It wasn’t the start of the season that we would have preferred,” Perreault said. “But we kind of came together as a group here after the (Olympic) break and looked at the schedule and said, ‘Let’s do what we can and play with each other,’ and we’re kind of having fun with it.”

Connor tied it 2-2 at 17:49, toe-dragging through the legs of Fox in the left face-off circle and roofing a shot over a sprawling Shesterkin from in tight.

“(I) just saw him lean in one way and try to make a move, and got it after I had to pull it,” Connor said. “I thought he had a good angle, so that’s why I kind of pump fake them and try to get around him.”

Kartye gave the Rangers a 3-2 lead at 1:15 of the third period when he tipped Matthew Robertson's left point shot past Hellebuyck's glove as he cut across the net front.

“When you look at the types of goals that were scored -- [Lafreniere’s] goal was a deflection on stack screen, Tye Kartye’s goal was off a face-off, was getting into the blue paint, and that’s where goals are scored in this League,” New York coach Mike Sullivan said. “I was encouraged by the guys. I’m happy for them. We’ve stringed a few games together. It’s nice that they can feel good about what’s going on around here.”

Vilardi evened the score 3-3 at 4:19. Adam Lowry sent a wrist shot on net from the right circle, and Vilardi collected the rebound and backhanded the puck in around the right pad of Shesterkin from in front.

“Wish I had all the answers here,” Connor said. “It’s a complex game, and a lot of moving parts. I think we definitely need to get better. This team’s not going to just fold in. There’s a lot of compete and a lot of will in this room. A lot of belief, too. So we’ve still got a few games here in the homestand, and we’ve got to take what we can and look for ways to get better starts. Look for all these things that are great questions, that we got to hold each other accountable, and really dig deep here. And you know, this is our push. We need to respond.”

New York took a 4-3 lead at 6:57 when Perreault redirected a backdoor pass from Schneider at the left side of the crease for his third straight multipoint game.

"I just tried to get down there on the forecheck and tried to get the puck back," Perreault said. "There was a guy on my back so I thought there would be a guy behind him and I'd give it to him, then [Schneider] made a good pass. It handcuffed me a little bit, that's why I went down low. But every goal counts."

Adam Edstrom made it 5-3 at 11:08 with a snap shot from the high slot that beat Hellebuyck five-hole.

"We're just trying to win the game that's right in front of us and see where it takes us," Sullivan said. "We're trying to build a team game. We're trying to build an identity with consistent play and attention to detail. And I think the biggest thing is, we're trying to build a team game where everyone needs to understand what that looks like."

Noah Laba secured the 6-3 final with an empty-net goal at 19:09.

NOTES: Lafreniere also recorded his third straight multipoint game, and has 11 points (six goals, five assists) in his past six games. ... Perreault has six points (two goals, four assists) in a three-game streak. He joined Fox (three games in 2019-20) as the second Rangers rookie over the last 30 years to record multiple points in three straight games. ... Kartye extended his point streak to four games (two goals, four assists). ... Zibanejad has six points (two goals, four assists) in a three-game streak. ... Jets defenseman Dylan DeMelo played his 700th NHL game.

### **Canadian Press**

<https://www.chrisd.ca/2026/03/13/winnipeg-jets-new-york-rangers-game-recap-loss/>

### ***Alexis Lafreniere Has Goal, Assist to Lead Rangers to a 6-3 Victory Over Jets***

By Jim Bender, The Canadian Press

The New York Rangers did not look like a team that is already out of the NHL playoff picture.

The Winnipeg Jets, who're still clinging to fading post-season hopes, looked like they are.

The Rangers, who entered the game last in the East, defeated Winnipeg 6-3 before 13,763 fans at Canada Life Centre on Thursday night.

It was New York's third straight victory. The Jets lost their second straight to drop to 3-2 on their critical eight-game homestand.

"I just think we're getting there (hard areas) more consistently'," said Rangers coach Mike Sullivan. "We talked to them after the second period about shooting the puck a little bit more and creating off the shot.

"In the second period, we had a significant amount of zone time but we didn't have a lot to show for it. So obviously, in the third period, we had better intentions of putting more pucks in play and that encourages guys to get inside more — that's where goals are scored in this league. I was encouraged by the guys. I'm happy for them. We've strung a few games together. It's nice that they can feel good about what's going on around here."

New York improved to 27-30-8 for 62 points on the season, which is identical to the Jets.

Alexis Lafreniere, who had a goal and an assist, Noah Laba, with an empty-net goal, Adam Edstrom, Gabe Perreault, Tye Kartye and Adam Fox scored for New York.

“We have to keep competing and we have to keep building something that we feel good about,” said New York defenceman Braden Schneider. “And I think after the (Olympic) break, we’ve done a really good job at sticking together, playing hard, playing simple, and we’re playing for each other, and I think we’re being rewarded for it. It’s a good feeling.

“I mean, when you’re winning games and getting points in games, it’s a lot better feeling than when you’re on a skid, so it’s awesome to get some wins here and it definitely creates a much better vibe in the room.”

There weren’t many good vibes in Winnipeg’s dressing room.

“I think we definitely need to get better,” said Kyle Connor, who scored one of Winnipeg’s goals. “This team’s not going to just fold in.

“There’s a lot of compete and a lot of will in this room, a lot of belief, too. So we’ve still got a few games here in the homestand, and we’ve got to take what we can and look for ways to get better starts. Look for all these things that are great questions that we got to hold each other accountable. And really dig deep here. And you know, this is our push. And so, yeah, we need to respond.”

Gabe Vilardi and recently-acquired Isak Rosen, with his first goal as a Jet, replied for Winnipeg (26-28-10).

“I think we can feel that we’re right there, but we have to make a push now,” Rosen said. “We can’t wait. Trying to do every shift as best as we can. Win every shift. That’s our mindset.

“We’ve got to keep pushing. That’s the only thing we can do. It’s a real tough loss, but we’ve got to keep pushing.”

At least the Jets outshot their opponents after recording only 13 shots when they were overwhelmed by the Anaheim Ducks 4-1 on Tuesday.

“I thought we did a lot more things correct tonight,” said Jets coach Scott Arniel. “We were a lot better and played a lot faster, transitioned a lot better, and we had some looks (at the net), with 14 five-on-five looks.

“But at the end of the day, we didn’t put the ones in and they did. It all comes down to our coverage against their coverage, and we just didn’t do a good enough job.”

Winnipeg netminder Connor Hellebuyck only stopped 10 shots while Rangers goalie Igor Shesterkin made 24 saves, including three on breakaways.

“He’s a great goalie and he made some keys saves at key times,” Sullivan said.

*NOTES:* Lafreniere has six goals in his last five games and nine in his last 10 outings ... Jets defenceman Dylan DeMelo played in his 700th career NHL game.

## **Global Winnipeg**

<https://globalnews.ca/news/11729252/analysis-winnipeg-jets-consecutive-home-losses-question-marks/>

### ***ANALYSIS: Consecutive home losses leave same question marks for Winnipeg jets***

By John Shannon CJOB

It might be too soon for an autopsy on this season for the Winnipeg Jets, because a) the season isn't over, and b) there's still a chance for the playoffs.

But that doesn't mean we can't identify the symptoms this team has consistently shown all season long as one of the NHL's biggest disappointments. And what's even more evident for this team is that the moment everyone is able to identify an issue, another issue pops up. It's a little bit like head coach Scott Arniel and his staff are constantly playing Whack-A-Mole.

Tuesday night, against a very good Anaheim team, there was little or no energy for most of the game. Let's face it, it was anemic. Thirteen shots on goal, no urgency. The Jets had no right to even be in the game — and they weren't. The Ducks are a very good team on the rise, which is not the case for Thursday night's opponent, the New York Rangers, who have already declared they are rebuilding, again, for the second time in six seasons.

In fact, the Rangers aren't nearly as good as the Jets. But you wouldn't know that by the results at Canada Life Centre. Even though there was a ton more energy and more speed from Winnipeg, the result was exactly the same. It was a loss, the second in this eight-game home stand that will, once and for all, decide whether or not the Jets can even contemplate trying to sell playoff tickets.

Sure, they limited the shots on goal by the Rangers, but they certainly didn't limit the scoring chances by Mike Sullivan's team. Too many giveaways in their own zone were evident all night long, which started just 1:08 after the opening faceoff, and forced the Jets to play from behind most of the night.

And once again, it was a poor third period that doomed the home team. Outscored 4-1 in the third, Winnipeg has now been outscored this season by almost 30 goals after the second period. Frankly, this team has no consistency.

Period to Period. Game to Game. No Consistency.

And I'm not sure you can point a finger at any one player for the team's demise. There's enough blame to share with everyone in that room.

<https://globalnews.ca/news/11728675/winnipeg-jets-fall-flat-again-in-6-3-loss-to-rangers/>

### ***Winnipeg Jets fall flat again in 6-3 loss to Rangers***

By Christian Aumell & Russ Hobson Global News

Coming off one of their worst performances of the season, the Winnipeg Jets were hoping for a strong, bounce-back effort against the worst team in the Eastern Conference Thursday night.

Instead, they fell apart defensively in a 6-3 loss to the New York Rangers to further dent their fleeting playoff hopes.

The Jets never had a lead, and Connor Hellebuyck surrendered five goals on only 16 shots as the Jets dropped their second straight. But it's hard to fault the goalie when three of the five goals were from direct deflections.

"We gave up nine 5-on-5 scoring chances and they scored four goals off coverage," said Jets head coach Scott Arniel. "It was all coverage, every one of those. Obviously, the tip ins, those deflections, those are getting beat to the net front. They were just coverage. Coverage goals that we have to be better at."

The Jets outshot the Rangers 26-17.

They traded goals back and forth as the Rangers took the lead four separate times, but New York had three unanswered goals in third period including the empty netter.

"Got to be a little bit sharper and talk it out and know who we have in coverage," said Jets forward Kyle Connor. "Thought we did a good job offensively, a lot of zone time and holding onto pucks and creating some there. Yeah, for whatever reason, kind of a lack of discipline in a lot of ways in our own zone that leads to some of those goals."

Connor, Gabriel Vilardi and newcomer Isak Rosén scored the goals for the Jets in the loss.

Rosén notched his first as a Jet, while Jacob Bryson recorded his first point with Winnipeg.

"Getting to know the system more and how we want to play here," said Rosén. "Yeah, more comfortable."

The Jets gave up four goals in the final frame and have now allowed a goal in the first two minutes of the third period in five of their last six games.

"It's been said," Arniel said. "Be ready to go. Be ready to go. That's just the focus, that's a detail. Those are just things that you have to be ready for. As much as I keep saying it, maybe I'll just say nothing. Whatever, we tried starting different lines, doing different things and it's sort of backfired the exact same way."

The Jets also might want to think about putting those Heritage jerseys in storage for the rest of the season as they have just three wins in 11 games when wearing them this season.

Dylan DeMelo appeared in his 700th career game in the loss.

Things went wrong early for the Jets as Vilardi was called for a questionable hooking penalty just 59 seconds into the game.

It took New York all of nine seconds to capitalize as Adam Fox beat Hellebuyck from the point thanks in part to a drive-by screen from Gabriel Perreault.

A couple minutes later, Rosén sprung Jonathan Toews on a breakaway thanks to a long, yet accurate stretch pass from his own end. Toews tried to sneak a shot blocker-side on Igor Shesterkin but the Rangers' netminder stopped it with his right pad.

The Jets earned their first power play look of the night at the 11:18 mark of the opening frame but were not able to capitalize.

Not much else happened in a fairly low-event period with Winnipeg managing just six shots on goal to only three for New York.

Winnipeg drew even at the 2:21 mark of the second when Rosén deflected a Bryson point shot past Shesterkin for his first goal as a Jet.

The Rangers responded at the 7:36 mark when Alexis Lafrenière tipped a point shot through Hellebuyck.

New York picked up their second power play of the game just past the midway point of the second, but the Jets had the better chances as Cole Koepke and Morgan Barron both came close to scoring shorthanded.

Winnipeg got back on level ground with 2:11 left in the second thanks to a highlight-reel marker from Connor, not long after he was robbed by Shesterkin.

After New York cleared the puck and changed some of their players, the puck came back to Elias Salomonsson in the Winnipeg end. He sent it up to Mark Scheifele who carried it into the Rangers' end before passing it cross-ice to Connor.

The U.S. Olympian then toe-dragged the puck through the skates of Fox, a former Norris winner, and faked out Shesterkin before depositing the puck into the net for his 29th of the season.

The score stayed tied 2-2 heading to the second intermission with Winnipeg outshooting New York 9-5 in the period.

Scheifele came within an inch or two of giving Winnipeg the lead in the opening minute of the third when Mika Zibanejad turned the puck over at the Jets' blue line, springing Scheifele on a partial breakaway. He bore in fast on Shesterkin before firing a shot that beat the netminder but rang off the post and ricocheted into the corner.

That proved costly for the Jets because less than a minute later, the Rangers got the lead back.

New York won a faceoff in the Jets' end, leading to Braden Schneider getting the puck at the point before sliding it over to Matthew Robertson. He sent a shot to the slot that was steered past Hellebuyck by Tye Kartye to make it 3-2 at the 1:15 mark.

The lead didn't last long, however, as Vilardi pulled the Jets back level just 3:04 later, collecting a rebound in close and depositing it into the net for his 25th of the season.

The seesaw affair continued less than three minutes later when the Rangers picked up their fourth one-goal lead of the game.

Zibanejad carried the puck up the ice and into the Jets' end as DeMelo blew a tire in the neutral zone. After several players got a touch on the puck in the Winnipeg end, Schneider sent a pass back-door that Perreault steered into the net to make it 4-3 at the 6:57 mark.

The Rangers grabbed their first two-goal lead of the night at the 11:08 mark. Adam Edstrom collected a loose puck along the boards in the Winnipeg end before leaving it for Conor Sheary. He dropped it to the corner for Vincent Trocheck as Edstrom circled into the slot. Trocheck passed it to Edstrom who took a shot that deflected off the stick of Bryson and past Hellebuyck to make it 5-3.

Josh Morrissey came close to making it a one-goal game when his shot from the slot rang off the post with 4:23 to go.

With 2:15 on the clock, Hellebuyck went to the bench for an extra attacker and Fox nearly hit the empty net from his own end a minute later, missing just wide for an icing to keep Winnipeg's faint hopes alive.

It turned out to be immaterial, however, when Noah Laba scored to ice the game with 50.8 to go.

The Rangers only managed to get 17 shots on net in the win while Winnipeg got 26 on Shesterkin.

The Jets will be in tough to get back into the win column when they host the league-leading Avalanche Saturday afternoon. Pregame coverage on 680 CJOB begins at 1 p.m. with the puck dropping just after 3 p.m.

<https://globalnews.ca/news/11725678/analysis-josh-morrissey-winnipeg-jets-franchise-favourite/>

### ***ANALYSIS: Josh Morrissey making his mark as a Winnipeg Jets franchise favourite***

By Paul Edmonds CJOB

With 417 points and 720 games played in his career, Josh Morrissey is among the NHL's elite blueliners.

And what Winnipeg Jets fans are watching is something truly remarkable.

Over the last few years, we've promoted Morrissey as a Norris Trophy candidate.

In fact, it was only a couple of seasons ago that we declared from this chair that Morrissey did more for his team than the eventual winner of the award, Erik Karlsson, did for his as the NHL's best defenceman.

Now we're not here to further debate about how the voting went or to practice revisionist history from three years ago, but what we can proclaim is that Morrissey is as vital to the Jets today as he was then and even slightly more important.

And that was never more illustrated than in the last week, where he surpassed Dustin Byfuglien for the franchise lead in points by a defenceman and then followed that up by ascending Toby Enstrom for the most games played by a defenceman in team annals on Tuesday night.

Overall, it's two significant milestones that he has not only superseded, but where he is in his career currently — and how much highway he still has left — will most assuredly make both records almost unreachable in many of our lifetimes.

At this point, Morrissey, who turns 31 later this month, is right in the middle of his prime. If he can stay healthy, he will likely play 1,000 games and amass 600 points in a Jets uniform, albeit he'll need one more contract before he truly closes in on those numbers.

But what we've watched for 11 seasons has been special, particularly for a blueliner who has only combined the offensive side of his game with his defensive prowess in the last handful of years.

Morrissey is as good on one side of the puck as he is on the other, and that's a major reason why Team Canada keeps calling his name.

He may never win the Norris trophy, an award sadly skewed more toward offence than defence, but that won't stop us from using this airtime to promote Morrissey as a Norris candidate every few years.

### **TSN.ca**

<https://www.tsn.ca/nhl/video/2026/03/13/have-two-losses-put-an-end-to-jets-playoff-hopes/>

#### ***Have two losses put an end to Jets' playoff hopes? (VIDEO)***

After a 4-0-2 run, the Jets have now dropped two straight games. Are Winnipeg's playoff hopes now over? How impressive have the duo of Mark Scheifele and Kyle Connor been? TSN Hockey analyst Frankie Corrado shares his thoughts.

### **The Athletic**

<https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/7104763/2026/03/12/winnipeg-jets-nhl-playoffs-standings/>

#### ***What we're seeing from the Jets: Reasons to believe and worry about playoff push***

By Murat Ates

On Tuesday night in Winnipeg, a playoff team played a playoff game against a non-playoff team, which seems incapable of the same. The degree to which the Anaheim Ducks dominated the Winnipeg Jets — winning 4-1 while tripling, sometimes quadrupling them on the shot clock — was unfathomable, based on the stakes for each team going into the game.

Winnipeg remains five points back of the playoffs, with the trade deadline past and no cavalry to save the Jets from their own underwhelming performance. Its most frequent in-game adjustment is to swap Alex Iafallo for Gabriel Vilardi on a top line that always features Mark Scheifele and Kyle Connor.

Scott Arniel needs to have more ideas than that.

Arniel's thought when he's been asked about this topic is that Scheifele and Connor score so well together that they're unbreakable as a duo. The problem, of course, is that the duo is losing its minutes. They're down 17-12 at five-on-five during Winnipeg's last 20 games, while playing more minutes together than any other forward duo in the NHL. In fact, there are only two defence pairings in the league who have played more minutes together at five-on-five than Scheifele and Connor have played.

The inseparable nature of Winnipeg's top two scorers is not new. The degree to which it's an issue depends in part on the results they generate — good, for the first half of the season — and in part on what's happening on Winnipeg's other forward lines. It was defensible when Connor, Scheifele and Vildardi were the only Jets players scoring. (Even then, imagine being Arniel at the intermission, trying to convince your star forwards to backcheck harder and get above their check during transition defence — and then being forced to play them over 20 minutes per game because no one else could score.)

It's not the sort of circumstance that leads to good habits. From a certain perspective, it's hard to criticize Arniel given how well the "more Connor/Scheifele" button worked for the first half of the season. On a night such as Tuesday against Anaheim, where 14 of Scheifele's 19 shifts were longer than a minute and the offence simply was not there, Arniel can be criticized for playing him almost 24 minutes in the game.

Scheifele's still on pace for 100 points. His offensive excellence is obvious and will come back soon. If he gets that far, he'll surpass Connor's career-high 97 points for the best offensive season in Jets 2.0 history. No one is questioning his brilliance in the offensive zone or the idea that it makes sense to put offensive players in positions to succeed.

It's easy to zoom out a bit and wonder about the message a night such as Tuesday sends to the rest of the Jets. One-handed breakout attempts can lead to turnovers. Giveaways that turn into three-on-two rushes — and don't turn into backchecks — are OK, too, if you're a top-line player. It was the kind of night where one wished that Jonathan Toews was still at the height of his powers, given the way Toews worked to dig in, stop, start, change directions, forecheck, and backcheck with a playoff-quality work ethic. It was a night that one wished Jets depth such as Cole Koepke and Morgan Barron had shown enough early in the season to earn more than 11 minutes, 50 seconds of the coach's trust down the stretch — or that Kevin Cheveldayoff's roster bets on depth players had been more effective nearly one year ago.

But it was just one night. Winnipeg is five points behind the Seattle Kraken, with the Los Angeles Kings, San Jose Sharks, and Nashville Predators in between them and a wild-card spot and 19 games to make things right. In the playoffs, it doesn't matter if a team wins 10-0 or 2-1; it counts for a single win in the series and must be put in the rearview in time to go out and win again.

"This is our playoffs," the Jets keep saying. Putting the worst game of their season — relative to the stakes at hand — behind them in time to take points from the New York Rangers and Colorado Avalanche would go a long way toward proving they're playoff-ready.

Based on what we're seeing on the ice right now, are there any reasons to believe?

Or will Barron's midgame quote to Kevin Sawyer of TSN — "It looks like we have nothing to play for out there" — become the story of Winnipeg's stretch run?

*Reason to believe: Elias Salomonsson emerging on Jets' top four*

Elias Salomonsson has become a top-four defenceman in Winnipeg by virtue of injury to Neal Pionk.

A shift-by-shift video analysis of his work since the Olympic break shows that Salomonsson is making progress in key areas, but still plays with one weakness relative to his top four peers. His assist against Anaheim was one thing, but Salomonsson has shone in terms of quick decision-making, good gaps, smart and aggressive pinches, and defensive zone coverage. The 21-year-old defenceman plays on his toes, consistently looking for ways to contribute to the play, and has created offensive zone shifts with puck movement and extended them with well-timed charges up the boards to stuff opposing breakouts. When coverage breaks down in Winnipeg's zone, Salomonsson recognizes his role and consistently beats his man to the net.

There are two trouble spots.

The first is raw strength: Despite a solid compete level, Salomonsson is not strong enough yet to be an automatic play-killer in battle situations. He can also be pinned to the wall and taken out of the play — whether during in-zone defensive coverage or, in some cases, by forecheckers who have dumped the puck into his corner. His retrievals are typically quick and well executed but he does occasionally turn toward traffic as opposed to away from it. His physical strength will come.

The second is an issue of spacing: This isn't a player with elite offensive instincts. He's not Josh Morrissey, who impressed more at a similar age, consistently finding ways to take pucks off the boards and into dangerous lanes in the middle of the ice. In just seven games since the Olympic break, though, Salomonsson has improved a lot in terms of reading off his teammates in the offensive zone. In his first game back in Vancouver, he often tried to make himself an option in the offensive zone by skating to the puck carrier, letting one defender cover two Jets at once. In Winnipeg's home rematch with the Canucks, Salomonsson made a great pinch and followed through with a smart pass into a dangerous area of the ice on each of his first two shifts. That's growth.

It all adds up to a passable top-four defenceman on a below-average Jets team.

Salomonsson's ceiling is higher than that, though. He's 21 years old and learning to make his reads at NHL pace, while already doing a passable job of defending the best players in the world. If the Jets keep giving him these reps, Salomonsson will reach a level more like an above-average top-four defenceman on a proper contender.

*Reason to worry: Could Mark Scheifele and Kyle Connor be overworked?*

If the Jets are meant to have anything to play for, Connor and Scheifele will need to be at their best. Let's give them their roses for a moment: Connor is scoring a point per game since the Olympic break, while Scheifele is even better than that with 10 points in seven games. Whatever one thinks of Winnipeg's roster construction, these two players are capable of outscoring their defensive woes.

But they might be running out of gas. Consider their work at five-on-five since the break, ignoring three-on-three, points into empty nets, and the power play. Scheifele is still Winnipeg's stop scorer, with four points in seven games. Barron, Tanner Pearson, and Alex Lafallo are next up with three points each. Then you get Connor, Toews, Koepke, Cole Perfetti, and

Salomonsson with two points each, with only Salomonsson — a defenceman — coming close to Connor's 126 minutes of ice time.

The Jets couldn't afford to give minutes to other players earlier this season. No one else was a threat to score. Winnipeg needs Connor and Scheifele at their best, but it also needs to show trust to players such as Barron, Koepke, Lafallo, Toews and Perfetti. They're finally producing, relative to their ice time, and any miracle run is going to take everybody.

*Reason to believe: Toews? Perfetti? Barron? Or is it Koepke?*

Perfetti's ankle woes are behind him. His resurgence includes five points in his last seven games and the overtime winner against Vancouver on the road.

Toews' work ethic is playoff quality, even if his offensive ability has faded. Two points since the Olympic break from Toews, one from Gustav Nyquist, and zero each for Dylan DeMelo, Haydn Fleury and a supporting cast that includes Vladislav Namestnikov, Jacob Bryson, Ville Heinola, Isak Rosen and Brad Lambert isn't enough to inspire.

If anyone in this group has the skill to make his mark on the Jets' stretch run, it's Perfetti. But here's an interesting stat: Connor, Scheifele, and Vilardi are the class of Winnipeg's five-on-five point production, each scoring well above 2 points per 60 minutes. The other two Jets who meet that benchmark?

Koepke and Barron.

Whatever has been said about the quality of Winnipeg's forward personnel, it seems there's juice left to squeeze from Winnipeg's current fourth line.

*Reason to worry: The power play has gone cold*

Looking for miracles? An incredible stretch of special teams or goaltending can usually provide them.

Gabriel Vilardi scored one of the prettiest goals of Winnipeg's season on Saturday, but the Jets' power play has converted on just 12.5 percent of its chances since the Olympic break. That's the fourth-worst rate in the NHL.

Winnipeg is still dangerous when set up in the zone, but it's struggling to generate entries and get into formation. This was particularly evident against Anaheim on Tuesday, with the Jets' top unit running cold in the neutral zone. The penalty kill has been fine, running at 76.9 percent — 17th-best.

*Reason to believe: Connor Hellebuyck*

When all else fails, hang your hat on the three-time Vezina Trophy winner. Hellebuyck struggled when he first returned from his knee scope, playing to a sub .900 save percentage for long stretches of the season. He found his game in time to steal an Olympic gold medal for Team USA and has run a .915 save percentage since the break, stopping six goals above expected in six games for Winnipeg.

This is the closest to Vezina Trophy form the 2025 league MVP has been all season. The Jets might need him to be even better than that, what with three games against Colorado in two and a half weeks and all. Maybe the sight of Nathan MacKinnon, Cale Makar and Devon Toews bearing down on him will propel Hellebuyck all the way back to his Olympic level.

## **Winnipeg Free Press**

[https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2026/03/12/start-spreading-the-news-2'](https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2026/03/12/start-spreading-the-news-2)

### ***Start spreading the news***

### ***Jets' slim playoff hopes may have left town with loss to New York***

By: Ken Wiebe

That glimmer of hope hasn't been fully snuffed out yet, but the Winnipeg Jets slim playoff hopes have taken another significant hit.

Fresh off a lacklustre effort against the Anaheim Ducks, the Jets fell 6-3 to the New York Rangers on Thursday at Canada Life Centre, slipping to 26-28-10 overall. The Jets are 3-2 on this season-long eight-game homestand.

"This team's not going to just fold," said Jets left-winger Kyle Connor. "There's a lot of compete and a lot of will in this room, a lot of belief, too.

"Yeah, we need to respond."

Unlike Tuesday, when most things were favourable for the Jets on the out-of-town scoreboard, the Jets lost ground in the Western Conference playoff chase as the San Jose Sharks moved into the second wild-card berth and are six points up on Winnipeg.

The Jets have 18 games to go in the regular season, including Saturday afternoon against the league-leading Colorado Avalanche.

"We need to find two points and (on Thursday), it was D-zone coverage that kicked us," said Jets head coach Scott Arniel, whose team allowed a goal early in the third period for the fifth time in six games. "We gave up nine five-on-five scoring chances and they scored four goals off coverage. It was all coverage. Those tip ins and deflections and getting beat to the net-front, those were coverage goals that we just have to get better at."

Although the Jets remain focused on trying to make a miracle run for a playoff spot, the loss — coupled with wins by the Rangers and St. Louis Blues — leaves them tied for the fourth fewest points in the NHL (only the Vancouver Canucks, Calgary Flames and Chicago Blackhawks are below them in the standings).

"We can feel that we're right there, but we have to make a push now. We can't wait," said Jets forward Isak Rosen. "We've got to keep pushing. That's the only thing we can do. It's a real tough loss but we've got to keep pushing."

Let's take a closer look at what transpired.

### ***ON THE BOARD***

Rosen found the scoresheet thanks to a nifty redirection that evened the score 1-1 at 2:21 of the second period.

Rosen, who was acquired from the Buffalo Sabres, did a good job of getting inside position in the slot and tipped home a point shot from Jacob Bryson.

“If you want to score goals, you have to be there,” said Rosen, who scored his fourth NHL goal of the season and recorded his first point in three games since joining the Jets. “Sometimes it’s tips, maybe next time a rebound. I think that’s where you have to be if you want to score goals.”

It seemed fitting that Bryson, who came over with Rosen in the trade involving Logan Stanley and Luke Schenn, took the shot that led to the goal.

“I told him before the game that we can’t wait any longer. We have to score now,” said Rosen. “It was good we got one.”

Rosen had the lone shot on goal and three shot attempts, though he also sprung Jonathan Toews for a breakaway with a crisp pass in the first period.

“He’s getting more comfortable being on a new team, with his linemates and his teammates,” said Arniel. “Even in the third, you could see, he had the puck, went on a couple rushes and kind of pulled away with his speed. Hopefully, he continues to build off that.”

Bryson’s assist was his fourth assist and sixth point in 38 games this season — and first point since Jan. 12, when he scored a goal against the Florida Panthers.

For context, Bryson has appeared in 10 games since Jan. 12.

### *THE EXPLANATION*

The decision to make Connor a healthy scratch for the final four games of the Olympics — including the gold medal game against Canada — left many in Manitoba scratching their heads.

How could such a consistent goal scorer and point producer not be among the best 13 forwards in his home country?

“When you look at the collection of players that were there, that team that was assembled was a dream team in a lot of ways,” Rangers head coach Mike Sullivan, who coached the United States to a gold medal, told reporters. “So the thought process going into building the team in the first place was creating a team in the true sense of the word. There were guys put in the lineup and cast in certain roles to help us create offence, play on the first power play and things of that nature. There were guys cast in certain roles to help us defend. First over the boards on the penalty kill, defending a five-on-six when our opponent pulls the goalie.”

Connor had no points and no shots on goal (though he did rattle a shot off the iron against Denmark) and since he’s not an elite defender, he found himself on the outside looking in as guys like Vincent Trocheck and J.T. Miller stayed in the lineup.

“Listen, Kyle made the 4 Nations (Face-Off) and the Olympic team because we certainly have a lot of respect for his body of work and how good of a hockey player he is in the NHL,” said Sullivan. “But when you put yourself in that circumstance, you’re competing against the very best of the best for certain roles in those situations. When you look at that roster, from top to bottom, virtually every player is a point a game guy. The difference between the highest point guy (Matt Boldy, 37 goals, 74 points in 62 games) and the lowest point guy (Miller, with 14 goals and 38 points in 51 games) is not significant.

“Those decisions are difficult, they’re not easy. But having said that, nobody has more respect for Kyle’s game than myself or our coaching staff. That was some of the conversation we had with Kyle when we were there (in Italy). When you have an embarrassment of riches, when it comes to the players that were on that roster, somebody had to be out. Every one of those guys had an argument for being in and that’s just the reality of those circumstances.”

On Thursday, Connor scored a goal that is going to be showing up on numerous highlight reels.

After taking a pass from Mark Scheifele, Connor danced through Rangers defenceman Adam Fox before beating Igor Shesterkin for his 29th goal of the season, tying the game 2-2 with 2:11 to go in the second period.

### *THE (LATEST) MILESTONE*

Jets defenceman Dylan DeMelo suited up in his 700th NHL game on Thursday, a remarkable milestone for someone who was chosen by the San Jose Sharks in the sixth round, 179th overall, in the 2011 NHL Draft.

DeMelo broke into the league with the Sharks on the third pairing on a team with Brent Burns and over the course of time, he worked his way into a top pairing role with Jets blue-liner Josh Morrissey.

“No, not every day, that’s for sure,” said DeMelo, asked if he envisioned hitting this mark early in his career as he was working to establish himself as an NHL regular. “There were some days you felt like you could play 1,500 games when things were going well and when things weren’t going well you’d think ‘Oh no, I might not be in the league very long.’ When you kind of look back at it, it’s been a lot of fun. Some ups and downs, but I wouldn’t trade it for anything. Definitely 700 games is an awesome accomplishment, so I’m proud of it. But I’m not satisfied. Hopefully I can play a lot more.”

DeMelo had two shots on goal, a hit and a blocked shot in his 700th NHL game, though he was on the ice for the game-winning goal after losing an edge at the defensive blue line.

### *THE KEY PLAY*

Former Brandon Wheat Kings D-man Braden Schneider set up Gabe Perreault for the game-winning goal at 6:57 of the third period.

### *THE THREE STARS*

Braden Schneider, D, Rangers: Set up two goals, including the game-winner, and led his team in ice time (22:25).

Alexis Lafreniere, F, Rangers: Scored a goal, chipped in an assist.

Kyle Connor, F, Jets: Scored his 29th goal of the season.

### *EXTRA, EXTRA*

Gabe Vilardi rounded out the scoring for the Jets, finding a rebound for his 25th goal of the campaign, which leaves him two shy of his career high set last season.

Jets defenceman Elias Salomonsson chipped in an assist to give him points in consecutive games. Salomonsson, who appeared in his 21st game, continues to raise his level of play and he added second power play unit duties to his list of responsibilities on Thursday.

Jets goalie Connor Hellebuyck made his seventh consecutive start for the Jets and finished with 11 saves.

The Jets lone healthy scratch was defenceman Ville Heinola.

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2026/03/12/toews-homecoming-continues>

### ***Toews' homecoming continues***

### ***Jets forward feels great living out dream playing for hometown club***

By: Mike McIntyre

Jonathan Toews wasn't ready to say goodbye.

And so, even with his Winnipeg Jets experiencing plenty of turbulence this season, the thought of grabbing a parachute never crossed his mind as last week's NHL trade deadline approached.

"No, no," Toews told the Free Press on Thursday.

"Even if I was at the top of my game and things were clicking perfectly, I just don't feel like that's an opportunity or something I would see as an opportunity. I think the Jets have given me a huge chance to come back and play. I don't want to turn my back on that for one second."

Toews is the first to admit his return following a two-year, health-related hiatus hasn't gone as smoothly as he'd like. The 37-year-old has struggled to produce offensively, recording 21 points (7 goals, 14 assists) so far this season, and he's bounced throughout the lineup without really finding a comfortable fit on a Jets team that currently sits 27th overall in the standings.

"The Jets have given me a huge chance to come back and play. I don't want to turn my back on that for one second."

There have been some highlights, however, including four straight games with a goal in mid-January, which suggested he had perhaps turned a corner. Toews has also suited up for all 64 games this year, which is impressive considering his long and winding road back to the NHL.

There's little question several teams would have been calling had Toews gone to market. Three-time Stanley Cup champions with his resumé don't grow on trees, and a contender would have loved to bring in that kind of pedigree and experience — even if just for depth and insurance purposes.

But it never happened. Or even came close.

Rather than potentially chase a fourth Cup, Toews said he wanted to stay true to himself and finish the season here in Winnipeg.

"Obviously this team's had a lot of success the last couple of years. I wanted to be a part of that. It felt like a great opportunity to live out a dream to play for my hometown team. I had heard so much about the locker room here and the character of the guys," he said of his original mindset, which hasn't wavered to this day.

“I would have loved to contribute more and played better up until this point of the year. I’m still trying to work on my game and grow my game. But it’s been a lot of fun being part of this group.”

To be clear, the Jets never broached the subject of a trade with Toews, either.

“When we negotiated that contract, we negotiated a full no-move,” said general manager Kevin Cheveldayoff. “That’s me saying to him, ‘I’m not coming to you unless you’re coming to me.’ And so that’s a situation where I totally respect the player and the individual there.”

Toews admittedly faced a difficult decision in moving on from the only NHL franchise he’d known, the Chicago Blackhawks, but clearly found comfort in his own backyard. However, the idea of getting to know a third hockey home — and, by virtue of a trade, something he’d never experienced before — just wasn’t on the menu.

And so this homecoming continues, at least for the remaining 18 regular-season games on the schedule.

“I think when he signed on this summer, and coming home for him, he was all-in. Whether it was good or bad. Whether the scenario, how it worked itself out, he committed to play for the Winnipeg Jets,” Jets head coach Scott Arniel said prior to Thursday’s game against the New York Rangers.

“And I applaud him for that. For him wanting to stick it out here and help us try to get in the playoffs. It’s not done. This time of year, this is the time we really need him to help us in those situations. I wouldn’t think he’d have done anything else. He’s committed himself and he wants to fulfill it.”

That didn’t surprise his long-time coach in Chicago, Joel Quenneville, who was in town earlier this week as his Anaheim Ducks downed Toews’ Jets 4-1 to end their six-game point streak.

“I’m happy for the guy. I talked to him a few times over the course of the year. He’s such a competitive guy. I know where the team is at and I know where Johnny’s mind is at right now — it’s probably in the place where he’s going to leave it all out there to find a way to get in (to the playoffs),” said Quenneville.

“Game in and game out, you know you’re going to get everything (Toews has).”

“He’s finding his way. He had a real good stretch there (coming out of the Christmas break). Game in and game out, you know you’re going to get everything (Toews has). It’s not easy coming back from a layoff like he’s had. But he’s doing what he can.”

And as the regular season winds down, Toews is trying to contribute in ways that go beyond the scoreboard. For example, he’s taken on a bit of a mentorship role with young forwards such as Brad Lambert, who spoke glowingly the other day about watching Toews when he grew up, and 22-year-old trade addition Isak Rosen, who is now skating on a line with Toews.

“It’s fun to have someone with that energy and that youth. They’re excited, they don’t take any game, any moment for granted,” said Toews.

“You know, it’s fun to feel that energy. You’ve got to find it in yourself, too. Especially with how young these skilled guys are now, like Rosey, I’ve got a lot to learn from them as well.”

Toews might want to brush up on his Swedish, since the other member of that line is Rosen’s countryman, Gustav Nyquist.

“It should be better by now. I know a couple swear words from back in the day,” Toews said, laughing.

Arniel has seen the impact of having Toews around in many different ways.

“Whether it’s conversations at dinner or whether it’s on the ice or in the dressing room, that’s what Jonathan does real well. And he’s not afraid to share with others,” he said.

“It’s great when he’s grabbing some of these young guys and maybe talking about some of the experiences he’s been through or how they can handle certain situations. And that’s what you hope your veteran leaders do. That’s the knowledge they can pass on.”

Which brings us to one final set of questions: What happens when the buzzer sounds on this current NHL campaign? Is Toews ready to retire? Does he feel like he has another season left in him? If so, will that happen here in Winnipeg?

Toews asked for a timeout.

“See where I am at after the season. Trying to stay in the present right now,” he said, noting that was always his plan when the comeback began.

“Sorry I don’t have anything better for you right now. It is what it is.”

After everything it took just to get back in the NHL, the next chapter can wait.

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/sports/2026/03/11/give-them-a-much-better-performance-to-cheer-about>

***‘Give them a much better performance to cheer about’  
Attendance at Jets’ Tuesday game second-lowest of the season***

By: Mike McIntyre

Cole Perfetti has experienced plenty of magical nights inside Canada Life Centre, when his Winnipeg Jets and their loud, loyal fans have come together to create something memorable.

Last spring’s “Manitoba Miracle” sits near the top of that list. Perfetti scored the dramatic, buzzer-beating goal that night — a season-saving moment that sent the downtown rink into pandemonium and became one of the defining highlights in local hockey history.

But on Tuesday, the young forward saw the other side of the coin. This time, the Jets struggled badly on the ice — and the folks in the stands were anything but impressed.

There were loud chants of “Shoot the puck.” Bronx cheers when a puck finally drifted toward the Anaheim net. One fan screaming a vulgarity from the upper deck. And scattered boos as the final minutes ticked away.

They say the customer is always right. And the 13,292 in attendance clearly weren’t buying what the Jets were selling in an ugly 4-1 loss to the Anaheim Ducks that further dented Winnipeg’s fading playoff hopes.

“Our fans are fantastic. They’re so passionate and they obviously want us to do so well. And we want to do well for them,” Perfetti said Wednesday following his team’s optional skate ahead of facing the New York Rangers on Thursday night.

“In a game like (Tuesday) night where we didn’t create much, they’re coming out and supporting us still. We didn’t give them much of a show.”

No, they certainly did not.

Ducks goaltender Lukas Dostal barely broke a sweat as he was only tested 13 times over 60 minutes. None of those shots came off the stick of Winnipeg’s four highest-paid players — Mark Scheifele, Kyle Connor, Gabe Vilardi and Josh Morrissey.

Perfetti, didn’t have one either, meaning all five members of the top power-play unit — which went 0-for-3 — were blanked.

“It’s definitely weird for all those guys, all of us to not get pucks to the net. You know, it was a mixture of them playing pretty good defence and us not executing, not being sharp,” said Perfetti.

“Hopefully we can just flush that one away and that doesn’t happen again. We need everyone contributing. For all of us to not get a shot it’s not acceptable. We know that, we know we need to improve and everyone in this locker room needs to up their game.”

That’s especially true considering this group is supposed to be fighting for its playoff lives, which likely contributed to the fan reaction on Tuesday.

“Obviously it sucks when they’re cheering when we get a shot on net. That’s not what we want to give for them. It’s not how we want to play,” said Perfetti.

“Obviously it got to a point where it must not have been very fun for them to watch if they’re cheering for us to get a shot on net. It’s embarrassing a little bit, but at the end of the day they’re passionate, they’re wanting us to do well and we want to do well for them.”

Morgan Barron scored Winnipeg’s lone goal against one of the league’s most porous defensive teams, giving the Jets a 1-0 lead before the night quickly unraveled. Anaheim struck three times in a chaotic 104-second span, turning the game on its head.

During the second intermission, Barron offered a blunt assessment in an interview with TSN’s Kevin Sawyer: “It looks like we have nothing to play for out there.”

It was a damning observation — and likely not one appreciated by fans who paid hundreds of dollars to watch what unfolded. At that point, the Ducks held a 28-7 advantage in shots. They

finished with a commanding 34-13 edge, leading head coach Scott Arniel to declare his group “laid a big, fat egg.”

After the game, Barron didn’t sugarcoat things.

“It calls for a better effort than that. Straight from the top to the bottom of our lineup,” he said.

The rising frustration inside the arena — which built from a low rumble to a crescendo during the third period — was impossible to ignore.

“Obviously it’s not a good feeling. You can hear the frustration. I think they have the right to be frustrated in a game like that,” said Barron.

Jets forward Gustav Nyquist, who has just one goal this season, was at least willing to pull the trigger. He led Winnipeg with three shots.

“You know what, I get the frustration. We were frustrated, too, obviously not being able to generate,” said Nyquist. “But we know they’re behind us, so move on to the next game.”

Attendance has been a major storyline surrounding the Jets in recent years. After their season-ticket base of more than 13,000 dipped to roughly 9,500 following the COVID-19 pandemic, the organization has been slowly rebuilding it, with two consecutive seasons of growth pushing the total back to around 10,500.

The Jets also entered this season riding plenty of on-ice momentum after capturing the Presidents’ Trophy last year. But things have gone sideways since then.

With just 19 regular-season games remaining, Winnipeg sits 27th overall in the standings — and performances like Tuesday’s do little to inspire optimism. It’s likely no coincidence that two of the three smallest crowds of the season have come during the current homestand.

Tuesday’s attendance was the second-lowest of the year. Last Thursday’s game against Tampa Bay, which drew 13,473, was the third-lowest.

Through 32 home games, the Jets have recorded seven sellouts of 15,225 and are averaging 14,203 fans per game. That’s down slightly from last year’s average of 14,366 — a season that finished with eight straight sellouts and 16 overall.

A similar late-season surge seems unlikely this time around, especially if the on-ice product doesn’t improve quickly.

Perfetti knows the responsibility goes both ways.

“Hopefully (Thursday) night we can give them a much better performance to cheer about,” he said.

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2026/03/11/so-youre-still-telling-me-theres-a-chance>

***So you're still telling me there's a chance  
Out-of-town scoreboard keeps Jets' push for wild-card berth alive***

By: Mike McIntyre

They lost the game — but not any ground in their playoff pursuits.

And so, one day after an ugly 4-1 setback to the Anaheim Ducks, the Winnipeg Jets were thankful for some help on the out-of-town scoreboard, which, at the very least, provided a bit of a silver lining.

“We have to look at it as a good thing, that the other teams didn’t get points. So we’re in a position where we’re still in this and we have to focus on ourselves,” said assistant coach Marty Johnston.

“We don’t want to be in a position where we’re looking at the scoreboard. We want to make sure we’re taking care of our own business.”

Misery loves company, and the Jets had plenty of it Tuesday night.

While Winnipeg was getting roasted by Anaheim, the Seattle Kraken and San Jose Sharks also lost in regulation, and the Los Angeles Kings fell in overtime. Only the Nashville Predators, who beat Seattle, had a positive result among teams vying for the final Western Conference wild-card spot.

That means Winnipeg’s deficit remains five points, with 19 games left in the regular season. The Kraken (19 games) and Kings (18 games) are tied with 67 points, while the Sharks (20 games) and Predators (66 points) trail closely behind.

No harm, no foul?

“With our effort, we’re not proud of our game (Tuesday) night, but at the same time, no one pulled away for us. It does feel like a missed opportunity in the sense of them all losing, we could have gained some ground,” said Jets forward Cole Perfetti.

“With our effort, we’re not proud of our game (Tuesday) night, but at the same time, no one pulled away for us.”

“But you’re not going to win every single game. Nights like last time where the other teams lose, that helps us out. No one pulled away but, at the end of the day, it’s on us. We just gotta take care of our business. We win our games that we’re supposed to, we’ll be in a good spot.”

The Jets, with 62 points, now face what feels like a “must-win” as they host the New York Rangers on Thursday in the fifth game of a season-long eight-game homestand. The boys from Broadway are last in the Eastern Conference with 60 points, although they have strung together two straight victories.

“Obviously, given the schedule, you don’t have a lot of time to dwell on things, which is nice. So on to the New York Rangers,” said Johnston, who believes his team can quickly return to recent form, which saw them go on a 4-0-2 run before facing Anaheim.

“It’s interesting. Obviously, everybody’s proud in terms of our group. And we know since the (Olympic) break we’ve collected points in every game but last night. So collectively we’ve been good,” he continued.

“I think we need to make sure that we play the style of game that we have since the break, where we played fast. Which means that we’re on our toes, we’re establishing pressure. And I think at times (against Anaheim) we were maybe waiting and staying on the right side of the play but staying too far back.”

The Rangers are the only team Winnipeg has yet to see this season, and now they’ll meet twice in 11 days with the return engagement coming on March 22 at Madison Square Garden.

“If you look at the recent games, their power play’s been quite good and, again, a group that’s proud and obviously has elite goaltending. So we’re going to have to make sure that we’re doing what we need to do,” said Johnston.

After taking on New York, the Jets will host NHL-leading Colorado on Saturday, then face the surging St. Louis Blues on Sunday afternoon. The homestand ends with a visit from the Predators on Tuesday.

“We’ve had a good stretch here of playing some good hockey, so we’ve just got to get back to that,” said forward Gustav Nyquist.

“Obviously, we’re not further from (a playoff spot), but we’re not closer either. And there’s a time limit on those games. We’ve got only so many games left. The (Rangers) are bottom of the league, but there’s no easy games. They’re still a good team. Every team in this league is very good and the margin’s so thin. So we have to be ready.”

The Rangers are tough to figure out, with a terrible 9-15-6 record on home ice but a solid 17-15-2 mark in enemy territory.

“Everyone is still showing up to work.”

“At this time of the year, with the standings, obviously certain teams are kind of out of it. But I would say it’s still the NHL, everyone is still showing up to work, putting their best effort, their best game forward,” said Perfetti.

“So there’s no quit in their locker room, they’re playing for their pride and everything. It’s going to be a hard game. They’ve been pretty decent on the road. Just got to stick to our game, play our game, like we have been the last few, and we’ll be alright.”

## **Winnipeg Sun**

[https://www.winnipegsun.com/sports/soft-coverage-sinks-the-jets-in-a-6-3-loss-to-the-rangers/article\\_14b9e533-bdfb-4eb0-9921-c025f1e56f8a.html](https://www.winnipegsun.com/sports/soft-coverage-sinks-the-jets-in-a-6-3-loss-to-the-rangers/article_14b9e533-bdfb-4eb0-9921-c025f1e56f8a.html)

### ***Soft coverage sinks the Jets in a 6-3 loss to the Rangers***

By Gordon Anderson

An open stick is just as dangerous as an open man in front of the net.

“We gave up nine five-on-five scoring chances, and they scored four goals off coverage,” head coach Scott Arniel said following a 6-3 loss to the New York Rangers on Thursday night. “It was all coverage.”

Tye Kartye, Gabe Perreault and Alexis Lafreniere scored goals on redirections in front of Connor Hellebuyck.

Perreault’s goal was the game winner, the goal crossing the line at 6:57 of the third period.

“Those tip in and deflections and getting beat to the net front, those were coverage goals that we just have to get better at,” Arniel said.

“A lack of discipline in a lot of ways in our own zone, leading to some of those goals,” Kyle Connor said. Connor scored his 29th goal of the season at 17:49 of the second period, knotting the game two a piece.

After Perreault’s game-winner, Adam Edstrom widened the lead to 5-3 when his shot from the slot snuck through Hellebuyck at 11:08 and Noah Laba found the empty net at 19:09 to finish the scoring.

Hellebuyck (16-18-9) allowed five goals on 16 shots. He was making his seventh consecutive start since returning from the Olympic break.

Isak Rosen and Gabe Vilardi also scored for the Jets (25-27-10).

Adam Fox also scored for the Rangers (27-30-8). The Rangers have won three games in a row for the second third time this season. They have not won four games in a row. Igor Shesterkin (21-12-6) stopped 24 of 27 shots.

The Jets are six points behind the San Jose Sharks for the final wildcard spot in the Western Conference.

The Jets are 3-2-0 on this eight-game homestand. They host the Colorado Avalanche on Saturday.

#### ***Ice Chips***

Vlad Namestnikov and Ville Heinola were scratched.

### *Early woes*

Double jeopardy struck early on as Vilardi was whistled for hooking in the New York end of the ice. The Rangers took advantage nine seconds later when Fox beat Hellebuyck over the right shoulder with a shot from the point for his fifth of the season at 1:08. The goal was the first shot on goal for either team. In the third period, the Rangers regained the lead, 3-2, at 1:45 when Kartye tipped a point shot over the left shoulder of Hellebuyck for his fourth goal of the season. The goal came on New York's first shot of the period.

"It's been said: Be ready to go. Be ready to go," Arniel said. "That's a focus, that's a detail. Those are just things you have to be ready for. As much as I keep saying (something), maybe I'll just say nothing. We tried starting different lines, doing different things. It backfired in the exact same way."

### *Two for one*

Jacob Bryson and Rosen both registered their first points as Jets at 2:21 of the second period when Rosen tipped a Bryson point shot behind Shesterkin for his fourth goal of the season.

"Rosen is getting more comfortable being on a new team, with his linemates and his teammates," Arniel said. "Today he looked comfortable. Even in the third, he had the puck, went on a couple rushes and kind of pulled away with his speed. Hopefully he continues to build off that."

"I was trying to go there, and if you want to score goals, you have to be there," Rosen said. "Sometimes it's tips, maybe next time a rebound. I think that's where you have to be if you want to score goals."

### *Humbling game*

Thursday game was matchup of two teams on the outside looking in, as it relates to a playoff spot.

Last season, the Jets won the President's Trophy as the best team in the regular season. The previous season, the Rangers won the President's Trophy.

"Every year there are gonna be really good teams," Dylan Samberg said. "And you're always battling. It's a tough league. It's the best league in the world."

Both teams have 62 points with fewer than five weeks remaining in the regular season.

The game can be humbling at times, says Arniel.

"We're also seeing that a lot of these young teams now that were rebuilding are starting to come into their own," he said. "We have a couple in the West and Montreal in the East. There's a bunch of teams that were at the bottom of the standings for quite a while that have really stepped up, so it's made for a lot more parity around the league. Every game is a lot tougher. The Rangers have their own issues or reasons why they are where they are."

As dire as the Jets' chances become with every loss and point dropped, Arniel isn't ready to waive the yellow flag just yet.

"For us, we can talk about that, but the season isn't over yet," Arniel said. "Let's see where we are at the end of Game 82 and then we'll discuss how the season played itself out."

[https://www.winnipeg.sun.com/sports/winnipeg\\_jets/winnipeg-jets-aim-to-bounce-back-in-rangers-faceoff/article\\_80cc9066-bebf-4837-a454-3d59abff3141.html](https://www.winnipeg.sun.com/sports/winnipeg_jets/winnipeg-jets-aim-to-bounce-back-in-rangers-faceoff/article_80cc9066-bebf-4837-a454-3d59abff3141.html)

## ***No time to wallow, as Jets hit reset button***

By Paul Friesen

Coming off one of their worst performances of the season, the Winnipeg Jets will try to bounce back against the visiting New York Rangers on Thursday.

While Tuesday's 4-1 loss to Anaheim didn't drop them further behind Seattle, the team in the final playoff spot, the Jets now trail two teams by five points, as the L.A. Kings upped their point total to 67 with a loser point against Boston.

As importantly, Thursday is a chance to prove some of the things that happened against the Ducks were, as Cole Perfetti said, "a one-off."

"With our effort, we're not proud of our game," Perfetti said. "But at the same time, no one pulled away from us. It does feel like a missed opportunity in the sense of them all losing, we could have gained some ground. We win our games that we're supposed to, we'll be in a good spot.

"Right now, you're constantly looking every night to see who's ahead, who's winning, who's losing, where we're sitting in the standings."

Thursday marks the fifth game of a season-long, eight-game home stand, the Jets carrying a 3-1 mark so far, a disappointing 26-27-10 on the season.

With just 19 games left, every loss is magnified.

Tuesday's saw Winnipeg match a season-low with just 13 shots on goal.

"You're not going to play perfect every game," Perfetti said. "Obviously it sucks to play like that in a game where we're at home, we've been playing well going into it and we lay an egg. But the top teams in the league lay eggs, too. You're not going to be perfect.

"We've been doing a really good job the last week, week and a half. Now we've just got to erase that and keep going forward."

After a lengthy dry spell, Perfetti has four goals in his last 10 games.

But now others are mired in slumps: Adam Lowry hasn't scored in his last 18, Jonathan Toews in 17.

One player who can relate – Gus Nyquist went his first 39 Jets games without a goal – says there's no time to waste and no time to wallow in the mire of Tuesday's loss.

"Obviously we're not further from it, but we're not closer, either," Nyquist said of the playoff line. "And there's a time limit on those games. We've got only so many left. So we'll flush that one out and get ready for (Thursday).

“We’ve had a good stretch here of playing some good hockey, so we’ve just got to get back to that.”

While head coach Scott Arniel wasn’t available to the media on Wednesday, assistant coach Marty Johnston says a team meeting provided a much needed reset.

“We’re still in this,” Johnston said. “And obviously, given the schedule, you don’t have a lot of time to dwell on things, which is nice.”

The Rangers, 26-30-8 and in the basement of the NHL East, are one of a handful of teams with a better record on the road (17-15-2) than at home (9-15-6).

[https://www.winnipeg sun.com/sports/winnipeg\\_jets/it-s-embarrassing-jets-heard-mock-cheers-loud-and-clear/article\\_72a4d692-ff9d-4708-8fb2-b0eeee7357c1.html](https://www.winnipeg sun.com/sports/winnipeg_jets/it-s-embarrassing-jets-heard-mock-cheers-loud-and-clear/article_72a4d692-ff9d-4708-8fb2-b0eeee7357c1.html)

### ***‘It’s embarrassing’: Jets heard mock cheers loud and clear***

By Paul Friesen

The Winnipeg Jets have been a defective Rubik’s Cube all season long, impossible to figure out.

But their last game might be the most puzzling of them all.

Based on what we saw and heard at the downtown rink on Tuesday, many of their fans have thrown up their hands and given up.

The second-smallest crowd of the season let their feelings be known as their team waddled through an uninspired, 4-1 loss to the Ducks of Anaheim.

There were unhappy noises coming from the owner’s box and unusual sounds raining down from the stands.

Their team on the short end of a 32-9 shot count midway through the third period, the crowd let loose with a sarcastic cheer for shot No. 10. Even louder cheers followed for shots 11 and 12.

We’ve seen this team booed off the ice before, but when anger turns to mocking acceptance, it might be worse.

Players certainly noticed it, and some were downright embarrassed.

“Obviously it sucks when they’re cheering when we get a shot on net,” forward Cole Perfetti said on Wednesday. “Obviously it got to a point where it must not have been very fun for them to watch if they’re cheering for us to get a shot on net. It’s embarrassing a little bit, but at the end of the day they’re passionate, they’re wanting us to do well and we want to do well for them.”

The week held so much promise and optimism going in.

Things turned sour, though, soon after the Jets stepped onto the ice and meekly let the Ducks have their way.

Forward Morgan Barron may have said it best in his TSN interview after two periods.

“It looks like we have nothing to play for out there,” Barron said.

It takes some extraordinary fumbling and bumbling for any team to manage just 13 shots on goal. For one desperate for a win, it’s incomprehensible.

Barron didn’t cool his jets after the game.

“There’s going to be nights where you don’t have it,” he said. “But regardless, it calls for a better effort than that.”

Head coach Scott Arniel called it laying “a big, fat egg.” A game where “everybody was missing.”

So were some 2,000 fans. That’s how many empty seats there were.

Those that showed up were heard, loud and clear.

“You notice it,” Gabe Vilardi said. “They pay their hard-earned money to come and watch us, so they’re entitled to do what they want. It’s not that big of a deal for me, personally. What bugs me more is the ‘Shoot’ on the power plays. I mean, it’s a power play. Don’t tell me when to shoot. That’s my mindset.

“But at the end of the day they can do whatever they want.”

As for the dwindling attendance – Tuesday’s 13,249 count and last Thursday’s 13,473 are two of the three smallest crowds of the season – Vilardi is as understanding as any player I’ve ever talked to.

“I grew up in a family where we wouldn’t have been able to afford NHL games,” he said. “So I understand how hard it is for people to spend their hard-earned money to come and support us. It’s unfortunate, but at the end of the day it’s part of life. There’s bigger things than hockey going on.”

Are there ever.

But it’s Vilardi’s job, and he knows Tuesday wasn’t good enough.

I don’t know if there’s ever been a game in which the Jets’ Big Three – Vilardi, Mark Scheifele and Kyle Connor – have failed to get a single shot on goal between them.

Joining them were Perfetti and Josh Morrissey. All five are key parts of the Jets power play.

Make that make sense.

“It’s a rare one-off,” Perfetti said. “Hopefully we can just flush that one away and that doesn’t happen again. For all of us to not get a shot, it’s not acceptable.”

It doesn’t even matter that the Jets got lucky and didn’t lose any ground in the standings. You can cling to that with one hand while clinging to an anvil in the middle of the ocean with the other.

It's enough to make even the most die-hard Jets fan throw in their towel on the season.

The dwindling crowd count suggests some have.

Vilardi insists he and his team haven't.

"We're not going to give up," he said. "We're fighting for a playoff spot and we're not going to give up until we're completely out of the playoffs."

[https://www.winnipeg.sun.com/sports/winnipeg\\_jets/us-coach-explains-why-kyle-connor-was-benched-at-olympics/article\\_0c8ba7f4-f6aa-4703-b448-ed7240960c38.html?taid=69b3619cbee12000015e2261&utm\\_campaign=trueanthem&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=twitter](https://www.winnipeg.sun.com/sports/winnipeg_jets/us-coach-explains-why-kyle-connor-was-benched-at-olympics/article_0c8ba7f4-f6aa-4703-b448-ed7240960c38.html?taid=69b3619cbee12000015e2261&utm_campaign=trueanthem&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter)

### ***'Somebody had to be out': U.S. coach on why Jets' Kyle Connor was scratched at Olympics***

By Paul Friesen

The man who scratched Kyle Connor from the lineup for most of the Winter Olympics made an appearance in Winnipeg on Thursday.

Team USA head coach Mike Sullivan took some time, before his New York Rangers took on the Jets, to explain why that happened in Italy last month.

"When you look at the collection of players that were there, that team that was assembled is a dream team in a lot of ways," Sullivan began. "And so the thought process going into building the team in the first place was creating a team in the true sense of the word.

That meant creating roles for players to handle the offensive load and roles for players to be effective when the team needed to defend.

"All of those guys have the ability to produce offence... it was more about casting guys in certain roles and that we felt set the team up for success," Sullivan said, adding how much respect the coaching staff has for the Jets winger.

That Connor made the team and the American 4 Nations squad a year ago is proof of that, the coach said.

"You're competing against the very best of the best for certain roles in those situations," Sullivan continued. "When you look at that roster from top to bottom, virtually every player on the team is a point-a-game guy. Those decisions aren't easy. When you have an embarrassment of riches... somebody had to be out.

"And every one of those guys had an argument for being in."

Coming off a career-best 97-point season, Connor is on pace for another 90-plus points this year. He's just two goals shy of hitting 30 for an eighth time in nine NHL seasons.

Connor played the first two games of the Olympic tournament, and when he didn't produce any points he sat out the rest of the event, as the U.S. beat Canada for the gold medal.