

## **Winnipeg Free Press**

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2026/01/16/sniping-stanley-makes-case-for-extension>

### ***Sniping Stanley makes case for extension Jets' power defenceman finds his groove in career-best season***

By: Ken Wiebe

Logan Stanley, prime extension candidate or the key to recouping lost draft capital?

To suggest the Winnipeg Jets are coming to a crossroads with the 18th overall pick of the 2016 NHL draft is entirely accurate.

A decision isn't necessarily imminent, but it's not as far away as you might think.

And while the benefits and the consequences of this upcoming decision are already being hotly-debated on various social media platforms, you can be sure that determining Stanley's future was among the topics discussed by Jets' management at scouting meetings that recently wrapped up.

Stanley is one of eight pending unrestricted free agents on the NHL roster and he's having the best season of his six-year career, which includes eight goals — the most recent a booming slapper that beat Jesper Wallstedt in Thursday's 6-2 victory over the Minnesota Wild — 15 points, 91 penalty minutes and a right hand to the face of Ottawa Senators captain Brady Tkachuk that resulted in a one-game suspension for roughing.

Chalk it all up and the Jets are left to get locked in on determining whether Stanley is simply riding a red-hot shooting percentage to blow away his career-high in goals (which was one previously) or that he's finally figuring things out at the NHL level and entering his prime.

Complicating matters somewhat is that a report by Chris Johnston in The Athletic speculated that Stanley could be in line for a deal that could reach five years and up to US\$25 million if he reaches unrestricted free agency on July 1.

Whether Stanley ends up getting four years at US\$4 million or US\$5 million for five, what's apparent is that he's put himself in position to receive a significant raise.

And he's going to get it, whether that's here or elsewhere.

For as much public discourse is out there and the numerous opinions shared over the years, Stanley is still a relative unicorn, given his six-foot-seven, 231-pound frame.

This isn't about comparisons to Boston Bruins legend and 2025 Hockey Hall of Fame inductee Zdeno Chara, as he's basically one of one and not a standard anyone his size or otherwise should be held to.

But even Chara needed somewhere in the neighbourhood of 200-plus NHL games before he started growing into a dominant force.

This is not to suggest Stanley is on the verge of becoming a dominant force, but he brings certain elements to a defence corps that will make him attractive to every team in the NHL, either in the coming weeks or months depending on how things play out.

It's easy to envision any number of contenders lining up for an opportunity to make a deal for Stanley prior to the NHL trade deadline on Mar. 6 and his US\$1.25 million annual average value makes him even more attractive.

But what will the offers for him actually be like?

As a point of reference, Luke Schenn fetched a second and fourth round pick from the Jets last March.

Obviously, Schenn brought championship pedigree Stanley doesn't have, but Stanley's offensive production is considerably higher this season.

If the Jets are unable to fully get themselves back in the playoff race during the 10 games leading into the Olympic break, a number of things could be on the table in terms of how personnel is handled prior to — and after — the NHL trade deadline.

Figuring out how much the Jets are willing to commit to Stanley being part of the future is going to be a priority and it's easy to understand why.

For a franchise that has been short on homegrown draft and development stories since 2017, extending Stanley makes sense on a number of levels, especially when you consider the Jets are planning to be competitive again next fall due to the age of the core group.

The process of becoming a full-time NHLer took longer than either Stanley or the Jets thought it would, even though it was clear when the Jets traded up to get him in 2016 that he was a longer-range project and needed time to grow into his body and round out his game.

Injuries were also a factor at various points after he turned pro, but Stanley is showing a level of comfort that hasn't been this high until now.

"I have seen that shot and this year we have seen it a lot more," Jets head coach Scott Arniel said after Thursday's game. "He has got so much confidence right now. He is feeling it. Great for him."

"He has got so much confidence right now. He is feeling it. Great for him."

Jets centre Mark Scheifele made the bold proclamation on Thursday that he believed Stanley had this type of offensive ability in him for a long time.

By extending Stanley, the Jets left side will basically be taken care of through the next two seasons, as Josh Morrissey and Dylan Samberg can become unrestricted free agents on July 1 of 2028 (if extensions are not completed before then).

Yes, the Jets have two left-handed shooting defence prospects in 2025 first-rounder Sascha Boumedienne and 2024 second-rounder Alfons Freij — who recently helped Sweden capture the World Junior Hockey Championship in Minnesota.

The earliest either one of those players is probably going to challenge for a full-time NHL roster spot is 2027-28, so while it's a consideration, a longer-term deal for Stanley wouldn't necessarily mean that the path for either player is blocked, at least not for an extended period of time.

Stanley will turn 28 in May and, after making close to the league minimum for the better part of his pro career, he will be looking to cash in on his career year.

Don't expect a hometown discount, even if he's growing into a fan favourite and has had fans chanting his name at various points this season.

That response certainly beats the boos that occasionally were directed his way over the years, but those days seem like a long time ago.

The same goes for the trade request that wasn't granted in 2023, when Stanley was struggling to get regular playing time and still finding his way.

That's also in the past.

Stanley is taking on more responsibility, both at even strength and the penalty kill with a trio of blue-liners out of the lineup and considered week-to-week.

In Thursday's game, Stanley took 24 shifts for just over 18 minutes of ice time.

While there's still room for improvement on the defensive side of the game, he's using his body and stick more effectively and trying to improve that element as well.

Now, if Stanley is dead set on testing the open market and not willing to come to terms on a deal with the Jets prior to the NHL trade deadline, the organization essentially will have no choice but to move on from him and try to bring back the strongest package out there.

That's a potential outcome neither Stanley or the fan base is all that interested in thinking about right now. But that doesn't mean it's something that's fully on the back burner either.

A decision is looming and it could have far-reaching ramifications.

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2026/01/17/checking-the-playoff-pulse-of-canadian-clubs>

### ***Checking the playoff pulse of Canadian clubs***

#### ***A coast-to-coast-to-coast inspection to mark Hockey Day in Canada***

By: Mike McIntyre and Ken Wiebe

Welcome to "Hockey Day in Canada," an annual event held in conjunction with the NHL schedule-makers that puts shinny under an even brighter spotlight than usual in the Great White North.

All seven Canadian teams are in action Saturday, with three one-anthem matchups as part of a day-long broadcast on Sportsnet: Toronto at Winnipeg, Montreal at Ottawa and Edmonton at Vancouver. Calgary is the odd team out this year as they play host to the New York Islanders.

To get you set — while also displaying some patriotic puck pride — we here at Dump & Chase figured this would be the perfect time for a coast-to-coast-to-coast checkup.

We'll go in order of the current standings:

*MONTREAL CANADIENS (26-15-7, 59 points, 3rd in Atlantic, 4th in East)*

After some trying times, the Habs look like a team that is coming of age.

Captain Nick Suzuki is supplying outstanding leadership and two-way production (52 points to go with Selke-worthy play) on a young team that plays at a frenetic pace.

Defenceman Lane Hutson is playing exceptional hockey and the addition of Noah Dobson has proven to be another outstanding move, especially with him signed long-term. If Kaiden Guhle gets and stays healthy, the Canadiens have the type of defence corps that should turn heads for a long time.

The forward group features a ton of skill with Cole Caufield, Juraj Slafkovsky, Ivan Demidov and Oliver Kapanen all having excellent seasons. Bringing back centre Phillip Danault was a smart move on his playoff experience alone.

The Canadiens boast seven players with double digits in goals and several others on the verge of joining them.

The one big question mark these days is goaltending, as Sam Montembeault and Jakub Dobes have been providing uneven play. Top prospect Jacob Fowler has provided some stability in his 10 appearances. If the netminding holds up, it could be an entertaining spring in la belle province.

Wouldn't it be something if the last Canadian team to lift Lord Stanley's mug way back in 1993 puts itself in position to take a run at doing it again?

*TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS (23-16-8, 54 points, 6th in Atlantic, T-8th in East)*

Once sitting in the basement of the Eastern Conference, the Maple Leafs are within striking distance of a playoff spot.

How did they get there? By picking up at least a point in 11 of 12 games.

The club coughed up a late lead and lost 6-5 to old buddy Mitch Marner and the Vegas Golden Knights on Thursday, so they'll be in a surly mood on Saturday in Winnipeg.

But this isn't just about the loss of one important player, the Maple Leafs still don't defend as well as they would like to and were plagued by inconsistency until this most recent stretch.

Secondary scoring hasn't been as prevalent as general manager Brad Treliving expected it would be either.

Captain Auston Matthews got off to a slow start by his standards, but he's delivered nine goals and 15 points during the past 10 games to get himself back on track.

Heart and soul defenceman Chris Tanev (a one-time Manitoba Moose blue-liner) has been limited to 11 games due to various injuries, which means the club could be looking for help on the back end.

A playoff berth is still well within reach for this group, provided they can shore up a few areas during the stretch run.

*EDMONTON OILERS (23-17-8, 54 points, 2nd in Pacific, 5th in West)*

The quest for a third straight Stanley Cup final has included plenty of bumps along the way, with yet another sluggish start and inconsistent play.

But we've seen this script before. Overlook Connor McDavid and company at your own peril. McDavid currently leads the NHL in scoring with 82 points and might be on his way to yet another Hart Trophy. Teammate Leon Draisaitl isn't far behind him, tied for fourth in the NHL with 67 points.

Many of the usual question marks — goaltending, defensive play and secondary scoring — remain even as the team has brought in Tristan Jarry and Connor Ingram and shipped out Stuart Skinner in net and also promoted some younger skaters like Matt Savoie and Isaac Howard in an attempt to get younger and faster.

Cap space is another issue, and the club may not be able to take a big swing at the deadline without also moving out some money.

Don't be surprised by yet another second-half surge that carries well into the spring.

*OTTAWA SENATORS (22-19-5, 49 points, 8th in Atlantic, T-14th in East)*

This was supposed to be the year the Senators took a huge step forward. Instead, there's been no shortage of struggles and drama surrounding the club.

Porous goaltending has been the primary culprit, and missing captain Brady Tkachuk for 20 games due to injury didn't help matters.

There's also been off-ice distractions including rumours running wild about the personal lives of players which recently prompted GM Steve Staios to issue a bizarre public statement which only served to add more fuel to the fire.

The Senators still have time to get their act together in the jam-packed East, but time — and perhaps patience by ownership and most certainly fans — is running out.

*CALGARY FLAMES (20-23-4, 44 points, 7th in Pacific, T-13th in West)*

This is a team that many saw taking a step back this season, despite finishing last season tied in points with the St. Louis Blues for the second Western Conference wild-card berth.

Oddly enough, had the Flames not been swept in the season series with the Jets, they could be right in the thick of the playoff hunt.

Instead, the club hasn't scored much and their goal-differential is minus-19 — though that is less of an indictment of the goalies than it is about the structure being played in front of them. Goaltender Dustin Wolf's numbers have dipped, but he still looks like a strong long-term bet,

while backup Devin Cooley has found serious traction in his role to give the Flames a strong one-two punch.

Flames GM Craig Conroy has some difficult — and most likely unpopular — decisions leading up to the NHL trade deadline as he has some assets that many contending teams are likely to covet.

This isn't going to be a complete teardown for the Flames, but Conroy is expected to move top-pairing D-man Rasmus Andersson.

Forward Blake Coleman is also an attractive piece for teams. He's got championship pedigree from his time with the Tampa Bay Lightning, kills penalties and brings a physical presence.

Centre Nazem Kadri also figures to drum up interest as a Stanley Cup winner who plays with an edge and provides secondary scoring.

#### *WINNIPEG JETS (19-22-5, 43 points, 8th in Central, 15th in West)*

Going from first to worst in a calendar year wasn't what anyone was expecting, even if many observers felt some form of regression could be on the horizon.

Don't look now, but the reigning Presidents' Trophy winners have won four consecutive games and are showing signs of life after beginning 2026 in the basement.

However, the Jets have only been able to make up three points in the Western Conference standings going into Saturday's tilt with Toronto. That's the reality of the situation that began with them needing to leapfrog eight teams to try and sneak into the playoffs.

Special teams are improving, though the Jets remain in the middle of the pack on the power play (tied for 17th at 20 per cent) and on the penalty kill (20th at 78.3 per cent).

Roughly 10 days ago, there was a segment of fans beginning to debate whether Ivar Stenberg, Gavin McKenna or Keaton Verhoeff should be the No. 1 pick if that was where the Jets ended up.

There's another segment of the fan base wondering if the Jets might channel what the 2019 Blues were able to when they went from 32nd overall on Jan. 1 to capturing the club's first Stanley Cup in franchise history.

With 10 more games before the Olympic break, the club should have a much clearer picture on what direction this season could be taking.

#### *VANCOUVER CANUCKS (16-26-5, 37 points, 8th in Pacific, 16th in West)*

These are dark days on the West Coast, with the Canucks dead last in the overall standings and showing few signs of life.

They've already traded franchise defenceman Quinn Hughes and more moves could be on the way, with top forward Elias Pettersson potentially at the top of a long list. Pending UFA Kiefer Sherwood, too.

Vancouver has had trouble picking a lane in recent years — retool? rebuild? buy? sell? — and that has clearly cost them. Goaltender Thatcher Demko simply can't stay healthy and the Canucks aren't exactly a compelling product these days.

The good news? They can't fall any further, and an upcoming sell-off could cement them as the favourites to land the No. 1 pick and a potential future star.

However, they are becoming the free space on the NHL bingo card — currently six points back of 31st-ranked Winnipeg — and they are likely going to make themselves comfortable in the basement.

## **The Athletic**

<https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/6979227/2026/01/17/luke-schenn-winnipeg-jets-toronto-maple-leafs-trade-deadline/>

### ***Does (another) Luke Schenn reunion make sense for the Maple Leafs?***

By Joshua Kloeke

WINNIPEG — In the summer of 2021, Luke Schenn quietly admitted something to his wife Jessica: He might have reached the end of his long and winding road as an NHL defenceman.

When Schenn signed with the Vancouver Canucks as a free agent that year, he saw the move as possibly his last stop in the NHL. Schenn was 32. He had already played for seven different NHL organizations at that point. Vancouver was close to Schenn's hometown of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, and it was a city he and his wife saw themselves staying in for good.

"I always joke, every time I think I have my future figured out and start making plans, that's typically when things go sideways on me," Schenn told The Athletic on Saturday.

Maple Leafs fans know what happened next: in the second year of his two-year deal, Schenn was dealt to Toronto at the 2023 trade deadline. The hulking defenceman made a homecoming of sorts to the organization that had chosen him with the fifth pick in the 2008 NHL Draft. Schenn would go on to have a strong playoff run with the Leafs in 2023. His durability and leadership helped guide Toronto to its first playoff series win since 2004.

Schenn, now with the Predators, detailed his resurgence, his Leafs return and why he thinks Toronto has what it takes to get over the hump.

Things have continued to go in unforeseen directions for Schenn. After Toronto, he signed a three-year contract with the Nashville Predators. Schenn was dealt to the Pittsburgh Penguins and then to the Winnipeg Jets, where he now finds himself.

But with the NHL trade deadline approaching and the Jets sitting at second-to-last in the Western Conference in points percentage, the possibility of Schenn moving again has emerged. The 36-year-old is in the final year of his contract with a \$2.75-million AAV.

"I'm very present right now and happy to be part of things here right now. Obviously, when you're not in a playoff position there's a lot more noise. But it's a great group to be part of here,

and it would be nice to get ourselves in the mix here in the standings,” Schenn said when asked what he wants from his future.

If the Jets don’t claw into a playoff position, however, would another reunion with the Maple Leafs make sense? Saturday is the final meeting between the Leafs and the Jets this season.

Schenn is likely in one of the final seasons of his career. He’s averaging just 13:43 TOI per game, one of the lowest of his career. Schenn has not always been a regular on the Jets. His ATOI is eighth among semi-regular Jets blueliners. Schenn has one goal and five points through 32 games. The cost to acquire Schenn could be a mid-to-late round draft pick.

And so a possible Schenn acquisition should not be viewed as a top-four upgrade for the Leafs. Instead, Schenn could be a depth upgrade on the revolving door of sixth defencemen the Leafs have trotted out at times this season, including Philippe Myers, Matt Benning, Dakota Mermis and Henry Thrun. Schenn’s playoff-ready style would be an upgrade to the Leafs’ third pair. With genuine questions about whether Chris Tanev will return to the Leafs’ blue line this season, the team could use some of the sturdiness that Schenn provides.

Just as he was in 2023, Schenn would be a plug-and-play option. Schenn acclimated to Toronto quickly three years ago in a way not every player acquired at the deadline does. Schenn was able to play remarkably well in Toronto in no small part due to his four seasons of experience with the organization between 2008 and 2012.

“Being a higher pick, I took my lumps, bumps and bruises at times in terms of being a higher draft pick, and I didn’t play great at times. Whether it’s the fans or media getting on you a little bit, I’ve been through a lot of the worst,” Schenn said.

Schenn would go on to win two Stanley Cups with the Tampa Bay Lightning in 2020 and 2021. He returned to the Leafs in 2023 with a clear head.

“I felt like I had been through it all and I just wanted to enjoy it,” he said. “I had nothing to lose.”

Schenn formed instant chemistry on the ice with Morgan Rielly. It’s worth wondering if Schenn could again be looked upon to play with Rielly, considering Rielly’s up-and-down performance this season.

The Leafs would not be acquiring Schenn for his foot speed. And they would be adding him to a blue line that isn’t always speedy to begin with.

But Schenn can certainly tick some of the boxes that Leafs head coach Craig Berube has for his defenders. Schenn is still incredibly physical; his 13.12 hits per 60 minutes ranks third among all NHL defencemen with at least 30 games played this season.

Schenn still willingly steps in front of shots. His 5.33 blocked shots per 60 minutes is first among Jets defencemen with at least 30 games played.

Sure, there is an argument that the Leafs should look to acquire a defenceman who can move the puck so the team doesn’t have to throw hits or block shots as often. Perhaps if the Leafs push to a spot above the wild card before the trade deadline, general manager Brad Treliving will look to acquire that type of defender as well.



But Schenn was a borderline revelation with his play for the Leafs in the playoffs, when blocking shots and throwing hits become vital skills. The tools in his toolbelt matter at a specific point in the long season.

Whether the Leafs can reach the point in that long season where they feel they are capable of a lengthy playoff run will soon be determined.

Yet after a disastrous start to the season, it has become clear in recent weeks that the vibes around the Leafs can improve. Their run through November and December saw the team turn quiet and discontent over ugly losses. But big dressing room voices like Scott Laughton and Troy Stecher, among others, have helped right the ship. Practices are more upbeat. Smiles have returned with wins. Positive attitudes matter. And if the Leafs were to trade for Schenn, they would be getting the ultimate good dude in the dressing room.

The veteran defenseman worked hard on his game, impressed in Vancouver and hopes to compete for a Stanley Cup in Tampa Bay.

In 2023, when Toronto acquired Schenn to bolster one of the best Leafs teams in recent years, he brought elite vibes.

"It was special, just how much the city and the fanbase get behind you," Schenn said of his 2023 stint in Toronto. "We had such a great group of guys."

Multiple players on that team told me how easily Schenn fit in once he joined the roster. He was quick to organize dinners and team functions during the Leafs' first-round win over Tampa Bay. Behind the scenes, Schenn worked to keep the team united during a stressful series.

"In my time in this role, that's the first time that's ever happened, when a team has always stayed together every night," then-Leafs head coach Sheldon Keefe said of the team sticking together as a group during the Tampa Bay series. "So I think that just keeps things in-house and keeps them collected in their thoughts."

If Toronto is considering a Schenn deal, there is also the matter of Schenn's brother, Brayden. Sportsnet's Elliott Friedman recently reported that the Leafs explored the possibility of acquiring both Luke and Brayden at last season's deadline.

"We saw some reports about it the other day, and that's certainly not coming from us. We obviously got the chance to play together in Philadelphia, which was a dream come true. But Brayden's captain of St. Louis right now, and he's very happy there, too. Last year, obviously, there was talks around the trade deadline. He ended up staying in St. Louis and went on a great run, and I think he's very grateful every day," Schenn said.

Schenn said he and his brother were sent the same report.

"And we actually had the same question: Where is that coming from? Because we haven't really discussed it at all. He's very happy being the captain of St. Louis, and I'm not asking for anything either," he said. "We're very grateful for the positions we're in, and we're definitely not trying to put pressure or anything to play together. That's certainly not the case at all."

And so for at least the time being, Schenn will stay put on a Jets team he clearly wants to be a part of. Schenn does not have any trade protection. He also reiterated his happiness with the

Jets right now and admitted that, for family reasons, he wouldn't necessarily look forward to another move.

"I've got three kids, it's not like we love packing up our family and moving like that," Schenn said.

Yet as he knows, perhaps better than most NHL players, plans can change quickly. And until the Leafs' position as a trade deadline buyer or a seller becomes clearer, a change to Toronto's blue line is a possibility the Leafs could continue to consider.

<https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/6968525/2026/01/17/nhl-team-grades-2026-regular-season/>

### ***NHL report cards: Grading every team at the halfway mark of the season***

By The Athletic NHL Staff

The NHL season has passed its midway point, with all 32 teams playing between 46 and 49 games. By now, we generally know what each team is and isn't and whether the rest of the season should be focused on title contention, short-term progress or the long-term future.

What better time to break out our red pens and hand out some grades? That's exactly what The Athletic did this week when it asked its NHL staff to assign a grade to every team with expectations in mind. You'll definitely want to show some of these to your parents (or general managers). Others ... maybe not.

Stats collected before Friday's NHL action.

#### ***Winnipeg Jets: F***

After winning the Presidents' Trophy last year, the Jets have plummeted all the way to 31st in the standings. Most people expected Winnipeg to take a step back this season because of Nikolaj Ehlers' departure and some of the club's early injuries, but nobody envisioned a fall this dramatic. The Jets are old, slow, lack secondary scoring and blow leads as if it's nothing. Winnipeg has had a couple of decisive wins lately, and the West is mediocre enough that it isn't completely out of the playoff race, but it's going to be a major uphill battle. — Harman Dayal

### **The Hockey News**

<https://sports.yahoo.com/articles/jets-hot-streak-could-put-234902045.html>

### ***Jets Hot Streak Could Put Luke Schenn Trade Talks With Maple Leafs On Hold***

By Jake Tye

The Winnipeg Jets have started to catch fire with four straight wins and if they can continue to build on their recent winning streak, they may not offload some of the players recently involved in trade rumors.

Despite this, there are a couple players on expiring deals that the Jets could look to move off of and get something back before they enter free agency with veteran defenseman Luke Schenn at the very top of the list.

Many teams have expressed interest in the 36-year-old blueliner with the Toronto Maple Leafs leading the way according to multiple reports. TSN's Chris Johnston spoke on the Schenn situation saying the Leafs have some injuries on the backend, with Chris Tanev possibly out for the remainder of the season, and referenced back to when Schenn was on the Maple Leafs for two separate stints already and did quite well when paired up with Toronto's Morgan Reilly.

This is a partnership the Maple Leafs would love to reunite as Reilly has been heavily scrutinized for his play this season and getting back a familiar face that could possibly give Reilly a boost would be a huge move for a Maple Leafs team battling for a playoff spot.

"There's already some rumblings around that they're even looking at a third trip through with Luke Schenn right now, which obviously at this stage of Luke's career, I think that the acquisition costs would be more modest and worked really well with him and Morgan Reilly," Johnston explained on his self-titled podcast.

"So we'll see if that's something that comes to fruition but certainly, you've heard some talk in that direction, and I think it makes some sense with the injuries the Leafs have on the blue line, and even familiarity with the player, the fact he's had success even not that long ago."

This could be a great move for a Jets team that has gotten fairly thin when it comes to draft capital as they have no second or fourth round picks this season or next. Adding a fourth-round pick for Schenn could be a great move but depends on how the Jets feel about their own direction as a franchise.

The team recently announced that defenseman Neal Pionk, Colin Miller and Haydn Fleury are all injured, meaning if they want to continue their recent hot streak and potentially contending for a playoff spot, its unlikely that they would offload at the position they are at their weakest right now.

One potential path for Jets GM Kevin Cheveldayoff would be to move an expiring contract and an aging asset in Schenn, while simultaneously targeting a replacement via trade. A depth defenseman such as Chicago's Louis Crevier could fit that role, as he ranks fourth among defensemen averaging 17 minutes or fewer per game, posting 14 points in 44 contests.

Additional low-cost options include Chicago's Matt Grzelcyk or Utah's Ian Cole, either of whom could likely be acquired for minimal assets while providing the Jets with short-term stability and potential term on the blue line.

We will find out sooner or later what the outcome will be as Toronto may become desperate enough to force the issue and offer something Cheveldayoff can't refuse or the Jets may lose steam and could start looking to offload assets again. Either way, we could get our answer soon as many teams have indicated they want to complete trades before the roster freeze for the Olympics on February 4th.

## **Daily Faceoff**

<https://www.dailyfaceoff.com/news/can-winnipeg-jets-salvage-their-season-make-stanley-cup-playoffs-nhl>

### ***Can the Jets salvage their season and make the playoffs?***

By Kyle Morton

After bottoming out hard around the New Year, the Winnipeg Jets are starting to show signs of life.

After a seven game losing streak, the Jets have rallied to win four in a row, and in doing so they've gotten themselves back within striking range of starting to climb back up the Central Division standings.

They're still in eighth place, but they're now just one point back of St. Louis and two back of Chicago with a game in hand over them both.

If they can't rally, they're in danger of becoming the second consecutive reigning Presidents' Trophy winner to miss out on the postseason altogether in the next season.

On Friday's episode of Daily Faceoff LIVE, host Tyler Yaremchuk and co-host and former NHL goaltender Carter Hutton discussed whether or not the Jets have any hope of being able to get this thing turned around and go back to the postseason.

*Tyler Yaremchuk:* Don't look now, Hutts, the Winnipeg Jets have gone from the coldest team in the NHL to rattling off four wins in a row. Your fill-in-the-blank for #AskDFO, there is a [blank] percent chance that the Jets can salvage their season and get back into a playoff spot. As it sits right now, eight points back of the eighth place San Jose Sharks.

*Carter Hutton:* I'm going to give them a 40% chance. I think they can, I just don't know if they want to, right? This goes back to that fact of... You get there, and then what happens? I still think they're capable because of Connor Hellebuyck, because of Scheifele, Connor, and some guys that can create. But man, imagine they do all this work and then they finish just outside the wild card spot, for what? If you get in, you're just going to get whacked by Colorado in the first round.