



**Columbus Blue Jackets Media Clips**  
**December 2-3, 2025**

**Columbus Blue Jackets News**

- PAGE 2        The Athletic / Where would the Blue Jackets be without Charlie Coyle and Miles Wood?
- PAGE 3        The Athletic / Blue Jackets overcome early deficit, lock down late lead in physical win  
                  over Devils
- PAGE 5        The Columbus Dispatch / Sean Monahan exits Blue Jackets' win over  
                  Devils, doesn't return
- PAGE 6        The Columbus Dispatch / Blue Jackets score TKO against Devils: Takeaways
- PAGE 9        NHL / Blue Jackets to welcome back four alumni for third 25th Anniversary Game  
                  Celebration
- PAGE 11       NHL / Winning Thoughts: Blue Jackets come together to beat Devils

**Cleveland Monsters / Prospects News**

**NHL News**

**Multimedia**

## The Athletic / Where Would The Blue Jackets Be Without Charlie Coyle And Miles Wood?

**By Aaron Portzline - December 3, 2025**

There was so much to process in the Columbus Blue Jackets' 5-3 win over the New Jersey Devils on Monday, from the way volatile goaltender Elvis Merzlikins gathered himself on multiple occasions, to the way the Blue Jackets' handled themselves physically without their toughest players in the lineup, to the way the Jackets held on — and played add-on — with a third-period lead.

But to step back from the passion and the debris of that game was to recognize something that's been evident all season and was emphasized on Monday: veteran forwards Charlie Coyle and Miles Wood have been very important players for the Blue Jackets this season.

Coyle had a goal and two assists, led all forwards with 20:27 of ice time and won 11 of 17 faceoffs, while Wood had a goal and an assist, a plus-3 rating, a club-high four hits and played 19:30, the third-highest total of his 533-game career.

In a game that featured four fights, Wood and Coyle kept their mitts on. In a game where tempers flared, they played hard and sound, taking no penalties. And for a team that has struggled to close out games, they were drivers of possession and pace down the stretch.

"It's a step in the right direction for our team," Coyle said. "You try to build it, and it's always a work in progress. But something like this — a game like that — it can certainly do that."

"Sometimes there are games on the schedule where you can look back and say, 'Remember that one?' It could have gone the other way. We were down a couple and we turned things around. You have to use that to your advantage."

There were so many standout performances on Monday. It was one of those wins that could have a galvanizing effect on the Blue Jackets as this season moves along, a date on the schedule where their season finally found traction.

When you consider how some of the Blue Jackets' integral forwards have struggled at the start of the season — Boone Jenner before he was injured, Monahan before he awakened three games ago and Kent Johnson — the production of Coyle (four goals, 14 assists and 18 points) and Wood (seven goals in 20 games) has been clutch.

GM Don Waddell went into last summer hoping to make substantial upgrades at the top of the Blue Jackets' lineup, but the trade and free agent markets weren't what he and others anticipated. Many Blue Jackets' fans seemed disappointed that only the third and fourth lines were improved.

## The Athletic / Blue Jackets Overcome Early Deficit, Lock Down Late Lead In Physical Win Over Devils

**By Aaron Portzline - December 2, 2025**

It's the type of win the Columbus Blue Jackets may look back on next spring and recognize as a turning point.

The Blue Jackets were challenged on three different fronts by the New Jersey Devils on Monday in Prudential Center, and their response — authoritative, passionate, collective — led them to a much-needed 5-3 win before 13,881.

"It was an outstanding win for us, but, more importantly, I love how we stuck together as a team, especially the second period," said Blue Jackets winger Miles Wood, who played a pivotal role against one of his former clubs.

"It was a fun game to be a part of. It was a choppy game. There were a lot of penalties on both sides, so it was hard to say in the game at times. But, we stuck through it and we got a great two points here."

The win snapped a four-game losing streak (0-1-3) and was the Blue Jackets' first win in regulation since Nov. 13.

Sean Monahan scored two goals for the Blue Jackets, while Charlie Coyle (1-2-3), Wood (1-1-2) and Denton Mateychuk (1-0-1) added goals, and Zach Werenski had two assists.

Goaltender Elvis Merzlikins, rarely known for maintaining his cool, stayed calm in the middle of the chaos, making 30 saves to earn his first win since Oct. 29. Merzlikins allowed goals on consecutive shots early in the game, allowing the Devils to go up 2-0 only 3:03 into the game.

That was the first challenge for Columbus. How many times through the years, especially on the road, have the Blue Jackets fallen behind early, lost their gumption and simply played out the rest of the game?

Not this time. The Blue Jackets made it 2-1 with a Mateychuk power-play goal midway through the first, then pulled even only 1:28 into the second when Monahan scored his first goal to make it 2-2.

By that point, the game had descended into chaos.

The matchup was marred by four second-period fights, including two by Blue Jackets forward Dmitri Voronkov and one each by center Adam Fantilli and defenseman Brendan Smith, who just joined the club last week.

It started after a net-front scrum, when Devils defenseman Brenden Dillon, who was celebrating his 1,000th NHL game, decided to get physical with Voronkov. Not a wise decision. Voronkov landed two thunderous uppercuts, and Dillon crumpled face-first to the ice, forcing him temporarily out of the game.

The Devils were not happy that Dillon, with family and friends in the crowd to celebrate his milestone, was ceremoniously dumped, and the game spiraled from there.

New Jersey forward Connor Brown tried to entice Werenski into a fight with a slash and cross-check. Werenski was too smart to take the bait — that's not a fair trade for the Blue Jackets — but Fantilli stepped forward to fight New Jersey's Jonas Siegenthaler, thinking he was the guy taunting Werenski.

It was Fantilli's first career fight.

"I saw someone going after Z (Werenski), so I tried to get in there," Fantilli said. "It ended up not even being that guy, so whatever. It happens.

"That was not the start we wanted in the first. We came into (the dressing room) and we were like, 'We're not being physical enough.' And maybe we went to turn the dial up and broke it right off, but that was a great second period. Love how we stuck together. It was awesome."

That was the second challenge, all the more impressive because the Blue Jackets are playing with forward Mathieu Olivier and defenseman Erik Gudbranson, two of the NHL's toughest fighters.

"This is our group," Blue Jackets coach Dean Evason said. "That's our group. That's how we play. And I hope that just because we got into a few fights tonight that it doesn't look abnormal to you, because we work our asses off every night.

"Maybe we haven't gotten rewarded as of late, and we got rewarded tonight with some breaks and some bounces, and we stuck together, which we talked about before the game. We got the job done."

The game mostly settled down in the third period. The Blue Jackets scored twice in a 34-second stretch — Coyle scored at 6:40 to make it 3-2, and Monahan added his second goal on a power-play at 7:14 — to create the third challenge for Columbus.

The Blue Jackets' inability to close out a lead has threatened to derail this season. But they finally got through it on Monday, perhaps due to the adrenaline coursing through their veins from the second period.

The Devils cut the lead to 4-3 on a Timo Meier power-play goal at 11:51 of the third, but the Blue Jackets just kept on playing. In fact, they carried play most of the way until New Jersey pulled goaltender Jake Allen for an extra skater with just under five minutes remaining.

Wood's goal at 13:31 made it 5-3. Coyle started that play by forcing a turnover deep in the Devils' zone and feeding Wood in the slot.

Who knows where the Blue Jackets' season goes from here? But a game like this can have a galvanizing effect on a club, especially one that's been sputtering and struggling for results.

By the way, the Blue Jackets host New Jersey on New Year's Eve in Nationwide Arena.

"We haven't got two points for a bit, and so any time you can do that, in a game like this, against a team like that, yeah, it's a good confidence builder for us," Evason said.

## The Columbus Dispatch / Sean Monahan Exits Blue Jackets' Win Over Devils, Doesn't Return

**By Brian Hedger - December 02, 2025**

Just as Boone Jenner gets ready to rejoin the Blue Jackets' lineup, Sean Monahan may need to sit out for a stretch.

Monahan, who's been playing through nagging injuries, left with 8:42 remaining in the third period of the Jackets' 5-3 victory over the New Jersey Devils on Dec. 1 at Prudential Center in Newark, New Jersey.

Monahan scored goals in the second and third periods, giving him three goals in the past two games. His first tied the game 2-2. The second gave the Blue Jackets a 4-2 lead with 12:46 left. It came just 34 seconds after Charlie Coyle broke the 2-2 tie.

The Blue Jackets didn't issue an injury update after the game, and they're not scheduled to practice until Dec. 3 at Nationwide Arena. They'll host the Detroit Red Wings there on Dec. 4 in a game that could include Jenner's return from an upper-body injury that's kept him out three weeks (10 games).

Jenner centered the second line at practice Nov. 30 in Columbus, giving Monahan a maintenance day off, but that could be where the Jackets' captain fits into the lineup when ready. Losing Monahan for more than a game or two would be challenging, just like last season while he was out two-plus months.

As an experienced two-way center, Monahan anchors one of the Jackets' top two forward lines, plays a key role on the top power play, kills penalties and wins draws. He's got five goals, eight assists and 13 points in 26 games, and is second only to Jenner's 56% in faceoff wins at 54.3%.

## The Columbus Dispatch / Blue Jackets Score Tko Against Devils: Takeaways

By Brian Hedger - December 02, 2025

Fight Night at “The Rock” went to the Blue Jackets with a knockout of the New Jersey Devils.

One thing we’re learning while Blue Jackets defenseman Erik Gudbranson and forward Mathieu Olivier are shelved is that opposing teams are willing to test their toughness. They apparently don’t think there’s any bite without those two around, but the Jackets are biting back.

The Devils learned the hard way Dec. 1 in the Blue Jackets’ 5-3 victory at “The Rock,” which is also known as Prudential Center in Newark, New Jersey.

“This is our group,” Blue Jackets coach Dean Evason told reporters at Prudential Center. “That is our group. That’s how we play. I hope just because we got into a few fights tonight, that it doesn’t look abnormal to you, because we work our (tails) off every night. Maybe we haven’t gotten rewarded as of late, but we got rewarded tonight ... and we got the job done.”

They also stood up for themselves and each other.

After Sean Monahan’s first of two goals tied it 2-2 early in the second, fully getting the Jackets out of an early 2-0 hole, the game shifted into old time hockey for about 18 minutes.

Ignited by a post-whistle scrum that led to a fight that ended with Blue Jackets forward Dmitri Voronkov pummeling Devils defenseman Brendan Dillon, the middle period became a pulse pounding clash of verbal jabs, slashes, cross-checks, bear hugs, upper cuts and actual jabs while 64 penalty minutes were in the penalty boxes on 16 combined infractions.

It wasn’t a free-for-all like the 1970s or 1980s, but the violence level jumped a few notches quickly.

Voronkov’s fight left Dillon needing help getting off the ice with jellied legs after possibly slamming his head on the ice following two upper cuts to his face. It was Dillon’s 1,000<sup>th</sup> NHL game, and before the game he was given a silver commemorative stick.

Later, Dillon used his game stick to ignite the melee that got him injured, attempting to cross-check Adam Fantilli in the head after the young Blue Jackets center followed his own shot by jabbing at the puck under goalie Jake Allen’s pad.

Voronkov pulled Dillon away, but the Devils defenseman came up swinging and landed a gloved right hand to Voronkov’s chops. That prompted Voronkov to drop his gloves, and he threw two huge upper cuts to Dillon’s head before he fell to the ice.

From that point, it was near bedlam.

Connor Brown targeted Zach Werenski and other Blue Jackets with slashes and cross-checks, Jonas Sighentaler instigated a fight with Fantilli and took a barrage of punches while his untied jersey came up over his head.

Not having his jersey tied down cost Siegenthaler the fight and his involvement in the game after he was ejected, per NHL rule, for not tying it. Voronkov then fought Stefan Noesen off a draw as the Devils sought repercussion for Dillon's injury, and the towering Russian paid a price for respecting hockey's unwritten fighting rules.

After Noesen fell, Voronkov pulled him up like a rag doll to continue the fight and then lost his own balance. That's when Noesen landed his only punches, while the Blue Jackets forward was down, and that's frowned upon in hockey.

Noesen may face the music against the Blue Jackets at some point, but that fight wasn't the end of the dispute. Brendan Smith, a veteran defenseman, also dropped the gloves, locking horns and arms with Devils forward Paul Cotter in a punchless tilt that resembled a wrestling match.

The Devils were the third straight team to test the Blue Jackets' grit since Olivier was injured Nov. 24 in Washington. Each has learned the same lesson. The Jackets won't be intimidated and will push back.

"It doesn't matter who gets in the fight," Evason said. "It doesn't matter how big you are or how gritty you're perceived. If you're playing together and you're playing hard for each other, then those things sometimes happen."

Evason was that type of player, a scrappy center who played with a sharp edge, short fuse and gigantic heart.

"It's OK," he said. "It's OK to stick up for your teammate. It wasn't like we were running around trying to fight everybody. It was situations where guys were getting hit or whatever, and guys were sticking up, and it happens in the game."

Here are two more takeaways:

### **Columbus Blue Jackets close out a third period lead vs. New Jersey Devils**

It was bound to happen again at some point, so why not this game?

Despite allowing a power-play goal that made a 4-2 lead 4-3 with 12:08 left to play, the Blue Jackets didn't let another third period lead slip away. Charlie Coyle stole a puck on a forecheck, sent a feed to Miles Wood and celebrated after a snapshot pushed the lead back to a two-goal cushion at 5-3.

Coming into the game, the Blue Jackets coughed up third period leads in eight of their first 25 games to let some critical points get away despite adding points in overtime periods and shootouts in most of their collapses.

This time, they stopped the oncoming collapse at one goal and won in regulation. Progress.

### **Charlie Coyle, Miles Wood clicking for Columbus Blue Jackets**

Coyle finished with three points on a goal and two assists for his third multi-point game of the season, bringing his scoring up to four goals, 14 assists and 18 points in 26 games.

Wood had two points on a goal and assist for his second multi-point game, making his scoring line 7-3-10 in 20 games following an early eye injury. Both are now playing together on the third line while

Olivier is out, and they're paying big dividends for an offseason trade that brought them from Colorado to Columbus.



## NHL / Blue Jackets To Welcome Back Four Alumni For Third 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Game Celebration

**By Jeff Svoboda - December 02, 2025**

The Columbus Blue Jackets will hold their third of five 25th Anniversary Celebration games when the club hosts the Vegas Golden Knights at Nationwide Arena on Saturday, December 13. The game will include appearances by former players: forwards Tyler Wright, Jody Shelley, Chris Clark and defenseman David Savard.

As part of the festivities, season ticket holders will have the exclusive opportunity to attend a private luncheon with the alumni on Friday, December 12. On Saturday, the featured alumni along with defenseman Aaron Johnson, who missed the previous celebration due to illness, will participate in an autograph session beginning at 6 p.m. on the Nationwide Arena concourse. The alumni will then be recognized in an on-ice ceremony prior to puck drop, which is scheduled for 7 p.m. ET.

**Wright**, an original Blue Jacket selected in the 2000 Expansion Draft, registered 79 goals and 70 assists for 149 points with 854 penalty minutes (PIM) in 613 career NHL games with Edmonton, Pittsburgh, Columbus and Anaheim, including 57-51-108 and 436 PIM as a Blue Jacket from 2000-05. He also was one of the club's most active community ambassadors as he played an integral role in launching the Columbus Blue Jackets Foundation's Hats for Heroes program in 2000 and later in 2010 completed an Ironman Triathlon in Canada to raise money for the Foundation. After retiring as a player, Wright returned to the Blue Jackets in 2007 as a development coach. He spent six seasons in the club's hockey operations department, including as director of amateur scouting from 20010-13. Wright currently serves as director of player personnel for the Los Angeles Kings.

**Shelley** made his NHL debut during the inaugural 2000-01 season and went on to tally 11-18-299 and 1,025 penalty minutes in 380 games as a Blue Jacket from 2000-08. He ranks second in club history in penalty minutes and led the team in PIM in four-straight seasons between 2001-06. He wrapped up his NHL career in 2013 with 18-36-54 and 1,538 penalty minutes in 627 games with the Columbus, San Jose, the New York Rangers and Philadelphia. Following his retirement, he returned to Columbus and rejoined the organization as a broadcast associate and team ambassador. Since 2014, he has been the club's television color analyst. In addition to those duties on FanDuel Sports Network, he serves as an analyst on Amazon Prime's Monday Night Hockey and on TNT Sports.

**Clark** registered 8-12-20 with 59 PIM in 89 games with the Blue Jackets from 2009-11, serving as an alternate captain during his tenure. Over an 11-season NHL career, Clark appeared in 607 games with Calgary, Washington and Columbus, recording 103-111-214 and 700 PIM. After retiring, the South Windsor, Connecticut native joined the Blue Jackets' front office in 2012 as a scout and later served as director of player development. He was promoted to director of player personnel and assistant general manager in 2019 and serves as the general manager of the American Hockey League's Cleveland Monsters.

One of the top defensemen in franchise history, **Savard** appeared in 597 games with Columbus from 2011-21 and posted 41-125-166 and 331 PIM. He owns the franchise record for career blocked shots

(958) and entered this season as the all-time leader among Blue Jackets defensemen in games played with 597 (Zach Werenski is second with 593). Selected by the Blue Jackets in the fourth round of the 2009 NHL Draft, he helped the club reach the Stanley Cup Playoffs five times between 2013-20 and was named to the club's Quarter-Century Second Team. Savard retired in 2025 after registering 54-188-242 and 467 PIM in 870 NHL career games with the Blue Jackets, Tampa Bay Lightning and Montreal Canadiens.

The December 13 celebration is the third of five 25th Anniversary Celebration games during the 2025–26 season. The final two celebration games will be held on Saturday, January 24 (presented by OhioHealth) vs. the Tampa Bay Lightning and Saturday, March 21 vs. the Seattle Kraken. Additional alumni honorees and event details will be shared in the coming months.

## NHL / Winning Thoughts: Blue Jackets Come Together To Beat Devils

By Jeff Svoboda - December 02, 2025

*After CBJ wins, we'll give three takeaways about what stood out or what we'll remember from the Blue Jackets' victory.*

### **BLUE JACKETS 5, DEVILS 3**

1. A win like this could be a shot in the arm to the Blue Jackets.

Over the last week-plus, Columbus had lost four in a row and watched two more of its heart-and-soul players – top offensive threat Kirill Marchenko and physical presence Mathieu Olivier – join captain Boone Jenner and alternate captain Erik Gudbranson on the injured list.

They'd still played some good hockey without those stalwarts, but a few blown third-period leads meant they arrived Monday to take on Metropolitan rival New Jersey on a four-game losing skid and in last place in the division.

The Blue Jackets maintained frustration wasn't building, that they just had to stick together and would come out the other side better for it.

Then fight night at the Prudential Center broke out, and the turn of events got everyone engaged.

It all started with a scrum on a CBJ power play early in the second period, as Dmitri Voronkov dropped the gloves with New Jersey defenseman Brenden Dillon. A few minutes later, a cantankerous shift led to the first NHL fight for Adam Fantilli. Voronkov then had to answer the bell again, going with Stefan Noesen. Just 12 seconds later, veteran defenseman Brendan Smith took exception to a post-whistle scrum and went with Paul Cotter.

Add it all up and the Blue Jackets took 28 penalty minutes in the second period alone on the way to 34 for the game, and this was the first CBJ game since Nov. 14, 2015, vs. Arizona in which both teams topped 30 PIMs. It also marked the first time the Blue Jackets were assessed four fighting majors since March 3, 2015, in a game against Washington.

It's fitting this is the Jackets' 25th anniversary season because this game felt like one right out of the inaugural season. And a funny thing can happen amid such high tensions. Even without Olivier and Gudbranson on the ice, the Blue Jackets rose to the occasion in handling the extracurriculars, all while scoring five of the last six goals to earn the 5-3 win.

"Everything that unfolded tonight, it was just us sticking up for each other and having each other's backs, and I think that's important in a long season," Zach Werenski said. "It's a great win for our group."

Time will tell if we'll look back in a few months and be able to say this was a moment that helped define the Blue Jackets' season, but it also seems fair to say the Jackets passed a unique test with flying colors.

“I think that’s the one thing that I took away from this game and I think we all did – just how we stuck together through the good and the bad,” forward Miles Wood said. “That was a tough second period there. We didn’t back down and we got through it as a team, and that’s the most important part.”

2. Everyone pulled the rope to help the Blue Jackets finish off the victory.

You can look up and down the lineup and identify something pretty much every player did to help the Blue Jackets get the victory.

On the stat sheet, Sean Monahan (two goals), Charlie Coyle (a goal and two assists), Werenski (two assists) and Miles Wood (goal and an assist) helped lead the way. Denton Mateychuk also tallied the opening goal after the Jackets fell into an early 2-0 hole, while Cole Sillinger, Isac Lundeström and Ivan Provorov had assists. Elvis Merzlikins shook off the two New Jersey goals in the first three-plus minutes and made 30 saves, many of them at key times.

Then there were the pair of fights by Voronkov and the scraps from Fantilli and Smith. Wood and Brendan Gaunce tied for the team lead with four hits apiece, while every CBJ player to step into the faceoff circle finished at least 50 percent on draws.

“You have to be engaged when stuff like that is going on,” Werenski said. “It’s a physical game. It felt like a playoff game in a sense. Everyone stepped up when it was their time to step up, whether it was hits or fights, big blocks, big goals. Everyone kind of did everything. Just a huge team effort.”

And while many will focus on how the Blue Jackets responded to the physical challenge presented by New Jersey, head coach Dean Evason said everything he saw was what he expected from his team.

“This is our group,” Evason said. “That’s our group. That’s how we play. I hope just because we got into a few fights tonight that it doesn’t look abnormal to you because we work our (butts) off each night. We haven’t gotten rewarded as of late. We got rewarded tonight with some breaks and some bounces and we stuck together, which we talked about before the game, and got the job done.”

3. Holding a third-period lead could be a good sign of things to come for the Blue Jackets.

Everyone knew the narrative going in, as Columbus had let a string of third-period leads get away from them while posting a 5-5-5 record in the month of November.

On the opening day of December, they were immediately greeted with a similar test. Goals just 33 seconds apart by Coyle and Monahan gave the Blue Jackets a 4-2 lead with just under 13 minutes to go, and it’s weird how hockey seems to put you right back in similar tests time and time again.

This time, the Blue Jackets passed. It might have seemed a little dicey when Timo Meier’s power-play goal with 8:09 to go cut the lead to just one, but Wood answered off a great forecheck and feed from Coyle 1:40 after that to make it 5-3.

New Jersey pulled its goalie and had an extra attacker on the ice for more than four minutes, but Merzlikins and the Blue Jackets were up for the challenge. One thing that the Blue Jackets have talked about when it comes to holding third-period leads is extending them, and Wood’s goal proved crucial – and showed that theory held some water.

“(The goal) helps, especially after they get a power-play goal to make it 4-3,” Coyle said. “Lately things haven’t been going our way when that happens, right? You can say, ‘So, it’s gonna be the same old song and dance,’ but we just kept playing the right way. When you play the right way, usually things take care of itself.”

The Blue Jackets will have to show that they can consistently close games out going forward, but it sure felt good to get one under their belt and not have to answer the same questions going forward.

“It wasn’t just my goal,” Wood said. “I think it was us as a team. We knew what was at stake, and it was a great way to cap it off for a team win.”