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<https://www.nhl.com/jets/news/three-things-comrie-and-secondary-scoring-help-jets-win>

***THREE THINGS: Comrie and secondary scoring help Jets win
Tanner Pearson and three other Jets record multiple points in 5-2 win over Islanders***

By Jamie Thomas

The Winnipeg Jets won in UBS Arena for the first time in five tries beating the New York Islanders 5-2 on Monday afternoon. Four players had multi-point games with Morgan Barron (1G, 1A), Nino Niederreiter (1G, 1A), Tanner Pearson (1G, 1A) and Logan Stanley (1G, 1A) having solid efforts. Mark Scheifele had the other goal for the Jets (2-1) as he and Kyle Connor extended their point streaks to three games. Jonathan Toews also recorded his first point as a Jet (assist). Eric Comrie made 34 saves in his first start of the season, the Jets will fly to Philadelphia and will face the Flyers on Thursday.

HUGE AFTERNOON FOR FOURTH LINE

The Jets had been relying on their top line of Mark Scheifele, Kyle Connor and Gabriel Vilardi through the first two games of the season. Heading out on the road, they were looking for some offense from different places, and they certainly got that Monday afternoon. Morgan Barron got things rolling in the first period at 7:35 when he finished off a nice give and go with Cole Koepke and went right under the cross bar behind Ilya Sorokin.

In the second period, right after the Islanders had made the score 2-1, Tanner Pearson hit Logan Stanley at the blueline, and the big defenceman shot the puck under Sorokin for his first goal of the season.

Pearson got his first goal as a Jet and second point of the afternoon, as Nino Niederreiter did all the work going wide of Sorokin and as he crossed the goal line, he threw the puck into the crease where Pearson was waiting and tapped it in.

IMPORTANT SEQUENCE BY COMRIE

Eric Comrie got his first start of the season, and he was in prime form early on as the Jets got off to a sleepy start to the matinee affair. The Islanders fired six shots on Comrie in the opening minute of the game, and the Jets goaltender robbed Matthew Barzal 15 seconds and then denied Jonathan Drouin at 55 seconds. That allowed the Jets to get going and showed the value that Winnipeg has in their backup goaltender.

LOTS OF WORK FOR PK

Jets players have said they feel a lot more comfortable in this the second season with Dean Chynoweth's penalty kill structure. They have had lots of chances to show that they are comfortable as today was the third straight game where they were shorthanded five times. Winnipeg's penalty killers did another great job holding the Islanders to eight shots and not allowing them a goal. The Jets are now 14/15 on the PK this season with the only power play goal against coming in a 5-on-3 situation.

NHL.com

<https://www.nhl.com/news/winnipeg-jets-new-york-islanders-game-recap-october-13-2025>

***Stanley scores for Jets in win against Islanders
Defenseman entered with 5 NHL goals; New York drops 3rd in row to start season***

By Stefen Rosner

ELMONT, N.Y. -- Logan Stanley scored for the first time in almost a year, and the Winnipeg Jets defeated the New York Islanders 5-2 at UBS Arena on Monday.

The 27-year-old defenseman, who also had an assist, entered with five goals in 204 NHL games.

"When other guys can step up and chip in and be a part of that offense, that's a good sign," Winnipeg coach Scott Arniel said.

Morgan Barron, Nino Niederreiter and Tanner Pearson also each had a goal and an assist for the Jets (2-1-1). Eric Comrie made 33 saves.

"I think we all know that we can play a little better on both ends of the rink," Winnipeg forward Jonathan Toews said. "We're finding our game. We've got some new guys in the room, myself included. We're working on getting everyone on the same page and getting that 5-on-5 game clicking a bit more and things will start flowing our way.

"Sometimes, you've just got to find ways to win these ones."

Jean-Gabriel Pageau and Emil Heineman scored for the Islanders, who went 0-for-5 on the power play and lost their third straight to start the season (0-3-0). Ilya Sorokin made 21 saves.

"Each game it's been something different, whether it's a guy behind you or a turnover on the blue line," New York defenseman Scott Mayfield said. "You can point at guys getting beat out of the corner, stuff like that. Every time it's different, but mistakes are going to happen too; it's part of the game.

"But [we've got to be better at] jumping right on it and making sure there aren't multiple mistakes, as that never leads to nothing good. We just have to be a little more detailed and fix those [mistakes]. I think we did some good stuff, too, obviously, but it's time. We need to find a win."

Barron gave the Jets a 1-0 lead at 7:35 of the first period. After getting behind the defense, Cole Koepke found Barron, who beat Sorokin over the glove on the backhand.

Niederreiter made it 2-0 at 11:48 when Gustav Nyquist found him across the crease during a power play.

Pageau cut it to 2-1 at 2:05 of the second period, redirecting a point shot from Tony DeAngelo over Comrie's blocker.

Stanley scored what proved to be the game-winner just 14 seconds later off the rush at 2:19 when his shot from the left face-off circle squeaked between Sorokin's pads to make it 3-1.

It was Stanley's first goal since Nov. 3, 2024; he scored once in 63 games last season.

"It's tough," Islanders captain Anders Lee said. "We get our momentum back a little bit, we pop one and finally break the seal after sticking with it through the hockey that we've been playing, and for them to respond right away, it takes [the wind out of our] sail."

"But not entirely; I thought we continued to stick with it. But overall, we're shooting ourselves in the foot too much."

Pearson gave the Jets a 4-1 lead at 12:39. After Niederreiter held onto the puck on a breakaway coming out of the penalty box, he found Pearson in the slot for a tap-in.

Heineman answered at 14:45 when he one-timed Jonathan Drouin's feed from the right circle to make it 4-2.

Mark Scheifele scored an empty-net goal at 17:35 of the third period for the 5-2 final.

New York outshot Winnipeg 11-5 in the third but failed to score.

"Comrie was outstanding," Arniel said. "We needed him to be really good for about the first 10 minutes of that game. Man, they had some point-blank ones where he came up large. He kept us in that game. He kept the building a little quieter."

NOTES: Toews got his first point since joining the Jets with an assist on Niederreiter's goal. ... Koepke, a forward, left the game at 16:46 of the first with a lower-body injury and did not return. "He got hit with that slapper," Arniel said. "He's just really, really sore. We'll just go day to day here and see how his movement is, if it gets a bit looser as we move forward." ... Barron extended his point streak to three games (four points; two goals, two assists)... Islanders forward Casey Cizikas played his 900th NHL game to tie Bobby Nystrom for fifth in franchise history. Pageau played his 800th NHL game. ... Matthew Schaefer, the No. 1 pick in the 2025 NHL Draft, had an assist and became the first defenseman in Islanders history to get a point in each of his first three games. ... New York is 0-3-0 for just the second time in franchise history (2006-07).

Winnipeg Free Press

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2025/10/13/rising-from-the-depth>

Rising from the depth Jets get goals up and down the lineup to defeat Isles

By: Ken Wiebe

ELMONT, N.Y. – The thing about small-sample narratives is that they can evaporate quickly.

So while it was apparent for all to see in the first two games of the Winnipeg Jets season that they were going to need some more secondary scoring, assuming that was going to last was probably a stretch.

One of the calling cards for the Jets last season was their depth up front and that quality was on full display on Monday afternoon in what was a 5-2 victory over the New York Islanders at UBS Arena.

It also featured the first points of the season for Winnipegger Jonathan Toews, Nino Niederreiter, Tanner Pearson, Gustav Nyquist, Cole Koepke and Logan Stanley, to go along with another big game from Morgan Barron (who had a goal and an assist and is up to four points in three games)..

“Yeah, that’s what we need throughout the year,” said Pearson. “I think that’s what makes a good team, when it gets going throughout the lineup. It just showed our depth.”

That depth has been tested with some early injuries but in a game the Jets were down to 11 forwards for the final two periods after Koepke left with a lower-body injury, the team stepped up and got the job done.

“We need that,” said Toews, who recorded his first point since Apr. 14 of 2023 when he appeared in his final game with the Chicago Blackhawks. “We’ve got a hell of a first line, those guys find ways every single night and carry the offence for this team. To win the majority of our games, especially against good teams, we need to help those guys out.”

Mission accomplished on that front and the top line showed its appreciation by supplying an empty-net goal as an insurance marker with 2:25 left to go in regulation time, with Kyle Connor stripping the puck from Jonathan Drouin and finding Mark Scheifele for his third goal of the campaign.

The Jets are back in action on Thursday when they close out the two-game road swing in Philadelphia against the Flyers.

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

THE START

Jets backup Eric Comrie was a bit of a surprise starter in this one, given the two-day break before the next game.

But in order to help reduce Connor Hellebuyck’s workload below 60 starts, Comrie needs to get some early-season action and he wasn’t given the opportunity to ease into this one — as he faced three quality scoring chances in the opening 30 seconds.

One of those chances was a one-timer from Mathew Barzal and Comrie stood tall, something he would do on numerous occasions as the Jets improved to 2-1-0.

“Outstanding,” said Jets head coach Scott Arniel. “He had to be really good, especially in the 10 minutes of that game. They had some point blank one where he came up large and kept us in that game and kept the building a little quieter.

“Good goaltending can bail you out of some situations, and he did that.”

The Jets would like to get Comrie closer to 25 starts this season and if he’s as sharp as he was on Monday, that will be easier to accomplish.

“He was unbelievable,” said Pearson. “They came out really strong, and he was the one that kind of kept us in it. And, fortunately we were able to respond for him.”

THE KEY PLAY

Jets defenceman Logan Stanley snuck a shot through the pads of Ilya Sorokin 2:19 into the second period, restoring the two-goal cushion just 14 seconds after Jean-Gabriel Pageau scored for the Islanders.

THE THREE STARS

Eric Comrie, Jets – Finished with 33 saves, including several of the highlight-reel variety.

Morgan Barron, Jets – Scored once and added a helper in 15:06 of ice time.

Tanner Pearson, Jets – Scored his first goal of the season, added an assist.

THE YOUNGSTER

Islanders defenceman and 2025 first overall pick Matthew Schaefer made an impression in this one, recording four shots on goal while generating 12 shot attempts in 26:35 of ice time, which led all players.

Schaefer’s explosiveness was one thing that stood out throughout the contest.

“I just made the comment to management that I’m glad he’s in the East. The kid is dynamic,” said Arniel.

“Boy, can he skate. I’ve seen some young guys step into this league. There’s a guy in Colorado (Cale Makar) that kind of had that same kind of poise and ability to move. He is dynamic. I saw some video and watched him on TV last year. But to see him live, man, man oh man, he can jump. He can skate and he has some tools.”

Schaefer also caught the attention of Toews.

“He had the puck a lot. He’s influencing the game,” said Toews. “Pretty crazy to see a kid at his age, even not having played much last year, to go No. 1 and step in and look as comfortable as he is now.

“Obviously he has tremendous skill and speed as well. He had some flashes out there where you think you’ve got position on him and he’s jumping around you. Incredibly patient and poised with the puck. No doubt he’s a special player.”

EXTRA, EXTRA

For the second time in as many games, the Jets had a player leave the game after blocking a shot. On Saturday, it was defenceman Haydn Fleury taking one off the kneecap and on Monday, it was Koepke that sustained a lower-body injury. Koepke, who had five shifts for 2:50 of ice time, blocked the shot during an Islanders power play late in the first period and didn’t return.

“He got hit with that slapper. Obviously, he was just really, really sore,” said Arniel. “We’ll just go day by day here, trying to see how it’s moving and (see if) it gets a little bit looser as he goes forward.”

The Jets got a power-play marker from the second unit as Niederreiter banked a shot off the back of Sorokin and finished one-for-three, while the penalty kill was a perfect five-for-five to improve to 14-of-15 on the season (93.3 per cent).

Scheifele is up to three goals and six points in three games this season, while Connor has three goals and five points.

The Jets scratches were defencemen Kale Clague and Fleury and forward Parker Ford (who is expected to draw into the lineup on Thursday if Koepke is unable to play).

Winnipeg Sun

<https://winnipeg.sun.com/sports/hockey/nhl/winnipeg-jets/giving-thanks-to-the-support-staff-jets-win-5-2-over-the-new-york-islanders>

Giving 'thanks' to the support staff, Jets win 5-2 over the New York Islanders

By Gordon Anderson

How apropos the head coach gave thanks to members of the support staff.

"It was nice to see Nino Niederreiter getting on the board, Morgan Barron scoring again and Tanner Person getting involved," Jets head coach Scott Arniel told reporters in Elmont, N.Y. "That is what we are hoping for, that it isn't, especially when you get on the road, the Mark Scheifele line is going to get a lot of attention. When other guys can chip in and be a part of the offence, it is a good sign."

Nine players contributed at least one point as the Jets beat the New York Islanders 5-2 at the UBS Arena on Thanksgiving Monday.

Barron, Stanley, Pearson, Niederreiter and Scheifele scored for the Jets. Stanley, Barron, Niederreiter and Pearson each had a two-point game. Cole Koepke also earned his first point with the Jets before leaving the game early.

"We need that," Jets centre Jonathan Toews said. "We've got a hell of a first line, those guys find ways every single night and carry the offence for this team. To win the majority of our games, especially against good teams, we need to help those guys out. The second power play was going again. It was good to see guys like Nino and Tanner and even Stanley get on the board."

The Jets went 1-for-3 with the man advantage. Early on, the Jets have two power-play goals on 11 chances. The Winnipeg penalty kill has allowed one goal on 15 chances, including a 5-for-5 performance against the Islanders.

Toews earned his first point, notching a secondary assist on Niederreiter's power-play goal at 11:48 of the first period. Gustav Nyquist also notched his first point with his new club, getting the primary assist on Niederreiter's first goal of the season.

"Hopefully, I find a way to get that first goal too," Toews said. "Ultimately, you just concentrate on making plays, getting around the net, being more confident when the puck comes to you in

those dangerous areas. It's a numbers game. I have to keep creating and finding ways to find the back of the net."

Stanley scored the game-winning goal at 2:19 of the second period and was named the first star. Barron was the second star, and Niederreiter was named the third star.

The Jets were credited with 24 shot blocks, none of them more painful than Koepke's block during an Islanders first-period power play. He did not return. His last shift was recorded at 16:48 of the first period. He logged 2:50 of ice time.

"He was sore," Arniel said when asked about Koepke's status going forward. "We'll just go day-by-day, trying to see how it's moving, and it gets a little bit looser as he goes forward."

Haydn Fleury was out of the lineup with a bruised knee. Fleury blocked a shot late in the second period of Saturday's game against the Los Angeles Kings. Like Koepke, Fleury is listed as day-to-day. Colin Miller made his first appearance of the season, replacing Fleury in the lineup. Miller logged 10:57 in his debut.

Adam Lowry (hip), Dylan Samberg (wrist) and Cole Perfetti (ankle) are already on the sidelines.

The Jets were under siege until Barron opened the scoring at 7:35 of the first period. They have Eric Comrie to thank for the lead.

"Comrie had to be good, especially in the 10 minutes of that game," Arniel said. "They had some point-blank ones where he came up large and kept us in that game and kept the building a little quieter, especially when Barron went down and scored. So, good goaltending can bail you out of some situations, and he did that."

Comrie was making his regular-season debut. He stopped 33 of 35 shots to grab the victory.

"He was huge," Toews said. "Connor Hellebuyck was huge in the first couple games, and Comrie stepped it up on Monday. When you kind of have those games, kind of helter-skelter and a lot of penalty kills, chasing guys around in your own zone, you need your goaltender to step up for you. He did that tonight."

Pierre Pageau and Emil Heineman scored for the Islanders. Ilya Sorokin stopped 21 of 25 for his third consecutive loss.

The Jets are in Philadelphia to face the Flyers on Thursday evening. Puck drop is set for 6 p.m.

<https://winnipeg.sun.com/sports/hockey/nhl/winnipeg-jets/winnipeg-jets-penalty-kill-pushing-for-top-10-status-in-the-nhl>

Winnipeg Jets penalty kill pushing for top-10 status in the NHL

By Gordon Anderson

The stated goal for one half of the special teams is crystal clear.

"Getting into the top 10 is our goal," Jets head coach Scott Arniel said of the penalty kill. "But that takes hard work, a lot of detail and commitment."

Through three games, the Jets have followed the flight plan. The club is seventh in the league with a 93.3 per cent efficiency rating, surrendering one goal in 15 chances. As of Sunday evening, six teams are running at a 100 per cent efficiency rating.

After allowing one power-play goal in the 5-4 loss to the Dallas Stars in the home opener, the team blanked the Los Angeles Kings in five chances on Saturday, including a pair of minors in the final 3:30 of the third period.

The Jets pitched another shutout on Monday, going 5-for-5 in a 5-2 victory over the New York Islanders.

"It's been good," Arniel said of the penalty kill. "The one thing about the league is you see power plays starting slow and penalty kills starting strong. Last year we were the opposite way, it took a while with Nino Niederreiter coming in, we were doing some new looks and different things. It's nice the guys are all fresh with it as the guys are carrying it over from last year."

Last season, the Jets finished 12th in the league with a 79.9 per cent efficiency rate, allowing 42 goals in 209 opportunities.

Josh Morrissey echoed the sentiments of Arniel, saying the players are dedicated to seeing the PK reach the upper echelon of the league.

"You'd love to be first in every category," Morrissey said. "That is what you're striving for. And most of the time, if you can fall in the top five or top 10 teams fairly consistently, then you're probably a pretty good hockey team. It is something we want to keep working with."

When it comes to assessing the overall success of the penalty kill, the coaching staff focuses on the entire process, not singular events in a game or over a segment of games.

"I don't judge it if we give up goals," Arniel said. "We look at the scoring chances against and how many we give up. That's the trend for us, kind of in five and ten game segments. Are we giving up a ton of shots from this spot or that spot? Are they coming off certain areas, off entries or faceoffs? And then we kind of keep track of it that way. And obviously you're consistently working on things so that something is a constant."

The Jets PK leads the league in short-handed goals with two. The club scored six short-handed goals during the regular season last season.

Morgan Barron and Kyle Connor scored third period short-handed goals in the 5-4 loss to the Stars. Mark Scheifele almost scored the team's third short-handed goal on Monday, but Ilya Sorokin absolutely robbed the club's top point-getter with a right leg save in the second period.

Arniel encourages his players to take calculated risks, within reason.

"If you're dangerous where the opposition is leery and they start to take three strides back towards their end of the rink, or they're out there and they stay too long and they're tired, and you can jump on that, that's what we really did," Arniel said about the two markers against the Stars. "We exposed both teams a little bit with their power play, stuck out there a little bit (too long). There were foot races, and we capitalized on those. The next time you go out on the kill

you're hoping the power play maybe isn't as fancy and it kind of gets into their head a little bit too."

And as for consistency, rest assured the teaching will continue through the entirety of the season.

"There's lots to build on, and we're teaching," Arniel said. "I like the way those guys are grasping how we're killing. Going out on the road it needs to be just as strong."

The Jets are in Philadelphia to play the Flyers on Thursday evening.

Global Winnipeg

<https://globalnews.ca/news/11476198/winnipeg-jets-pick-up-5-2-road-win-over-islanders/>

Winnipeg Jets pick up 5-2 road win over Islanders

By Christian Aumell Global News

The Winnipeg Jets gave their fans a nice gift on Thanksgiving Monday, picking up a 5-2 win over the Islanders for their second win in a row and first road win over New York since 2018.

The opening minute was a bit harrowing for the Jets, who allowed several shots including a point-blank look for Mathew Barzal that Eric Comrie had to make an excellent save to deny.

The Islanders continued to be the better team until Winnipeg opened the scoring at the 7:35 mark.

The Jets' fourth line forced a turnover in their own end, leading to a 2-on-2 rush up the ice. Cole Koepke carried it into the attacking end before sliding the puck to Morgan Barron cutting hard to the net. Barron made a great move before roofing it past Ilya Sorokin for his second goal of the young season.

Winnipeg doubled their lead just over four minutes later on their second power play of the period. There was a scramble to the left of Sorokin, with Jonathan Toews getting a stick on the puck before it wound up on the stick of Gustav Nyquist below the goal line. He sent a cross-ice pass to Nino Niederreiter, who shot the puck off Sorokin and into the net for his first of the year.

Toews picked up an assist on the play for his first point as a Jet and first point in the NHL since Apr. 13, 2023.

Winnipeg then killed off a pair of penalties to take the 2-0 lead to the second, despite being outshot 12-10 in the first 20 minutes. The Jets also lost Koepke to injury late in the first, getting hurt while blocking a shot.

The Islanders got on the board just over two minutes into the second when Jean-Gabriel Pageau, playing in his 800th NHL game, deflected a point shot past Comrie.

But only 14 seconds later, Logan Stanley joined a rush, took a pass and beat Sorokin five-hole for his sixth career NHL goal in his 205th game.

Winnipeg had to kill two more penalties in the period and did so successfully, and right after their second kill of the frame, they extended their lead.

Niederreiter was serving a penalty for too many men and as he came out of the box, he was sprung on a breakaway. He made a move to draw Sorokin out of the net, then slid the puck back to the crease where Tanner Pearson was waiting for the tap-in.

New York cut the lead back to two when Emil Heineman ripped a one-timer off the post, set up by Jonathan Drouin after the Jets mishandled the puck near their own blue line.

The Jets held on to the 4-2 lead going to the final frame after once again being slightly outshot in the second by a margin of 12-11.

Winnipeg held on to the two-goal lead for much of the third, leading to Patrick Roy pulling Sorokin for an extra attacker with four minutes remaining.

The Jets iced the game with an empty netter a couple minutes later with Kyle Connor stealing the puck from New York and setting up Mark Scheifele for a tap-in to seal the deal.

Comrie made 33 saves while eight of Winnipeg's 12 forwards registered at least a point in the win.

Winnipeg will look for a third win in a row when they visit the Flyers on Thursday.

TSN.ca

<https://www.tsn.ca/nhl/video/2025/10/13/boudreau-credits-jets-depth-scoring-in-win-vs-islanders-calls-it-a-coachs-dream/>

Boudreau credits Jets' depth scoring in win vs. Islanders, calls it 'a coach's dream' (VIDEO)

TSN Hockey analyst Bruce Boudreau joins Domino's That's Hockey to credit the Jets' depth scoring in their win over the Islanders, discuss the boost Kyle Connor's long-term contract gave the club heading into the season, and share if he thinks Winnipeg can take another step forward this year.

Associated Press

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/article/toews-records-assist-jets-have-5-players-score-in-win-over-islanders/>

Toews records first NHL point since 2023 in Jets win

By Associated Press

NEW YORK — Jonathan Toews reached another milestone in his NHL comeback on Monday, recording his first point in nearly 2 1/2 years.

"I guess when you put it that way, it's nice to get the monkey off your back," Toews said after he and the Winnipeg Jets beat the New York Islanders 5-2.

Toews helped set up Nino Niederreiter's power-play goal in the Jets' third game of the season and picked up a secondary assist. Toews last got on the scoresheet April 14, 2023, in his final game with Chicago before stepping away from hockey because of health issues.

"Felt like I had a few chances to score, too," Toews said. "Hopefully find a way to get that first goal here, too. I think ultimately you just concentrate on making plays, getting around the net, being more confident when the puck comes to you in those dangerous areas. It's a numbers game. Just got to keep creating and find ways to find the back of the net."

Toews, now 37, chose his hometown team to make his return after missing the past two seasons because of the effects of chronic immune response syndrome and long COVID. He said he's feeling good physically while getting up to speed.

"Still finding my way a little bit," Toews said. "It takes time to become second-nature. And then you have to find your game. You've got to go out there and relax a little bit. The first couple games I felt like I was getting tired late in shifts, because you're just over-skating everything and over-working yourself. You'd rather be safe than sorry, and sometimes less is more."

Toews captained Chicago to the Stanley Cup three times, in 2010, '13 and '15. He won the Conn Smythe Trophy as playoff MVP during the franchise's first championship run since 1961 and in 2016 was chosen as one of the top 100 players in the league's 100-year history.

"He's worked hard to come back and feel good, and I think that's the most important thing is he's feeling good," longtime Blackhawks teammate and current Detroit Red Wings winger Patrick Kane said last month. "I'm really happy that he's back."

Toews also helped Canada win two Olympic gold medals. Those tournaments and world championships are the only times he and Kane have faced off against each other since breaking in together with the Blackhawks in '07.

Assuming they're healthy, that is set to change on Dec. 31 when Winnipeg visits Detroit. Kane already asked coach Todd McLellan to put him out for the opening faceoff against the former teammate with whom he'll forever be linked.

Asked before camp opened if he thought Toews — nicknamed "Captain Serious" for his low-key demeanor — has mellowed over the years, Kane shook his head.

"I don't think so," Kane said. "I'm sure he's pissed off about something. Someone said something about him, or he's always got to prove someone wrong. That's a great thing about Johnny. He's always out to prove something."

Toews is proving he still has it, averaging over 17 minutes of ice time as the Jets' second-line center. Coach Scott Arniel used Toews on the penalty kill against the Islanders after forward Cole Koepke got injured blocking a shot, but the staff is trying not to overplay him.

"He's getting better every day," Arniel said. "That's what we talked about, him and I, that it wasn't going to come in one fell swoop. Every day, he's gotten better and better and I think he's recognizing just how to kind of play the game with his hockey smarts."

“He does veteran things. He does elite things, whether it’s using his body or his stick or his positioning and you’re just seeing him getting more and more comfortable: getting comfortable with our team and how we play but also his linemates and different people, as well.”

The next task is a long shot bid to make Canada's Olympic team one more time in NHL players' return to the Games in Milan in February. He'd also like to help the Jets win the Cup for the first time, and his teammates love having Toews around.

“It’s the leadership he has, the things he’s done in this league, and there’s nothing that he hasn’t done,” Tanner Pearson said. “It goes a long way. (He) helps us along. He’s very vocal in the room, says the right things.”