

Winnipeg Sun

https://www.winnipegsun.com/sports/jets-searching-for-answers-as-nine-game-skid-deepens-and-tough-stretch-looms/article_d52f413b-bca1-41f2-9387-7b21b5d82df2.html

Jets searching for answers as nine-game skid deepens and tough stretch looms

By Gordon Anderson

Given the current situation, everyone associated with the club is scratching their collective heads, looking for a solution.

“It is frustrating,” Jets head coach Scott Arniel told reporters in Ottawa after their ninth consecutive loss, a 4-2 setback to the Senators on Saturday night.

“I am sure they are frustrated, and the coaching staff is frustrated. It’s just, you keep talking about learning lessons, and you do things game to game, and you hope that you build off one and into the next one, and, as I mentioned before, you take one step forward and two steps back and that you can’t do that in this league.”

In this skid, which began with a 3-2 OT loss to the Senators on Dec. 15, the team has lost seven games by one goal and two games by two goals.

So close, yet so far.

However close the margins of defeat may be, the team cannot afford to adopt a hangdog posture as nine could stretch to 14 losses considering the quality of the opponents in the upcoming five-game stand that begins Tuesday night against the Las Vegas Golden Knights.

The Edmonton Oilers, Los Angeles Kings, New Jersey Devils and New York Islanders will pay a visit after Vegas. As of Sunday afternoon, four of those teams are currently in a position to qualify for the postseason. Heading into league action on Sunday evening, the Devils were one point out of a wild-card position in the Eastern Conference. The locals will begin the back half of the schedule when the Oilers arrive on Thursday.

“We can’t hang our heads,” Dylan DeMelo said. “First and foremost, you’ve got to look internally at your own game and understand where you can be better, all over the ice and start there, and everybody just try to bring the best they can be and try to turn this thing around.”

DeMelo had the primary assist on Kyle Connor’s 19th goal of the season at 10:10 of the third period, slicing the deficit to 3-2 at the time. On the negative end, DeMelo’s interference penalty on Nick Cousins led to the tying goal by Thomas Chabot at 15:03 of the first period after Adam Lowry staked the club to a 1-0 lead with a short-handed goal at 12:08. Lowry’s goal was the 12th short-handed marker of his career.

The captain is now the record holder in short-handed goals for the Jets 2.0 franchise. Marian Hossa also has a dozen shorties, but he accomplished the feat with the Atlanta Thrashers. According to the league’s website, Doug Smail leads all-time with 25. Smail played 10 full seasons for the original Jets, beginning with the 1980-81 campaign.

Though it probably means very little to win-starved fans of the club, DeMelo says the team remains resolute and united.

"Finger-pointing isn't going to help anybody," DeMelo said. "It's not going to get us to where we want to go. It's not going to get us out of this. We all have a hand in where we are right now. No one is immune to this. So, it's going to take all of us to pull ourselves out of it."

"And as I said, I think you start with your internal reflection and go from there and understand that we all can be better because you know exactly where we are because of how we've played."

The Jets are 15-21-4 through 40 games. They are slotted in last place in the league standings with 34 points.

Last season, the club earned their 15th win of the season following a 6-3 victory over the New York Rangers on Nov. 12. To further illustrate how far the Jets have fallen off the pace from last season, they must go 41-1-0 to match last year's final record of 56-22-4. That is some serious turbulence, never mind the impossibility of the task.

Arniel says there is still enough time to turn the season around. He isn't taking his foot off the gas.

"I still believe that if we ever get our complete 60-minute game together, that we can go on a run," Arniel said.

"Watching teams around the league going on runs, it is about putting that first one together and trying to build off it. You gotta play games in this league, you can't mail them in. We are not going to let these guys quit and not come out and perform, but we need to do it from everybody, and for 60 minutes."

https://www.winnipegssun.com/sports/jets-d-man-logan-stanley-suspended-one-game-by-the-nhl/article_4c429bc1-467a-4d72-8859-cff5ab5abb45.html

Jets d-man Logan Stanley suspended one game by the NHL

By Gordon Anderson

On Sunday afternoon, the NHL suspended Jets defenceman Logan Stanley for one game stemming from his actions against the Ottawa Senators on Saturday night.

The Jets lost their ninth straight game (0-6-3) in a 4-2 setback to the Senators. The sequence that led to the suspension occurred at 12:10 of the second period, when Stanley became involved in an altercation with Brady Tkachuk. The two players came together near the Ottawa bench before Stanley ripped the helmet off Tkachuk's head and then punched the Senators captain with a right cross, sending him to the ice.

Stanley was assessed a double minor for roughing, while Tkachuk received a 10-minute misconduct. On the ensuing four-minute power play, Ottawa scored the game-winning goal when Drake Batherson wristed a shot over the right shoulder of Connor Hellebuyck from between the circles at 15:50.

During the second game of the current nine-game losing streak, Stanley was also involved in an ill-timed penalty late against the St. Louis Blues on Dec. 17. With less than a minute remaining in the third period, Blues forward Pius Suter and Jets defenceman Josh Morrissey became engaged in an altercation behind the Winnipeg net.

Stanley joined the fray and knocked Suter to the ice with a hit from behind. Suter and Morrissey were both given roughing minors, while Stanley received a roughing minor and a 10-minute misconduct. The incident occurred at 19:18.

Although the Blues did not score on the ensuing power play, the Jets were unable to pull Hellebuyck to the bench for the extra attacker until 19:47. Winnipeg failed to register a shot on goal for the remainder of the game in the 1-0 loss to St. Louis.

Playing the numbers game

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Last season, the club earned its 15th win following a 6-3 victory over the New York Rangers on Nov. 12. To illustrate how far the Jets have fallen off last year's pace, they would need to go 41-1-0 to match the 56-22-4 record they posted in 2024-25.

Sportsnet.ca

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/article/sunday-overreactions-scheifele-should-be-next-man-up-for-canada/>

Sunday Overreactions: Scheifele should be next man up for Canada

By Michael Amato

Winnipeg Jets forward Mark Scheifele discusses not being picked for Team Canada's men's hockey team at the 2026 Winter Olympics, including why he felt he did everything he could to earn a spot.

Stay ready.

That's the message Doug Armstrong gave those who just missed the cut for the Canadian Olympic roster on Wednesday. It was a tough message to receive. Everyone wanted that phone call saying they made the team, but there are more worthy selections than there are roster spots available. Disappointment was inevitable.

Sam Bennett, Connor Bedard and Matthew Schaefer were no doubt crushed for just missing out, but nobody wore the anguish more than Mark Scheifele on Thursday. Sure, some of that was related to the Winnipeg Jets just having lost their eighth straight game (nine now) after coughing up a 4-1 lead against the Toronto Maple Leafs, though Scheifele specifically referred to not making the Canadian roster as a "dark day." He's clearly taking it hard.

As much as it stings for Scheifele, history has shown us that Wednesday's roster won't make it to the Olympics fully intact. Thomas Harley wasn't on anyone's radar heading into the 4 Nations Face-Off, but he ended up playing a critical role when injuries and illnesses decimated the Canadian blue line. We also just saw Bo Horvat and Tom Wilson go down almost immediately after getting named to the team. It sounds like either injury is too serious, though there is still a very busy month of hockey to come before the team heads to Milan. You hope nobody gets hurt,

but injuries are out of everyone's control, and that could give someone like Scheifele a second chance at making the squad.

Scheifele should be Canada's first injury replacement at forward

Clearly playing with a chip on his shoulder, Scheifele quickly showed everyone what they were missing by leaving him off the roster. The Jets forward nearly beat the Maple Leafs by himself Wednesday night, notching two goals and an assist with eight shots on goal. Scheifele can play centre, on the power play and kill penalties, while being slotted up and down the lineup on this stacked Canadian roster. The veteran is also incredibly consistent, scoring at least 20 goals for 11 straight seasons, and Scheifele is only getting better with age. He's on pace for a career-high 98 points this season. If Canada does need to add a forward to the roster, its first call should be to Scheifele.

Overreaction? - No

The only Canadian players who have more points than Scheifele this season are Connor McDavid, Nathan MacKinnon and Macklin Celebrini. That's some very elite company. Plus, heading into Saturday, Scheifele had factored in on nearly 43 per cent of Winnipeg's goals this season, which once again, is higher than everybody not named McDavid, MacKinnon or Celebrini.

Scheifele's biggest competition for a potential opening could be Sam Bennett, as many were upset he was left off the team, and rightfully so. Bennett is a two-time Stanley Cup champion and just won a Conn Smythe, but Tom Wilson has simply outplayed him this year and can fill a similar role. So, unless Wilson specifically needs to be replaced because of injury, I'm not sure Canada should turn to Bennett ahead of Scheifele.

There are very few wrong answers when it comes to constructing Canada's roster, given all the talent they boast, but nobody who was left off the team is playing better than Scheifele right now. He should get the first look as a roster replacement if necessary.

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/video/saturday-headlines-no-canadian-u-s-players-have-asked-out-of-olympic-testing/>

Saturday Headlines: No Canadian, U.S. players have asked out of Olympic testing (VIDEO)

On this edition of Saturday Headlines, Elliotte Friedman discusses how no players from Canada or the United States have asked out of the Olympic testing to be an injury replacement, the Vancouver Canucks contract talks with Kiefer Sherwood, and more.